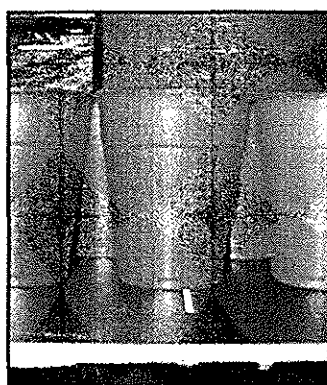


Weather >> rain  
 55 | 34  
 Wednesday: cloudy, 38/26  
 Thursday: snow, 39/23

Inside



▶ Red cups. Beer.  
 Table. Yup.  
 Entertainment I  
 see page 6

In Brief

Diversity Week informational meeting

People interested in participating in YSU Campus Diversity Week 2006 are invited to attend an informational meeting 1 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 30 in the Jones Room in Kilcawley Center. A second informational meeting will be held Thursday, Dec. 1 at 8 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room in Cafaro House.

Alumni basketball dinner Wednesday

YSU alumni and their guests can attend the Alumni Relations Basketball Dinner Wednesday, Nov. 30 at Beeghly Center between the men's and women's doubleheader. The cost is \$8 for members of the Alumni Association and \$20 for non-members. Reservations can be made by calling (330) 941-1591.

Jazz ballet "Nutcracker"

The YSU Jazz Ensemble and the Ballet Western Reserve will present "Nutcracker Suite" at Ford Theater in Bliss Hall 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2 and 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3. Tickets are \$20, \$10 for students and can be bought at the door or by calling (330) 744-1934.

African celebration features Soul Dancers

The sixth annual Jabali African Cultural Celebration will be held 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3 in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center. The event will feature keynote speaker Dr. Verjijika Fanso, professor of history at the University of Yaounde in Cameroon, the Soul Dancers International from Cleveland and music from the YSU African Student Union. For more information, call the YSU Africana Studies Program at (330) 941-3097.

**the jambarpoll question**  
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 Do you think YSU does enough to promote diversity on campus?  
 70% Yes 30% No  
 Today's Question  
 Do you play beer pong?  
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# the jambar

VOLUME 88, ISSUE 33 The student voice of Youngstown State University

YSU

## Tuition to climb 6 percent

By: Bill Rodgers  
 NEWS EDITOR

In what has become a cyclical theme for students, attending Youngstown State University may require coughing up more money next year, pending a discussion Thursday from the YSU Board of Trustees finance and facilities committee.

In a meeting Monday with YSU's Student Government Association, YSU President David Sweet and other administration officials such as Vice President of Administration John Habat, Director of Budget Planning Jeff Taylor and Special Assistant to the President Tom Maraffa discussed the possible tuition increase.

Sweet said the trustees were asked to consider three possible scenarios for the tuition increase. The board was considering increases of 4, 5 or 6 percent and how each increase would affect the operating budget. Six percent is the maximum tuition increase allowed by a public university in Ohio.

Taylor said the possible increases were determined by considering the amount of state money the university could receive and a prediction for next year's enrollment. Taylor said that under the current assumptions, a 6 percent increase would help the university maintain a balanced budget in the following year.

Taylor said that the upcoming years had some "budget challenges" such as utilities

and summer school.

"A 6 percent increase doesn't address all of the budget issues," Taylor said.

Administrators told SGA that they were working on a budget that was facing declining state support and a drop in enrollment. Taylor said they could approach next year's revenue needs from different assumptions on enrollment, but he called that move "risky."

Enrollment had dropped this year due to a low number of graduates in area high schools and a high number of students graduating from YSU, Maraffa said.

Taylor said the university expected a two percent drop in state support. Sweet said he didn't expect to see any increase in state support in the near future, citing that when he arrived YSU received \$48 million in support annually and receives \$38 million a year today.

Habat said that expenditure cutting on the university's part was possible, but difficult.

"Seventy percent of the budget is in salaries and fringe benefits to employees," Habat said. "It's difficult to get a large meaningful reduction in cost."

Answering a question from an SGA representative about cutting vacant positions on campus, Habat said that was a possibility, but not always in the best interest of the university.

"Directly or indirectly, every job you eliminate affects students somehow. Financial aid and other services could be

please see **TUITION**, Page 2

### How do you feel about tuition increases?



▶ Mike Bodnar, junior — "It's unfair taking advantage of the students who don't get benefits, who work a full-time job and who have to pay out of their own pocket."



▶ Stacy D'Angelo, sophomore — "I transferred from Kent State because it would be cheaper. Now, one semester later, they want to raise it 6 percent."



▶ Jelane Jones, freshman — "I don't want all my money going towards school. It's not fair to the students."



▶ Joe Look, freshman — "This sucks. I can't afford college and an outside life — you have no life."

YSU

## Students playing Santa, collecting toys for youths

By: Cheryl Thompson  
 ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Members of the Student Social Work Association are helping Santa out this year by collecting monetary donations and toys for disadvantaged children.

They are taking donations today and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the first floor arcade of Kilcawley Center.

The presents will be given out to children whose parents are clients of the Mahoning County Social Services Department and who attend the ninth annual Breakfast with Santa.

Allison Kacmar, a senior and president of the Student Social Work Association, said this is the first year her group has volunteered for the project. She said she decided to help after her experience as an intern with Prevention Partners Plus.

Junior Shavar Johnson said he liked being involved with an organization that helps out underprivileged children, especially during the holidays. "If it weren't for drives



Jambar / Katie Libecco

Valerie McDowell, a member of the Student Social Work Association, sits at the table for the group's toy drive in Kilcawley Center.

like this, some children wouldn't get the gifts they deserve at Christmas," Johnson said.

The Student Social Work Association asks that donated toys be worth between \$10 and \$20. They do not have to be gift-wrapped.

Sitting in front of the large donation box is an  
 please see **SANTA**, Page 2

YSU

## Finals countdown: Are you ready?

By: Eric Grosso  
 FEATURES REPORTER

While university lounges and computer labs haven't had many visitors past the afternoon hours, students will fill the quiet locations across campus over the next fortnight in preparation for finals week, a stress-filled ending to the fall semester.

Some students have already started the fight

against finals, taking time out of their Thanksgiving break to get a head start.

"I had those extra few days off, so I took a little time and started early for a change," senior Sarah Yurco said.

Yurco will graduate in December, making this her last finals week. She said she has dealt with last-minute cramming, all-nighters and unorganized group projects

throughout her four years at YSU.

"It got pretty insane some years, but there's no way around it," Yurco said.

Karen Becker, coordinator of the Reading and Study Skills Center, had an important message for students.

"You absolutely can't wait until the last minute to study," she said.

