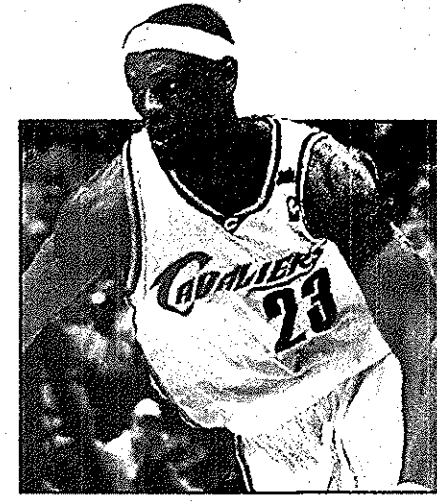




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**NEW QUARTERBACK**

◀ The Cleveland Browns traded a fourth round pick for veteran quarterback Trent Dilfer. **See page 6.**



**CAVS MOVING BACKWARDS**

The Cleveland Cavaliers are struggling mightily down the stretch, leaving some in doubt of their play-off hopes. **See page 6.**

VOLUME 74, ISSUE 52

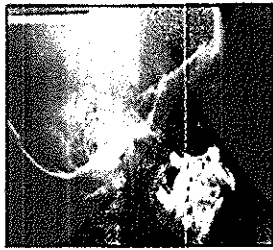
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Also Inside



▲ Head traumas becoming an everyday sports norm. **See page 6.**

**News Briefs**

**Hare Awards**

Submissions are now being accepted for the 2005 Hare Writing Award. Youngstown State University students can submit their writing in two categories: poetry and fiction/drama/screenwriting to room 212, DeBartolo Hall. A prize of \$100 will be given to one student in each category. The deadline for submissions is Monday, March 28.

For more information, contact the English department at (330) 941-3414.

**Wind Ensemble**

The 57-member Wind Ensemble group from Youngstown State University's Dana School of Music has been chosen to play at Carnegie Hall in New York.

Carnegie requested a CD from the Wind Ensemble and then contacted the college to say the ensemble had been selected for the once-a-year college performance at Carnegie.

"We're thrilled about this opportunity," Joseph Edwards, interim dean of the Dana School of Music said.

Directed by Stephen Gage, the group will perform for one hour. Musicians from Murray State University in Kansas will also perform.

E-mail your news briefs to thejambar@hotmail.com

Weather >> Mostly cloudy

28 | 14

the jambar poll question

Last question  
Do you think it's OK to display the...  
41% 59%  
Comments on government property?  
Yes No  
Today's question  
Do you agree with the decision not to renew John Robic's contract?

vote online  
www.thejambar.com

INTODAY'S JAMBAR

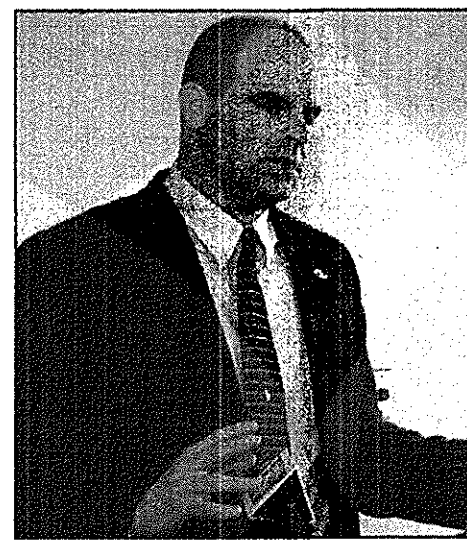
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► Entertainment | 4  
► Opinion | 3  
► Sports | 6

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YSU

## Robic won't be back

Ron Strollo announced that the contract of men's basketball coach John Robic will not be renewed

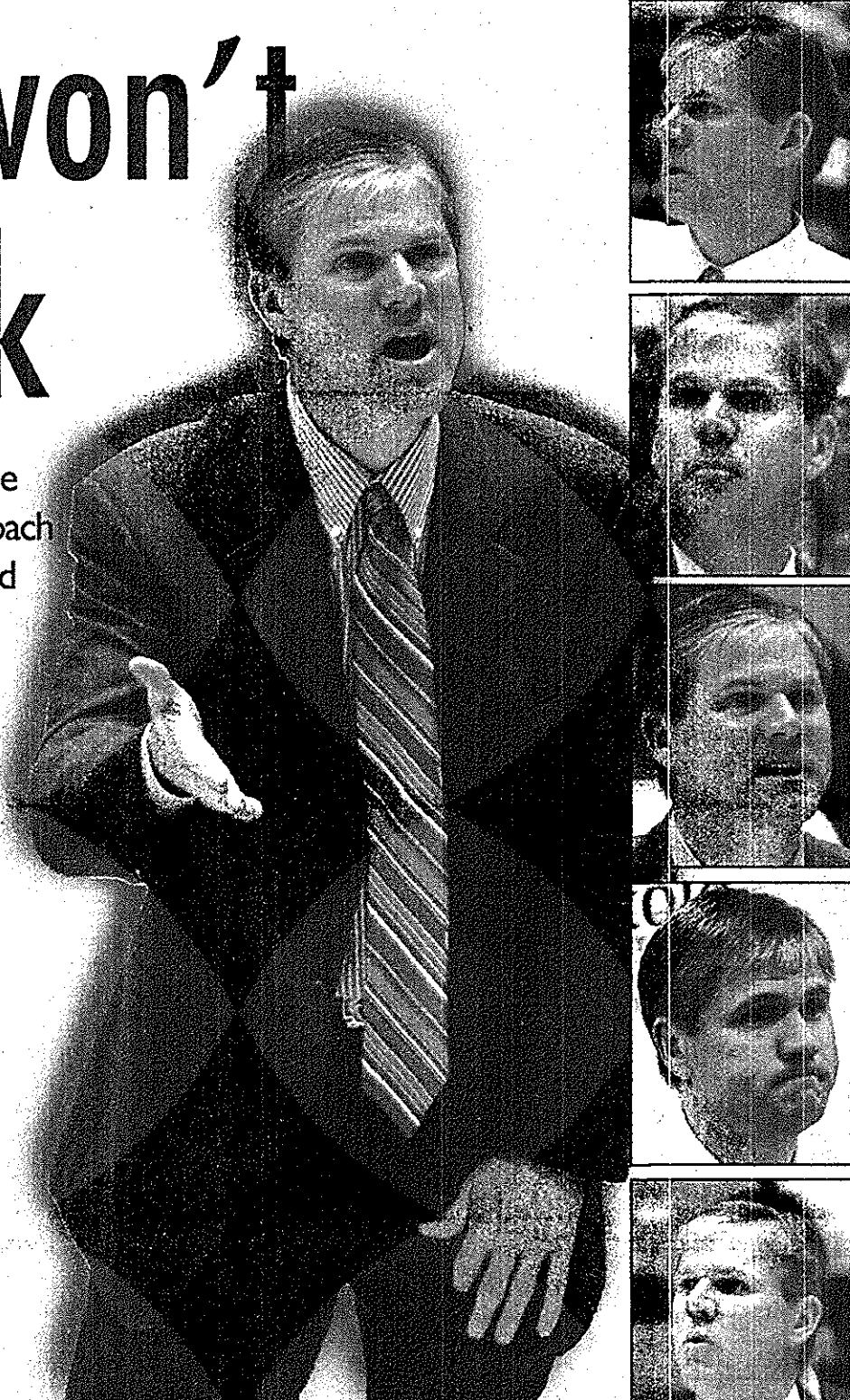


By Justin Smolkovich & B.J. Lisko  
The Jambar

After six years, head basketball coach John Robic will no longer be pacing the sidelines at Beeghly Center. Robic's contract, which expires April 30, will not be renewed Youngstown State University Athletic Director Ron Strollo said on Thursday.

