

the jambar

VOLUME 88, ISSUE 13 The student voice of Youngstown State University

Weather >> Sunny
88 | 62
Wed: p. cloudy, 86/60
Thursday: p. cloudy, 76/50

Inside



▲ He might not be as smart as Yoda, but Jambar head honcho Leonard "Skywalker" Crist drops some knowledge on the YSU strikes.

Special Section I see page 4

In Brief

Correction:

In Thursday's issue of the Jambar, the story headlined "Free Newspapers are coming back to YSU" should have noted the free Wall Street Journals in the Williamson College of Business are intended for Business students only.

Milwaukee mayor to speak

The Butler Institute of American Art will host a forum themed "Unlocking the value of the urban form" 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 14.

It will be led by former mayor of Milwaukee John Norquist.

The event is free and open to the public and is part of the Getty Campus Heritage Series.

Constitution Day lecture

Robert Bennett, former president of the American Bar Association, will participate in "The Inevitability of a Living Constitution" lecture Monday at noon in Kiloway Center's Chestnut Room.

The lecture, part of YSU's celebration of Constitution Day, includes an interactive display, which will be on exhibit in Maag Library Sept. 13-23.

Student gets award

Youngstown State University's Michael Antenucci received the \$1,500 Heidi Norris Memorial Scholarship Award from the Ohio State Respiratory Care Awards Committee. Antenucci, a junior Respiratory Care major, was nominated by Louis Harris, a professor of health professions and director of YSU's Respiratory Care program.

More briefs on page 2A

the jambar poll question
Last question
Will you or have you donated money to the relief efforts for the victims of Hurricane Katrina?
100% 0%
Yes No
Would you like to see YSU institute wider Wi-Fi access?
vote online
www.thejambar.com

INTODAY'S JAMBAR
► Classified | 7
► Entertainment | 10
► Opinion | 3
► Sports | 9



Online: thejambar.com
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YSU / HURRICANE KATRINA

Free tuition offered

By: Bill Rodgers
NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University announced that it is opening its doors to college students displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

YSU Provost Robert K. Herbert said students who were enrolled in one of the universities impacted by the hurricane could attend YSU for free for the fall semester.

The student applying on a transient basis for the fall would not be required to pay tuition or class fees for the fall semester. University housing will also be provided at no cost, if available.

Herbert said that YSU was going to open what it had to the displaced students. "If a seat in a class is empty, it doesn't cost anything to fill it," Herbert said.

Earlier last week, Roderick G.W. Chu, chancellor for the Ohio Board of Regents, gave public universities in Ohio the authority to waive tuition and fees for Ohio residents whose semester had been interrupted by the hurricane. The OBOR opened a college access hotline for displaced students to call for information.

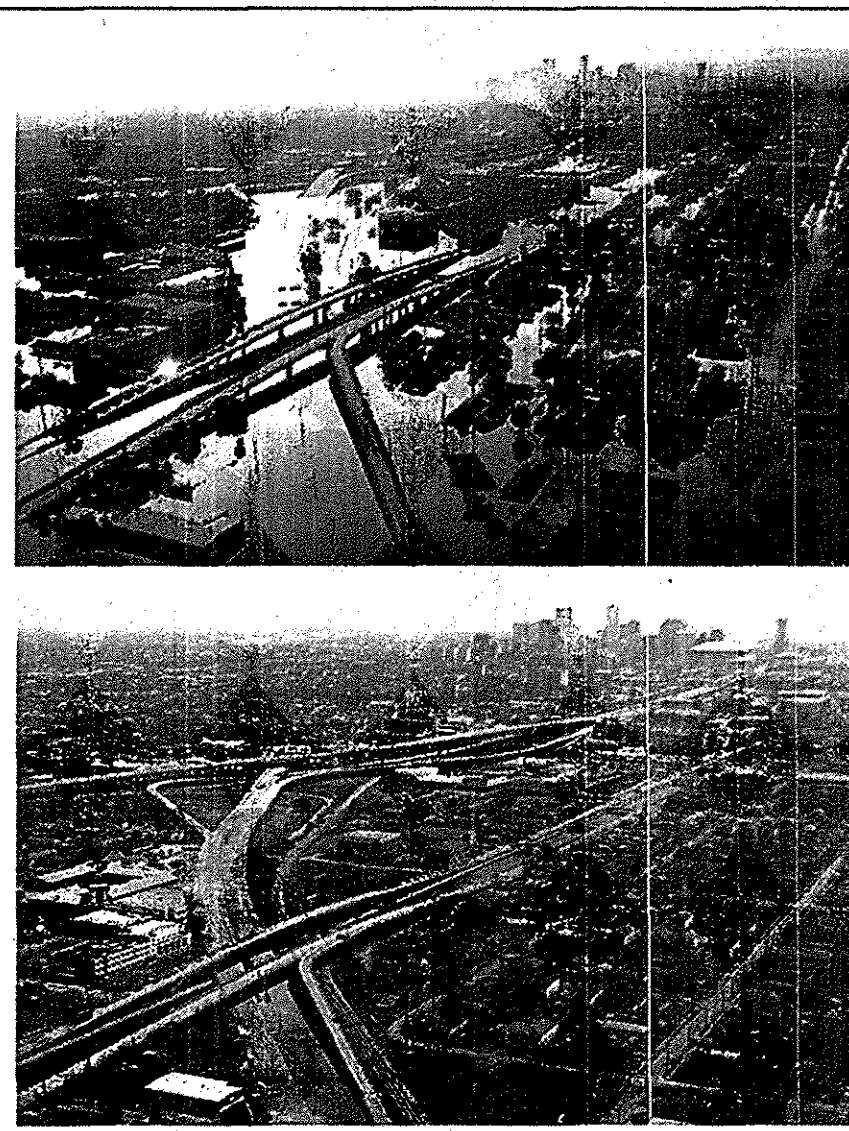
Herbert said that YSU extended the invitation to include displaced students who weren't Ohio residents.

"We extended our offer across the board. We're inviting anyone be they from Ohio, Maine, Louisiana or West Virginia," Herbert said.

He said that the displaced students would have to show some proof that they were enrolled in one of the universities affected by the hurricane. He said something as substantial as a bill from the previous semester would be enough for the displaced student to attend YSU.

"We'll work with all kinds of scraps to

please see **KATRINA**, Page 2



ABOVE TOP: This is a view looking from the west toward downtown New Orleans on Tuesday morning, Aug. 30, 2005.

ABOVE BOTTOM: The same scene is shown as flood waters recede on Sunday, Sept. 11, 2005.

RIGHT: Randolph Roosevelt, 69, flexes his muscle Sunday to show Capt. Gene Mastin of the Oklahoma Army National Guard that he is healthy enough to stay in his home.

Photos | KRT/Campus

YSU

SGA focuses on Wi-Fi

By: Cheryl Thompson
REPORTER

Student Government Association met Monday for the second time this year, focusing on the role of technology on Youngstown State University's campus.

The association passed a resolution concerning the expansion of on-campus wireless fidelity or Wi-Fi. The wireless Internet technology already exists on campus in a limited form in Maag Library. At Maag, students can borrow laptop computers and access the Internet from them, however SGA recommends that by spring semester 2006, students be able to access the Internet from their personal laptops and PDA's. In addition to widening the scope of Wi-Fi in the library, SGA is looking for ways to bring it to more predominant areas on campus.

Representative David Stapholt said the resolution is what the university needs to get the ball rolling on the project.

"It sets a constructive deadline for campus officials," he said.

Representatives also discussed the new Luminis Portal central communications tool currently under development. The portal will centralize a number of features such as e-mail, web sites, messaging, groups and calendars and

please see **SGA**, Page 2

YSU

Raises will cost \$9 million

By: Bill Rodgers
NEWS EDITOR

Now that faculty and staff contract negotiations are completed, Youngstown State University will begin budgeting funds to pay for more than \$9 million in raises and benefits each employee unit will receive over the next three years.

The university will pay out a projected net total of \$9,019,325 over three years to the six classifications of employees, according to a document released by university officials.

Those classifications include the Ohio Education Association faculty union, the Association of Classified Employees staff union, exempt ACE members, the Fraternal Order of Police union, the Association of Professional/Administrative Exempt employees, which covers YSU's top administrators and others employees.

The release shows that, even with the new health-care co-pays factored in, the university will pay more than \$3.5 million in raises and benefits to the six employee units in 2006.

Pay raise breakdown

| Employee Classification | Total cost of wage and benefits minus premium sharing |
|---------------------------|---|
| Faculty | \$3.12 million |
| Classified Employees | \$2.34 million |
| Administrators | \$0.31 million |
| Police | \$0.09 million |
| Non-union Administrators | \$0.73 million |
| Health care cost increase | \$2.27 million |

Vice President for Administration John Habat said the figure for the first year is \$1.5 million more than the university had reserved to pay for the raises and benefits. In the university's fiscal year 2006 budget, \$2 million was budgeted for the raises and benefits under the title "short-term budget stabilization reserve."

"We have \$2 million to spend. The question is where is the other \$1.5 million going to come from?" Habat said.

Habat said proposals for paying for the first year's raises would be made to the YSU Board of Trustees at their Sept. 23 meeting.

"The administration is looking at a number of ways to bridge the funding

gap," Habat said.

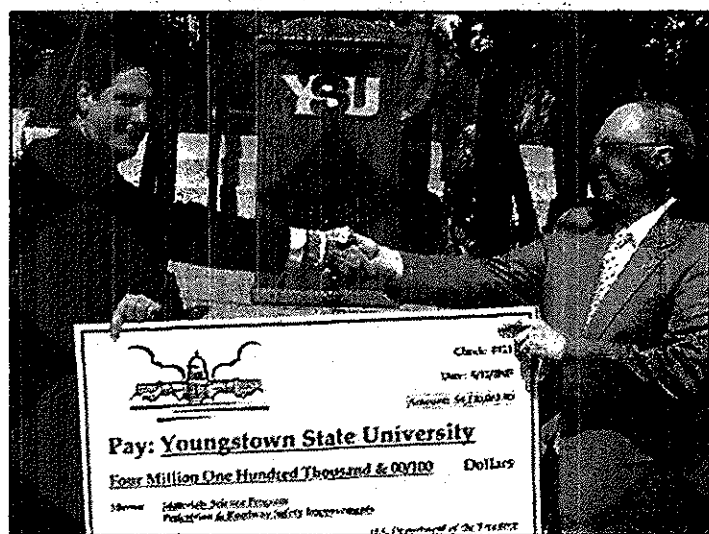
Raises

The faculty is receiving one raise of 3 percent for FY 2006, a cost of \$867,129. For FY 2007 - FY2008, the faculty raise goes up to 3.5 percent, paying out \$1,042,000 and \$1,078,470, respectively.

