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BLASPHEMY AND BASKETBALL

◀ How do you get Goldberg the goalie, wrestler Booker T. and the NBA finals in one column? Jambar staffer shows you how. **See page 4.**



DIVING TEAM INKS RECRUITS

The YSU diving squad beefed up its roster. Sports briefs, **See page 4.**

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YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

>>FREE<<

YSU

Employees negotiating future contracts

YSU's Ohio Education Association and the Association of Classified Employees are in contract talks with the university

By Bill Rodgers
News Editor

With their contracts set to expire in August, Youngstown State University's Ohio Education Association and the Association of Classified Employees at YSU are negotiating their future con-

tracts with the university. A hearing is set for June 29 to determine whether the contract proposals should continue to be released to the public.

ACE

The ACE union met with university negotiators on May 25 and again on June 7. Christine Domhoff, the union's

president, said there had not been any real negotiating talks as of yesterday. She said the two sides were scheduled to meet again yesterday afternoon.

The ACE union is seeking a three-year contract that includes a



DOMHOFF

5 percent annual raise. The university's initial offer was a 1.5 percent annual raise. The union is also seeking up to \$1,350 in enrollment incentives, though the university's proposal calls for the elimination of enrollment incen-

tives. The union seeks a pay increase of 1.5 to 2.5 times the normal rate for hours worked in an emergency school closing. The union's proposal also calls for a Distinguished Classified Civil Service Award program, which would reward \$750-\$1,500 to 24 bargaining unit

members each year.

The union's proposal calls for five additional holidays with Saturday afternoons observed as a holiday. Under the union's proposal, employees who work Saturday afternoon would receive holiday pay.

please see **CONTRACTS**, Page 2

YSU

Wick Pollock to stay closed pending future talks



The Wick Pollock Inn. (Jambar file photo)

By Bill Rodgers
News Editor

The doors of the Wick Pollock inn must stay locked a bit longer after university talks with Cleveland developing company Paran Management were broken off last week.

The company was negotiating with the university over redeveloping the inn that has been closed since 1998. John Habat, Youngstown State University's vice president of administration, said talks with the company had come to a standstill because the university wished to negotiate a better deal.

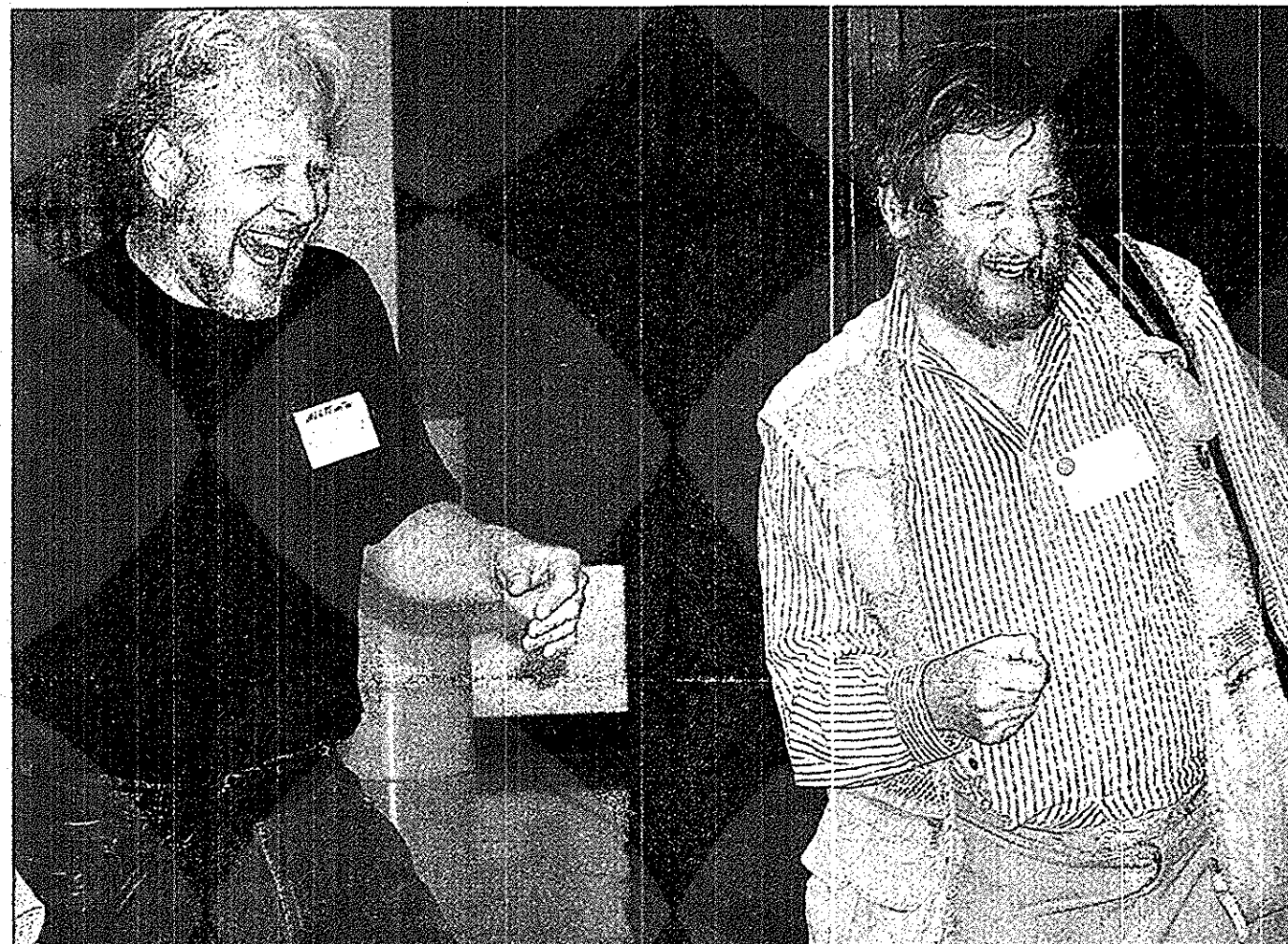
Habat said the university may pursue talks with other developing companies, but in the meantime the inn would have to be put on hold.