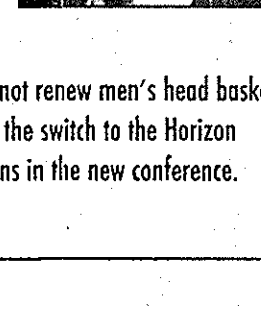
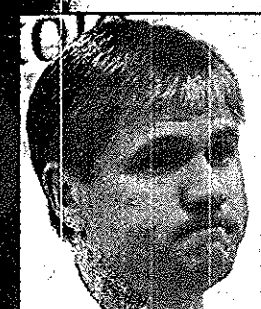
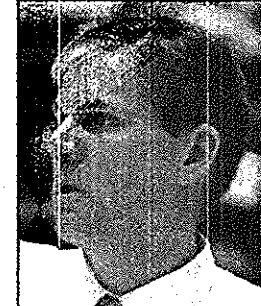
Robic, who amassed a 58-113 record during his tenure, recorded only one winning season. In 1999-2000, the Penguins went 19-11 playing in the less demanding Mid-Continent Conference. However, the Penguins joined the Horizon League the fol-

please see **ROBIC**, Page 2



### Faces of frustration

Above left, YSU Athletic Director Ron Strollo announces the school will not renew men's head basketball coach John Robic's contract for next season. Since the team made the switch to the Horizon League they have struggled, losing at least 20 games in all four seasons in the new conference. (Jambar photos by Chuck Rogers)



**ROBIC HIGHLIGHTS**

Robic's YSU Head Coaching Record

► 58-113 Through Six Seasons

Season	Wins	Losses
1999-2000	12	16
2000-2001	19	11
2001-2002	5	23
2002-2003	9	20
2003-2004	8	20
2004-2005	5	23

► **Playing Career:**

Denison, 1983-86  
Walsh College, 1981-83  
Division III All-American  
Sixth leading scorer in school history  
Named to 10th Anniversary All-Decade team

► **Coaching Career:**

YSU, Head Coach 1999-2005  
UMass, Associate Head Coach 1996-99  
UMass, Assistant Coach 1988-99  
Kansas, Graduate Assistant/JV Coach 1986-88

**Robic's YSU Basketball Highlights**

► 1999-2000: First In-Season Tournament Title Since 1994  
Won the Dr. Pepper Classic Championship at Chattanooga, Tenn.

► 2000-2001: Tied School Record With 11 Conference Victories.

► 2001-2002: Joined the Horizon League, one of the top 15 Basketball Leagues in the Nation.

► 2002-2003: First-ever post-season road Conference Tournament Win (at UW-Green Bay)

► 2003-2004: First-ever Horizon League regular-season series sweep (Cleveland State)

► 2004-2005: Fewest wins, most losses since 2001-2002 season

source: ysu.edu/sports

YSU

## Trustees to endorse details of Master Plan

By Leonard Crist  
The Jambar

A framework laying out the details of Youngstown State University's Centennial Campus Master Plan is expected to be endorsed by the university's Board of Trustees at their March 18 meeting.

The framework, which was approved by the board's Finance and Facilities committee on Thursday, calls for several major proposals including a new building for the Williamson College of Business Administration, an expansion of Ward Beecher and Moser halls, and a revamped Kilcawley Center, YSU President David Sweet said.

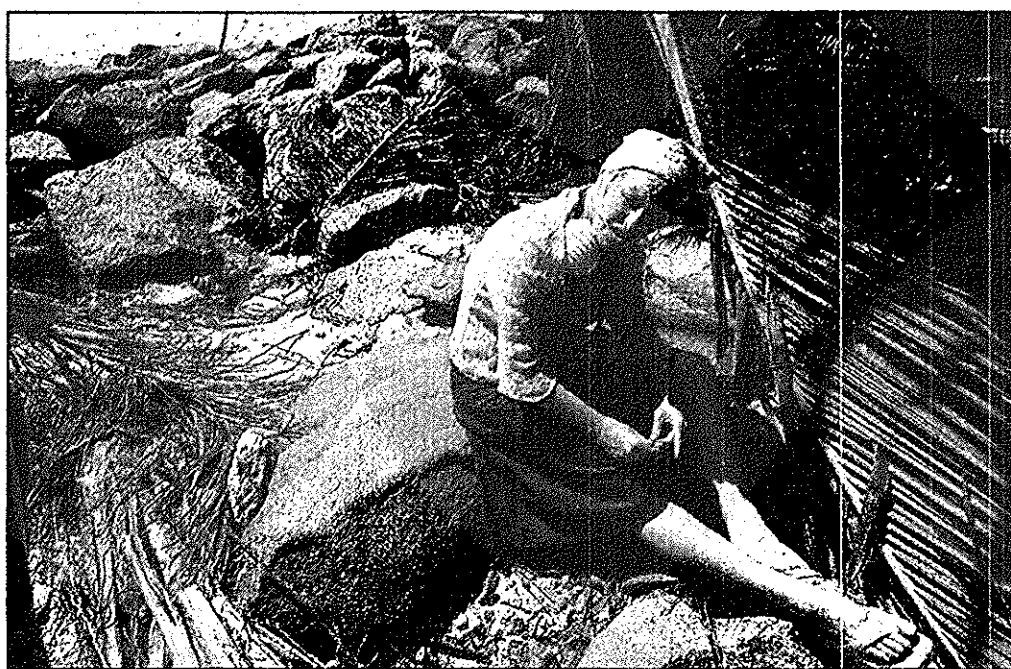
While the board has been updated throughout the planning process, which began in 2003, Thursday was the first time the administration formally asked the board to endorse

please see **PLAN**, Page 2

YSU

## Donations 'lagging behind'

The YSU push for tsunami donations well below desired goal



Australian volunteer nurse Alison Thompson rests Friday, January 28, on the beach near the village of Peralya, Sri Lanka, where she's been helping tsunami victims. Thompson arrived in Sri Lanka shortly after the December disaster and works long hours helping survivors put their lives back together. The YSU push for donations to tsunami victims is lagging behind according to officials. (KRT Campus)

By Christina Poe  
The Jambar

Reaching the goal set for Youngstown State University's Tsunami Relief Fundraising campaign is uncertain as the closing date is less than a week away.

Officials at YSU said donations are "lagging

behind" the \$15,000 goal and they are seeking the advice of student leaders to turn it around.

George McCloud, special assistant to the president, admitted that although the campaign is doing well, only a few thousand dollars have been raised.

McCloud said he and Walt

Ulbricht, executive director of marketing and communications, plan to meet this week with officers of the Student Government Association.

McCloud said they will discuss methods to "intensify student participation," including the possible extension of

please see **DONATIONS**, Page 2

YOUNGSTOWN

## Designer gives lecture in series

Stefani Danes spoke as part of 'Wednesdays at the Butler'

By Shawn Buskirk  
The Jambar

This past week at the Butler Institute of American Art, urban designer Stefani Danes was the featured speaker in the second series of lectures called "Wednesdays at the Butler."

Sponsored by the Getty Campus Heritage Grant given to the Center for Regional and Urban Studies at Youngstown State University, the lecture was aimed at comparing Danes' success in the city of Pittsburgh to the revival of Youngstown.

"Youngstown is a lot like the city of Pittsburgh. It lost its mills, it lost its workforce, and it lost its population," Danes said.

Danes, who has a master's

please see **DESIGNER**, Page 2

**ROBIC, continued from page 1**

lowing year. During their time in the Horizon League, the Penguins have posted four consecutive 20-loss seasons.

Strollo, who spoke Thursday at a press conference in Stambaugh Stadium, said the decision ultimately came down to wins and losses.

"I don't know if I could state one or two decisive factors," Strollo said. "A lot of it sometimes comes down to numbers."

Robic led the Penguins during the transition to the new league but was never able to crack into the upper echelon of the league. The lack of success that the Penguins and Robic endured had a lot to do with the rise in the talent in the new league, said Strollo.

"I think a lot of it has to do with the level of talent we are

playing against," Strollo said. Jumping into the new conference, Strollo said there had to be a period of acclimation for the coach as he tested the waters of the Horizon League.

"We knew we needed four years to evaluate."

Finding a new coach to guide the Penguins will begin soon as Strollo will appoint a search committee in the near future, although Strollo said there is no timetable as to when the new coach will be hired.

However, Strollo already has a few qualities he and the search committee will be looking for in the candidates, and these qualities range far above just being able to coach Xs and Os.

"I think the important thing is that the person's personality fits in at this school

and in this community," Strollo said.

Attracting qualified coaches to YSU will not be difficult, but Strollo noted there are certain stereotypes about Youngstown that a new coach needs to be willing to tackle head on.