The ACE bargaining unit and the exempt classified employees are receiving a 3 percent raise for the first two years of their contract and a 3.25 percent raise for the third.

The exempt private administration will receive three yearly raises of 3 percent. The fraternal order of police and the Association of Professional/Administrative Staff will receive two raises

please see **RAISE**, Page 6



Jambar / Leonard Glenn Crist
U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan presents YSU President David Sweet with a check for \$4.1 million yesterday afternoon.

Tim Ryan brings \$4.1 million check to YSU

By: Bill Rodgers
NEWS EDITOR

U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan, D-Liberty, presented Youngstown State University with a check for \$4.1 million yesterday afternoon, which university President David Sweet said was the largest allocation for an Ohio university and the largest in YSU history.

"In our nearly 100 year history, this is the largest federal funding earmark ever received by YSU," Sweet said.

The money will go toward

improving roadways for pedestrians and advancing the university's materials engineering program.

Ryan said that money served two purposes: improving the quality of life in the city and providing the means to further research and development in the area. "This is one of the better parts of my job, getting money back to my district," Ryan said.

The \$2 million for the materials engineering program and \$2.1 million for

please see **RYAN**, Page 6

News In Brief

YSU Wind Ensemble to perform at Boardman Park

The YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble will perform a program of patriotic and film music in Boardman Park's Maag Theater at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 14. In addition to marches and Hollywood themed music, the SWE will honor the soldiers in Iraq with the "Armed Forces Medley." YSU Associate Director of Bands Shawn Vondran will conduct.

Jewish Film Festival

The Youngstown Area Jewish Film Festival will feature "Wondrous Oblivion" 7:30 p.m. Saturday and "Watermarks" 4 p.m. Sunday at Austintown Movies. Both received awards at the 2004 Boston Film Festival, with "Oblivion" taking best feature and "Watermarks" winning best documentary. The festival is partially sponsored by YSU.

YSU SMARTS drum circle

The YSU SMARTS Rhythm Community Drum Circle will continue free sessions to all corners on Wednesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. beginning Sept. 14. Sessions will be at the SMARTS Center on Federal Plaza in downtown Youngstown. Reservations are not required.

KATRINA, continued from page 1

show they were enrolled. A bill from the last semester would be good enough, so would a student ID. The problem with documentation is that the university offices are all closed," Herbert said.

"These students left their apartments or dorm rooms thinking they'd be back in two days. They might not have access to their books, clothes or bills," Herbert added.

Herbert said that Ohio State University has received some inquiries into the free semester's tuition. Herbert said that YSU would send a press release to be shown on emergency Web sites the affected universities operate. Herbert said YSU had been corresponding with Tulane University about posting the release.

"You run into a problem again with the universities being deserted," Herbert said. "The regular webmasters for the university sites aren't responding," Herbert said.

Student Government Association President Bob McGovern said he was happy to hear that YSU was making the offer to displaced students.

"I think this will be a big help to students from those schools that have had to cancel their semester," McGovern said.

McGovern said that, since all state universities in Ohio are allowed to make the same offer, students would have many choices of where to attend in Ohio, but McGovern said he believes that some will attend YSU.

"Though there's no telling how many will at this point, because some schools haven't actually cancelled yet," McGovern said.

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

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SGA, continued from page 1

will feature login from one central point. SGA said students should be able to access Web CT services through the portal as early as the 2007 academic year. The service will be available to current students, faculty and staff.

SGA representative John Vogel said that the portal would be a way for students to network with each other.

"It's sort of like a professional version of Facebook," Vogel said.

Members of SGA said that by opening the Luminis Portal, YSU is keeping up technology-wise with other schools such as Wright State and the University at Buffalo which have similar portal sites for students.

YSU is holding a portal naming contest through Sept. 18. The person who comes up with the winning name for the portal will win a \$200 gift certificate to the YSU bookstore and will be recognized on the site's main page for having named it. The contest is open to current YSU students, faculty, staff and alumni. Only one entry is allowed per person and the winning name will be picked by the YSU marketing department.

SGA also discussed:

- creating a pamphlet

Something on your mind?
Send a letter to the editor to: thejambar@gmail.com

Name the new YSU web portal!

WIN A \$200 gift certificate at the YSU Bookstore!

Portal Naming Contest

What's a portal? It's a new service available to students, faculty, and staff through the YSU website that will provide a personalized, customized approach to your web use. A commercial equivalent is "My Yahoo."

This new portal needs a name, and we're asking you - the YSU community - to dig into your creative brains for the perfect handle. Examples from other universities: Wings (Wright State); Docs (NEOUCOM); MyUB (University at Buffalo).

The entry form is on the YSU website - look for Portal Naming Contest in the upper righthand corner of the homepage, www.yсу.edu

Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

New Look! New Name!

Software SALE

YSU INFO
[Formerly Bytes 'n Pieces]

The following software products are offered at student affordable prices due to a special license agreement with Microsoft. Software offered to current YSU students and staff:

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------|
| Office 2003 | Front Page 2002 | Windows XP |
| Office Mac 2004 | Visual Studio.Net | |

Prices \$12-\$18.

A valid YSU ID must be presented. Only CASH or CHECK accepted.
Note: Quantities of some software may be limited at times due to shipments. For further details and/or to purchase your software visit YSU Info Center (formerly Bytes 'n Pieces), located on the upper level of Kilcawley Center.

www.kc.yсу.edu

JURASSIC 5

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 AT 8PM
SPECIAL GUEST TBA

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Editorial & Opinion

Tuesday, September 13, 2005

www.thejambar.com/thejambar@gmail.com/330-941-1991

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PHONE | (330) 941-3095 FAX | (330) 941-2322

LEONARD GLENN CRIST | Editor in Chief (330) 941-1991
BILL RODGERS | News Editor (330) 941-1989
MARK STEVENS | Design Editor (330) 941-1807
KATIE LIBECCO | Copy Editor (330) 941-3758

JUSTIN SMOLKOVICH | Sports (330) 941-3758
ERIC GROSSO | Features (330) 941-3756
CHERYL THOMPSON | Reporter (330) 941-1913
TIM FRANCISCO | Adviser (330) 941-3095
OLGA ZIOBERT | Business Manager (330) 941-3094
MERCEDES MILLER | Ads / Sales Manager (330) 941-1990

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 nine Associated Collegiate Press Honors.

OUR SIDE

Free papers are worth every penny

"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers, or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

—Thomas Jefferson, 1787

Having a firm understanding of the world is perhaps the most vital task of citizenship. Newspapers are one of the best ways to stay informed with the changing world.

Through a partnership between Youngstown State University's Student Government Association, the Office of the Provost, Academic Affairs and Maag Library, free copies of The New York Times and USA Today will be available for students each weekday.

Copies of The Vindicator also available free to students in the dorms and in the breezeway between Kilcawley Center and the Housing Office. There are also free Wall Street Journals on the first floor of Williamson Hall for business students.

In today's society with television so easily accessible to most Americans, the temptation lurks to rely solely on what flickers before you and is easily changed by the touch of a button. But while television news comes and goes in short clips, newspapers offer much more than a pretty face telling ugly news.

Whereas televised newscasts provide quick interesting facts from familiar names, newspapers frequently go further in depth with stories, finding detailed information that is delivered concisely to its readers.

Newspapers, fundamentally, serve as a community's watchdog; informing the public on matters they would be unable learn about on their own, whether it be because of a lack of resources or time. They have been linked to bringing positive changes to the world and creating a unique link and bond in cultures.

Bringing The New York Times and USA Today to campus will cost YSU \$20,000, a small price to pay to provide students with a quick and easy, yet in-depth, way to learn about the world. Free newspapers on campus will provide a way for people to learn about the world around them, and in turn, the ability to interact with it.

The greater an individual's understanding of their environment, the greater their ability to change it, help it and see it work for them. Newspapers provide the foundation for that understanding and the roots of successful and rewarding citizenship.

College, especially YSU, is all about taking the opportunities that are available to you. Take the opportunity to read a newspaper and learn about the world.

It's written for you.