"We're going to keep working on the project, but unfortunately there are other important things going on at YSU," Habat said. "It will have to wait until we can pay attention to it. We have to work on this as the opportunities to do so present themselves."

Paran was interested in reopening the building owned by YSU and operating it as a

please see **WICK**, Page 2

YSU



Gut buster

Matthew Taylor (left), a magician from Cincinnati and Christie Davies, from the University of Reading in the United Kingdom, laugh at a joke told by Davies while on a break between sessions of the International Society of Humor Studies annual conference, held this year at Youngstown State University. (Jambar photo by Leonard Crist)

Conference brings big laughs

Kilcawley Center hosts International Society of Humor Studies conference

By Eric Grosso
Carrie Swansiger
Contributing Writers

Youngstown State University's Kilcawley Center is "comedy central" this week for the International Society of Humor Studies' 17th annual conference on humor, featuring speakers from YSU and more than 20 different countries.

With open mic comedy night, scholarly projects, wings and research papers, the ISHS brings a unique brand of humor research to Youngstown State University with its annual conference.

The event has been held in France, Italy, England, Japan and Hawaii. ISHS members traveled from around the world to YSU for the gathering, which began Monday in Kilcawley Center and will run

"It was a lot of work but well worth it. The members are real impressed with the Youngstown area and Kilcawley Center."

Salvatore Attardo,
YSU linguistics professor

through Friday.

On Monday, the conference began with presentations in Kilcawley Center on humor research methods and techniques. The presentations provided a base in the research aspect of humor, rather than introducing new theories or discussing problems in humor. The night ended with a scheduled dinner at Inner Circle Pizza.

Salvatore Attardo, a linguistics professor at YSU, brought the conference to Youngstown. Attardo said that usually members nominate their home areas for the event, resulting in a wide variety of locations. Despite the hard work, Attardo didn't give it a second thought.

"It was a lot of work, but well worth it," Attardo said. "The members are real impressed with the Youngstown area and Kilcawley Center."

Seminars in facial expressions of humor, developing and teaching a college course in humor, humor and religion and humor roles in student identity are some of the more than 100 presentations scheduled to be given throughout the week.

All members are also encouraged to share their research papers during the

please see **LAUGHS**, Page 2

YSU

A scholar of a merchant of Venice

By Megan Anderson
Contributing Writer

Imagine a long-awaited trip to Italy. Romantic rides on gondolas, beautiful architecture, gorgeous blue skies, delicious food, the chance to study Bembo. It sounds like the perfect vacation, right?

Well, maybe up until the part about Bembo. Most people don't know who — or what — Bembo is, and studying isn't something a person usually wants to do on vacation.

But for Youngstown State University professor Eleanor Congdon,



CONGDON

Congdon, it sounds like a great trip. Researching Bembo is the most exciting and important part of her trip to Venice and Florence, and Bembo is actually the reason she is able to go to Italy.

Bembo is not a place, or an object. Bembo is a person, a man who was alive in the 15th century. He was an international merchant who operated in the Aegean Sea during a time of war between Christian Venetians and Muslim Turks.

And Congdon, assistant professor of history, gets the chance to study copies of more than 300 letters written by Bembo between 1476 and 1486. They were letters sent to his agents, and they're contained in a ledger called a "copy-letter," Congdon said.

She isn't going to Italy to enjoy the food or gondola rides. She's on a mission, and that mission is to study Bembo's letters and review official government records about what Venetians and Turks were doing during

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Weather >> Chance of rain

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News Briefs

Architecture firm establishes new scholarship

A new \$1,500 scholarship is being funded by The Ralph Tyler Companies, a Cleveland-based architecture, engineering, and program management firm. The scholarship is aimed at Youngstown City School District graduates who plan to or are already studying engineering at Youngstown State University. The \$1,500 award will be broken down to help students with

tuition, books, room, and board. Interested parties should contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at (330) 941-3505.

Wick/Logan clean-up scheduled for June 25

The Youngstown State University Litter Control and Recycling Program is having a community litter cleanup Saturday, June 25, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The cleanup will focus on Wick and

Logan Avenues.

Volunteers are asked to meet at the Time Warner Building, 808 Wick Ave. Bags and gloves will be provided.

Forté on the Fifty set for July 9

The Beatles: tribute band Come Together will headline the 10th annual Forté on the Fifty concert Saturday, July 9. The show, held

in Stambaugh Stadium will also feature a performance by the Dana All-Star Band at 7:30 p.m.

Come Together will perform at 8:30, followed by a fireworks show by B.J. Alan Fireworks Co.

Tickets for adults cost \$8 and admission for children 12 and under is \$4. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Stambaugh Stadium ticket office.

For more information, visit ysu.edu/forte.

the jambar poll question

Last question

Should the government legalize medical marijuana?

40% 60%

Yes No

Today's question: Who will win the NBA finals?

vote online www.thejambar.com

CONTRACTS, continued from page 1

Management is seeking to change the language covering layoffs. Currently, employees receive 60 days notice. Under the proposed language, employees would receive 10 days of notice.

Jim Wilkins, YSU's negotiator who is handling the two contract negotiations for the university, said YSU would seek a contract that was "fair to the employees and economically affordable to the university."

Domhoff said she would see the union through contract negotiations even though her position at the CISCO networking academy was terminated in May. The university claimed the elimination was

due to low student enrollment.

However, an anonymous letter The Jambar received earlier this month accused the university of terminating Domhoff's employment in an effort to scare the union's negotiating team.