Not only is starting early  
 please see **FINALS**, Page 2

YSU

## Search for A & S dean is nearing completion

By: Bill Rodgers  
 NEWS EDITOR

A Youngstown State University search committee is in the final stages of narrowing down finalists for the position of Dean of the Arts and Sciences department. Final interviews for the position began last week.

A search committee chaired by Paul Kobulnicky, executive director of Maag Library, began the search in mid-September and plans to provide YSU Provost Robert Herbert with an assessment of the candidates sometime after Dec. 8. Of the 45 applicants for the position, four remain.

The committee is conducting public, on-campus interviews with the four finalists, two from YSU's campus. The first of the four interviews, Nathan Ritchey, chair of YSU's Department of Mathematics and Statistics, was held last Tuesday.

Next to be interviewed is Gary Salvner, chair of the YSU English Department. Salvner's interview will begin at 8 a.m. tomorrow in the gallery of Kilcawley Center.

The final two applicants, Ronald Davis from Western Michigan University and Marietta Morrissey from the University of Toledo, are scheduled to be interviewed Dec. 5 and 6 and 7 and 8, respectively.

Kobulnicky said the inter-

views were public and that people in the attendance would have the opportunity to ask questions for the candidates to answer.

"It's open, we try to provide opportunities for people to ask questions appropriate for the candidates," Kobulnicky said.

He also said the interviews are designed to determine what a candidate's plan and vision for the future of the department is.

"The questions are far-ranging, but are usually designed to get to know what a candidate sees as the future of the college and how they plan to accomplish that vision they have," Kobulnicky said.

The four candidates were evaluated by a list of preferred qualifications the search committee set at the beginning of the application process. The finalists should be familiar with the challenges facing an open-enrollment university, served in an arts and sciences administrative position as the department chairperson or above and been tenured, the qualifications read.

The department's previous dean, Robert Bolla, resigned his position in June to take a position at Illinois' Bradley University. The position is currently filled by interim dean Ikram Khawaja, who came out of retirement this summer to fill the position.

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

**FINALS**, continued from page 1

important, but knowing what kind of test you're taking will make preparation easier, Becker said.

A number of organizations are working to make finals less stressful for students.

Maag Library will have extended hours again, spon-

sored by the Student Government Association and Student Affairs. The extended hours go into effect Monday to Thursday before finals week, Dec. 5 through Dec. 8, and the week of finals from Sunday to Thursday, Dec. 11 through Dec. 15, the library will stay open

until midnight, while extending its hours until 7 p.m. on Dec. 9 and Dec. 10.

John Vogel, vice president for Student Affairs, said the push for late hours by SGA and Student Affairs was so students could have an opportunity to study in an academic atmos-

phere, do some last minute research and have a central meeting place for group projects.

Vogel also noted there are tentative plans for Jazzman's Café to provide free coffee for students during the extended hours.

Those studying late on Tuesday and Wednesday of finals week, Dec. 13 and 14, can take a break for some free breakfast at the Newman Center, home of the Campus Catholic Ministry. Pancakes, juice, coffee, sausage and cookies will be served from 11 p.m. to midnight, according to

Thomas Bagola, assistant director of the center. He said the center usually serves around 150 to 200 students every hour.

"We wanted to let students have a break from studying, without them having junk food," Bagola said.

Call Eric Grosso at (330) 941-3758.

**SANTA**, continued from page 1

adjustable basketball hoop for children aged three to 10-years-old, just one of the gifts donated so far.

"Since 10 a.m., we have collected around 15 gifts and more than \$50 in cash donations," Kacmar said Monday afternoon.

Kacmar said she wants her organization to meet their goal of collecting 100 presents or \$300, which will go toward buying toys for the children.

Audrey Mabe, a junior, said she hoped they are able to exceed this year's

goal.

"It's always good to get more. Whatever we don't use this year, for this event, can be used next time," Mabe said.

In addition to helping out the community, the members of the Student

Social Work Association are getting the chance to gain experience in their fields.

"This is what we are going to be doing when we get out into the real world," Johnson said.

Donors will receive

either coupons or raffle tickets depending on the level of donation. Prizes for the raffle include gift certificates to area restaurants and movie theaters.

"Any one who donates money in any amount gets

a coupon for a free dozen of Krispy Kreme doughnuts, if someone donates \$5 then they will get one raffle ticket and if someone donates a toy, then they will get two raffle tickets," Johnson said.

Call Cheryl Thompson at (330) 941-1913.

**TUITION**, continued from page 1

slower, they all impact life at YSU. It's important to maintain a balance," Habat said.

SGA member Josh Hiznay asked if the six percent cap allowed YSU to balance its bottom line in the budget.

"There's not a lot of flexibility to meet our obligations," Taylor said in response.

Habat said YSU was taking some cost-saving measures resulting from recent contract negotiations in which faculty and classified employees pay into health care as well as the early

retirement incentive plan, under which employees can receive money to retire early. After the older employees retire, the university can hire new employees to fill the positions at entry-level pay.

"By FY09 we will have a multi-million dollar base savings. It's a potent cost cutting method," Habat said.

Trustee Scott Schulick said Monday that the board tries setting tuition for the following year in December so the office of financial aid can prepare its financial aid packages in time for the following

year. He said that tuition increases less than 6 percent were still going to be considered at Thursday's meeting.

"We're not done dealing with this from the standpoint of numbers," Schulick said.

SGA President Bob McGovern suggested to Taylor that the trustees consider other scenarios for tuition increases in addition to the 6 percent increase. He calculated that at a 4.5 percent increase, students would pay \$95 less than they would with the six percent

increase.

"I hope the trustees take all the possibilities into account and choose the best scenario," McGovern said. "If we are able to maintain the university's quality and grow on a four percent increase, then we should go for four. If that won't work, we should go higher."

In addition to a possible tuition increase, housing fees and surcharges for out of state residents are going up next semester. University housing, except the court-

yards, is going up by 3.3 percent. Out-of-state residents will be paying an additional

six percent to their surcharge, Taylor said.

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

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**Classified**

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**FOUND:** Keys, cell phones, hats, gloves, books, bags, etc. The campus **LOST AND FOUND** is located at YSU Info on the upper level of Kilcawley Center.

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thejambar  
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# Editorial & Opinion

Tuesday, November 29, 2005

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OUR SIDE

## Singing the same, sad song

Nine straight years. We're starting to feel like a broken record when it comes to bemoaning the annual Youngstown State University tuition increase. The sheer inevitability of tuition hikes make it tempting to ask, "Is there even a point in complaining?"

But that kind of mindset is exactly what administrators like YSU President David Sweet would love for students to adopt. The less students protest, the less pressure there is to rein in tuition costs.

