

the jambar

VOLUME 88, ISSUE 20 The student voice of Youngstown State University

Weather >> showers
80 | 51
Friday: showers, 59/40
Saturday: p. cloudy, 56/35

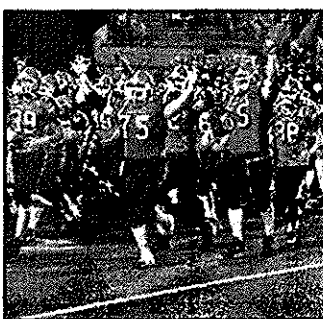
Inside



▲ This is only one of them. There are five. They all have the same dress on. Trust us.

Play Preview I see page 6

▼ The Penguins hope to have something to celebrate after this Saturday's game.



Sports I see page 5

In Brief

YSU set for month-long diversity celebration

Youngstown State University will join Partners for Workplace Diversity, an alliance of area businesses and organizations, in sponsoring a month-long celebration of National Diversity Month with events geared toward educating and promoting community cultures.

There will be a kickoff breakfast 7:30 a.m. Friday at the General Motors Lordstown Complex.

The Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County and Main Branch on Wick Avenue will play host to a discussion on the book "When I Was Puerto Rican" 6:30 p.m. today.

YSU will hold an event to commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month in Kilcawley Center with "Recognizing Hispanic Achievements" on Friday at 5:30 p.m.

For a full list of events, visit www.cc.yzu.edu/diversity.

the jambar poll question

Last question

Has the YSU football team exceeded your expectations this season?

YES 54% NO 46%

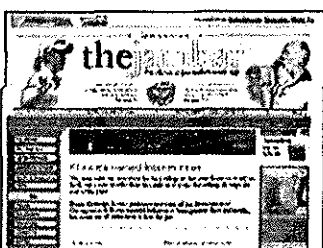
Today's Question

Do you support President Bush's nomination of Harriet Miers?

vote online www.thejambar.com

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Online: thejambar.com
thejambar@gmail.com

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Campus reacts to nominee

By: Eric Grosso
FEATURES REPORTER

Harriet Miers, who served as the head of the State Bar of Texas and as part of President Bush's White House counsel, was nominated to replace Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor on Monday.

Miers led the search for potential candidates, but was considered a nominee by Bush during the process without her knowledge. In a press conference on Monday, Miers said she was grateful for the nomination while Bush urged the Senate to review her qualifications and vote on her nomination fairly. If confirmed, Miers would be the third woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

While Miers served on the Dallas City Council, her lack of a judicial record is keeping many from form-

ing strong opinions about the nomination.

Keith Lepak, associate professor of Youngstown State University's political science department, said he thinks the nomination was "a cautious move by Bush."

"With all of the other issues surrounding Bush right now, it might have been a good idea for him to nominate someone who doesn't have a strong stance," Lepak said.

Lepak also noted the nomination, compared to others, seems a little out of the ordinary.

"It seems like a very peculiar nomination. The fact that she doesn't have a strong judicial record shows that," Lepak said.

Lepak agreed with many regarding the decision, saying he believes Bush choose her because of her past rep-

please see **JUSTICE**, Page 2



Photo courtesy of krtcampus.com
President Bush selected Harriet Miers, a close confidant and adviser, to replace the vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court left when Sandra Day O'Connor stepped down. While Bush's choice for Chief Justice, John Roberts, passed through without much opposition from either side, his selection of Miers has ruffled the feathers of some legislators on both sides of the political spectrum.

YSU

YSU Board OKs ERIP

By: Bill Rodgers
NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University's Board of Trustees voted on Tuesday to approve a revised version of the Early Retirement Incentive Plan, first reviewed on Sept. 23. The plan was revised to include all university employees who pay into the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, not just classified employees.

The ERIP was designed to purchase years of service from an employee who was close to retirement so the employee could retire early. The university would then hire new employees at entry-level pay, saving the university money.

The new plan could cost the university an additional \$3.4 million, leaving YSU with a funding need of \$1.07 million. The university

expects a permanent \$3.6 million savings in its general operating budget by fiscal year 2009, a document released by the university stated.