Domhoff said she filed six grievances with the university for wrongful termination. She said she received four dispositions from the university, but none granted her the "remedies" she sought, a reevaluation of the process in which the university terminated her employment.

The ACE represents over 400 YSU employees that include groundskeepers, maintenance staff, library employ-

ees, computer service workers and other university employees.

OEA

YSU-OEA contract demands and university proposals for faculty cannot be retrieved due to a media blackout deal signed by both negotiating parties. The media blackout means neither side will discuss specifics of the negotiations with the public or the press.

The two sides have met 11 times beginning in late November. A federal mediator has been assigned to be present at the meetings.

Media Blackout

An open records request from The Jambar was sent to

the university for all written demands of both the OEA and ACE Union with regards to the contract negotiations. Holly Jacobs, YSU's general counsel forwarded the initial demands of ACE but not the YSU-OEA, citing the media blackout.

"At this point in time, the university intends to honor this agreement... but will seek guidance on this specific issue from the Ohio Attorney General's office. If the Attorney General advises the university to disclose these records, the university will forward the requested materials to [The Jambar]," a letter from Jacobs said.

The Youngstown Vindicator was denied OEA

contract proposals in the same way. On Monday, the newspaper submitted another formal request to the university, saying state law does not recognize "blackout" agreements and that the documents must be released.

Domhoff said the ACE union filed an unfair labor practice against the university regarding the release of the union's initial proposals.

Friday, the OEA and ACE unions filed a request for a temporary restraining order in the Mahoning County Common Pleas Court to prevent the university from releasing negotiation documents.

Magistrate Eugene Fehr denied the request. A hearing

for a preliminary injunction is set for June 29 in Mahoning County Common Pleas Court. The hearing will determine whether the contract proposals should continue to be released to the public.

Wilkins said the ACE documents were forwarded because the university had no media blackout agreement with the ACE union.

Wilkins said the university would honor its agreement with the OEA unless it was found that a blackout wouldn't be recognized by state law.

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

WICK, continued from page 1

25-room inn. The company's proposal called for a 50-year lease with YSU. Under the proposed deal, the university would pay the developing company \$250,000. Once the inn was reopened, the company would pay the \$250,000 back to YSU. Paran would then rent the building from the university for \$1 per year.

Habat said YSU was looking for a partner who would split the cost of developing with the university.

"There are a lot of different components that go into the overall plan such as legal and architecture fees," Habat said. "We were willing to split the cost, but not to bear 100 percent."

"The university is looking for a partner who will share some of the risk of the project. We felt that the university was taking on more risk than was acceptable."

A YSU search committee was assigned to recommend a

company to redevelop the former inn. The committee sent out requests to 22 companies, but Paran was the only developer to respond with a proposal.

YSU President David Sweet predicted in September of last year that the inn would be opened in late 2005 or early 2006 after YSU hired a firm to operate the inn. Sweet said the university had plans for a partnership with the inn's future operators, allowing students

majoring in hospitality management to intern for the inn.

History

The university has owned the Wick Pollock Inn, located on Wick Avenue and Spring Street, since 1950 when it was known as the Pollock House.

YSU was using the building to house university offices and classrooms until 1986 when the university leased the building to the Pollock Inn Restoration Association, a four-person private partner-

ship. The partnership intended to operate the building as an inn.

The partnership took out a loan from First National Bank in Sharon, Pa. A 62-room addition was constructed and the inn was opened in 1988. The building stayed open for the next ten years, housing visiting sports teams and conferences as well as overnight guests.

In 1998, FNB foreclosed on the lease after the inn closed due to dwindling guests. The

university sued FNB in March 2002, claiming more than \$1 million in damages including unpaid rent and utilities and unmet maintenance.

In September of last year the university announced they would pay FNB \$500,000 for leasehold interest, personal property and other assets FNB had in the inn.

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

LAUGHS, continued from page 1

conference. Approximately 150 members submitted papers this year, according to event organizers.

Margherita Dore traveled from Lancaster, England to give a presentation on the metaphors, humor and characterization on the television show "Friends." Dore, originally from Sardinia, Italy, said the conference offers something not available to those doing humor research alone.

"You don't know if you're on the right track or not until you get together with those who research the same topics," said Dore.

Despite losing her luggage

along the way, Dore said she is glad she made the trip.

"All the seminars I've been to have been really stimulating," Dore said. "I'm really impressed with all the speakers here."

In addition to the presentations, members watched the film "The Aristocrats," by Paul Provenza and Penn Jillette, before its national theatrical release in July. The film, which received excellent reviews after debuting at the Sundance Film Festival, features more than 100 famous comedians telling their versions of the same, very dirty joke. Provenza attended the

conference and held a roundtable discussion on humor and the film Wednesday morning.

The film is a study in differences of humor delivery and context, according to event organizers.

Also new this year, a bookstore at the conference featured more than 70 books currently in print on humor.

Participants were also scheduled to take part in an open mic night in Peaberry's on Wednesday, complete with a joke-telling contest and a presentation by YSU professor Mustansir Mir. Guest performers included Robert "The Humble Farmer" Skoglund

and Azhar "The Joking Jihad" Usman.

Attardo, editor of the peer-reviewed journal "Humor" and a member of the ISHS since 1988, noted how recent trends in uses of humor to prevent employee burnout and to shorten recovery times in hospital patients show just how important humor research is.

"Humor is a cognitive function of people," Attardo said. "Just like anything else, it's important to know how people react to and use humor."

Lorene Birden, professor of English at YSU and organizer of the conference, also

stressed the importance of humor research.

"Humor is universal, and to know how it works is essential in so many different areas," Birden said.

"For example, to help a child with autism, we need to know how to make [humor] effective," Birden said. "Do we use slapstick or subdued humor? What could we use that would most help the child?"