But Sweet's job is both political and market-oriented in nature: He and YSU's nine (Republican) governor appointed trustees are no doubt susceptible to demands on both fronts.

Sweet and the trustees are bound to be affected by political pressure from students and parents who vocally oppose hikes and market pressure from students who put their money where their mouths are and decide not to re-enroll at YSU.

If the 6 percent hike is approved, tuition at YSU for Ohio residents will have increased from roughly \$3,800 in 2000 (Sweet's first year on campus) to more than \$6,700 next fall, a staggering 76 percent increase.

Obviously, with inflation, tuition can be reasonably expected to go up on a regular basis. However, YSU's tuition rate has far outpaced the inflation rate. There are other contributing factors, of course, such as declining state support and rising health care and heating costs. But in total, the math never adds up.

A sizable amount of last year's tuition increase went into a "rainy day fund," just in case "the bottom drops out," and YSU regularly reports budget surpluses at the end of each fiscal year.

Yet these "savings" never get passed back to the student. Instead they get sucked up by faculty, staff and administrators, who insatiably devour any leftover scraps of tuition cash.

If YSU really needs more money, they could stop wasteful spending practices; from little things, like computer training trips to Hawaii (which happened in March), to much larger problems, like YSU administrators' early retirement blunder, which cost the university an unexpected \$3.4 million this year because they didn't fully understand state law. To be fair, administrators expect to recoup those costs and eventually save \$3.6 million by 2009.

Sweet likes to point out that YSU is one of the most affordable four-year universities in Ohio. Like many statements coming out of Sweet's mouth, this is only partially true: YSU is relatively affordable, comparatively affordable. But it is, by no means, affordable.

Administrators say they don't believe YSU's tuition is high enough to prevent any eager but poor students from attending. And while that may be true in a technical sense, many of those students are able to attend YSU only because they are taking out dangerously large student loans, which simply defer the cost of education to a later date, plus interest.

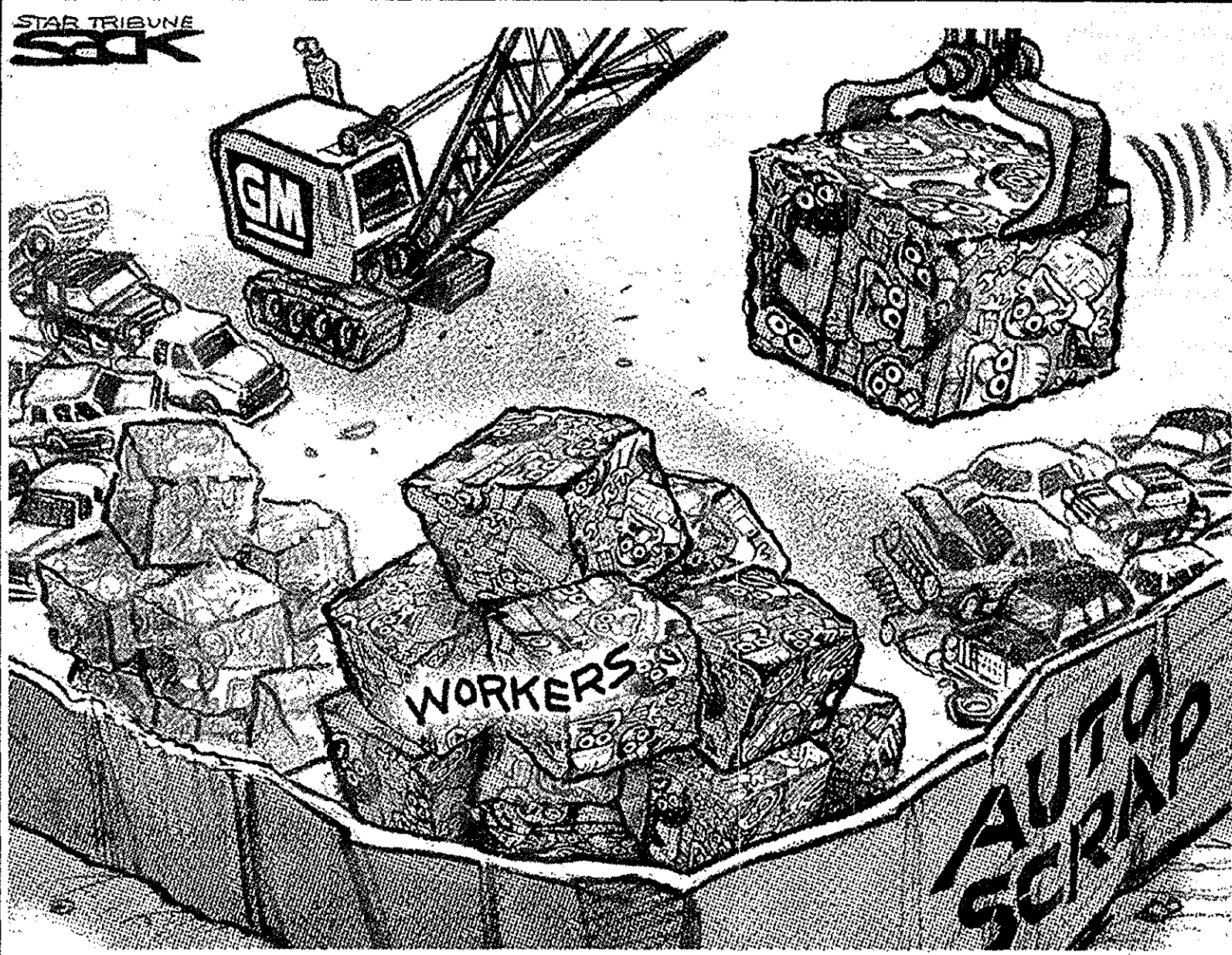
It is up to student leaders like Paul Walker and Louise Popio, YSU's student trustees, and Bob McGovern, YSU Student Government Association president, to lead the way and vehemently oppose any tuition increases. These leaders are the only regular student contact many administrators and trustees have.

Sadly, McGovern said Monday he trusts YSU's administrators when they say tuition hikes are necessary. Walker said he was considering abstaining from the conversation at Thursday's trustees meeting and Popio said she would wait until after the meeting to formulate a strong stance.

Such wishy-washy attitudes from YSU's student leaders are more than distressing. But then again, none of them have to worry about paying for tuition — all three have full scholarships.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

The Jambar editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambar and its Editorial Board members. Commentaries and columns reflect only the views of the individual who wrote the piece. Those wishing to schedule meetings with the Editorial Board should call the editor in chief.



### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### Reader's pet problems persist

Editor:  
He swears he's not a Republican, but when I got up late Thanksgiving Night to get some more turkey and a beer, I overheard my pet maggot saying grace: "... and I give thanks that Bush is President. None better — mentally — for keeping terrorists out of America and in Iraq. And although soldiers are dying daily from the 'same' improvised bomb things, still, everyone knows that our military is the greatest and best in the world with the most modern expensive equipment."

I, myself, of course, never say grace or celebrate any holidays, but my alleged non-Republican

pet did interrupt himself long enough to gobble down some crumb dressings, then continued, saying: "... also thankful that hundreds of years ago the forefathers came to this country and built a nation and laws 'founded upon Christians values.'"

This mortified me!  
He muttered on: "... thankful they killed those Indians who couldn't accept the Pilgrims' goodwill or see they only came to farm and pursue happiness, freed from England's ill-treatment ... thankful, too, 15,000 stubborn Indians were walked from Georgia to an Oklahoma reservation — soldiers on horseback braved the 1838 treacherous journey in brutal weather without

complaint — and really, the Discoverers were only following Winthrop's idea of building a 'house upon the hill,' as a beacon of goodness; the savages' idea of goodness was sharing some popcorn and damn weeds they gave them to smoke that night on Plymouth Rock — could anyone ever expect them to comprehend such a Divine Plan as was 'Manifest Destiny' and moving them aside ..."

At that point I just slammed the refrigerator door. Startled, I heard him cough and choke, then say, rather off-handedly, "You can't sleep either, huh?"

I said nothing, but straightaway went to my bookshelf getting down the Koran, King James Bible,

the Torah, Buddha stuff, what the Pope said to American Priest, the I-Ching, and my recorded notes when visiting the Dalai Lama in Tibet. I was determined to discover where I had gone wrong. Why, I, too, couldn't be thankful — and why had I taken the Indians' side at Wounded Knee — or even more recently here at Lordstown, concerning the casino issue. Man, that's when me and mister maggot got into a hell-fired argument, too, with him saying, "Jackass, if we keep giving them land — and tax free — not only will we lose our tax base, hell, we'll lose the 'whole' damn country to them! Gaaad!"

Ted Williams

### COMMENTARY

## 'Boondocks' in the sticks on edginess

By: Bob Mackey  
COLUMNIST

SINCE the inception of the Adult Swim programming block in 2001, college students have been able to tune into Cartoon Network on Sunday nights for hours of absurdist entertainment mostly spawned by the brand of humor of 1990s cult hit "Space Ghost: Coast to Coast."

Things aren't much different four years later; some of the newer additions to the programming block include a family of backwoods southern squids, an alcoholic, crudely-drawn mouse, and an insane mayor torturing his put-upon doormat of a "friend." There are a few exceptions to the surrealism on Adult Swim, though; shows such as "The Venture Bros." and "Stroker and Hoop" have surfaced on the network in the last few years to offer a more structured and less Andy Kaufman-esque take on the typical Adult Swim comedy.

"The Boondocks," based on Aaron McGruder's newspaper strip of the same name, is the newest traditional comedy on Adult Swim, and marks what may be the most subdued show in Adult Swim's history. Unfortunately, this low-key tone, along with a few other flaws, really holds "The Boondocks" back from being a much better cartoon.

The first episode of "The Boondocks" quickly introduces the three main characters: the grandfather, simply known as "Granddad," is a tough-love authority figure from the

old school. He lives in a suburban neighborhood with his freshly-relocated grandsons Huey, an intelligent, observational child (although this seems to change from episode to episode), and Riley, a hell-raiser with a penchant for conspiracy theories and outrage at injustice. While the "fish out of water" scenario would be the most obvious route to take this show — with three black characters living in an upscale white neighborhood — "The Boondocks" is content in treading bold new ground by offering no interesting takes on issues that have been done to death.

The first episode to air focused on class and race differences, as Granddad, Huey and Riley are invited to a dinner party held by a rich white banker. Granddad tries to make a good impression at the party, while Huey wanders around telling the guests the truth about various things with the intent to shock them; instead, the guests find him adorable. In an incredibly contrived instance, the rich banker's son — returning from Iraq — invites Riley up to his room, and dares Riley to shoot him to in an effort to prove his machismo. Luckily, the former soldier is wearing body armor, everyone has a good laugh, and Granddad and the banker learn that what really connects them are their annoying children. This ending was coated with a treacherous "most people are good on the inside" message, which was far from what I was expecting from a show that Adult Swim promised would push the envelope more than a reliable postal

service worker. Really, if you took out all of the instances of the word "nigga," this episode could have aired at 8 p.m. on CBS, or perhaps could have replaced the equally lame Nick at Nite Cartoon "Fatherhood" without anyone noticing.

There is one element of "The Boondocks" that could be considered edgy and somewhat interesting, and this element is characterized in Uncle Ruckus, a rowdy and lewd African-American friend of Granddad who hates black people. Ruckus's insane rants about his race are the best part of "The Boondocks," because so much humor can come out of racism when the ridiculousness of it is pointed out. "The Boondocks" kind of cops out in this respect, by informing the viewer at every opportunity just why Ruckus is wrong. Not only is this insulting but when someone like Granddad tries to rationalize with Ruckus, it drags the show down into a point/counterpoint style of writing, which sadly is not just a problem with Uncle Ruckus.

The writing style of "The Boondocks" seems to be along the lines of "here's an issue, now let's provide various arguments on both sides of said issue." This wouldn't be a problem if the dialogue was better, but characters will often launch into long speeches about whatever the issue of the episode happens to be, which feels very artificial. In fact, Cartoon Network could save a lot of money on animation if all of the characters delivered their dialogue from podiums in a dark room; it

honestly wouldn't affect the tone of the show. An exchange between Riley and a lawyer about underage sex in the second episode was particularly offensive, not because of the subject matter, but because of the forced high school debate team quality of the exchange. With a little work, it's possible to show the different views on a subject without being so blatant.

Nothing is more disappointing to me than when a cartoon is not very good, mainly because of all the time and effort it takes to create something like "The Boondocks," the most expensive Adult Swim original. The show is just too slow, unforgivably preachy, and inconsistent (especially with Huey) to be worth watching. It's funny; the same night I watched an episode of "The Boondocks," I also watched an episode of "Squidbillies" that also focused on race. In the episode, the squids are having a "white hate rally," until their white sheriff friend shows up to tell them about all of the things white people have brought to the world. The examples given by the sheriff are the slam dunk being invented by Larry Bird, and rap music being made possible only through the injustice of the white police state. Racism is not inherently funny, but creatively pointing out the stupidity of racism is. Maybe if "The Boondocks" had a little more of that Adult Swim surrealism, it wouldn't be so offensively boring.

Bob Mackey dreams of the day he can create a newspaper comic, eventually make someone else draw it, and then turn it into a busy cartoon. He can be reached at (330) 941-1912.