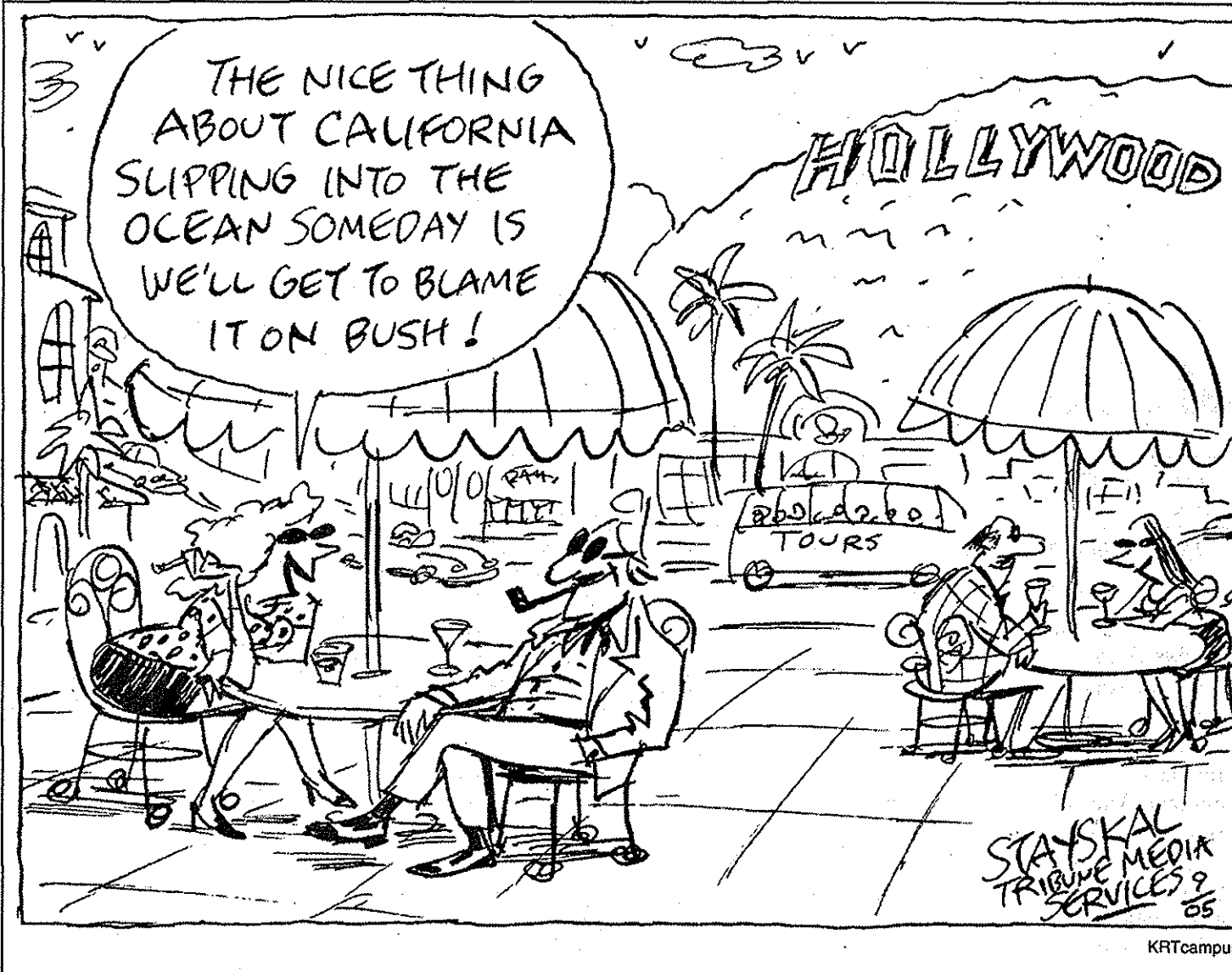
EDITORIAL POLICY

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

LETTERS POLICY

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, grammar and clarity. 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 any letter. The views and opinions expressed in published letters do not necessarily reflect those of Jambar staff or YSU faculty, staff or administration.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hurricanes threaten the Chimera Project

Editor:

Folks, remember the movie "The Island of Doctor Moreau," adapted from H.G. Wells' "Island of Lost Souls," whereon a whacked Doctor is experimenting with combining humans and animals — making, in essence, what's known in Greek Mythology as a Chimera (part goat, lion and snake). Remember Franz Kafka's short story "Metamorphosis" about a man who wakes up a cockroach yet retains his human consciousness.

Well, get ready, because the Chimera has stepped right off the pages of fable onto the stage of life. Off the East Coast of Puerto Rico, on the island of St. Kitts, a certain Dr. Irving Weissman is injecting several million human neural stem cells into the brains of the African green monkeys in hopes that the end result will produce a serum drawn from their bodies will cure such neurological diseases as Parkinson's, Alzheimer's — even brain cancer.

Is this Aldous Huxley's "Brave New World" or George Orwell's "Animal Farm" that we're stepping into? — I believe in stem cell research to cure so many idiot diseases plaguing us — however, this is all too frightening. Remember John Carpenter's movie remake of

"The Thing?" Guaranteed that's where we're headed: a morphing un-killable species; then we won't have to worry about terrorists, insane gas rip-offs, or "another" four years of a Republican Administration because the real possibility of something going terribly wrong is terribly possible. Just as Katrina ravaged the Gulf States — tropical storms constantly rip through the Caribbean; and the possibility of one of these injected monkeys being flung into the sea, then floating onto the Northern tip of South America, tree hopping down to the Amazon Rain Forest — having indiscriminate sex all the way — is every bit possible.

What's even more disturbing is that the Media is not keeping this insanity in the eye of the public. It behooves "every" college student the world-over to know more about this — because the less we know, the greater the danger.

Science should be addressing the discovery of FUSION! Fossil fuels only mean more Ozone depletion and kowtowing to the bandits of the oil industry. Fusion means, with a bag of garbage in the tank, we can zoom about the universe as did Michael J. Fox in "Back to the Future": without threat of protective foam coverings coming off.

And why can't we use serial-killers and child-rapist-murderers as stem cell test tubes; hence, end suffering for the whole, for the suffering they've caused the many?

Ted Williams

Editorial was off base

Editor:

In the Sept. 8 editorial, "Investigation into failed response unnecessary," I was not only shocked at how wrong the content was, but I was embarrassed for the paper that put it out. Bush cannot be blamed entirely for this.

I must first make it clear that this type of disaster is the responsibility of the state, not the national government. Being the responsibility of the state of Louisiana, they SHOULD have had some contingency plan in the event a hurricane should hit the city. They have had plenty of time to figure a plan out (say a few decades), and the blame for not having a plan falls squarely on the mayor and governor of that state (as they're predecessors). Secondly, it was the mayor of New Orleans that had everyone go to the Super Dome, knowing well ahead of time there was no food, water, or power. If this was the case, why send people there? It was also the state

National Guard and authorities that refused entrance to the Red Cross. Marsha Evans, the president of Red Cross, contends that she was given word that Red Cross' being there would incline people to stay rather than evacuate. At the same time, FEMA refused to allow people to leave. So these decisions, falling in the hands of the state, left these poor people stranded. Accountability is not a priority? I suggest you tell that to Governor Blanco, who for some reason was more interested in clearing out the Super Dome than saving lives. She didn't call for help from Bush until the final hour, did she not?

It is the opinion of this writer that Louisiana messed up big time, and holding Bush accountable for the state's unpreparedness is foolhardy and ignorant. Why not blame the state for not having a contingency plan? Why not blame the city for not building adequate levees? Why not blame the governor for refusing aid to those in the Super Dome? Why not blame the founders, who decided to build a city below sea level? Blame them, not our president who is actually doing the right thing in a midst of bad decision making.

Alex Mangie



STRIKE WARS

Not that long ago on a campus far far removed from reality ...

By: Leonard Glenn Crist
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The first in a three-part series on YSU's
Great Strikes of 2005.

Act 1: Strike Wars

After an exhausting day of dealing with union leaders, Youngstown State University officials and the television news media — each with their own personal (and often annoying) agendas — it was time to get wasted.

The bigwigs on all sides spent day two of the faculty strike (day nine of the staff strike) vainly attempting to advance their cause in the media, oblivious to the fact that the television news reporters were not interested so much in the facts as they were in three-second sound bites and making sure their hair looked good on camera.

To be fair, union leaders and YSU officials did not seem incredibly concerned with the facts either. Spin, that fuzzy gremlin of half-truth, had become all too prevalent since YSU's staff union, the Association of Classified Employees (ACE), went on strike Aug. 16. The spin only intensified when YSU's faculty union, the Ohio Education Association (OEA), joined the fray a week later.

I left the Jambar office and walked to the F1 parking lot. In the field directly adjacent to my parked '87 Mercury Cougar, the YSU marching band practiced a familiar tune: John William's "Star Wars" theme.

I am both a musician and a geek, so I stopped for a few moments to watch and listen. As the inspiring opening section segued into the more ominous "Imperial March" — Darth Vader's theme music [DUM DUM DUM dun da-DUM dun da-DUM] — I couldn't help but feel the song was somehow apropos to the strike.

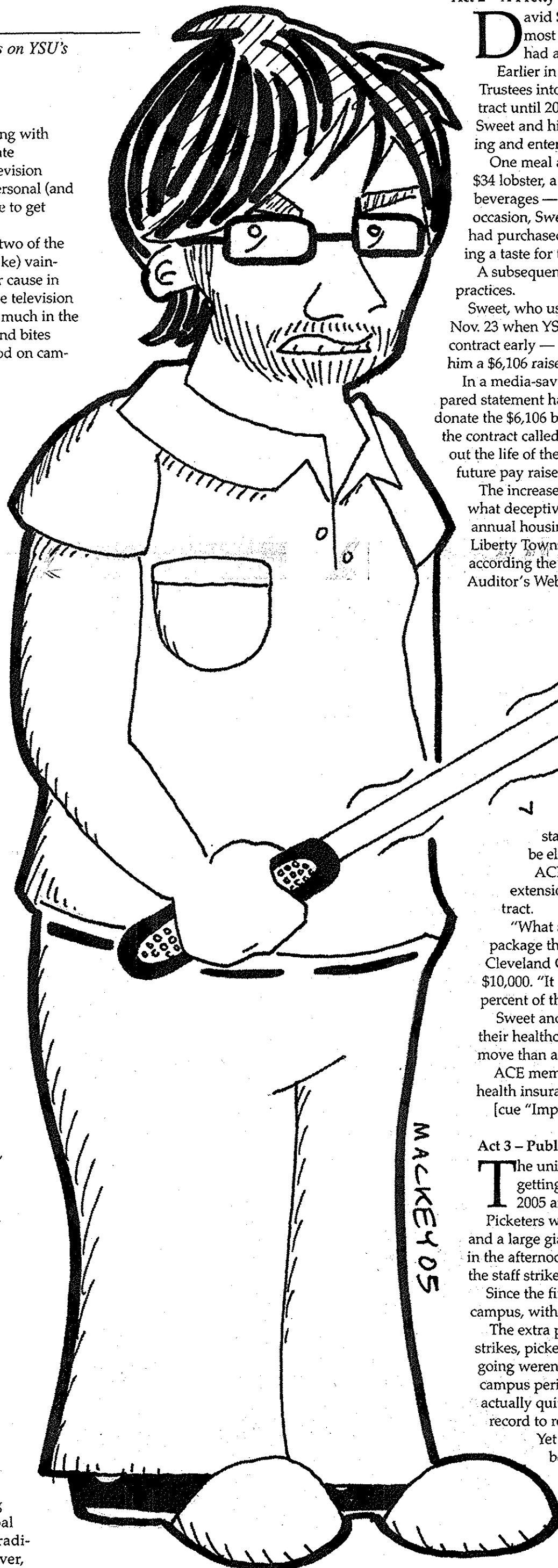
The easy analogy would be to say the striking unions represented the heroic rebel alliance led by Luke Skywalker while YSU administrators were the evil galactic empire, starring YSU President David Sweet as the Emperor and his vice president, John Habat, as Darth Vader. I guess Tod Hall, home to the president's office and the trustees' meeting room, would be the Death Star.