Birden noted that type, context and timing of humor in determining its effectiveness are main reasons for humor research.

To wrap up the conference

on Friday, there will be a cartoon exhibit on display at the McDonough Museum of Art.

The society officially formed in 1988 when it started holding annual conferences in humor research. Loosely organized conferences on humor can be traced back to 1976, according to event organizers.

Future conferences are scheduled for Atlanta and Denmark with possibility of Taiwan. For more information on humor studies visit <http://www.ishs2005.com>.

Call Eric Grosso and Carrie Swansiger at (330) 941-1913.

VENICE, continued from page 1

Bembo's life that might have affected his activities.

"I could spend 24 hours a day working with these documents and never feel the passage of time," she said. "There's so much wonderful stuff there."

Congdon is able to do this research thanks to a \$4,000 Franklin Research Grant she received from the American Philosophical Society. Benjamin Franklin founded the APS in 1745, and today it awards small grants to scholars in order to support the cost of research. She also received a

\$4,000 fellowship from the Dr. M. Aylwin Cotton Foundation in the Channel Islands, which is a foundation that helps further the study of archaeology, architecture, history, language and art of the Mediterranean area.

So thanks to these grants, she is currently in Italy, hard at work deciphering the letters of Bembo. She will be there until the beginning of July, and she will go again next academic year to continue her studies.

Congdon's interest is unique. She's one of the few

scholars whose research revolves around deciphering and interpreting 500-year-old letters and other writings of merchants who traveled the Aegean and Mediterranean seas in the Middle Ages. Whenever she gets to talk about Venetian merchants, "I'm happy as a kid in a candy store!" she said.

She got hooked on medieval merchant letters while she was enrolled in the history graduate program at the University of Minnesota, where she first came across the letters. Venetian is a dialect that's long gone, she

said. That makes it a challenge to decipher the mix of Spanish, French, Portuguese, Latin, Greek and Arabic that the documents are written in.

"It's like playing Sherlock Holmes," she said, because the research involves interpreting and translating the letters and finding out what they reveal about history.

Congdon is the daughter of a college professor father and a mother with a Ph.D. in art history, and she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Williams College in Massachusetts. After she dis-

covered her interest in deciphering Venetian documents, she continued her research while earning a doctorate at Cambridge University in England.

Her trip to Italy is just the beginning of her project. She said it will take several years to complete. Meanwhile, she wants to finish a book on Venetian merchants in the Western Mediterranean, and she hopes to edit a book on plants in the Middle Ages.

Call Megan Anderson at (330) 941-1913.

Classified**Help Wanted**

Bar help needed, no experience necessary-flexible hours, apply in person between 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at: Giacchetta's, 3310 Mahoning Avenue, Youngstown

Baby Sitter Wanted-Baby sitter wanted in Boardman for 1 year old. Monday-Thursday starting July, few hours in the morning and/or evening. Own transport preferred. Call 330-965-9010

SUMMER WORK-GREAT PAY-Immediate openings, start now or after finals, customer sales/svc, no exp. nec., conditions apply, all ages 17+, 330-965-9560

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Live Bands every Friday and Saturday
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DJ Joey K every Wed./Thur. 9pm
www.wedgewoodlanes.com

BRIEFS

Volunteers needed for Summer Festival of the Arts

The Summer Festival of the Arts is looking for volunteers to help July 9 and 10 on the campus of Youngstown State University.

Volunteers will receive free parking and a festival t-shirt, and

are needed for various shifts for artist registration, information booths, the children's hands-on art tent, technical assistance and the Festival of Nations international area, among others.

People interested in helping should call (330) 941-2307 for an application, or they can e-mail lafactor@ysu.edu or log on to ysu.edu/sfa for a downloadable form.

Second CityScenes competition deadline near

The Youngstown State University and Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber-sponsored CityScenes photography competition, now in its second year, is accepting entries through Aug. 5.

The competition, open to professional and amateur photographers, has a theme of "Places and Spaces" and seeks photographs of buildings and structures, skylines, nature or seasons.

First place in the professional category pays \$1,000, while the non-professional first-prize

winner will win \$500. YSU President David Sweet will also select a picture to become part of the university's permanent collection with a prize of \$500 for the selected picture.

Entries should be original and not violate copyright and should be in slide or 5x7 print format. Entries are limited to three per photographer, and there is an entry fee of \$15 per entry for professionals, \$10 per entry for non-professionals and \$5 per entry for high school students.

Interested artists should contact Jean Engle at (330) 941-3519 or jsengle@ysu.edu.

POLICE BLOTTER

A vacant property owned by Youngstown State University was broken into sometime between Thursday, June 9, and Friday, June 10, YSU police said.

Officers arrived at 346 Scott St., Friday evening after receiving a call from a neighbor, who reported seeing a window

open in the building. He said the open windows were closed the day before.

Police said that two ground floor windows were wide open. After maintenance was called to the scene to open a door for the officers, they entered and secured the building. No suspects were found.

Editorial & Opinion

Thursday, June 16, 2005

www.thejambar.com/thejambar@gmail.com/330-941-3095

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The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the summer sessions. The first copy of The Jambar is free; each additional copy is five cents. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won 37 Associated Collegiate Press Honors.

OUR SIDE YSU made right decision for Inn

It may take a while longer for the Wick Pollock Inn to reopen, but Youngstown State University officials made the right decision to pull out of contract talks with Paran Management, the inn's potential developer.

From the start, the new plan to reopen the inn, which is located on the corner of Spring Street and Wick Avenue, didn't seem much better than the old plan that resulted in failure.

YSU first attempted to break into the hotel business in 1986. That year, the university leased the property for a period of 25 years to a partnership called the Pollock Inn Restoration Association. The partnership then took out a loan with First National Bank and converted the 14-room mansion into a 76-room inn.