"I think there is a perception that this is football school, and a football town...we need to change that perception," Strollo said.

While there is no timetable as of now, Strollo and the search committee will take extra care in acquiring the right man to lead the Penguins in a new era of basketball.

"This is an extremely important decision," Strollo said. "We are going to go out and sell this university."

Robic was not present at

the press conference, and was unavailable for comment Monday.

The assistant coaches, said Strollo, were currently running the day-to-day operations. Strollo also said he would be having a meeting with the Penguins basketball team to discuss the current situation and direction of the program.

Strollo went on to say the most important factor involved is still the athletes themselves, and that the players coming back are the type of people that can make the most out of the current situation.

"Obviously we are here for the student athlete," Strollo said. "I think we have a core group of kids to get it done."

Local sports personalities didn't seem too surprised by Strollo's decision.

John Capararis, host of the "The Front Row" on AM1240 The Fan, said the league switch proved to be a major factor in Robic's downfall.

"We're (YSU) still trying to adapt to the toughness of the Horizon League," said Capararis.

Capararis said a head coaching change was in the cards. "It's unfortunate that it happened but it was due," he said. "I admire Ron Strollo for taking the stance he did. Robic recruited to the best of his ability, but just didn't get the team to the point where it was competitive."

WFJM sports anchor Dana Balash concurred; Robic had ample time, but was unable to produce results.

"I wasn't totally surprised by the decision," Balash said.

"Being around it you got a feeling it was going to happen."

Like Capararis, Balash felt sorry the head coach had to lose his job, but it was a step Strollo had to take. According to Balash, a lack of local high school talent didn't help Robic's recruiting prospects either.

"Once YSU went to the Horizon League, you had to get a different type of player," said Balash. "Locally it's not a great basketball area. We haven't really had a blue chip type of player, and you really need that player to step into the mix to be successful."

Call Justin Smolkovich at (330) 941-3758

Call B.J. Lisko at (330) 941-1807

**DESIGNER, continued from page 1**

degree in architecture from Yale and a bachelor's degree in architecture and urban design from Princeton, presented her program entitled, "Building Housing, Building a Neighborhood."

The program showcased her work primarily located on the South Side of Pittsburgh. Her work there began in 1992.

Danes' success came from recreating high-density neighborhoods with plain housing structure. She created simple town houses and block housing.

"There's a typical pattern, not just in Pittsburgh, but in Youngstown, too," Danes said. Danes said her goal with urban design is not to industrialize old neighborhoods, but rather to keep the character and primary structure of the areas. She coined the term, "Build from Strength" as one of her principles for neighborhood revitalization.

"We need to take advantage of existing assets," she said.

She added to be successful here in Youngstown the city needs to build upon what is already available.

"You have to begin with what is possible. You get a little bit accomplished to convince people more can happen."

In conclusion of her presentation, the architect discussed the importance of preserving a neighborhood after it has been designed and open to the public. Danes said it is easy to create and present new housing, but it is up to the occupants to do their part.

"To revitalize a neighborhood takes the investment of the people of the neighborhood. It is the people that make neighborhoods great, not city money."

Call Shawn Buskirk at (330) 941-1913

**LOSING, continued from page 6**

History, unfortunately, won't settle the debate.

Last season, Stanford didn't lose until its final regular-season game, then came back to win the Pac-10 tournament and got upset in the second round of the NCAAs. Saint Joseph's went one better, staying perfect until Xavier grounded the Hawks in their conference tourney. Saint Joseph's bounced back to reach the East regional final, but went no further.

As omens go, their fate didn't augur well for Illinois. The Xavier coach who beat the Hawks last season was Thad Matta, who just happened to be working the Ohio State sideline Sunday.

Only seven teams have won the national championship with perfect records since the first tournament in 1939, which means 59 have done it with one loss or more. The first team to go unbeaten wire-to-wire was San Francisco in 1956, and UCLA, under coach John Wooden, accomplished it a staggering four times in nine years. The last to do it was Indiana in 1976. The last to get through the regular season unscathed was UNLV in 1991.

The Rebels were trying to defend their national championship that year and rolled to 34 straight wins before losing 79-77 to Duke in the NCAA semis at the Final Four in Indianapolis. The next day, former Indiana basketball star Quinn Buckner sat in a restaurant a few blocks away and couldn't get a bite of food near his mouth before a fan came up for an autograph or a handshake.

It had been 15 years since the Hoosiers' perfect season and Buckner was working the tournament for CBS. But inside that basketball-mad state, he was — and would always be — the point guard on the 1976 team. Yet every

time someone brought it up, Buckner slipped in a plug for the 1975 team that went unbeaten before losing the regional final to Kentucky.

Winning it all the following year, Buckner explained between breaks, was the only thing that "made what happened in '75 palatable."

"The '75 team was better," he said, ruefully shaking his head. "We shot better. We were deeper. We played better defense. There wasn't anything that team couldn't do."

"That," he added, "is why I try to keep that memory alive."

We always remember winners, but right or wrong, we cherish the ones that win them all. That's no longer an option for the Illini. They were vulnerable to strong post play even before the loss and they could run into even better big men — North Carolina's Sean May or Kansas' Wayne Simien — the deeper they go into the tournament.

How Weber papers over that flaw ultimately will have a lot more to do with how far his squad team goes than probability or whether his kids pay attention to pre-game speeches.

"The next stretch is the most important of the year," he said, "and that's what people are going to remember."

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at [jlitkeap.org](mailto:jlitkeap.org)

**PLAN, continued from page 1**

the master plan, Sweet said. Trustee Scott Schulick called the plan both exciting and ambitious.

"Not only will it be good for the university, it will be good for the community," Schulick said. The fundamental aspects of the plan will extend into downtown and surrounding areas of the city, he said.

"I was impressed by what I saw," Schulick said.

Sweet said the Centennial Campus Master Plan has three major themes: academic initiatives, student life, and transportation components. On the academic front, a new building for the Williamson College of Business is planned, with the current building, Williamson Hall, being used as a "swing" building where classes can be held while other university halls undergo renovations, Sweet said. An architect will be on campus within the next month to assess the space available for a new building, Sweet said. New laboratories will also be added to Moser and Ward Beecher Halls, Sweet said. For the student life proposals, Kilcawley Center will be significantly enhanced so it becomes "a true center for student life and student activities," Sweet said. Offices will be removed and other improvements will occur there, he said.

One of the major transportation proposals includes the demolition of the Fifth Ave. parking deck and the creation of new parking options, Sweet said. Because YSU is largely a commuter campus, parking is a major consideration and the administration is "making sure we have safe and adequate parking that is as conveniently located as we can possibly make it," Sweet said.

Another planned improve-

ment, in partnership with the Ohio Department of Transportation, will make the Elm Street bridge between the dorms and campus more pedestrian friendly, Sweet said. Currently, the bridge has two 4-foot sidewalks. Under the master plan, one 12-foot sidewalk will be constructed, eliminating the sidewalk on the east side of Elm Street.

Fifth Avenue is also planned to undergo changes to make it safer and more pedestrian friendly, including a median strip in the middle of fifth and slower speed limits, Sweet said. This improvement will be aided by Rep. Tim Ryan (D-17), who recently secured \$2.5 million for YSU in the 2005 transportation bill that just passed the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The bill must pass on the House floor and then get reconciled with the Senate version before it goes into effect.

In conjunction with Youngstown 2010, YSU is also planning an extension of Mill Creek Park that would reach the bridge on Fifth and Madison Avenues. A bikeway would extend to campus via a bike lane on Fifth, Sweet said.

Sweet said it is too early to make any projections on potential cost, however, the projects will be funded through a mixture of federal and state funds, private donations, and loans. He said he didn't think tuition would increase at a more rapid rate because of any loans taken out. In anticipation of the proposed changes, a series of campus meetings will be held to discuss what's next and to gain input from students and faculty, Sweet said.

Call Leonard Crist at (330) 941-1989

**Summer Employment Opportunities**

Upward Bound is looking for YSU students who enjoy working with high school students and have or would like to gain experience in housing/residential setting and student activities.

**Position Descriptions and Salary**  
Lead Resident Assistant (1 position) Salary \$1900  
Purpose: Live-in and provide 24-hour supervision of students on and off-campus. Provide leadership to residential component. Coordinate implementation of a six-week summer schedule of social, recreational, and cultural activities. Supervise residential staff.