But that analogy wasn't cutting it for me.

A theme in the most recent set of Star Wars films was one of hidden alliances. In the movies, the seemingly virtuous Senator Palpatine was the leader of the Clone Army, which was at war with the separatist Droid Army, led by Count Dooku. Both sides waged bitter battles against each other, but in reality, Palpatine and Dooku were best buds, fighting a war against each other in order to accomplish a mutual goal: the enslavement of the universe and the creation of an evil galactic empire.

Of course, Sweet and the striking unions didn't share the common goal of universal enslavement and the eradication of the Jedi. They were, however, united in the mutual desire to receive generous (and probably unwarranted) pay raises each year, leaving students to foot the bill.

Desiring the ignorant bliss of intoxication over the harsh realities of that damn strike, I put my "Star Wars" analogy on hold and headed to the liquor store.



Act 2 - A Pretty Sweet Deal

David Sweet's November 2004 Thanksgiving turkey was likely the most tender, juicy and delicious tasting meal of his career. He had a lot to be thankful for that day.

Earlier in the week, Sweet had somehow conned YSU's Board of Trustees into granting him a generous pay raise and extending his contract until 2010, despite a scandal just six months earlier that revealed Sweet and his wife Pat had spent more than \$55,000 of YSU funds traveling and entertaining between September 2002 and January 2004.

One meal at a Rhode Island restaurant, paid for by YSU, included a \$34 lobster, a \$37.50 steak, a \$14 Caesar salad and \$16 worth of alcoholic beverages — their bill totaled \$130.61, including a \$22 tip. On another occasion, Sweet requested YSU reimburse him \$1.89 for an iced-tea he had purchased. The combined evidence showed that in addition to having a taste for the finer things in life, David Sweet was also a cheapskate.

A subsequent external audit found "no improprieties" in his spending practices.

Sweet, who usually attended every trustees meeting, was a no-show on Nov. 23 when YSU's nine board members unanimously agreed to renew his contract early — more than 18 months before it was to expire — and grant him a \$6,106 raise, or a 3 percent increase over the previous year.

In a media-savvy gesture of goodwill, Sweet announced, through a prepared statement handed out immediately after the meeting, that he would donate the \$6,106 back to YSU. It was a relatively empty gesture, however, as the contract called for annual pay raises of between 2 and 4 percent throughout the life of the contract, and Sweet made no mention of donating any future pay raises.

The increase brought Sweet's base salary to \$209,626, which was somewhat deceptive. He also received a \$7,938 car allowance and a \$52,615 annual housing allowance for a six bedroom, 3.5 bathroom house in Liberty Township. Sweet purchased the house for \$210,000 in June 2000, according to the Trumbull County Auditor's Web site.

By July 2004, YSU had already paid approximately \$200,000 in housing allowances, nearly the total cost of the house. Perhaps fearing future criticism that YSU was giving Sweet \$50,000 a year in allowances for a house that was already paid off, the trustees decided they would start rolling the housing and car allowances into Sweet's base salary. The new contract stipulated that over 3.5 years, starting in January 2005, the housing and car allowances would be eliminated, and Sweet would simply be paid an extra \$60,000. ACE leaders were livid following Sweet's raise and contract extension. They quickly dashed off a snarky analysis of the contract.

"What a Sweet benefit!" ACE leaders wrote of Sweet's healthcare package that included YSU picking up the tab for his enrollment in the Cleveland Clinic's Executive Physical Program, which can cost up to \$10,000. "It is an outrageous statement to say Dr. Sweet is paying 10 percent of the health insurance premium."

Sweet and his executive cabinet had just started paying a share of their healthcare in January 2004, which was probably more of a political move than a cost-saving one.

ACE members, of course, hoped to avoid paying 10 percent of their health insurance premiums. [cue "Imperial March"]

Act 3 - Publicity Stunt Hall

The unions and YSU negotiators hadn't met for several days. It was getting closer and closer to the scheduled start of Fall Semester 2005 and little progress was being made.

Picketers were out in full force. Lawn chairs, anti-administration signs and a large giant inflatable rat were also out in full force. This was earlier in the afternoon on the second day of the faculty strike (the ninth day of the staff strike), before the alcohol and the Star Wars analogies.

Since the first strike began, YSU Police had increased their presence on campus, with officers working mandatory 12-hour shifts.

The extra police seemed like an un-needed precaution. Throughout the strikes, picketers weren't violent, vulgar or forceful. Students coming and going weren't shouted at or frowned upon. In my walks around the campus perimeter, from picket to picket, faculty and staff members were actually quite cordial and friendly, if not a bit unwilling to talk on the record to reporters.

Yet on this day, the police presence seemed even larger, perhaps because YSU's Board of Trustees had called a 4 p.m. meeting to discuss the strikes.

Reporters from every conceivable local news outlet — The Vindicator, WFMJ, WKBN, WYTV, The Warren Tribune Chronicle — milled around campus waiting for something happen. Even the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette stood by.

Shortly before the trustees meeting was to begin, faculty and staff members marched from their union post at the First Christian Church to nearby Tod Hall. They carried a table and chairs with the names of YSU negotiators on them and placed them in front of the hall's main stairs — a symbolic empty bargaining table.

One thing that should be noted about the picketers is that, unlike many other strikes, where union members man pickets 24 hours a day as a physical imposition to prevent or intimidate SCABs from crossing the line, YSU's faculty and staff strikers actively picketed only when there was the chance that the news media might show up to capture their plight. Most nights they went home after the eleven o'clock news finished it's obligatory strike story.

While most of the reporters stood outside staring at the table, I walked up the stairs to see what I could see. There were two police officers (or security guards - it's hard to tell) inside, near the entrance, but the door was unlocked. I went in and sat down on one of the comfy leather (or pleather - it's hard to tell) sofas in the lobby. Funny how Tod Hall has the only nice furniture on campus. After a few minutes, Tom Maraffa, who holds the dubious position of "Special Assistant to the President," walked in and peaked out the window.

Upon seeing the empty bargaining table and a chair with his name on it, he remarked that the stunt was a very "clever" move on the part of the unions. He went back upstairs and I went back outside.

A gaggle of striking employees suddenly converged near Tod Hall's entrance. They circled the empty table, - with the TV news cameras there to immortalize it for all eternity - shouting, "Bargain now!" and other similar silly strike slogans.

An electric sort of idiocy floated in the air near the Death Star - I'm sorry, Tod Hall - and it seemed one spark could set off a moronic bomb.

Sadly, I heard no, "Hey hey, ho ho, Sweet and Habat have to go." You'd think with English professors on strike, the chants, signs and overall rhetoric would be a little more creative.

ACE president Chris Domhoff and OEA spokesman Bob Hogue walked up to the door and chanted "Let us in" or some similar symbolic garbage intended to work the crowd up and maximize media coverage, despite the fact that the doors were clearly unlocked. A police officer from inside quickly pushed open the door, allowing the two union leaders to come inside for the meeting and bringing an end to the frenzied spectacle outside.

I waited a few more minutes and then went back inside Tod Hall. The trustees had already entered the meeting room and voted to go into executive session, where they would privately discuss the strike. I was told by university spokespeople that the trustees would deliver a statement after the meeting.

I spent the next three hours waiting. I sat with the Business Journal's Dennis LaRue, Youngstown's best and brightest journalist, talked shop and discussed why TV news reporters will always be the bane of print journalists.

Not ten seconds later, my least favorite Youngstown TV news reporter dude, one with a really bad tan (probably fake) and greasy hair with awful bleached blonde tips, came into the conference room to see if anything had happened.

No, we told him and he went to leave, first pulling on one door that read "push" and then pulling on the other door before I revealed to him the magic secret of exiting the Tod Hall Trustees' Meeting Room: "It says push."

Like a rat who finally figures out that if he solves the maze he'll get the cheese instead of an electric shock, the TV news reporter dude pushed on the door that read "push" and exited the room.

What seemed like an eternity later, the trustees returned from executive session, delivered a shockingly un-newsworthy statement and then adjourned, eyes averted, without answering any pesky questions from those of us who patiently waited three

I went in and sat down on one of the comfy leather (or pleather - it's hard to tell) sofas in the lobby. Funny how Tod Hall has the only nice furniture on campus.

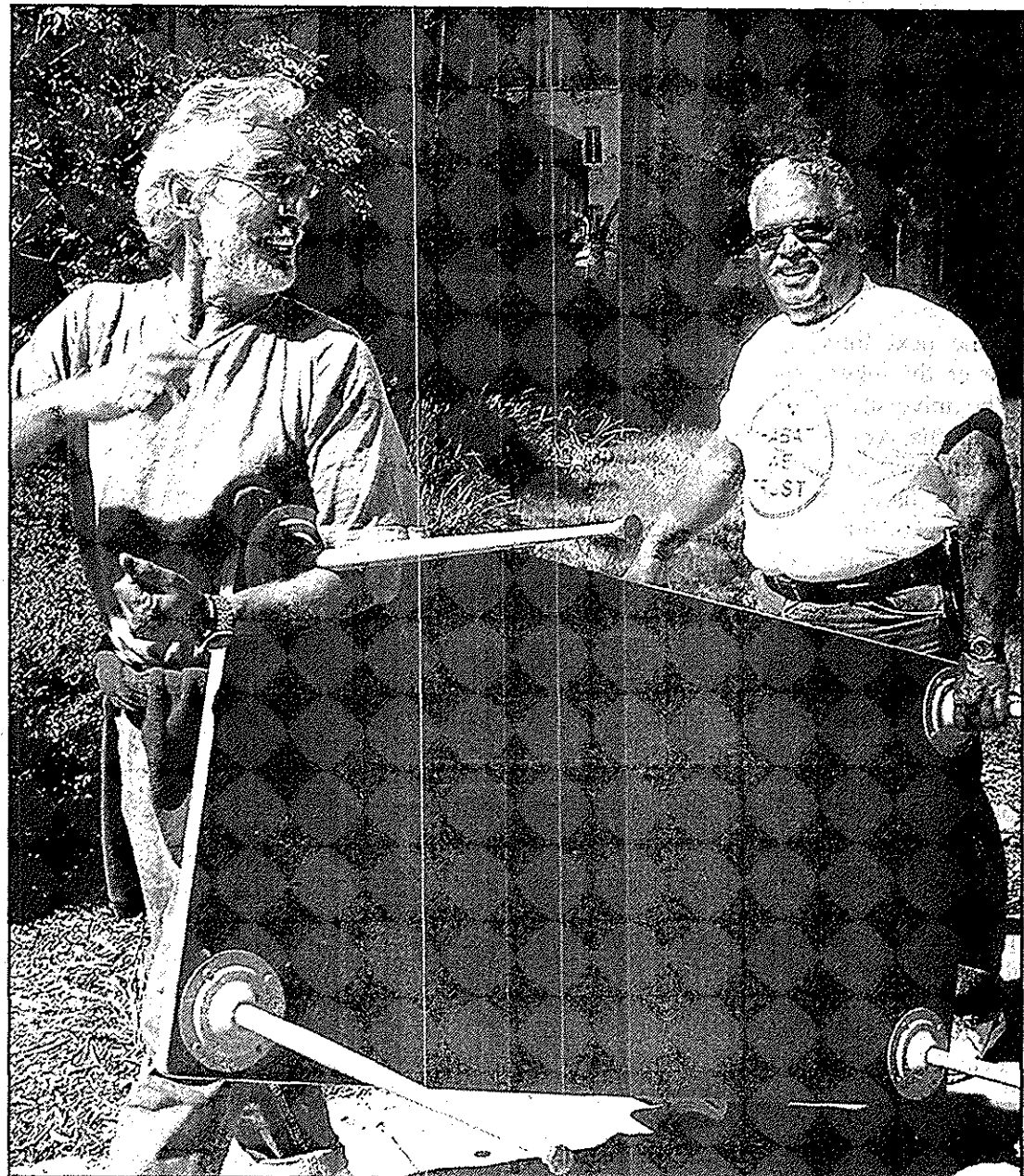
hours only to learn that they hoped talks would start up again soon.