Business wasn't exactly booming. In 1998, FNB foreclosed on the partnership, the inn shut its doors and the property has gone unused ever since. In September 2004, after a lengthy legal battle, FNB turned the remainder of the 25-year lease over to YSU in exchange for \$500,000.

YSU, eager to reopen and renovate the fast deteriorating inn, solicited 22 companies for bids, but only Paran responded. The proposal Paran initially submitted to YSU bordered on insulting.

Paran asked for a 50-year lease, with YSU paying \$250,000 up front to the company. After the inn was operational, Paran would pay the \$250,000 back to YSU as well as a symbolic \$1 per year rent for the property. Essentially, Paran was asking the university to give the property away for nothing.

University officials apparently were not able to negotiate a better deal, so they walked away — a smart decision.

Still, with every passing day, the inn falls deeper into disrepair. The building is a historic treasure and should not be subjected to such neglect. If university officials can't find a developer to overhaul the crumbling edifice, they should take the initiative and begin to renovate the building themselves.

In fact, YSU may ultimately be the best entity to run the Wick Pollock Inn. A former partner in the failed 1986 venture, Robert J. O'Malley, told the Jambar in October 2004 that for it to be a viable project, YSU needs to operate the inn itself.

"You don't need a major firm to come in and run it," O'Malley said. "You need to run it yourselves."

If the inn is capable of becoming profitable, why not reap the financial benefits? If the inn isn't capable of making money, no developer is going to want to come in and operate the place anyway.

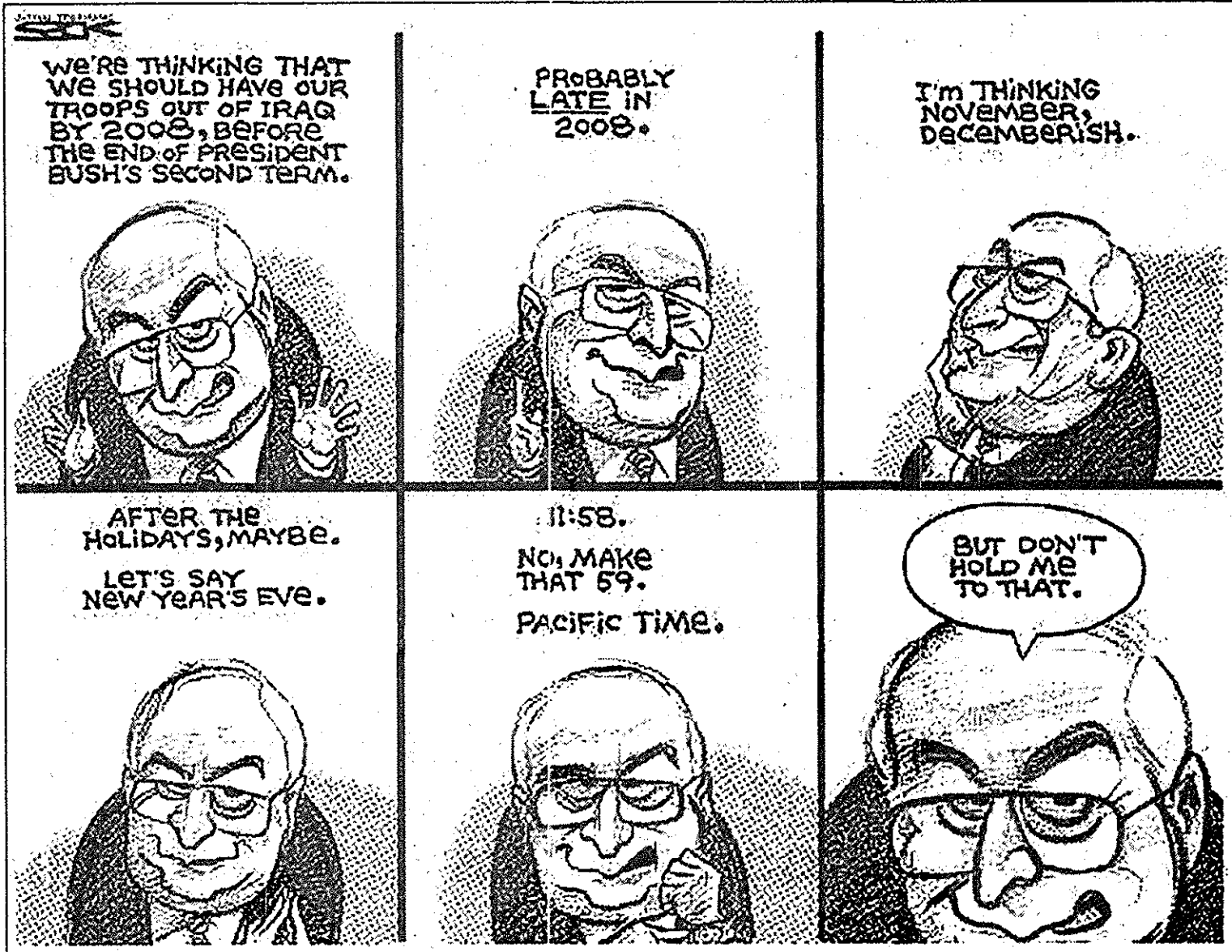
It is questionable whether Youngstown's economy can even support a full service hotel again. However, if YSU uses the building as a learning tool for students in the hospitality management program, as has been mentioned in the past, with students staffing the inn, the venture could prove both financially and educationally profitable.

But time is money and the university needs to act fast before the historic Wick Pollock Inn deteriorates further.