Resident Assistant (5 positions) Salary \$1400  
Purpose: Live-in and provide 24-hour supervision of students on and off-campus. Facilitate social and recreational activities that promote interpersonal growth.

**Dates**  
June 20-July 28, 2005 plus training

**Requirements**  
Must be a current student with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Preference given to Juniors and Seniors with majors in education, psychology, social work, and those with prior work experience with high school students.

**Applications**  
Applications are available in Jones Hall 2002. The deadline date is March 25th, 2005. For additional information contact Angie Urmsen Jeffries at (330) 941-4666.

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March 12th- "Smack Daddy's"

[www.wedgewoodlanes.com](http://www.wedgewoodlanes.com)

**POLICE BLOTTER**

— Youngstown State University Police Department was dispatched to the R-1 parking lot on Elm Street on March 1 to check on a male standing next to his vehicle. The dispatcher told the officer the man was depressed and might hurt himself. The officer approached the subject and asked him if everything was all right and the subject replied, "Yes, tell my dad to leave me alone." The police report said the subject was on a cell phone. The officer blocked the vehicle and attempted to talk to him again but the subject jumped out and ran toward Cafaro House, where officers lost him.

— YSUDP was called to the Courtyard Apartments on March 3 in reference to damaged property. Maintenance personnel told the officer the first floor restroom door was kicked in and the door jam was damaged. The camera system was inoperative during that time, according to the police report.

**DONATIONS, continued from page 1**

the March 13 deadline.

McCloud said hectic schedules involving work, classes and studying may have distracted students from donating to the fund. "They might be so busy that they just forgot about the campaign and we need to remind them," McCloud said.

Ulbricht said more help from students, faculty and staff would be needed in order to reach the goal. Similar events in the past were most successful when the campus community, especially students, worked together, Ulbricht said.

The poll on the YSU Web site revealed a consistent lack of interest and reaction among participants, Ulbricht said.

According to poll results as of yesterday, 56 people had taken the survey — 76 percent said they have not yet given to the cause and 63 percent said they were unlikely to support the university's campaign.

Ulbricht said speakers such as David Lodge, president of the Home Savings and Loan Company, were aimed at raising

student awareness.

Lodge, who was vacationing with his family when the tsunami hit, visited one of Professor Ron Shaklee's classes and Shaklee agreed with Ulbricht about localizing the tragedy.

"It's one thing to see a disaster like this on the TV screen," Shaklee said. "It's another to meet someone who was actually there." Shaklee said indifference toward the fundraiser could be attributed to poor timing on the part of the university.

Shaklee said an abundance of fundraising efforts began right after the tsunami hit in December and that by the time YSU began its campaign, the cause lost a lot of steam.

Despite the late response factor, the present amount might not be a reflection of how successful the campaign will be, Shaklee added.

Shaklee said until the deadline, it may be hard to truly estimate the total amount because some campus organizations may wait until that time to hand over their contributions.

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# Editorial & Opinion

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

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## OUR SIDE

### Robic firing was a bit overdue

This past basketball season, Youngstown State University fans have laid in wait each passing week, hoping to see the men's team record just one more win.

Much to the fans' chagrin, nearly each week was marked with another loss until the Penguins finally finished out their regular season with a record of only 5-22. The men fell short in their one attempt at tournament victory, rounding the season's losses out to a total of 23.

The losing season was brought to a close, and capped off Thursday afternoon with the announcement that men's head basketball coach John Robic will not be returning to pace the sidelines next season. Instead, athletic department officials will be combing the nation for someone who can bring the team out of its slump.

Our only question is, why not sooner? YSU fans have waited plenty longer than just this season for substantial success. Robic has spent the last six years at YSU, marking up a record of only 58-113. Only one of his six seasons could be classified as winning when the team went 19-11 in Mid-Continent Conference play during his second season.

For the last four years, YSU has been a Horizon League competitor. Despite plenty of time to adjust, Robic did not. He recorded no more than nine wins in any season during regular season play.

Many are attributing the consecutive losing seasons to the heavy competition at the Horizon League level. Yet, even at the less talented, less competitive level of the Mid-Continent Conference, Robic had one winning season out of two.

Despite the rush to lay blame on conference play and coaching skill, the level of team talent must also be evaluated.

Thus, as YSU officials begin searching the nation for a coach that will bring the team out of its slump, we have a few suggestions.

We ask that a coach with a strong record and an impressive background in recruiting be brought to Youngstown. As we have all witnessed, Horizon League play is highly competitive, and showcases some of the best talent in college play. We need someone equally as talented to assure that the best make it to Beegly Center as a Penguin.

Our university needs both strong leadership and talented players to be a viable force in the conference. While we are not a so-called "basketball school," it does not mean that we cannot develop this aspect of our sports program in order to bring the best to the court, the sidelines and even the classrooms.

The Jambar editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambar and its Editorial Board members. Those wishing to schedule meetings with the Editorial Board should call the editor in chief.

Letters must be typed and should not exceed 400 words. Each letter must include a name and telephone number for verification purposes. Submissions are subject to editing for spelling and grammar. Letters must be received by noon Friday for Tuesday's edition and by noon Tuesday for Thursday's edition.

The Jambar will not print letters that libel others or threaten harm. The editor in chief reserves the right to reject letters that do not follow policy. The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff or YSU faculty, staff or administration.

STAR TRIBUNE  
S&K



Leonard Crist...



declares total thermo-nuclear war...

In the post-modern world we live in today, more commonly known as the New Millennium, we can be sure of two things: nothing is pure and nothing is sacred.

Case in point: classic rock songs in commercials.

When Bob Dylan appeared in a Victoria Secret commercial singing a relatively unknown song, it was kind of creepy. When The Who started hawking their greatest hits to car commercials a

## This week: on jingles

few years ago, it was downright nauseating.

While I'm sure Pete Townshend is in desperate need of a new yacht, the by-product of selling "Baba O'Riley" to Nissan is that many people, myself included, will never again consider the song an epic rock masterpiece about a "teenage wasteland" of angst. It is now just a jingle.

Pete Townshend, who so famously wrote the line "I hope I die before I get old," apparently got old before he died. So did Iggy Pop, the surviving members of Led Zeppelin, the Rolling Stones and many other fading cash strapped rock stars with no regard for their musical legacy.

When rock songs are sold for commercial use it is nothing less than a fraud perpetrated on the soul of humanity. And for this reason, I will never buy an iPod or the

new U2 album.

Corporations dish out millions of dollars to secure the rights to associate the good feelings people have with certain songs and then use those good feelings to trick people into buying stuff they don't really need — like Swiffers.

Q: How do you get people to buy a paper towel attached to a stick?

A: Write a nifty Devo parody that implores consumers to "Swiff it. Swiff it good."

However, when jingles are specifically created for a company, for example, the Mel Grata theme song, no baggage is created.

"You want a great deal, where do you go? Mel Grata Chevrolet Toyota, you know. You gotta call Grata that's what you should do, dial..."

Do I really need to list the phone number? [OK, so it's 347-

7702, but you probably knew that.]

The song, created in the late 80s to sell cars, does so in a much less offensive way while still seeping into the brain cells of every human being in a five county radius of Hermitage, Pa., where the Mel Grata car dealership is located.

Tom Kwolek, co-writer of the jingle, said the song has remained virtually unchanged for over 15 years. Just once, when the company eliminated the "Geo" from its name did the theme song undergo a revision, he said.

"Just about everybody" can sing that damn jingle," Kwolek said.

He's right. Everybody can sing that damn jingle, and no innocent classic rock songs were

please see JINGLE, Page 4

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### YSU still affordable

Editor,  
I can understand Ryan Tietz's frustration with the procedural issues related to the Bursar's Office. They really should make more of an effort to accommodate people who are on employer-reimbursement plans or who are veterans on the GI bill.

Poor service from the Bursar's Office, however, is a completely separate issue from the increasing cost of attendance at YSU, yet Tietz not only lumps the two together, but also adopts the stance of a helpless victim at the mercy of a faceless university bureaucracy.