YOUNGSTOWN

# Local stores handle shopping rush for post-holiday sales

By: Steve Lettau  
REPORTER

The day after Thanksgiving, when shoppers wait in line for hours to receive "doorbuster" prices.

See also: The day retailers in Boardman will remember as a day of complete chaos and utter hell.

Nationwide and locally, retailers opened their doors before dawn to a flood of people waiting for early bird specials.

Boardman's Southern Park Mall opened at 6 a.m., while Best Buy on U.S. Route 224 opened at 5 a.m.

Jim Lorenzi, a sales manager at Best Buy, said some people were in line at 5:30 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day.

"There's always a line wrapped around the building of about a hundred people before we open," Lorenzi said.

News crews were out as customers rushed to gather

up iPod's, digital cameras and video games.

One of the most popular items on Christmas lists this year is the Xbox 360.

Some customers looking for the gaming console were out of luck. For instance, Boardman's Best Buy sold their inventory of 360s on Tuesday, the day they were released.

Many listings on eBay for the Xbox 360 have reached more than \$1,000.

"I have no idea when we are going to get another shipment," Lorenzi said.

The tensions of holiday shopping have already started to take its toll on shoppers.

Boardman Police arrived at Circuit City to settle a riot-like situation at 4 a.m.

According to Kim Liller of Boardman Police, the crowd was tired of standing in line. No charges or report was filed.

Reports of fighting, shoplifting and parking violations at the Shops at Boardman Park kept Boardman Police busy all day.

"This day is a different kind of animal compared to the rest," Lorenzi said.

Customers filled the rows in the mall searching for that perfect gift. Even Santa Claus was on hand to give mothers with screaming kids a much-needed break.

Some stores, including Aeropostale and American Eagle, had 50 percent off all items in the store.

At Aeropostale with every purchase of \$100 or more, each customer would receive a free teddy bear. Erica Phillips of Canfield, received her free bear after buying gifts for her entire family.

"It's like waiting in line at an amusement park," Phillips said.

Call Steve Lettau at (330) 941-3758.

POLICE BLOTTER

Michael Spatara, described as a white male, 22, 6-foot-2-inches, 160 pounds, with brown hair and hazel eyes, was reported missing by his father, Frank Spatara on Nov. 2, after he tried unsuccessfully to contact his son for three weeks. Spatara, who was residing in Kilcawley House, was last seen there three weeks ago.

In police reports, his roommate said a brown bag filled with clothes was missing from Spatara's closet, but no other personal items were missing. Spatara told police that his son might be with a female named Mindy, who "tends to lead him in the wrong direc-

tion." She is not a YSU student.

The Youngstown Fire Department extinguished a fire at the Bliss Hall loading dock on Nov. 22. According to police reports, the fire started in a plastic garbage bin, which completely melted. The fire began to damage the loading dock concrete, causing bits of the concrete to explode. After YFD Engine 7 extinguished the flames, a half-burned can of mineral spirits solvent and paint rags were found. According to the YFD, the fire was probably caused by paint rags spontaneously combusting.

On Nov. 22, two suspects, a black male wearing a long, gray trench coat and a black female wearing a black coat, were apprehended for trespassing after it was reported the subjects were stopping students, asking for money. The subjects, Keenan Clark and Phylis Jackson were checked for warrants. Jackson had a warrant for larceny from California, but it was out of the pickup radius. Both suspects had one-way Greyhound bus tickets to Indianapolis. The subjects were given written trespassing warnings and were transported to the bus station by Officer Marzullo.

YSU

# Delta Chi to be latest fraternity to join YSU's Greek system

By: Erica Trekur  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Youngstown State University will be home to another fraternity, Delta Chi, thanks to Christopher Pavlik.

Delta Chi was established as a law fraternity in 1890 and in 1922 became a social fraternity. They were established on the YSU campus from 1970 to 1980.

Pavlik, a junior advertising and public relations major, wanted to become more involved with the University and decided to become a part of the YSU Greek system.

"I really wanted to experience Greek life and the values of Delta Chi mirrored that of my own," Pavlik said.

Pavlik contacted the Delta Chi officials and formed an interest group of 12 men at YSU. The men chosen to become members of Delta Chi will be named the founding fathers of the Youngstown colony and could become a recognized chapter of Delta Chi in the next two years.

The first two years are a probation period and at any

time Delta Chi officials can abolish the Youngstown colony. In order to become a recognized chapter, the colony must meet the ten basic expectations of Delta Chi. Those requirements include a GPA of at least 2.5 or higher, depending upon the colony, being a compassionate person, protecting the safety of all people, along with other expectations.

Delta Chi's International Headquarters, in Iowa City, Iowa, sent two Leadership Consultants, Rusty Williams and Eric Stice, to YSU to train the soon-to-be founding fathers of Delta Chi in Youngstown.

Williams was a founding father for Georgia Southern University and Stice at South Illinois University. Both, like Pavlik, said they became involved with Delta Chi because they agreed with its values and wanted to be a member of a group of men who strive to uphold these values.

Ross Montgomery, a freshman computer science major and member of the interest group, is excited to embark on this fraternal journey.

"Being that I am a freshman, and new to college life, I'm happy to have been given the opportunity to be part of something that is so huge," Montgomery said.

Williams said another reason he chose Delta Chi was because of hazing. While joining a fraternity at Georgia Southern University, he was hazed and refused to become a part of something that did not reflect his morals.

Delta Chi became the first fraternity to abolish hazing in 1929.

Other fraternities on campus seem to be excited about the expansion of the Greek system.

"With a larger variety of fraternities, the more people will be attracted to Greek life. Hopefully it will be a positive influence on YSU," said Mike Smallwood, a junior engineering major and member of Sigma Tau Gamma.

Delta Chi is still recruiting. For more information, call Rusty Williams at (319) 621-6725, Eric Stice at (319) 621-2040, or stop by the Student Activities Office in Kilcawley Center.

Call Erica Trekur at (330) 941-1913.

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**www.kc.ysu.edu**

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**Dr. Verkijika Fanson,**  
Professor of History at the University of Yaounde, Cameroon

Topic: **"HOPE FOR AFRICA IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM"**

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**Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY**

- ▶ 11/30 — Women's basketball vs. St. Louis, 5:15 p.m.
- ▶ 11/30 — Men's basketball vs. Kent State, 7:35 p.m.
- ▶ 12/1-3 — Diving @ Notre Dame Invitational
- ▶ 12/4 — Men's basketball @ Marshall

ON THE SIDELINES



Women athletes, coaches at YSU reflect on Title IX's impact

By: Justin Smolkovich  
SPORTS REPORTER

This is the third part of a four-part series The Jambar will be running on the effects of Title IX. The next part will run Tuesday, Dec. 6.