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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editorial gives wrong impression

Editor:
Last Thursday's (June 9) editorial ("Public sector unions must be more flexible") leaves your readers with the wrong impression. After pointing out that the cost of tuition has approximately doubled in the past decade, you ask, "Has the quality in staff, faculty or administrators doubled in that time?" Speaking for my fellow professors, the quality of the faculty at Youngstown State University HAS increased, but it is difficult to put a particular number to it. You could, of course, compare the monies from external grants today with the number from ten years ago, and this number has more than doubled.

Secondly, because of massive federal deficits since our current contract was put into effect three years ago, inflation has been several percent per year. The faculty would like to keep up with the cost of living index, not lose 2-6% on our next contract.

Thirdly, the primary responsibility for the tremendous increase in tuition costs at YSU (and statewide) falls on the Republican legislature and governor in Columbus and not on faculty/staff contracts. Every year they give us a smaller percentage of our total cost, leaving the students to make up the difference. If you voted Republican, you should have a smile on your face the next time tuition goes higher — you got what you "paid" for!

Finally, returning to the question of "flexibility," the faculty negotiating team has been flexible. However, every time they showed their opposite numbers how we could save the university money, the other side has refused to consider it, saying it's too small to worry about. They don't seem to realize that a few \$100,000s saved here and there soon add up to a very large amount, approaching that of the salaries of D. Sweet, J. Habit, and H. Morrison. Our flexibility is not an issue; fairness to the faculty and staff is!

Ron Tabak
Professor
Physics & Astronomy

Rock article in poor taste

Editor:
I am writing this in response to

an article in the June 2 edition of the Arts & Entertainment section of the Jambar titled "How to be a Rock Star" by Bob Mackey. I wanted to not only express my frustration with this very offensive and non-representational article on musicians, but to also tell the public what it's really like as a musician, coming from someone who has studied music for a long time.

I was very disappointed to see that the only article written in the Arts and Entertainment section this week was this one, especially with all of the amazing performing arts talent we have in Youngstown, most of it right at YSU. Unfortunately for Mr. Mackey, it seems he has never met a true musician, or "rock star" as he might call them, or probably hasn't the slightest idea of how to read music. Take it from me, the "last thing someone with the dreams of 'rock stardom' should do is simply "bang" on an instrument. That was his first mistake. It takes a great deal of talent to play any instrument and most good musicians I know practice about eight hours a day, seven days a week until their arms hurt and they can play their songs inside out, backwards, and in their sleep.

You may be asking by this point, "who am I to say?" Well, I'll tell you. I currently study music and theater at YSU, and I have read music, and played several instruments (including bass guitar) since about the third grade.

I have many friends who are musicians, and have met many great musicians, and "rock stars" throughout my life so far, and none of them are anything like the description given in Mackey's commentary. In fact, a handful of them I would even consider to be geniuses. In conclusion, to all of those music lovers and musicians out there who do have the dreams of "making it big", practice hard, write "real" lyrics about something you love, don't "die in the gutter" or "affiliate yourself with Satan", and never let people like Mackey tell you that you won't succeed.

Shira E. Poncekar

Employees deserve praise

Editor:
The YSU classified employees deserve high praise for attending the union meeting on Tuesday. Surely, we all had other things to do on a beautiful summer night, but there is no doubt that we not only support

ACE, but our leaders as well. A very special thanks goes to our negotiating team. The 275 of us who came to the meeting appreciate all your dedication and hard work. Isn't it obvious? We do care!

Lee Koch
YSU Metro

'Great Lawn Project' not so great

Editor:
While pondering the 'Great Lawn Project' the other day a great idea flashed before my eyes. This idea could create a new college with many new majors and graduate programs while increasing revenue for the university and bringing a new sense of pride to our campus core. What is this great idea? I say turn that sucker into a big of farm field. Yup, a big of farm field! We could plant corn over yonder by DeBartolo Hall and tomatoes and soybeans by Cushman. Imagine how wonderful that fresh country air from the animal husbandry department would be.

Just think, in the fall we could have 'The Core Field Fair' and since the football team ain't what it used to be we could take renewed pride in winning the giant pumpkin contest. University promotions could bus in 4H groups from all over to view our beautiful farm-like campus. The marketing department could set up produce stands all over the valley and at the end of harvest time we could have a big of corn roast and barbecue. University promotions could invite distinguished alumni to enjoy our bounty and have fun in the core field corn maze and at the cow-milking contest. Yup, it's easy to see how we could not only have a more productive use for the core but bring in added revenue and pride to the university.

Joel Lewis
Media and Academic Computing

Jambar shouldn't 'insult' profs

Editor:
I wanted to respond to some of the points made by your Editorial Board in the June 9 OpEd piece, "Public sector unions must be more flexible."

Your comments about \$65K a year being more than enough for fac-

ulty to live on made me smile and reminded me of my years before moving to Youngstown. The three years I spent as an undergraduate making \$0K per year, the six years I spent getting my Ph.D. making less than \$10K per year, and the four years of post-doctoral work making (at most) \$23K per year.

I spent longer in school than any lawyer or MD to become an expert in my subject so that I can be competitive in my field and you think I'm not worth \$65,000 a year? What a load of bollocks. What about the \$300,000 I've brought in from grants or the dozens of students I've helped place in high paying jobs?

Most of my colleagues have similar stories and many of us put more into YSU than we get back in monetary terms. You'd face real recruiting problems if faculty salaries went backwards.

Your point about tuition doubling in 10 years isn't the faculty's fault; the decrease in funding from the State is more to blame but you scapegoat the faculty and avoid the root cause of the problem. You wonder if you are getting your money's worth; to quote your piece: "has the quality in staff, faculty or administrators doubled in that time?" Well, the person I replaced nine years ago didn't bring a single research dollar to YSU, ever. I'm at \$300K and counting.

My predecessor didn't publish research papers; I've published 20 since coming to YSU. That person never mentored graduate students; I've mentored 22 so far.