They had wasted so much time that when I finally made it to the liquor store on Gypsy Lane, it was closed and I had to settle for beer from the Sparkle Market next door.

"Help me, Obi Wan, you're my only hope."

[cue "Star Wars" theme and end credits]

NEXT WEEK: "The Empire Strikes." Part two of a three part series, where your faithful narrator delves into why the strike happened, discusses the scourge of tuition increases, and recounts the meeting where David Sweet hilariously asks, "What exactly is a 'Sweet Deal?'" And in two weeks, the thrilling conclusion: "The Return of the Semester." Stay tuned.



RAISE, continued from page 1

of 3 percent in FY 2007 and FY 2008.

Health Care

With the new co-pays for health care, the university projects saving \$1,667,352 over the next three years. However, the release shows that the university is projecting that the cost of health care will increase by 15.2 percent in fiscal year 2006 (which begins July 1, 2005) and 10 percent each following year. The assumed increases are factored in the total sum the university expects to pay over the course of three years.

The release shows that the faculty, the exempt classified employees and ACE union won't be contributing to co-pays until FY 2007. Under the new contract, ACE employees will pay 1.5 percent of their base salary and longevity for family health care and .75 percent for single health care. The faculty

has similar terms; they pay 1.5 percent of their base salary for family coverage and .75 percent for single coverage.

Tuition Hikes?

In a meeting with the Jambar and representatives from the YSU Student Government Association the week before the fall semester began, YSU President David Sweet said that the faculty contract offer assumed maximum tuition increases — 6 percent, allowed by Ohio law — over the next three years.

Tuition for FY 2006 will bring in a projected \$77,680,000 for the university, an increase of \$4,860,000 or 6.7 percent from the previous year. The state share of instruction is down 3 percent from the previous year bringing in \$39,218,588, a sum of \$1,215,735 less than the previous year.

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

AGASSI, continued from page 9

Asked if he agreed with Agassi's assessment that he is the best player in the world, Federer smiled and said: "The best player of this generation, yes, but nowhere close to ever. Just look at the records some guys have. I'm a little cookie."

Though he lost, Agassi said he would treasure this Open.

"It's 20 years come full circle," he said. "It's been an amazing journey and discovery of each other the fans as I've grown up out here, to be here at an age where I can take in that sort of love and embrace it is a tremendous feeling. I'll never forget this.

You can't take away from me ever what I'm leaving here with, and that's the memory of thousands of people pulling for me and showing appreciation for something I care deeply about."

As much as that might sound like a farewell speech, Agassi insists it wasn't. But he didn't promise he'd be back at next year's Open.

"I'm unsure of what I'm going to do in a month, let alone a year," he said. "As of now, my intention is to keep working, do what it is I do. The only thing better than the last 20 years would be the last 21 years."

RYAN, continued from page 1

campus roadway improvements included in the 2005 Transportation Efficiency Act of the 21st Century, recently approved by Congress and signed by President Bush.

Cynthia Hirtzel, dean of the William Rayen College of Engineering and Technology, said the \$2 million would help re-establish a Materials Engineering Program and focus on academics and research. She also said the

program would focus on the "next generation" of metals and other materials, such as light-weight metallic alloys and metal foams for use in the transportation industry.

Hirtzel said that engineering students have been working with local companies to bring new products to commercialization. Hirtzel said that a proposed Materials Curriculum was presented to Academic Senate this year

and was waiting for approval.

The \$2.1 million from the bill would focus on making improvements to Wick, Fifth and Rayen avenues, focusing on pedestrian safety and traffic. Sweet said that the improvements would fit in with the timeframe of YSU's 2008 Centennial Campus Master Plan and Youngstown 2010.

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

Read The Jambar online at thejambar.com

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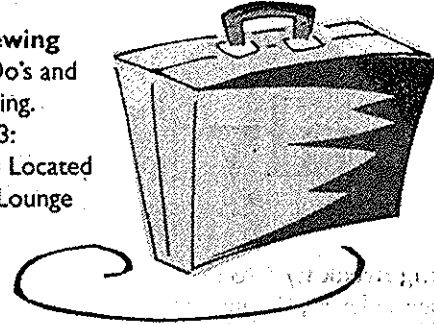
Resume 911: The Resume Doctors are in! Walk-in resume help will be available during these times.
 Monday, Sept. 12: 9-11:00 a.m. and 2-4:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, Sept. 13: 1-5:00 p.m.
 Wednesday, Sept. 14: 9-11:00 a.m. and 2-4:00 p.m.
 Thursday, Sept. 15: 10:00 a.m.-noon and 3-5:00 p.m.
 Friday, Sept. 16: 9-11:00 a.m.

Career Services: Making It Work For You: Learn about our services and what we can do for you!
 Monday, Sept. 12: 10-11:00 a.m.
 Wednesday, Sept. 14: 2-3:00 p.m.

Resumes That Work! Learn from the experts! Employers share what they look for on a resume
 Monday, Sept. 12: 12-1:00 p.m. - Located in Jones Hall Lounge (1st floor)
 Wednesday, Sept. 14: 10-11:00 a.m.

Easing Into EASE: Learn how to register with YSU's online recruiting system, post your resume, and apply for positions.
 Monday, Sept. 12: 2-3:00 p.m.
 Tuesday, Sept. 13: 10-11:00 a.m.
 Friday, Sept. 16: 10-11:00 a.m.

Effective Interviewing Skills: Learn the Do's and Don'ts of interviewing.
 Tuesday, Sept. 13: 12-1:00 p.m. - Located in Jones Hall Lounge (1st floor).



From Career Fair Employment: Learn from the experts! Employers share strategies on how to make career fairs turn into job offers.
 Tuesday, Sept. 13: 2-3:00 p.m.
 Thursday, Sept. 15: 10-11:00 a.m.

Job Search - The Real World YSU Style: Learn from the experts! Alumni share job search strategies that really work.
 Wednesday, Sept. 14: 12-1:00 p.m. - Located in Jones Hall Lounge (1st floor).

Job Search 101: Learn the basics of how to find quality positions in today's job market.
 Thursday, Sept. 15: 9-10:00 a.m.

Career & Counseling Services Open House: Join us for refreshments, meet our staff, and tour our facility.
 Thursday, Sept. 15: 1-2:00 p.m.

Survivor: The Interview: Learn from the experts! Employers participate in this interactive workshop where you will learn the most effective ways to answer some of the toughest interview questions.
 Friday, Sept. 16: 12-1:00 p.m. - Located in Jones Hall Lounge (1st floor).

Career Week 2005
 Sponsored by Career & Counseling Services

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You'll find the C-Store on the left, just before you enter the New Andrews Recreation and Wellness Center! Stop in for freshly brewed coffee, a cold beverage, magazine, or snack!

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YSU closer to campus-wide wireless Internet

By: Cheryl Thompson
REPORTER

Youngstown State University may be closer to receiving campus-wide wireless Internet after a meeting last week between Amanda Mielke, vice president of the Student Government Association and YSU Interim Chief of Technology, Donna Esterly.

Esterly said the administration is working on finding a replacement for the Director of Network Services, who retired last February.

"We have received some applicants and should have someone in place by the end of next month," Esterly said.

Once the position is filled, Esterly said wireless Internet

will become a priority.

Esterly said a pilot program is already in place in Maag Library, where students can sign out laptop computers to use in the library for three-hour increments.

Erik Shaffer, a Maag Library lab assistant, said the laptops are popular among students.

"There's always a number signed out at any given time," Shaffer said. He estimates around 15 laptops are used every hour the library is open.

By next spring, SGA hopes to have open wireless in Maag Library so students will be able to gain Internet access from personal laptops with a CUE-MAIL account.

"This is opposed to a truly

open network which anyone could access and would definitely be a security nightmare," Bob McGovern, SGA president, said.

McGovern said that signing in would help protect the network.

While it is unknown how many YSU students own laptops, Esterly believes that the number will rise because laptops are becoming more affordable.

Sophomore Christine Korchnak, who transferred from Kent State University, said that she saw the wireless Internet system at Kent State University as successful.

"Everyone seemed to be on their laptops," Korchnak said.

Wireless Internet will also allow students freedom to

study where it is the most efficient for them.

Graduate student Lindsey Willman said she thinks wireless Internet would be beneficial because "students won't have to be confined to a computer lab or the library."

The cost of bringing wireless Internet to YSU is currently unknown.

"We need to do more research on the issue," Esterly said.