APAS and PA exempt Included

The plan was originally created to cover only members of the Association of Classified Employees as part of their contract negotiations. However, the university was advised by the staff at OPERS that the university could not legally extend the offer exclusively to ACE members. Now, the ERIP will be offered to members of the Association of Professional and Administrative Staff and exempt professional / administrative employees, a document released by the university said.

"The university believes

please see **TRUSTEES**, Page 2

YSU

Thefts continue to plague YSU campus

By: Bill Rodgers
NEWS EDITOR

Lock the doors! That's the message Youngstown State University Police Chief John Gocala has for people leaving Ward Beecher Hall at night after more on-campus thefts were reported.

On Sept. 26, 11 office windows were found broken out on the fifth floor, where 12 personal CDs were taken from an office, a lecture hall on the third floor was broken into and a DVD/CD and VCR were taken from the room.

The following day, three Pioneer Industrial DVD players were reported missing from a storage table in

the Ward Beecher Planetarium. The DVD players were worth approximately \$2,370 and were stored there due to planetarium renovations.

Richard Pirko, the planetarium's technician, said the cost of furnishing the planetarium with a new DVD player will have to come out of the Physics and Astronomy Department's budget. He said the DVD players were part of the planetarium's setup for five years and a new one would cost about \$1,000.

"These aren't the \$99 DVD players you get at Best Buy," Pirko said.

Gocala said he doesn't believe the perpetrator was

please see **THEFTS**, Page 2

YSU

A Hispanic celebration

By: Sean Ryan & Cheryl Thompson

When Estrella "Starr" Flores moved from California, where there is a strong Hispanic presence, to Youngstown, she said noticed a difference.

"I wanted to bring some of my culture and heritage to Ohio because I think there is a lack of awareness," Flores said, "I really want people to understand how important the Hispanic culture is to the community. To do this, Youngstown

State University is offering events starting Friday at 5:30 p.m., in the Chestnut Room in Kilcawley Center, which Flores has been actively planning along with the Office of Student Diversity since early March.

This year's festivities will feature an address by keynote speaker Denise Rodriguez-Lopez, the deputy director for the White House Initiative on Excellence for Hispanic Americans, to go along with this year's theme, "Celebrando Nuestrs

Exitos," which in English means, "Celebrating our Achievements."

In addition to the speaker, the event features an awards ceremony recognizing the achievements of Hispanic community members, dance presentations and a flag ceremony featuring local high school students representing 20 Hispanic nations from Central and South America along with Spain.