First, out of all of the four-year universities in Ohio, only Shawnee State and Central State are less expensive. Relatively speaking, I don't think there's a question that YSU is the most affordable university in northern Ohio.

As far as keeping YSU affordable is concerned, consider that most of YSU's funding comes from tuition revenue and state funding. As state funding decreases, in order to balance its budget, YSU must either make cuts (in programs, resources, facilities, faculty and staff), OR raise tuition. If you as a student want the YSU of next year to be the same as or better than the YSU of this year, then you must pay a higher price.

It is not a question of waste or inefficiency — it is simple arithmetic.

The state has indeed had budget problems over the last few years, so it stands to reason that state-supported institutions would undergo funding cuts. Recently, however, the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, R.G.W. Chu, found that, since 2001, Ohio has decreased funding for each of Ohio's college students an average of 14 percent, while at the same time increasing by 32 percent the average amount of money spent on each of Ohio's prison inmates. Obviously, caring for prisoners is more important to the state than educating our work force.

### Awards shows useless

Editor,  
We, as a society, go through the same motions every single year. We carry out our workdays, celebrate holidays and in the mean time, want to be mildly entertained. Coincidentally, there's a plethora of meaningless awards shows that want to be the center of our attention.

As of late, awards shows such as the Grammys, Emmys, Tonys and the Golden Globes have fallen short of interesting in eyes of TV viewers. The trend has continued for the even more recent Academy Awards. I like to think of these awards shows the same way I think of a high school prom: a big, boring, indulged popular kids) like to get dressed up and play. This year, the obsessed viewers (most of the thought of as the not-so-cool-kids) didn't care enough about what fashion name these celebrities were wear-

ing to satisfy network executives, which has Hollywood wondering what to do next to keep viewers obsessed.

The main problem is that the world is full of people who want to emulate other people. That's why magazines such as US Weekly and In Touch, where they snag all the good celebrity gossip, like Tom Hanks sweating through his shirt, or Jessica Simpson making the big switch to Charmin Ultra, sell 1 million copies a week sometimes. It's hard to imagine a magazine that stalks overexposed movie actors selling in numbers higher than record sales.

Could it be that people don't care about award shows anymore? The executive bigwigs at ABC can't be pleased with the show having the lowest ratings since 2001's Oscars. But, they did estimate that 77 million people watched, or at least, tuned in for a moment. The show ran for nearly 4 and half hours. Perhaps, people couldn't escape it.

I tried to tune in. Instead, I found myself being distracted by the buzz coming from my heater. As much as I try to get how or why people care about artificial awards handed out in abundance every year, or what celebrities do in their off time, I just can't.

Since most awards shows have been in the decline that past few years, maybe people are realizing that these are just people with cool jobs, more money and one hell of an ego-trip. Maybe the lack of a blockbuster heart-wrencher, a la Titanic, has made the viewing public less interested in movies all together. People like bandwagons. It gives them a ride to the next trendy store.

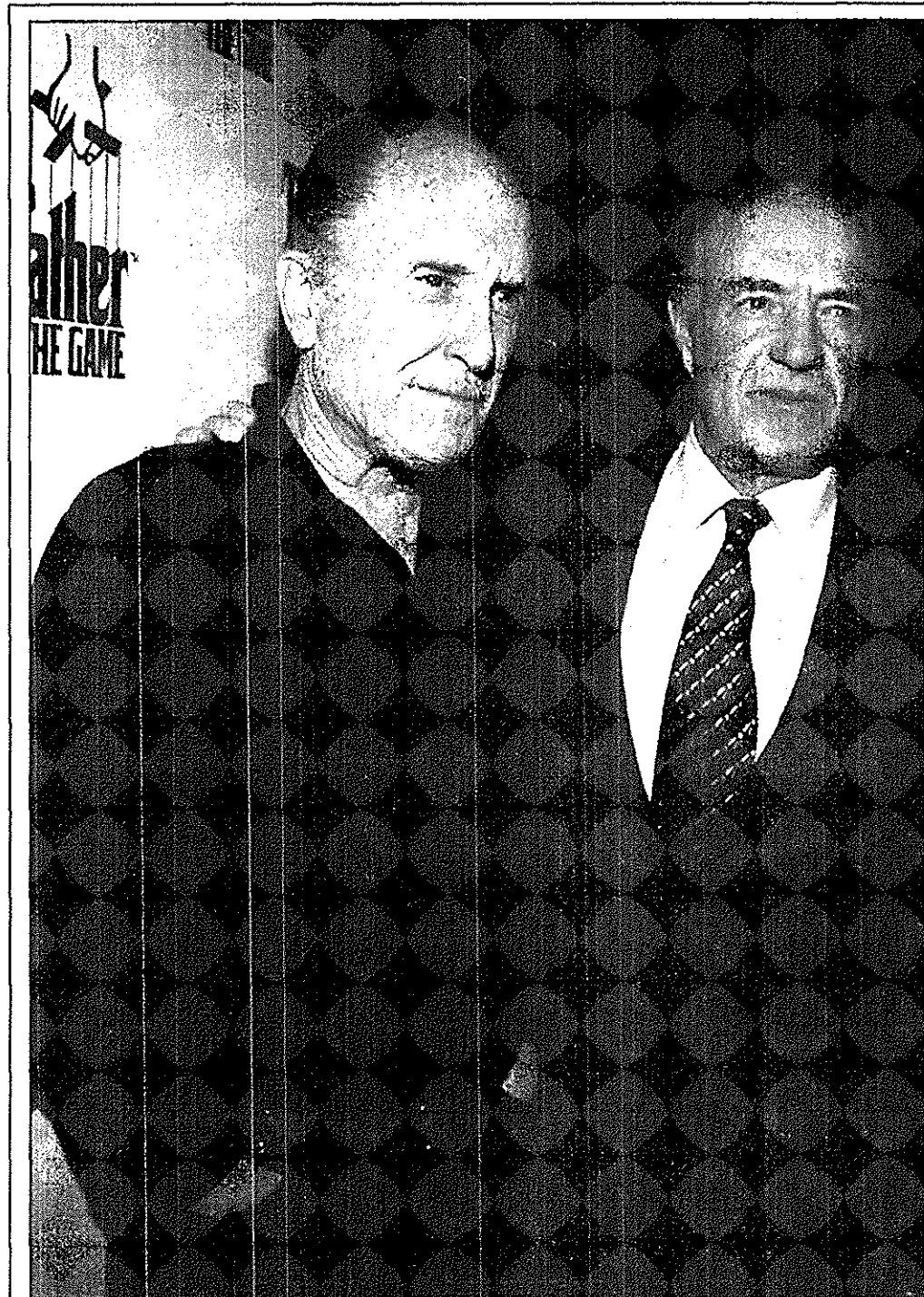
Above all, this nation goes through trends yearly. Who's to say what's hot and what's not. The entertainment industry attempts to leave no stone unturned when digging for the next timely trend. The Academy Awards should be more about giving due credit for outstanding performances. All the glitz, gleam, bling and glamour, or whatever it's referred to as this year, should be directed to the back entrance.

Joe Rafidi



**HEADLINES**

▶ *Acoustic 'Little Pill'*  
Alanis Morissette is recording an acoustic version of her smash album "Jagged Little Pill," to commemorate the disc's 10-year anniversary.



**Godfather, The Game**

"Godfather" stars Robert Duvall, (left) and James Caan attended an Electronic Arts press conference to formally announce "The Godfather" video game Thursday. It is slated for a fall release. (KRT Campus)

**MOVIE REVIEW**

**'Heroes' a repeat of 'American Beauty'**

By Kate Findley  
Daily Trojan (USC)

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES — Not only does "Imaginary Heroes" shamelessly rip off "American Beauty" and other movies from the teenage angst/dysfunctional family subgenre, but it is so poorly executed that we are astonished by both the movie's sheer unoriginality and by how bad it is.

"Imaginary Heroes" strings together characters and situations stolen from countless movies without grounding them in the emotions that made the best of its predecessors resonate with viewers. What results is a disconnected mess where we become more engrossed with tallying off familiar movie moments than with the movie itself.

After a family tragedy, Tim (Emile Hirsch) and his mom Sandy (Sigourney Weaver) sit on the porch and have shallow conversations about the shallowness of the human race. Tim's dad (Jeff Daniels) dozes off in his car as he asynchronously croaks out the words to classic rock hits. His sister (Michelle Williams) comes home for the funeral, only to disappear for long stretches until the movie conveniently wheels her out to have heartfelt conversations with Tim.