My department (chemistry) now has arguably the best-equipped BS/MS-level program in North America, which was put together by the faculty writing grants and wanting to improve your education, opportunities, and competitiveness.

There are many faculty on this campus with similar stories and the millions of dollars now being brought to campus in the form of (highly competitive) external grants is way beyond what was happening at YSU 10 years ago.

This place is changing significantly for the better, students have many more opportunities for research and practical training, and we are recruiting some very impressive new faculty. Please don't insult us by claiming to know how much we are worth.

Peter Norris
Professor, Chemistry

COMMENTARY

Blasphemy & basketball

By Mark Stevens
Copy Editor

It's 20 after eight on Tuesday evening and I find myself sitting in the basement of Fedor Hall, alone in the Jambar newsroom. Why? Mostly because I love the smell of mildew and the sight of desks stuffed to the bejesus belt with more folders and papers than Horace Greeley could've ever dreamed an editor in chief's desk could hold. And yet I'm also here because my beautifully beatific roommates and I find our townhouse sans cable, which means no Internet, and perhaps more harrowing, no television.

It's game three of the NBA Finals, dammit! Why can't the summanabitchin cable work when I want to actually watch something? Sure, it worked last night and I got to see Kurt Angle get drafted by "Raw" in the second round of the draft lottery. Thank Yahweh for that. At least I don't have to watch a former Olympic gold medal-winning wrestler vic for air time by harassing Booker T.'s lovely wife anymore. Booker T. deserves better. He was in Harlem Heat. He wears an outfit that looks like a diaper and a pair of Nike football gloves. He has dreadlocks and a wickedly receding hairline. Where's the justice?

And I deserve better. It's a half-hour until tip-off and I'm not going to get to see what may essentially turn out to be the deciding game in the series. I guess I could go out, but I don't feel like showering. You think anyone in the YO would notice? Call it 50/50, I guess, but that's not the point. I have cold beer at home. I have a TV at home. I'm more pissed off than Julie "The Cat" Gaffney was when coach Gordon Bombay told her that he was going with Goldberg in the net in "D2: The Mighty Ducks" (and if you think I had to look up those names or look up the fact that the actress who played Julie also played Henry's love interest, Becky, in "Rookie of the Year" then you just don't know me). Eh. Screw it.

So I guess I'll take a gander at what's making news in sports around the world this week.

Florida State University quarterback Wyatt Sexton was

hospitalized Monday. Apparently, Tallahassee police arrived at the scene of a disturbance to find Sexton acting like a wackaloon and jumping around like his penis was on fire only to have Sexton identify himself as "God" and "the son of God." These jokes are easy, but I'll make them anyway. Does that make Chris Rix the Holy Spirit? What would Jesus do? Apparently, in the form of Sexton, Jesus would complete just 55 percent of his passes and throw as many picks as touchdowns. You'd think his holiness could do better. I mean completing a 15-yard crossing pattern seems pretty easy compared to water to wine and fishes and loaves and all that nonsense.

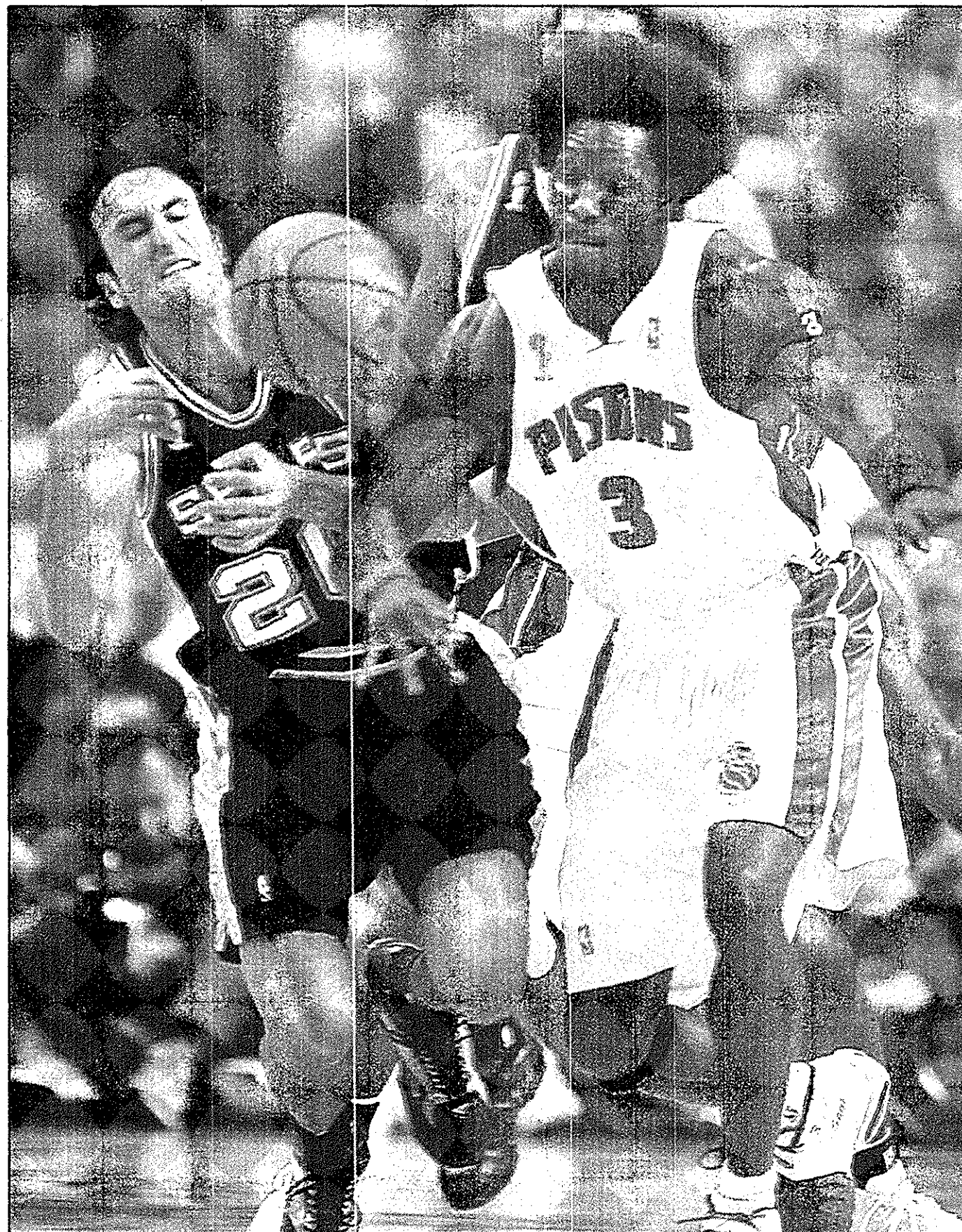
Speaking of deities, Philip Q. Jackson, esq., was rehired by the Los Angeles Lakers this week. A plague of locusts couldn't get the golden calf that is Kobe Bryant to make sure his teammates were involved. Geez. Unless the Lakers plan on drafting Ezekiel, the Ethiopian eunuch Philip converts in the eighth chapter of Acts, and Nebuchadnezzar, they're not making the playoffs next year either. I don't care how much divine intervention Phil the Thrill has up his robe sleeves.