After the presentations, there will be a dance with a

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA DULUTH

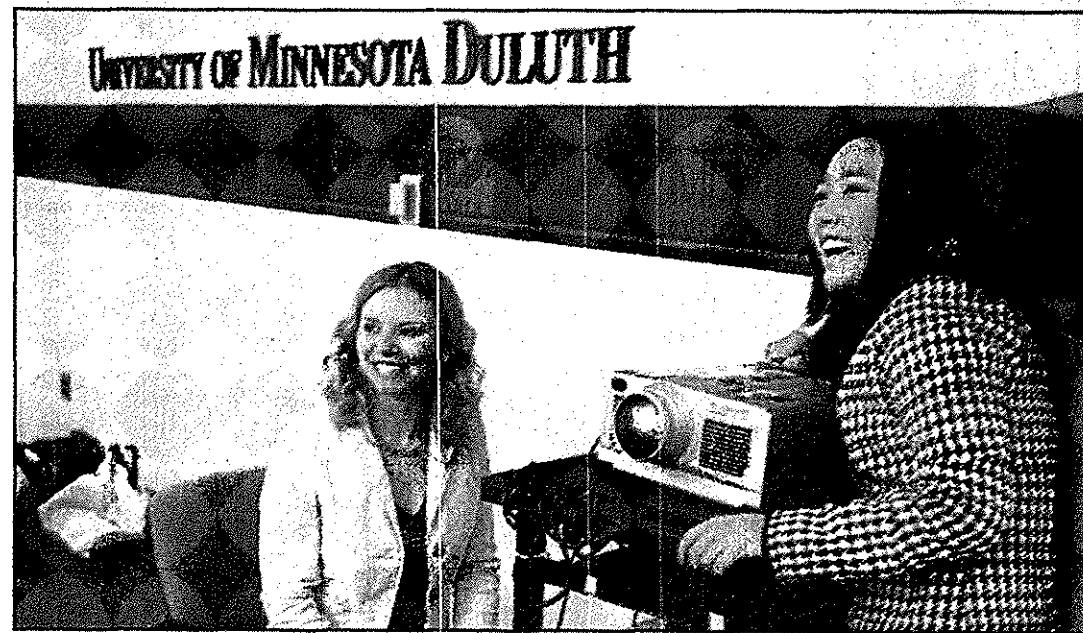


Photo courtesy of krtcampus.com
Chairwoman of the University of Minnesota Duluth College Republicans, Jennifer Wilson (right), gets teased while helping Britt Haugland of Minneapolis set up a projector in the UMD Kirby Student Center. Wilson and Haugland were preparing a presentation for the Web site intellectualtakeout.com, which provides conservative free-market ideas and information to college students.

Web site aims to bolster some campus conservatives

By: Steve Kuchera
KRT CAMPUS

Christina Wilson has found the University of Minnesota Duluth to be a sometimes-hostile place.

Students have hassled Wilson, a junior majoring in political science and history, and other members of the College Republicans. And a professor belittled Wilson in front of her classmates during a discussion on politics. "It's hard to be a conservative on this campus," said Wilson, chairwoman of the UMD College Republicans.

A new Web site, however, provides some

ammunition to fight back. Intellectualtakeout.com provides conservative information, and views on a range of issues and topics.

"I think the Web site will help conservatives to better argue their views," Wilson said. The Center of the American Experiment, launched the site Sept. 13 to help foster conservative and free-market ideas on college campuses.

The Minneapolis-based nonpartisan, nonprofit group was founded in 1990 by Mitch Pearlstein, who served in the U.S. Department of Education during the Reagan and Bush administrations.

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THEFTS, continued from page 1

a university employee. He said an employee wouldn't have broken the office windows to gain entrance to the offices and lecture hall. The perpetrator smashed out the room windows, then reached in and unlocked the doors from the inside.

Gocala said the break-ins

could be from people not securely locking Ward Beecher's doors when they exit the building at night. Gocala mentioned that he'd like to see the entrances to campus buildings fitted with card-reader locks to minimize the problem of people not fully locking the doors at

night. He said police on patrol usually check the doors, but aren't always able to catch them when they're left open.

Gocala asked anyone who works or studies in Ward Beecher after hours, if they would keep an eye open for anyone who doesn't seem to belong in the building. He

said if students or faculty saw anyone suspicious in the building they could call the police at (330) 941-3527.

The thefts follow break-ins in Fedor Hall last month and thefts in Jones Hall over the summer. Police believe the thefts are unrelated.

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

JUSTICE, continued from page 1

utation for natural leadership and sound judgment.

Paul Sracic, associate professor of political science at YSU, said that her lack of judicial experience won't hurt, but her other experience should help the Supreme Court.

"You already have eight others with strong judicial experience serving. She has a lot of experience in corporate law, something that the Supreme Court is lacking right now," Sracic said.

Sracic noted that former Supreme Court Justice Lewis Franklin Powell, Jr., had the same type of experience before being nominated. Powell became one of the most admired and influential members of the Supreme Court. He was often called "the master

of compromise."

Most observers are taking a wait-and-see approach until more is known about Miers' views on public policy. The Supreme Court justices are divided, leaving Miers as the possible swing vote on upcoming issues. President Bush proclaimed Tuesday that he did not discuss any issues of future cases, only her judicial philosophy.

That swing vote may prove to be essential. A number of controversial issues are set to be heard by the Supreme Court in the near future, with the most notable regarding abortion laws: parental notification after an abortion by a minor and specifying anti-abortion protest rules. Assisted suicide, the death penalty and Miranda

rights all have upcoming cases that could significantly change current law.

Another notable issue is the legality of universities prohibiting military recruiting on campus. Currently, the law states that schools do have the right to ban military recruiters from schools, even after President Bush rallied to get the law changed after Sept. 11. Recruiters could gain access to campuses without needing permission.