One of these conversations involves an overhead shot of the pair spinning on a merry-go-round while gazing at the stars as the movie tries its best to be whimsical, with the following exchange: "Is there such a thing as the human heart?" "If you listen closely you can hear it breaking."

The characters show how



"Imaginary Heroes" shamelessly rips off "American Beauty" according to one reporter, so much in fact that never builds its own flavor. (KRT Campus)

sensitive they are through such insights as "in 100 years no one will know who we are;" "They'll know the stars;" and "People like us -- we don't fit in anywhere."

"Imaginary Heroes" shuffles Tim through situations so rapidly that he covers every bit of imaginable territory and yet experiences nothing. Because Hirsch expresses nothing resembling real emotion in scenes where he is supposedly depressed, the movie paints an angst with caked blood and a black eye.

Hardly a minute goes by without the movie unveiling such familiar plot devices as the Eccentric Neighbor, the Stoner Friend, the Loser's Hidden Talent and the Dark Family Secret, to name a few. At first it's fun to try and predict the outcome of each scene but this gets old quickly as the movie fails to throw us into a loop time after time.

When male bonding leads to a snowy romp set to "Have Yourself a Merry Little

Christmas," we correctly guess that they will have a "gay moment" followed by morning-after denial. Sandy's attempt to score drugs leads to an embarrassing mishap we can see coming from miles away.

There is nothing wrong with using the formula of a successful movie to reignite the magic. After all, filmmaking is as much of an evolutionary process as it is a creative one.

Most movies borrow from the database of characters and themes compiled from previous works.

While the new version often veers from the heart of the original, in the process it can capture the world from different vantage points and offer a fresh perspective.

However, "Imaginary Heroes" forages so many parts from other movies that it has no room to build upon them. It all amounts to a junkyard of rusty cliches and defective characters.

**YSU**

**Triangle Shirt Factory Fire remembered in monologue**

By Bill Rodgers  
The Jambor

The Triangle Shirt Factory Fire, an industrial disaster in New York City that killed 146 employees, most of which were immigrant women as young as 15-years-old, will mark its 94th anniversary on March 25.

The fire is remembered yearly as part of International Women's Day. Today, a dramatic presentation about the fire will be performed by actress Paula Jasper. Jasper will be performing a monologue titled "Fire." The performance is set in 1912, one year after the fire; Jasper's character is a Russian Jewish immigrant woman who survived the fire and becomes involved in the labor movement.

Jasper said the event was "horrific" but very important to the labor movement in America.

"The fire helped begin the labor movement, and women were able to find their voice in it," Jasper said.

Karen Wilson, executive director of the Arts Council at Youngstown State University said the performance was important for students to see.

"I'm pleased that students will learn what women who worked before unions were founded had to deal with," Wilson said.

There will be two performances of the piece: one today at 4 p.m. and another tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. Both performances will be in the Ohio Room. Performances are free and open to the public.

The presentation is sponsored by the Arts Council of Youngstown/ Mahoning County and the Fine Arts Council of Trumbull County with support from the YSU Diversity Council and the Williamson College of Business Administration.

**Fire**

The 1911 fire, one of the greatest disasters in New York's history, had a significant impact on labor legislation conditions in the United States. A big push was made after the fire for workers' rights and workplace safety.

The fire broke out on the eighth, ninth and 10th floors of the Triangle Shirt Factory in the Manhattan district of New York City. A New York Times article published the following day said the only exit out of

the factory was blocked by flames, trapping the employees in the upper levels of the building.

Other exits were reported to have been locked, an elevator was out of service, a fire exit collapsed and rescue ladders were two stories too short to reach the eighth floor. The workers were faced with the option of either burning or jumping from the windows.

No one knows how the fire began, but the building had experienced four recent fires and was reported by the fire department to the building department as unsafe because of insufficient fire exits.

The Times interviewed Samuel Tauber, a man who previously worked as a foreman in the Triangle Company. Tauber said when he worked at the factory, a motor that had supplied power for the sewing machines emitted a flame that set fire to some scraps of fabric lying nearby. Tauber said he believed the fire could have begun in that way.

The building itself was fireproof. After the fire, it showed few signs of damage.

**Trapped**

Escape for the employees was hampered by several factors. The sewing machines were placed so closely together there were few aisles to move through.

Workers who survived the blaze accused their employers, Max Blanck and Issac Harris, of deliberately locking all but one of the exits. The workers claimed that Blanck and Harris locked the other exits to prevent employees from stealing anything from the factory. They said normally the only way out for employees was through a single door where the bags of the employees were inspected for stolen materials.

An elevator that led to the upper floors of the factory made one trip to the ground but never returned. Samuel Levine, a machine operator, smashed open the doors to the elevator shaft with his bare hands and attempted to slide down the elevator cables to the ground floor.

On his way down, Levine saw that girls began to jump down the shaft from the top floor. Levine said that one of the girls hit him and he fell the rest of the way to the elevator car, landing on the body of one of the girls who jumped from the top floor.

By the time the fire department came, employees were already jumping from the factory's windows. Some tried landing on the glass overhanging above the sidewalks, only to crash through to the ground. Some held hands as they leapt from the buildings, others jumped, their hair and clothing already on fire.

Three male employees made a human bridge from the burning building to an adjacent one. Some were saved by crossing the bridge into an open window in the other building. The weight eventually became too great for the men and the bridge collapsed, the men and those crawling across them fell to the ground.

The fire department found the stream from their hoses could not reach the upper floors of the burning building.

The fire department and some citizens tried catching the employees in nets and blankets. Few were able to be saved in this way. Some either tore straight through the blankets or bounced off the nets.

**Outcry and Reform**

The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union organized to press for better workplace conditions and that Blanck and Harris be brought to trial.

The union took up the call for workplace reform. One of the union's organizers, Rose Schneiderman, wrote a letter to The Survey that pressed for safer workplace conditions.

After the fire, the Joint Board of Sanitary Control worked with management and employees in the garment industry to set and maintain standards of safety in the workplace. The board conducted investigations and inspected safety conditions in the workplace.

Unions and manufacturers both approved the new standards, and the board was then able to monitor and enforce the standards in workplaces and shops.

Blanck and Harris were brought to trial eight months after the fire. They were acquitted of any wrongdoing, angering many of the families who had lost people in the fire.

Harris and Blanck later paid \$75 to each family who lost someone in the fire, settling the 23 lawsuits brought against them.

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-3758

**JINGLE, continued from page 3**

harmled in the process.

Kwolek also said the jingle has been good for business. It helped give the car dealership a publicly recognizable face — a lesson that could be learned by more than just car companies.

Which brings me to my next point: Youngstown needs a theme song. Something catchy. Something that makes you remember important facts about it. Something that gets stuck in your head all day and won't leave, no matter how hard you try.

Unfortunately Youngstown already has a theme song. Bruce Springsteen wrote it. It's not very catchy and it's not likely bringing many tourists in.

"My sweet Jenny I'm sinking down, here darlin' in Youngstown," Springsteen sings in his song "Youngstown," perhaps accurately pegging the city during a certain time in history, but not exactly looking ahead to the bright and sunny future that is currently being planned by Youngstown 2010.

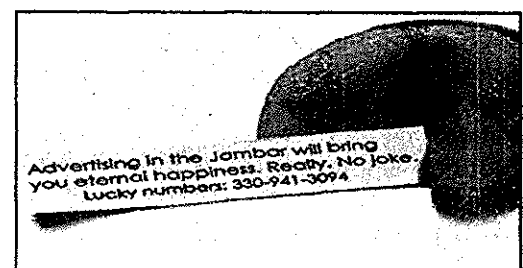
To do my part in helping the city achieve a

brighter tomorrow, I have taken the liberty of composing a proposed jingle for the city of Youngstown, sung to the tune of the Mel Grata song:

"If you wanna do some shopping, where should you go? To the city of Youngstown, Ohio. You gotta call McKelvey, that's what you should do, dial 742-8702."