Mike Tyson lost. Whoa. Didn't see that one coming. Apparently Butterbean's offense was impetuous and his defense was impregnable. What's that you say? Tyson didn't fight Butterbean? Who cares? Who would've known? Who thinks Tyson is anything but a giant bag of crazy anymore anyway? On his way to 'Bolivan,' I hope Mike Tyson takes a minute to stop and smell the feces. It sure is time for Ironic Mike to hang up the gloves and settle in for a nice life of ruining his children's lives. Maybe he can convert to Scientology and help Tom Cruise in his campaign to be crazy, yet lovable because he's just so gosh-darned cute.

Well, I feel better. Nothing works like making fun of religion to get my blood pressure down. I leave you with the following paraphrase of a Bill Maher comment: God is an imaginary friend for adults.

Thank you, and pass the collection plate.

Complain to Mark Stevens at (330) 941-3758.



NBA Finals

AUBURN HILLS, MI — San Antonio's Maru Ginobili and Detroit's Ben Wallace scramble for a loose ball during the first quarter of Game 3 of the 2005 NBA Finals on Tuesday, at the Palace of Auburn Hills, in Auburn Hills, Michigan. The Detroit Pistons won the contest 96-79. (KRT)

thejambar Who's your GOALIE?

You make the call: Goldberg or Julie "The Cat" Gaffney? Stevens suggests Gaffney, since Henry Rowengardner's friends said she was "stacked" in "Rookie of the Year."



Sportswire

Information taken from the YSU Sports Information Web site (ysu.edu/sports) and wire reports

Volleyball team announces 2005 slate

First-year volleyball head coach Joe Bonner announces the 2005 schedule for his team Monday, a challenging schedule featuring three in-season tournaments and 17 consecutive road matches.

The Penguins season opener will be at the Akron Tournament against the Zips on Aug. 27. Then on Aug. 28, the tournament ends with matches against Robert Morris and Canisius.

The team is also scheduled to play in the South Alabama Tournament and

the Toledo Tournament. The home opener will be at Beeghly Center against Illinois-Chicago on Oct. 14.

The regular season concludes at Loyola Nov. 11, before the 2005 Horizon League Championships at Illinois-Chicago Nov. 17.

Diving team inks two recruits

Youngstown State University head diving coach Nick Gavolas announced Monday two Ohio divers would be continuing their careers at YSU.

Kelly Reese of Canfield and Amanda Zhelesnik from Medina plan to start their collegian diving careers this fall at YSU.

Reese was a three-time all state honoree, an AAU National qualifier, the

NEAC Diver of the Year, the Perry Sectional Champion, and Northeast Ohio District Runner up. Zhelesnik was a three-year letter winner, was named her team's most valuable diver, made it to the district finals twice, won the Pioneer Conference title, and was the champion of the sectional meet.

Former YSU receiver in Arena Bowl

Former Youngstown State University football standout, Willis Marshall, helped the Arena Football League's Colorado Crush win Arena Bowl XIX. The wide receiver scored four touchdowns, had six receptions for 111 yards, made four tackles, and was named Ironman of the Game as well as Offensive Player of the Game.

With a great showing from

Marshall, and a clutch 20-yard, game-winning field goal, the Crush defeated the Georgia Force 51-48. Marshall is no stranger to championships as he was a member of the Grand Rapids Rampage, when they won the Arena Bowl in 2001. He was also a part of three National Championships for YSU, where he played wide receiver and defensive back, between 1993 and 1997.

High school football player dies after workout

PICKERINGTON, Ohio (AP) — The mother of a high school football player who died after working out with his teammates said he looked fine when he left the house that morning.

Kwame Afriyie, a 15-year-old sophomore at Pickerington Central

High School, collapsed after morning conditioning around 10:15 Monday. He was taken to Children's Hospital in Columbus, where he died later that day.

"I was in my room and he said he was going to practice," recalled his mother, Anita Idun. "He looked fine."

The workout that morning was not particularly strenuous, school Principal Chuck Kemper said. Afriyie and about 50 of his teammates spent 30 minutes in the weight room, which is not air conditioned but does have fans. They then ran sprints for about 20 minutes, Kemper said.

Defensive coach Jeff Lomonico said he saw Afriyie limping during the sprints and asked if he wanted to take a break. Afriyie refused to rest and later complained of dizziness as he rested on his knees, according to a Pickerington police report.