"I can't imagine it," Tisha Hill, head coach of the Youngstown State Women's basketball team, said.

What the third year coach can't imagine is an athletic and educational world without Title IX, the amendment that eliminated sexual discrimination from institutions receiving any amount of federal funding.

While Title IX has eliminated hosts of stereotypes and barriers once faced by many women, Hill said what replaced them has been new, and unprecedented opportunities.

"The main thing is really for women to have more opportunities. I think the opportunities would be limited if not for Title IX," Hill said.

This is exactly what Title IX has done for YSU athletes and for hosts of women athletes that don Red and Black every year, most of whom would never play a minute of collegiate athletics without the amendment.

Lauren Branson, a sophomore point guard for the women's basketball team, said she knew first hand about the opportunities that her coach mentioned, because she benefits directly with her fellow female student athletes.

"It has provided us the opportunity to play at the collegiate level," Branson said. "I would still be playing basketball, but it wouldn't be paid for."

Coach Christy Cameron, who has managed the softball team during the last five springs, said the most important aspect of Title IX is getting her players to understand the opportunity they have before them, making the most out of being a college athlete and a student.

"What softball is doing is helping them with their education and giving them a chance to do something they love," Cameron said. "We always try and remind them that they have a great opportunity."

Hill, who graduated from Indiana University in 1993, played basketball for the Hoosiers, setting career records in both steals and assists, agreed with Cameron, who played softball at California (Pa.) about the uphill battle it has been for Title IX, and both coaches agree that progress is being made across the country as well as here

at YSU. "Struggle is really the term that comes up right away," Hill said about Title IX. "But the competition we have now is amazing."

Hill has seen the benefits of Title IX first hand here at YSU and has also seen it at many other programs across the country. Hill has spent time coaching in the Big 10, Big East, and Mid-American conference during the last decade so she can attest to what Title IX has done.

Despite murmurs of reshaping Title IX and changing the policies, Hill said she is optimistic about its future here at YSU and urges those with the power to change Title IX to keep an open mind.

"There have been some talks, but I strongly encourage it (Title IX) to move forward," Hill said. "I am sure the NCAA and the Title IX Committee will find a way to keep Title IX around."

Women's athletics have made a complete 180-degree turn since 1972 when Title IX was added to the Education Bill of Rights, both in talent levels and funding said Cameron, who herself worked at meeting NCAA Compliance Guidelines at St. Francis College in Pennsylvania where she also served as head coach before arriving in Youngstown.

Consider our campus. Female students ignore our women's teams. I follow women's basketball and softball closely, but never see female students in the stands.

— Jack Patrick

"It is bringing the level of women's sports to the level of men's sports," Cameron said.

While talent and funding are reaching par with men's teams, Jack Patrick, a professor of sports history at YSU, said fan support and recognition still have along way to go.

"Consider our campus. Female students ignore our women's teams," Patrick said. "I follow women's basketball and softball closely, but never see female students in the stands. In fact, the only sporting event where I have seen numbers of our female students is

football games."

Without Title IX many athletes would not participate in collegiate athletics Hill said, and despite her desire for the game of basketball, she very well could have been of them.

"I would like to say my ambition would have helped," Hill commented about her playing days if Title IX were never fully realized. "But I can't imagine not having opportunities."

Since 1972, that is exactly what Title IX has been doing: creating opportunities.

Call Justin Smolkovich at (330) 941-3758.

YSU BASKETBALL

Penguins struggle from the field, fall to Akron at home

By: Justin Smolkovich  
SPORTS REPORTER

The Youngstown State University basketball team dropped a tough game Saturday night falling five points short behind regional foe Akron, 67-62.

The Penguins enjoyed a first half lead of 17 points at 27-10 and 15 points at 50-35 in the second half with only 13 minutes remaining. However, the young Penguins could not hold off the Zips, despite a huge night from guard Quin Humphrey who recorded a double-double with 15 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Penguins, who stand at 1-2 overall.

Head coach Jerry Slocum said he was pleased with the Penguins' effort thus far in the season, but mistakes were limiting the potential they had.

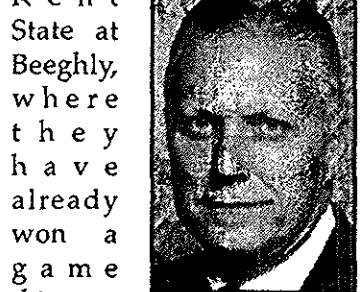
"We need to do everything better," Slocum said during a press conference last week. "It is a work in progress."

One thing the Penguins will need is an increase in shooting percentage. The Penguins shot just 39 percent from the floor compared to 44 percent from the Zips.

Last week Slocum said that hitting shots is something the Penguins will need to focus on in order to compete in a tough Horizon League.

"If we are going to compete, we need to hit our open shots."

The Penguins, however, are looking to turn things around Wednesday when they host the MAC power house Kent State at Beeghly, where they have already won a game this season, defeating Slippery Rock last week, and Slocum would like to see the home-win trend continue.



SLOCUM

"We want to try and make this a tough place to play," Slocum said of utilizing home court advantage.