SGA passed a resolution Monday calling for students to be able to access the Wi-Fi Internet in the library with their personal laptops and PDAs.

Call Cheryl Thompson at (330) 941-1913.

Say Cheese!
The Jambar needs a photographer.
Call 941-1991 for information

THEATER, continued from page 10

"Gamma Rays" showed the unforgiving domino effect of cold-hearted viciousness that people can begin with those close to them. Early childhood taunting and teasing scarred the Beatrice character into having doubts of her importance and placing priority on the frivolous aspects of life. Thus, favoring looks over intelligence, she passes on the depleted self-esteem to her daughters by nurturing Ruth's featherbrained behavior and attacking Tilly's intelligence and average looks. Ottey and Dionisio portray these attributes flawlessly in characters that are visual displays of the classic Beauty vs. Brains clash.

The play was not without its moments of

kindness and comic relief. At the end of Act 1, Beatrice's eyes are opened to true nurturing at the sight of a crying Tilly that had made it to the finals in the science fair, thus dissolving the image of a useless Tilly and replacing it with one of success.

Jennifer McCombs who played Janice, Tilly's competition, delighted the audience with her somewhat ditz schoolgirl performance. And Missy Bookbinder's adaptation of the aged Nanny served as a bit of visual comedy and the center of Beatrice's childish mockery.

"Gamma Rays" serves Blackbox as a strong omen of good things to come for the rest of the season.

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Retail Vendors for Oakhill Ribfest wanted. Special Family event being held Friday Sept. 30 between 3pm and 8pm. Provide info about products to be featured, space is limited. Call 330-740-6691 ext. 7318.

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September 6-16

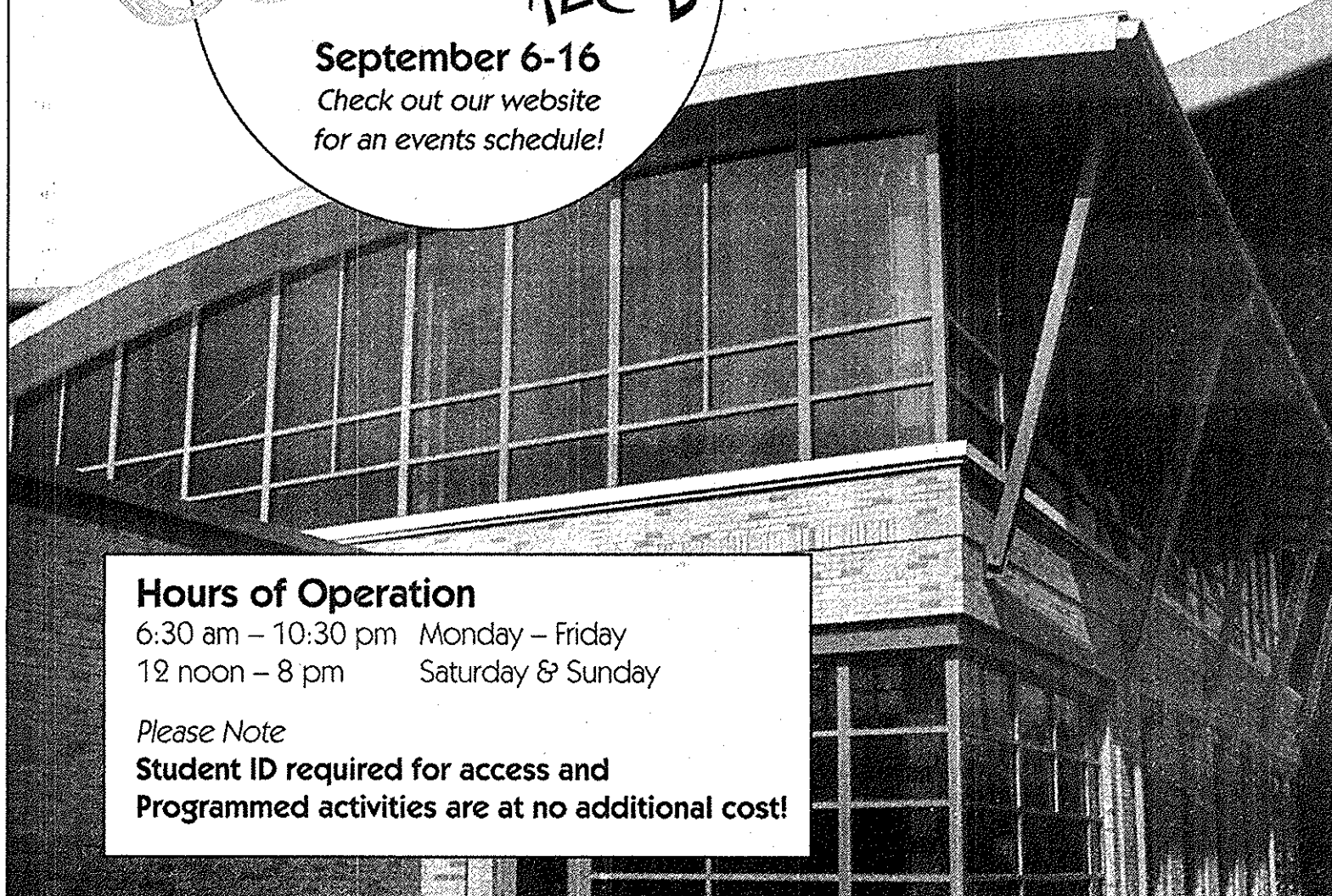
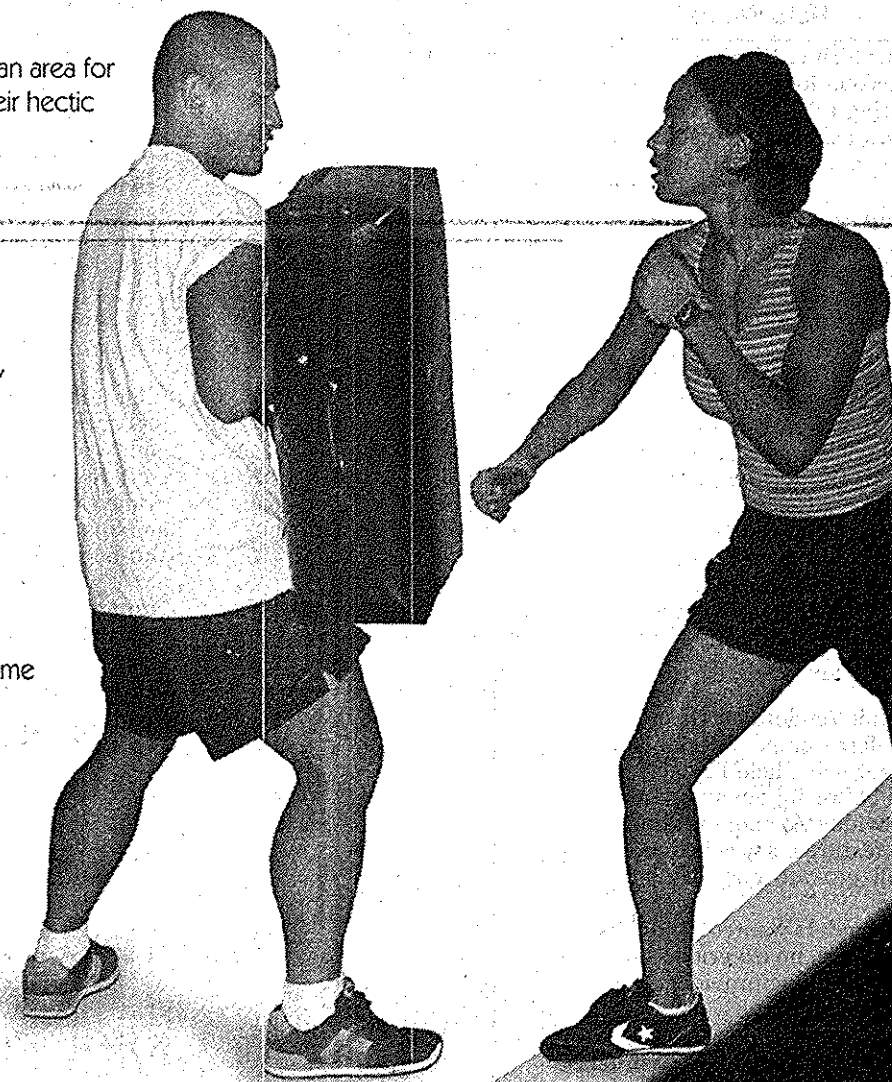
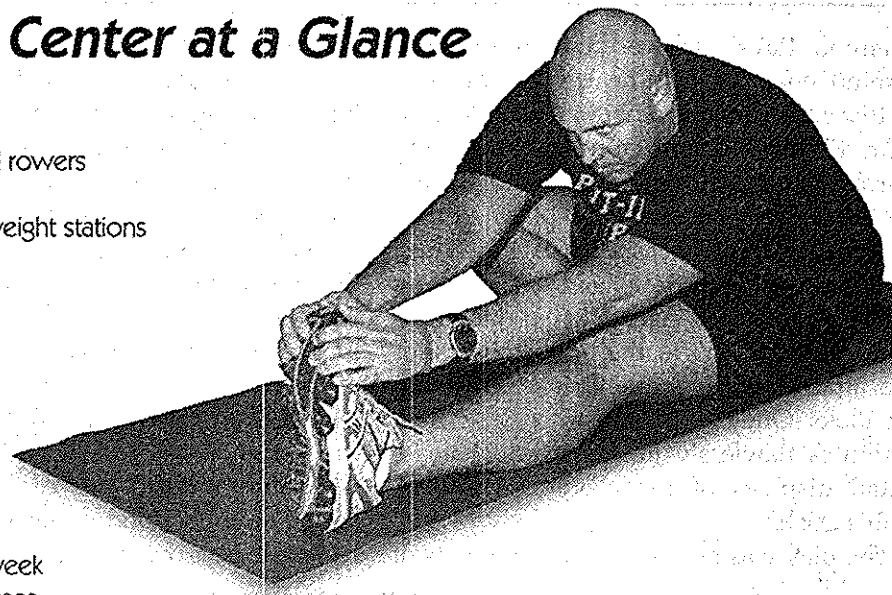
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- ▶ Volleyball — 9/16, home doubleheader (10 a.m. & 5 p.m.)
- ▶ Soccer — 9/16, vs. Kent State (7 p.m.)