Sure, it's no Campus Book and Supply theme song. But then again, what is? [That's Mayor George McKelvey's real office number, by the way. Give him a call if you have any problems. He's a nice guy. He'll help you out.]

Call Leonard Crist at (330) 941-1989



**CAVS**, continued from page 6

supportive during the slide, finally boiled over after the Cavs were outthrustled and out-rebounded 55-40 by the Heat.

"When Shaq goes out, you've got to get up a killer instinct," Silas said. "But all I'm seeing right now is 'We're tight, I'm this, I'm that.' That's nonsense. We didn't fight. That's a loser's mentality. If we continue to perform as we are, then everything is in danger."

A few weeks ago, Cleveland's first trip to the playoffs since 1998 seemed like a slam dunk.

Now it's a potential air ball. Going into Monday night's games, the Cavaliers (31-27) were tied with Orlando for the No. 5 seed in the East with Chicago (29-27) one game back

and Indiana (29-30) and Philadelphia (29-30) lurking 2 1/2 games behind.

Cleveland's schedule for the rest of March won't provide many breaks, either. After hosting the Magic on Tuesday night and the Pacers on Sunday, the Cavaliers have home games against Philadelphia and Detroit and road dates in Milwaukee, Toronto, Houston, Dallas and Chicago.

"We could easily go down the toilet and not make the playoffs," James said.

James, who has been brilliant all season, has shown more frustration of late. On Friday, the second-year star was called for a technical in the fourth quarter at Philadelphia that allowed the Sixers to close out a

win.

On Sunday, James said his team doesn't know now what it takes to win.

"That's very concerning," he said. "We've just got to get a win. Someway, somehow. If I've got to play 48 minutes to get us a win, I'll do it."

James and center Zydrunas Ilgauskas have provided the only consistency for a team that has gotten nothing from its bench during the losing streak. Against the Heat, the pair combined for 45 points while starters Jeff McInnis, Ira Newble and Robert Traylor accounted for 14 on 6-of-20 shooting. "We're just putting pressure on ourselves now," McInnis said. "Everybody is pressing."

**TRAUMA**, continued from page 6

ly involve disorientation, foggy-ness or a detached feeling. Some experts believe memory loss to be the most important factor in determining concussions.

Wathen also added there are so many different scales on how to grade the severity, and that to effectively treat them, each injury must be examined individually.

"They range anywhere from first to sixth degree concussions. There are a zillion grading scales. You have to take each case as it's presented," Wathen said. Determining a concussion after a jarring hit has proven more difficult than most expected, as preconceived notions have given way to new findings. It was believed loss of consciousness was the telltale signs of massive trauma, but research done by the Concussion Program at the University of Pittsburgh has proven that symptoms following the initial hit are just as vital. "Athletes may sustain a severe concussion without losing consciousness. Amnesia and confusion may be as important, if not more important in making a return to play decision," said lead author of the study Mark R. Lovell, Ph.D.

Since symptoms of concussions may linger and appear mundane, very few studies have been done on the relationship between after-effects and concussions. Recent findings have shown a strong relationship between headaches and concussions.

Michael W. Collins, a neuropsychologist and assistant director of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Sports Medicine, said in a press release that athletes with a "post-concussion headache" should go for more evaluation before they can play again because headaches are now appearing to be associated with lingering problems and incomplete recovery.

Wathen, who has been pacing the YSU sidelines for years, said the age of the victim of a concussion has a lot to do with effects afterwards.

"Typically older people handle concussions better than younger, and typically you don't see much problems with older people."

As science evolves, so does protective equipment.

Riddell, a manufacturer of helmets and other football equipment, have recently released the "Revolution" helmet designed to limit the occurrence of concussions.

The helmet, which has

become popular in many college football programs, was designed by looking at different aspects of the anatomy of a severe blow to the head. Before, when determining the level of impact in concussion cases, the Severity Index (SI) was used. This index was calculated in G's upon impact in a straight linear line.

However, the new index created by Riddell called the Head Impact Power Index (HIP) has proven to be more accurate. This index also takes in to account both the linear movement of the impact and rotational impact, or how the head would move in a severe jarring impact.

Despite having this new technology, Wathen said he believes there is always the possibility of concussions.

"It boils down to if you get hit head on, your going to get a concussion," Wathens said. "You don't even need to get hit in the head, it can be in the chin."

Collins agrees with Wathen and gave the analogy of an egg inside of the shell, representing the head.

"In helmet to helmet contact, you can protect the shell with a helmet but you can't stop the yolk from breaking," Collins said.

But Collins does say new advancements in the field of athletic protection are a step in the right direction.

"What we are finding is that the helmets are reducing the amount of concussions, but its naive to think that they will stop them completely."

While some concussions may prove no more than a simple headache, the real danger lies in what is often called "Second Impact Syndrome." Rare, second impact syndrome is often fatal and is the cause of receiving a mild head trauma directly following a concussion and before the brain has had adequate time to heal itself. SIS causes fatalities by stopping the auto-regulation of the brain's blood supply, resulting in vascular engorgement in the lower brain. Mortality rates for SIS are very high.

With the risks of concussions higher than most previously imagined, severe concussions are not as prominent as one would believe. "You don't see one a week during the season. It is more like half a dozen for the season," Wathen said.

Unfortunately for many athletes, like YSU's Halverson, the risk will always remain, lingering in the future waiting to strike many athletes.

"I am sure in the next three years, I will get more," Halverson said.

Call Justin Smolkovich at (330) 941-3758

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**Miscellaneous**

This is the time of year when there are hardly any good sports on TV. Buffalo Wild Wings has the solution. NASCAR. I know, I know, but hear me out. It's really not that bad if you sit down with a beer and watch the whole race. Plus, it gives you a good excuse to drink our frosty, tall drafts and pound some wings on a Sunday. Even if it's not your thing, hang out and play some Golden Tee golf, NTN trivia or darts. (The last two are free all of the time!) Come down and give it a rip at your home for Wings, Beer and Sports, Buffalo Wild Wings in Downtown Youngstown.

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**BRIEF**

**Phi Kappa Phi**


Youngstown State University Chapter 143 of the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society has chosen its scholarship winners for the 2004-05 academic year.

Jennifer Davidson, a senior mechanical engineering major, will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for her graduate studies.

Freshman Victoria Chaney, a sociology major, and Carrie Davis, an education major, will both receive the Gratia Murphy First Year Award.


The \$1,000 Mavrigian-Grim Award winner will be announced at Phi Kappa Phi's award banquet at 6 p.m. March 31 in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center. Davidson, Chaney and Davis will be recognized at this time.

The reservation deadline for the banquet is March 11. For more information contact Sharyn fees at (330) 941-3627.



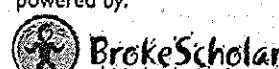
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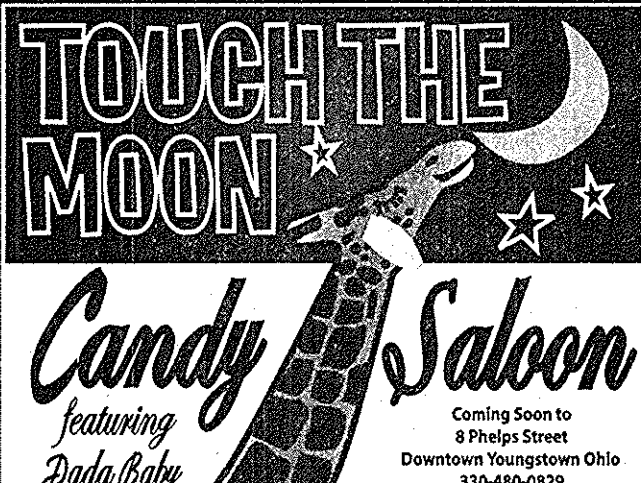
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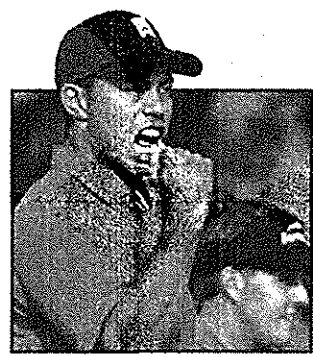


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**HEADLINES**

◀ *No. 1 again*  
With a one shot win over Phil Mickelson, Tiger Woods has reclaimed top ranking.  
▶ *Warner a Cardinal*  
Quarterback Kurt Warner agreed to a one-year deal with the Arizona Cardinals.