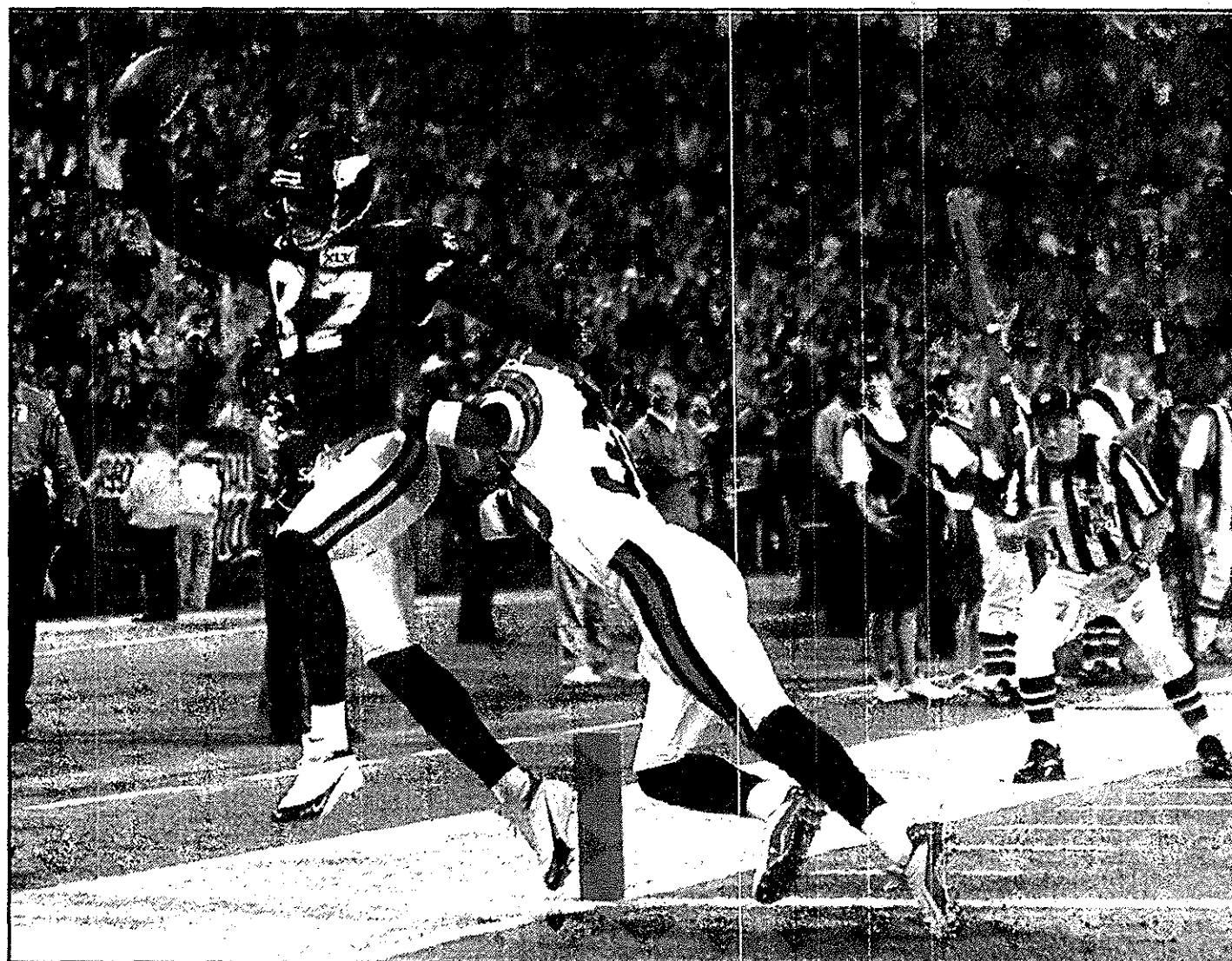
Slocum said the players are adjusting well to his style and that they are working hard to adapt and make the season as profitable as possible.

"Our guys have worked extra hard and I am excited for them," Slocum said. "They have embraced the change and they are really a good group to be around."

Tip off is set for 7:35 p.m. Wednesday and is preceded by the women's basketball game against St. Louis in their home opener.

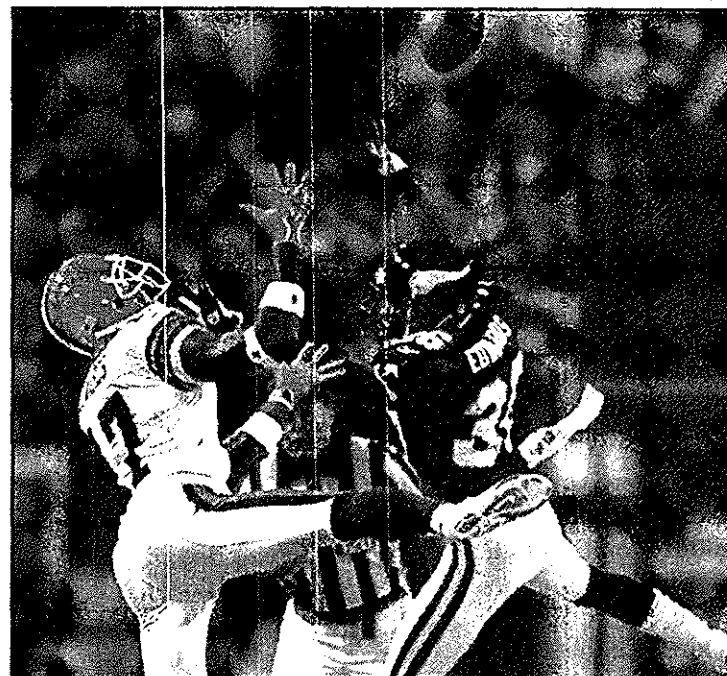
Call Justin Smolkovich at (330) 941-3758.

Another bad day for the Browns



Photos courtesy of krtcampus.com

**ABOVE:** Minnesota wide receiver Marcus Robinson dances down the sideline and into the end zone as the Browns' Michael Lehan tries to push him out of bounds. **RIGHT:** Cleveland rookie wide out Braylon Edwards has the ball knocked away from him by a Minnesota defender. After rolling to a shut-out victory last week over the Miami Dolphins, the Browns were up to their old tricks Sunday in Minnesota, failing to move the ball consistently on offense and failing to capitalize on good field position. The Browns fell to 4-7 with the loss and barring a miracle, seem headed for a losing season in head coach Romeo Crennel's first campaign with the organization.



ENTERTAINMENT PERSPECTIVE

# Paddle-free pong brings us together

By: Eric Grosso  
 FEATURES REPORTER

At first glance, spectators are intrigued by the competition, filled with admiration for the camaraderie between players, but — perhaps more importantly — enticed by rows of plastic cups filled with alcohol lined across the table.

Pingpong tables fill what could've been traditional dining rooms, while damp basements designated for nothing more than the game see pieces of plywood held up by garbage cans, cinder blocks, or milk crates — both filled with partying students hoping to sink that final cup, capturing the victory while their peers taunt and cheer the competitors.

Chances are most college students have at least heard of Beirut, or by the more common, although incorrect, name of beer pong. Starting to spread across college campuses during the 1980s, the game has enjoyed immense popularity in the last few years, including a \$10,000 tournament to be held in Nevada in January.

The name Beirut came about because of the game's likeness to the dropping of a bomb on the Lebanese city in the early 1980s, which killed more than 200 American Marines. The pingpong balls that land on the opponents' side of the table echoed the sentiments that the United States should drop its ribs on the city after American forces left.

But, the origins aren't as clear as other recreational games, perhaps due to the inebriated nature of the game.

A New York Times article published last month labeled Dartmouth College as the birthplace of beer pong, the precursor to the game most students play today. The online encyclopedia Wikipedia also lists Dartmouth as the point of origination for the game.

A three-part series looking at the evolution and social significance of beer pong at Dartmouth in the college's student newspaper, featured numerous Dartmouth alumni sharing memories during their time on campus in the 1950s, the earliest first-hand reports of the game.

Those stories reveal that the game was originally played with paddles, with students attempting to hit pingpong balls in a lone beer-filled cup. This paddle-filled version is known as Beer Pong.