Head shavin' and road pavin'

YSU's offensive line keys 2-0 start

By: Justin Smolkovich
SPORTS REPORTER

There was a time when Mohawks were relegated to Native Americans and the punk rock culture, but this is a new millennium and things have changed. The Youngstown State Penguins football team, which is off to a 2-0 start this season, features two athletes who sport the untraditional coif and are proud of the attention it gets them.

Senior offensive linemen Tony Limongi, who starts at left guard, and John Bartos, who starts at left tackle, said the Mohawks came about as something to unify the offensive line before the season started.

"It started off with 10 players getting it done, but now it is just me and Tony," Bartos said.

The haircut was proposed by the linemen, however, Bartos said that other positions tried to jump on the Mohawk bandwagon, but without much success.

"Tommy Zetts had one," Limongi said laughingly of Zetts, the Penguins starting sophomore quarterback. "But we advised him against

it." Zetts no longer sports the haircut.

Bartos and Limongi also said that the unusual hairstyle might be blessed.

"We like to think of it as good luck," Bartos said.

This claim may turn out to be true as the Penguin are off to a quick start, including Saturday's 35-16 shellacking of Northeastern University, a game that saw Bartos and Limongi crush the Huskies defense, allowing running back Monquanta Gibson to rush for a career-best 198 yards and clearing the way for Zetts to pass for 201 yards. The Penguins only allowed one sack Saturday. Bartos and Limongi both protect Zetts's blindside.

So far the reception from the team and coaching staff has been positive.

"They love it," Bartos said of his teammates' response to the haircut. "Coach Wright (offensive coordinator Brian Wright) thinks it makes us look tough."

But the real question remains: How close were we to seeing mullets rather than Mohawks, or even dreadlocks for that matter? The answer is not close at all.

The senior linemen said that it was either the Mohawks or nothing. And if both players are able to, the Mohawks will be here for quite some time.

"We are keeping these all season long," Limongi said. "That's all we are doing."

"And trimming our beards," Bartos added.

It should also be noted that both linemen sport well-manicured beards, although the facial hair is not nearly as intense as the Mohawks.

Now that Bartos and Limongi have set the trend, others may want to shave up the sides and spike the middle of their own heads. What do these two Mohawk experts have in terms of advice? Surprisingly, it is not that difficult, said Limongi. "All you have to do is keep it straight and lined up."

The Mohawks will be put to test this week when the football team travels to Liberty University to battle the Flames and just one week later the Mohawk will make its debut at Heinz field in Pittsburgh.

Call Justin Smolkovich at (330) 941-3758.



Courtesy of YSU Sports Information
Running back Monquanta Gibson has benefited from an experienced offensive line, as has the entire YSU football team. Gibson ran for nearly 200 yards last week against Northeastern.

Federer masterful in U.S. Open final

By: Michelle Kaufman
KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

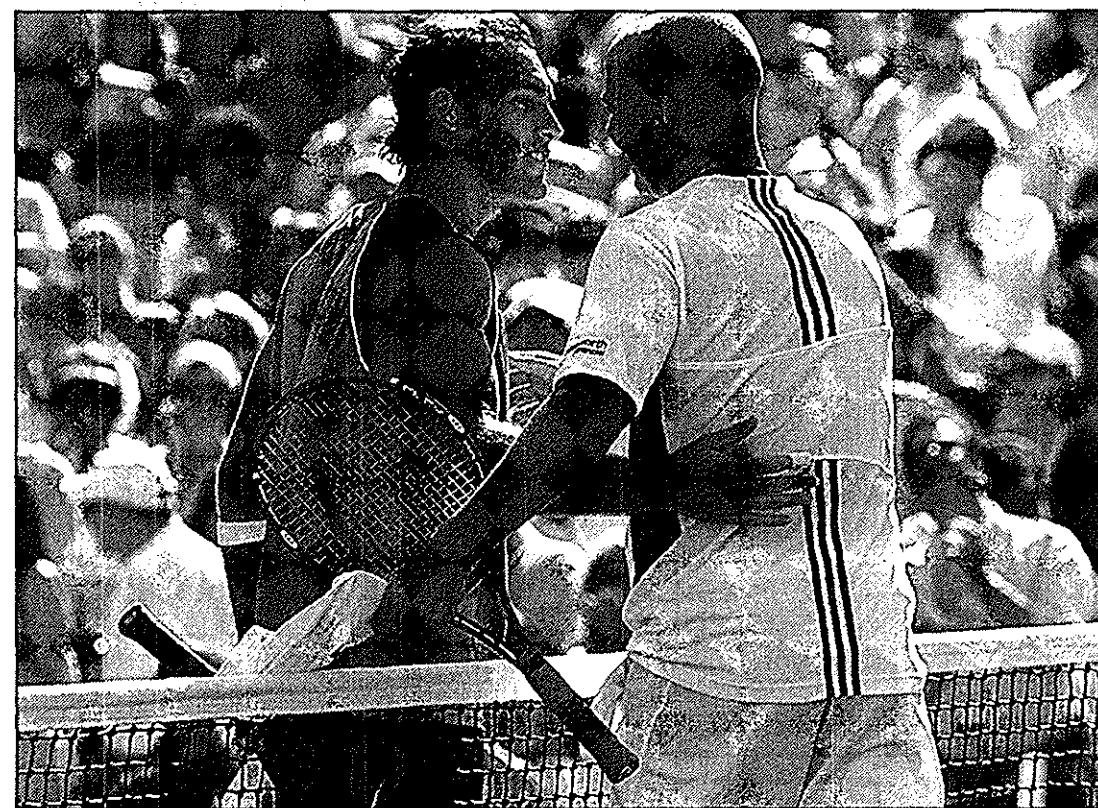
NEW YORK —When it was all over, after Andre Agassi's backhand return sailed long, ending his improbable U.S. Open run, breaking the hearts of the 22,000 adoring fans at Arthur Ashe Stadium and sealing the title for top-ranked Roger Federer, Agassi sat slumped over in his court-side folding chair, biting a towel, taking in the moment.

He turned to his right and took a long look at Federer, the Swiss maestro, who had just deflated the 35-year-old legend 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (7-1), 6-1.

Agassi has lost eight straight times to Federer, and would later call him "the best I've ever played against." That's saying a lot, considering Agassi has been around for two decades and faced the likes of Ivan Lendl, Jimmy Connors, John McEnroe and Pete Sampras.

At 24 years old, Federer has won a record 23 consecutive finals, and six Grand Slam titles — two U.S. Opens, three Wimbledons, and an Australian Open. His record improved to a remarkable 71-3 this year.

Agassi took one last look at the star-studded crowd, which included Lance Armstrong, Robin Williams, Dustin Hoffman, Donald Trump, to name a few. They tried to will Agassi to win, chanting his name repeatedly at every tense moment. Surely, some of those people



Courtesy of KRFTCampus
Roger Federer won the U.S. Open final Sunday over Andre Agassi in four sets. Federer has become the dominate male tennis player of this generation.

were there 20 years ago, when Agassi showed up at his first Open wearing denim shorts, Day-Glo shirts and a mane of peroxide-bleached hair. They watched him evolve into a grown-up, and cared for him like an adopted son.

Agassi stepped up to the microphone and said, "It was a tough road, but it was a great road." And then a fan yelled, "I love you Andreeee!" from the upper deck. Agassi forced a smile. "I love you, too. Thank you, man. Thank you, New York, for 20 years."

There would be more love after the awards ceremony. As Agassi walked out of the stadium tunnel, his wife, Steffi Graf, and two children were there with hugs and kisses. He lifted blonde pig-tailed daughter, Jaz, 1, into his arms and kissed her cheek gently several times.

"Who did you play, Daddy?" asked 3-year-old son, Jaden.

"A guy with long hair," Agassi replied. That, clear-

ly, was not the time to explain to the kid just how good that guy with long hair is. But he did gush over Federer at his press conference.

"It's disappointing to lose, but I just lost to a guy that's better," Agassi said. "There's only so long you can deny it. He's the best I've ever played against. There's nowhere to go against him. Every shot has that sort of urgency. If you do what you're supposed to do, it just gives you a chance to win a point. That's just too good."

Agassi had Federer down a break at 4-2 in the third set, and seemed to be rattling him by rushing the net and varying the pace of the game. But the Swiss kicked into another gear, found his serve, won seven straight points in the third-set tiebreaker and dominated the final set.

"I've played a lot of guys over so many years, and there's a safety zone, a place

you can get to, something to focus on," Agassi said. "But with Roger, anything you try to do, he potentially has an answer and it's just a function of when he starts pulling the triggers necessary."

"He plays the game in a special way. I haven't seen it before."

Not even with Sampras? "Pete was great, no question," Agassi said. "But there was a place to get to with Pete. You knew what you had to do. If you could do it, it could be on your terms. There's no such place like that with Roger."

The admiration is mutual. "This was my most special Grand Slam, to play Andre in the final of the U.S. Open," Federer said. "He is one of the only living legends in tennis we still have in the game, and to play him in this situation, him toward the end of his career and me on top of my game, it was very special."

please see AGASSI, Page 6

Bad fortune continues for soccer squad

By: Justin Smolkovich & Steve Lettau

Bad luck continued this weekend for head coach Anthony James and members of Youngstown State University's girls soccer team after hosting the annual Penguin Classic, where they dropped two matches by a combined tally of 3-0.

The action started Friday night as the Penguins took the field against Manhattan with a small crowd cheering on the Penguins. The Manhattan Jaspers started out with the ball and were not allowed any room to move.

As the action picked up, so did the scoring chances by YSU. Senior Sadie Brookman fired off multiple shots on goal early in the game, for a total of three shots on goal during the game. Manhattan seemed to gain momentum, but a series of saves by goalkeeper Jessica Yarter kept them scoreless.

The Penguins' best scoring chance came five minutes into the second half when Christi Williams almost snuck a rebound past Kiara Fox, who ended the game with three saves.

At the 64-minute mark, forward Chrissy Reina went on a breakaway and shot it past Yarter, who finished the game having stopped three shots on goal, to make it 1-0 Manhattan.

"They gave me everything they had tonight. The only difference in the game was that they got the ball at

the back of the net," James said after Friday's match. "This is probably the best game since I've been with the program."