**SCOREBOARD**

▶ *Softball*  
Penguins 2, Belmont, 3  
Penguins 4, Kentucky, 8  
  
▶ *Baseball*  
Penguins 4, Wofford, 11  
Penguins 4, Wofford, 6

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

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Page 6

**COMMENTARY**

**What's really good about losing?**

By Jim Litke  
Associated Press

Forget for a moment whether losing builds character. Think of it as a practical matter instead.

Is a team that's used to winning more likely to win after a loss — assuming there's enough season left — and the next time out, and the time after that?

Because after four months and 29 straight wins, it's no longer a philosophical question to Illinois coach Bruce Weber. After surviving a handful of close scrapes and plenty of laughers, his team got beat 65-64 in the last game of the regular season Sunday at Ohio State on a 3-pointer with 5.1 seconds left.

"Everyone says a loss will help," Weber said. "We'll find out."

The good news is that the Illini will get the chance, beginning Friday at the Big Ten Conference tournament and continuing on into the NCAAs. And the really good news? Despite the loss, and no matter what happens in the conference tourney, they'll stroll into NCAAs enjoying all the perks of a top seed. And if that wasn't consolation enough, Weber stated the obvious.

"I'd rather lose now," he said, "than three weeks from now."

A week ago, Weber was the king of all he surveyed. The Illini had already whipped Gonzaga and Cincinnati on neutral turf, destroyed Wake Forest at Assembly Hall in Champaign, and beat conference brethren Michigan State and Wisconsin, home and away, and Weber came down squarely on the side of those who believe losses have no educational value. He joked that he was running low on fresh material for his pre-game talks, and a loss would certainly change that. But in terms of usefulness, Weber said he'd take the "W" every time.

Coaches at the top programs always say that, because winning is practically a way of life. There are enough moments in a season when rattling a team's ego or loosening a choke collar come in handy, to be sure. But in the next breath, those coaches argue they're teaching the same lessons all the time, and if a loss drives the point home more effectively than a win, their kids weren't listening from the start.

The counter argument, like so many others in college basketball, originated with the late Al McGuire. But it had more to do with probability than serendipity. The longer a winning streak lasted, the Marquette sage reasoned, the sooner his number was bound to come up. Then again, even during his national championship season, McGuire was never at a loss for material.

"I don't believe in looking past anybody," he said about preparing for one of the patsies on his schedule. "I wouldn't look past the Little Sisters of the Poor after they stayed up all night."

please see **LOSING**, Page 2

**CLEVELAND**

**Browns trade for Dilfer**

Cleveland gives up fourth round pick for the veteran quarterback



**New leader of the pack?**

Quarterback Trent Dilfer, right, scrambles away from Washington's Dan Wilkinson (95) during their game November 4, 2001 at FedEx Field. The Cleveland Browns traded a fourth round draft pick for the veteran quarterback Saturday. (KRT Campus)

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Cleveland Browns didn't wait long to find an experienced quarterback, trading a fourth-round draft pick for Seattle veteran Trent Dilfer on Saturday. The Browns were left with two inexperienced quarterbacks after Kelly Holcomb signed a four-year deal with Buffalo on Friday. They released starter Jeff Garcia earlier this offseason.

Enter Dilfer, who became expendable in Seattle after starter Matt Hasselbeck signed a six-year, \$49 million contract last month. Dilfer, who turns 33 on March 13,

appeared in five games last season, leading the Seahawks to victories in his only two starts.

The trade, contingent on league approval and Dilfer passing a physical, reunites the 6-foot-4, 225-pound quarterback with Browns general manager Phil Savage.

Savage was Baltimore's player personnel director when Dilfer took over for starter Tony Banks midway through the 2000 season and led the Ravens to a Super Bowl championship.

The move still leaves Cleveland with

plenty of flexibility as it searches for a long-term solution at quarterback.

Dilfer only has one year left on his contract, so his addition would not prevent the Browns from making other moves. The fourth-round pick also is an extra one, acquired from Denver for defensive tackle Gerard Warren earlier this week.

Luke McCown and Josh Harris were the only two quarterbacks on the Cleveland roster before the trade. McCown started four games as a rookie last season but was largely ineffective, while Harris has yet to take a snap during a regular-season game.

**CLEVELAND**

**Cavs losing games and confidence**

By Tom Withers  
Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Cavaliers have begun their push for the NBA playoffs — backward.

Six straight defeats have erased much of what Cleveland accomplished in the first half of the season, when it led the Central Division and played like a team on the verge of becoming a winner.

But now, in addition to losing games, the Cavaliers are losing confidence.

"I don't see the fire, the intensity, the passion, all the things we've had at one time we've lost," coach Paul Silas said Sunday night after a 102-82 loss to the Miami Heat. "They have to do some soul searching. Either we're going to pick it up or chuck it in."

Maybe Silas should have seen this coming. After all, the Cavs' surprisingly strong start was aided by a favorable schedule, the Indiana-Detroit brawl that slowed those Eastern Conference powers and the dramatic one-year improvement of LeBron James.

The Cavaliers are 8-0 against expansion Charlotte and Atlanta and 14-0 overall against Golden State, Utah, New Orleans and Toronto — all last-place teams. Against the rest of the league, Cleveland is 17-27.

In the past week, the Cavaliers have been exposed at home by San Antonio, Seattle and Miami. The Heat won with ease, pulling away in the second half despite getting limited time from Shaquille O'Neal, who was in foul trouble throughout and finished with just 13 points in 27 minutes.

Silas, who has tried to be please see **CAVS**, Page 5

**YSU**

**Head trauma common in everyday sports situations**

Blake Halverson knows how serious concussions can be

By Justin Smolkovich  
The Jambar

It was a normal day of practice for the 6 foot 2 Penguin linebacker Blake Halverson. During a drill, Halverson came forward to make a tackle.

"It was a half line drill, a drill with only one side of the line," Halverson said. "I came up to make the tackle on Demetrius Ison, and that's it."

In the hit that followed, Halverson received his first concussion of the year.

"After the next head contact, I felt like throwing up," Halverson said.

While Halverson experienced what doctors call only a mild concussion, his story illustrates just how easy head trauma can happen in every day practice situations.

Every fall afternoon, thousands of college athletes suffer severe impacts much like Halverson. These athletes are football players who wittingly expose themselves to injuries, and are subject to collisions that rival those of a NASCAR impact.

The injuries can be just simple bumps and bruises. However, they are also susceptible to a more vicious and painful injury that hides itself inside the victim's head, waiting to exact its wrath when least expected.

In the NCAA publication entitled NCAA Guidelines: Concussion and Second Impact Syndrome, it was estimated that more than 1,500 college football players suffered concussions annually. Nearly 9 out of 10 of all head injuries reported in the game of

college football are classified as concussions.

A concussion occurs when a sudden impact shakes the brain inside the skull.

However, determining the severity of concussions has been a thorn in the collective side of athletic trainers across the country, as mild concussions, often referred as "dings" or "thumps" are nearly undetectable and can remain dormant.

Dan Wathen, head athletic trainer at Youngstown State University, said determining the presence and severity of concussions is a delicate matter.

"It depends on symptoms initially, usually there is a refractory period," Wathen said. "Mild concussions usual-

please see **TRAUMA**, Page 5

**Personal Trainer**

**Blow to head not just a 'ding'**

Football players need several days to recover from a concussion, according to new research that is likely to apply to other sports.

**After a mild head injury**

- ▶ The athletes' neurological symptoms lasted about 7 days
- ▶ Their thinking took 5 to 7 days to return to normal
- ▶ Their balance took 3 to 5 days to recover
- ▶ About 10 percent of players needed more than a week to recover

**Recommendation**

- After concussion, athlete should stop competing at once
- Do not return to play or practice until all symptoms end, both at rest and with exertion
- If athlete passes out or has signs of amnesia, he or she should not play that day
- Athlete should get careful, repeated exams by person trained and experienced in evaluating concussion
- If symptoms worsen, athlete should get immediate medical exam, possible hospitalization

Source: Study of 1,631 college football players by Michael McCrea of Waukesha Memorial Hospital, Journal of the American Medical Association