The paddle-free version is less clear, with two different university groups insisting they created Beirut, the modern version played across the nation. Members of Sigma Phi Omega at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pa., insist they created the game, according to a September article in the Cornell Daily Sun. The students tried to pass the time by throwing the balls from their chairs into water-filled cups placed on the pingpong table, leading eventually to the combination of this activity with weekend parties.

Another story from an unnamed Lehigh University student reveals that two students from the now inactive Sigma Nu fraternity saw two Bucknell University students throwing a pingpong ball into one another's cup in another attempt to pass the time in October of 1983. The two Lehigh students went home, added the table and alcohol, and would eventually place ten cups on each side of the table. Lehigh currently holds the record for the biggest game of Beirut with more than 1,100 total cups.

The game sprawled across the Northeast, as college students loved the mix of sport and inebriation the result of both winners and losers.

"I haven't met anyone who doesn't like it," Youngstown State University senior Geoff Weaven said. "It brings everyone together

they all want to play and all get excited just watching."

Weaven says that he usually ends up playing a few times a week.

"Plus, there are so many different variations, you could play a different game every time," Weaven said. "It never gets old."

The National Beer Pong League, www.npbpl.com, has recognized 15 different official college styles of playing, including CSU National Champion style, Ithaca College Rules, Nittany Pong and others. The Web site also lists more than 100 different styles of playing, the Beirut version, as well as music suggestions, merchandise, and a long list of links to drinking game resources.

But Jeffrey Gettleman, a New York Times article published last month, warned that many companies are changing their marketing strategy to appeal more to Beer Pong players, pushing students further toward the game and the hazards that come with drinking alcohol.

Anheuser-Busch has started sponsoring "Bud Pong," traveling to the bars around the nation hoping to promote responsible drinking. Their version of the game calls for water instead of alcohol in the cups, while players enjoy a Budweiser on the side.

Gettleman's article also quoted various college administrators who called Beer Pong an excuse for binge drinking. Health officials from Duke University, after noticing an outbreak of illness, cited Beirut as a

means of spreading seasonal viruses, chicken pox and mononucleosis.

Despite the warnings, Beer Pong continues across the nation.

Those who think they can't be beat can enter the 2006 World Series of Beer Pong, held from Jan. 2

through Jan. 6 at the Oaks Resort & Casino in Mesquite, Nev. The event includes 120 beer pong tables and more than 120 kegs of beer with the winners taking home \$10,000 in prize money. For more information on the event, visit www.bpong.com.

Call Eric Grosso at (330) 941-3758.

CONCERT REVIEW

## Crunk and Clay get different results at 'The Chev'

By: Katie Libecco  
 COPY EDITOR

Some of the biggest names in rap came to Youngstown and it was one of the smallest audiences at the Chevrolet Centre yet.

"It was disturbing on some levels to see such large artists really have to leave Youngstown with a bad taste in their mouth," local rapper and YSU student Eclipse said.

He cited the low turnout as the reason for the 'bad taste.' "There was a lot of 'Man, I can't believe this,' going on backstage," Eclipse said.

So what happened? Lil John's Crunksgiving performance at the Chevrolet Centre included opening performances by local acts and Youngstown State University students, such as 2 Fly, Priceless Pain, Ja'Nice Murray, Infamous Cobb and Youngstown rap group Amityville.

"The first rap/hip-hop show at the new Chevrolet Center was great. I just wish the turn-out would've been better," YSU telecommunications student and homecoming king Keith "2 Fly"

Logan said.

His fellow local artists were also positive about the show, despite the lack of ticket sales.

"I commend people who came out because they put up with the low turnout. They didn't ask for their money back, they went with it and made it work," Eclipse said.

The Chevrolet Centre is able to seat almost 6,000 visitors for concert performances, such as Crunksgiving. Concert promoters did not release an official number of tickets sold, but the empty seats and arena floor couldn't hide a lack of attendants. The arena was filled to only about 15 percent of its capacity, with fewer than 1,000 concert goers.

"I really don't know for sure what happened at the show. Maybe it could've been promoted better," 2 Fly said.

However, former YSU student and opening act Ja'Nice Murray didn't see the low turnout as a result of a lack of promotion.

"I think the price of the tickets was bit too steep. They should've looked at our economy. We're not a big

It was disturbing on some levels to see such large artists really have to leave Youngstown with a bad taste in their mouth.

— Eclipse

city like Cleveland or Columbus," Ja'Nice said.

Tickets for the performance on Wednesday ranged from \$47.50 to \$54.50.

"I feel like in this area it's hard to charge that much for a show, especially at this time of year, right before Christmas," the Crunksgiving emcee and 102 Jamz DJ, Walter Phoenix 7 said.

Instead, Phoenix suggested future shows have fewer

national artists in hopes of keeping ticket prices down.

"I do have to give credit to 102 Jamz for helping local artists get involved. They made a large contribution," Eclipse said.

Phoenix said he became involved with Crunksgiving about two weeks before prior to the show. He created a radio spot that aired nearly every five songs on 102 Jamz and also merchandise that was dis-

tributed during the show. He also suggested that a better-organized plan for the show would be beneficial in the future and keep the show's energy level much higher.

Infamous Cobb, an opening act and former YSU student, said he saw the low turnout as a result of marketing.

"It was all poorly advertised, really. The crowd still gave a lot of energy, but I wish more people would've come. It was a nice little show," Cobb said. "We just need to get the word out there."

Cobb's suggestions for increasing attendance in the future included the creation of a street team to promote the show in Youngstown as well as Cleveland, Kent and Akron.

Murray and Cobb also said that the weather, the first heavy snowfall of Youngstown's winter, may have been a factor in the turnout.

Clay Aiken's "Joyful Noise 2005" performance on Sunday night at the Convocation Center also included local actors. Concert promoters said the actors

were selected through the Northeast Ohio Performing Artists list, but did not include any performers from the Mahoning Valley.

Whereas turnout was down for the hip-hop concert, thousands of Claymates paid \$53.50 and \$43.50 for tickets to see him at the Chevrolet Centre Sunday night. Enough fans bought tickets that it was a near-sell-out holiday performance.

"Joyful Noise 2005" was the same sort of show you'd see at church, and was based around a 9-year-old boy convincing Aiken's former high school choir teacher, Alison Lawrence, how wonderful Christmas is.

Clay Aiken and his incredibly talented back-up singers served as guardian angels.

Despite the show's sickeningly sweet and painfully cliché plot, it put people in seats with signs and shirts supporting the mediocre Aiken.

The show wasn't bad, but for the cost, it was a let down.

Call Katie Libecco at (330) 941-3758.