Unfortunately, Sunday proved to be more of the same for the Penguins who now stand at 0-6, as they fell to Virginia Military Institute, by a tally of 2-0. VMI wasted little time putting points on the board, scoring just 21 minutes into the game.

VMI would reach the back of the net one more time in the consolation match that took place following the championship round that saw Manhattan and Binghamton battle to a 2-2 tie after double overtime, making the final score 2-0 in favor of the Keydets.

Once again, goalie Yarter proved solid guarding the net, but the Penguins' offense was anemic, failing to score a goal in their fourth game this season. The Penguins have been outscored 10-2.

Forward Christi Williams led the offense in production as she took four shots on goal but was unable to put any points on the board.

"It's tough to pick out one player, tough to separate them all. They all do a wonderful job and gave a great effort," James said.

The Penguins will be returning to action this Friday night where they look to break their current losing streak as Kent State University travels to Stambaugh. The Flashes are currently 2-3 and are coming

'Manatees' delivers, real manatees still useless

By: Bob Mackey
COLUMNIST

Unquestionably, I am a Simpson nerd. For the past 17 years, every Sunday — and for a brief period, Thursday — night I have invited their family into my home for a half-hour of entertainment.

In that span of almost two decades I have learned much from the show. New vocabulary such as "cromulent," "carhole," "boo-urns" and "groin-grabbingly good" has entered my lexicon. At a young age, "The Simpsons" taught me that authority doesn't necessarily need respect and, for the most part, they're just as scared and clueless as the rest of us. I also learned that putting "speed holes" in your car helps it go faster.

But it seems the only thing I've been learning from the newer episodes of "The Simpsons" is the show just isn't very good anymore. Saying that "The Simpsons" is past its prime may be as trite as calling "Saturday Night Live" "Saturday Night Dead," but the animated family has been on life support so long that the firing of a completely incompetent head writer (Tina Fey in the case of SNL) won't solve the show's problems.

If you've been living a generally productive and

healthy life, I don't expect you to know that the downhill slide of "The Simpsons" started around 1997 with the promotion of writer Mike Scully to show-runner status. Under his four-season reign, the show's humor grew much broader, Homer got much more stupid (and was injured violently more often), and many of the empathetic qualities of the show were sacrificed in exchange for changing the characters from people into "joke tubes."

When Al Jean, the man who co-ran seasons 3 and 4 (considered by fans to be part of the "golden years"), returned to his former position, many fans saw him as a possible savior of the show. Since his return in 2001, the show and its fans have had a rocky love-hate relationship. "Bonfire of the Manatees," the 17th season premiere, marks Jean's fifth season as show-runner.

In this season premiere, Homer turns the Simpson house into a makeshift porn studio in an attempt to pay off some gambling debts to series regular Mafioso Fat Tony. Upon discovering this (Marge: "How could you allow this? In the room where we do puzzles!"), Marge leaves Homer and decides to go on a journey of self-discovery. Just as she is



Photo courtesy of nohomers.net

at the turning point of going back to Homer, Marge develops a non-sexual crush on rugged marine biologist Caleb Thorn (guest star Alec Baldwin). Completely dependant on Marge, Homer takes a journey of his own to find her and win his wife back.

The "Homer and Marge have a huge fight" premise has happened so much in the past few seasons of "The Simpsons" that it was hard for me to get excited about the season premiere. However, despite the old ground it covers, "Bonfire of the Manatees"

is a very solid — not to mention funny — episode.

A huge problem with much of the new Jean era has been a lack of focus, yet "Manatees" is extremely focused, and doesn't meander. It is a little strange that Marge would leave her children with Homer, knowing how dangerously unqualified he is at fatherhood, but I was willing to buy a little uncharacteristic behavior in exchange for some good comedy.

It's very nice to have an episode full of laughs with very little cringing on my

part. The annoying puns that have plagued the last few years of the show (the writers often seem to labor under the misconception that each and every line needs to be a joke) were actually absent from this episode. Homer's unique relationship with his children is explored further, with Lisa taking the role of authority and voice of nagging reason in Marge's absence.

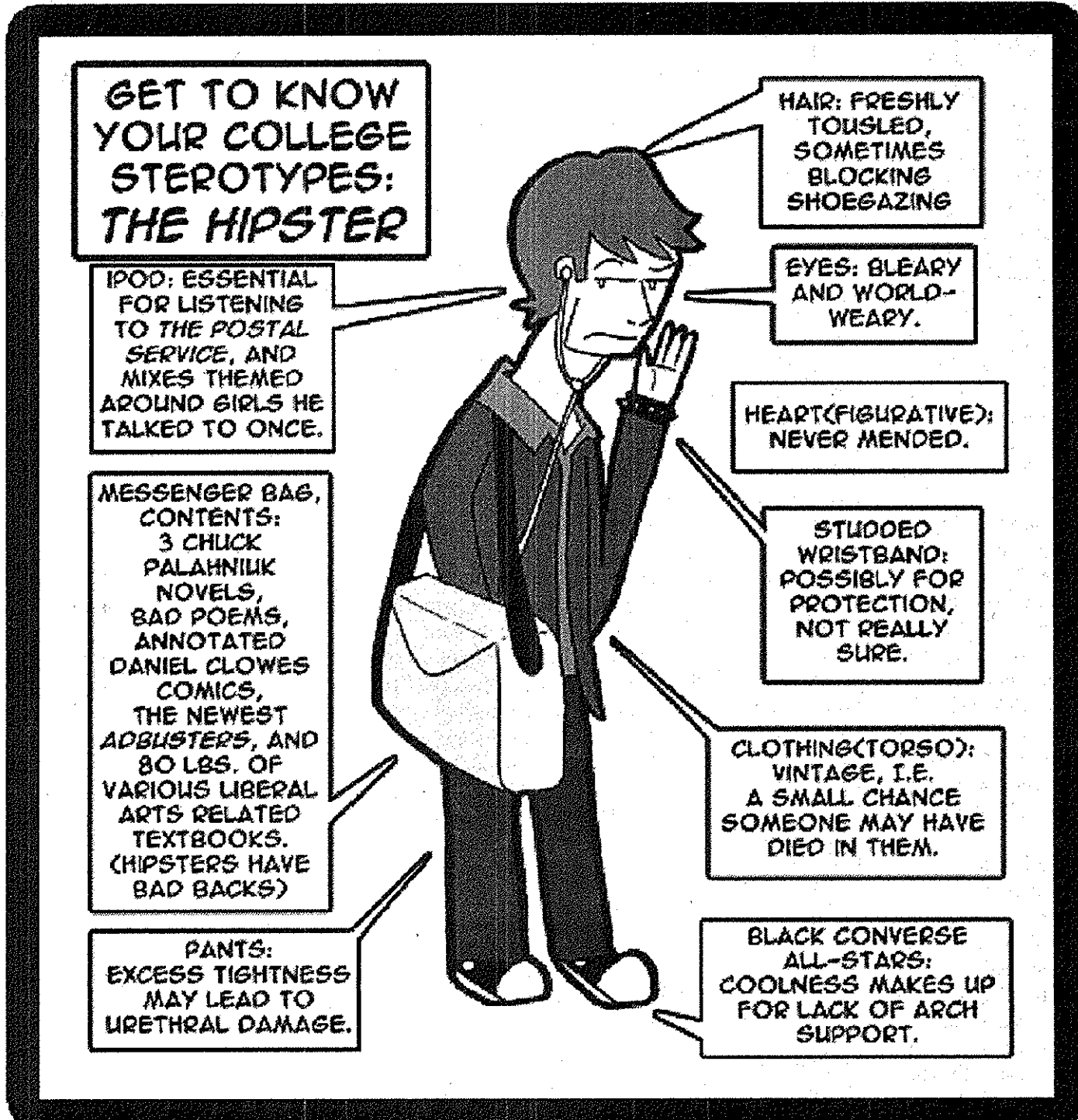
While "Bonfire of the Manatees" does not live up to the unreachable standard of the golden years of "The Simpsons," it does give me hope for the future. And

even though the show isn't as good as it used to be, in order to appreciate "The Simpsons," all you have to do is take a look at other shows on TV. For instance, Fox's newest sitcom "The War at Home," which premiered... after "The Simpsons," is one of the worst shows I've seen and features the tired, yet creepy idea of "the father is gatekeeper of his daughter's vagina." And what do I have to say about that?

Boo-urns.

Call Bob Mackey at (330) 941-1913.

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BLACK CONVERSE ALL-STARS: COOLNESS MAKES UP FOR LACK OF ARCH SUPPORT.

BY BOB MACKEY

Latest Blackbox production is fearlessly real

By: Jeremy Lydic
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Blackbox Entertainment opened its theater season with their production of Paul Zindel's "The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds" Thursday. The play's fearlessly real and sometimes jarring look into the lives of a downtrodden mother and her daughters was brilliantly put together by the cast and director, Gary Shackelford.

Tilly, the play's central character, was played by Stephanie Ottey, whose performance was as vibrant as her bold orange overcoat. Emotionally subdued and childishly charming, Tilly gained sympathy from the audience as the target of most of her mother's verbal rage. A scientist at heart, Tilly attempts to gain her mother's approval by entering a project in the school's science fair, displaying bursts of youthful energy and excitement only when talking about the project to her mother.

Beatrice, played by Nicole Dionisio, played her abusive single mother. While plodding about in slippers, lighting up a fresh cigarette, or topping off her glass of vodka, Beatrice fit every

stereotype of a woman who had given up hope and was taking the rest of the world down with her.

Dionisio's sterling performance brought her to the forefront as the star of the play, and grabbed the audience's attention with Beatrice's cynical views, penetratingly sharp tongue and a general scorn that would rival Cinderella's stepmother.

Tilly's sister Ruth, played by Noelle Nackino, is truly modeled in her mother's image. Nackino's performance as the seemingly shallow, flirty Ruth was praiseworthy as she invoked a strong sense of mental instability, and possible bipolarity, from her character.

At times, Ruth would seem just as cold and psychologically vicious as her mother, but the character would deepen at moments of genuine love of her sister. Ruth seemed to struggle between fitting in with her family or with the "in crowd," however, and would show signs of sisterly love only when it best suit her own selfish needs.

Dealing with the concept of emotional abuse,

please see THEATER, Page 7