"I don't think we ever had a problem like that, but I know a lot of bigger schools have," Joel Wortly, a YSU pre-law major, said.

The Senate is expected to vote on the nomination before the end of the year.

Call Eric Grosso at (330) 941-3758.

TRUSTEES, continued from page 1

that the ERIP should be negotiated with other OPERS employees just as it was with ACE and had intended to do so... The university has the option of challenging [OPERS's] opinion through legal review," the document stated.

The new number of employees eligible for the ERIP is now estimated at 185. Fifty-four APAS and PA exempt members are now eligible to retire under the revised ERIP, in addition to the original 131 classified employees.

If all APAS and PA exempt members retire under the ERIP plan, the cost to the university would be an extra \$3.4 million. The estimated cost of the ACE retirees is \$6.51 million. The estimated overall cost at the end of fiscal year 2008, is \$9.91 million.

The document said the estimations assume that all

employees eligible for the ERIP retire at the earliest possible date, which it says is unlikely. If the eligible employees do not retire as early as possible, the cost to the university will be lower.

Savings and Cost Funding

Assuming that every retiring employee is replaced, which the document says is unlikely, the university will have a savings of \$7.84 million in fiscal year 2008, \$5.96 million for ACE employees and \$1.88 million for APAS/PA exempt.

With the savings of the plan taken out of the cost, the university is left with a funding need of \$2.07 million. The university has marked \$1 million of FY06's modified general fund budget, leaving to pay an extra \$1.07 million.

The long-term benefits to the plan, though, will result in a permanent \$3.6 million base savings for the university in FY09. The document said the savings would be a 10 percent reduction in the university's annual wage and fringe benefit cost for classified and APAS/PA exempt employees.

Disagreements Remain

Christine Domhoff, ACE union president, said there were still problems existing with the ERIP document. She protested the trustee's vote on the plan at the Sept. 23 meeting, citing differences between the ERIP and the ACE contract. Her negotiating team met with university negotiator attorney Jim Wilkins late last month to work out the differences between the two documents. Domhoff said that most of

the errors were taken care of.

Domhoff had originally disagreed with the ERIP's plan for paying for unused sick leave, that an employee and the university must mutually agree on a date the employee may retire, and that an employee, once retired in this way, cannot seek reemployment with the university.

The sick leave buyout was adjusted, but the mutual-agreed on date and the section forbidding reemployment retained their original language.

Domhoff called the no-reemployment provision of the plan "very objectionable," and said again that the two teams hadn't negotiated that terms during contract talks.

She also objected to the ERIP's grievance procedure, which differs from the one outlined in ACE's contract.

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

Classified

Help Wanted

Jillians in Southern Park Mall, now hiring servers, host/hostesses and bartenders. Inquire in person at Southern Park Mall.

Cook/wait help wanted, full or part time. Will work around school schedule, no experience necessary, will train the right person, 1/2 mile from YSU. Call 330-559-1367

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Trumbull Country Club Golf Dept- Bagroom Staff morning and afternoon shifts available. \$6.00-\$7.00/hr start asap. Applications available at TCC Golf Shop or call Mike at 330-519-3934.

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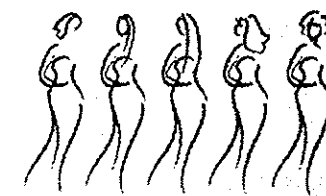
Miscellaneous

Spring Break w/ STS to Jamaica, Mexico, Bahamas and Florida. Are you connected? Sell Trips, Earn Cash, Travel Free! Call for group discounts. Info/Reservations 800-648-4849 www.ststravel.com.

Everything Must Go Sale: October 8 from 12:30 pm to 6:30 pm and October 9 from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm at 916 Winona Drive Youngstown, OH 44511. Living room, kitchen and bedroom furniture, household items, dishes, women's clothing. No early birds. Contact Alicia Huff at 571-218-6667.

1997 red Dodge Dakota Sport for sale! 5.2 liter motor, 4 wheel drive, new transmission, asking \$7,000 or BO. Call John 330-881-5290.

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Ford Theater, Bliss Hall

Call University Theater Box Office 330-941-3105

This performance contains adult content and language. Not suitable for children.

YSU Students Free with Student ID!

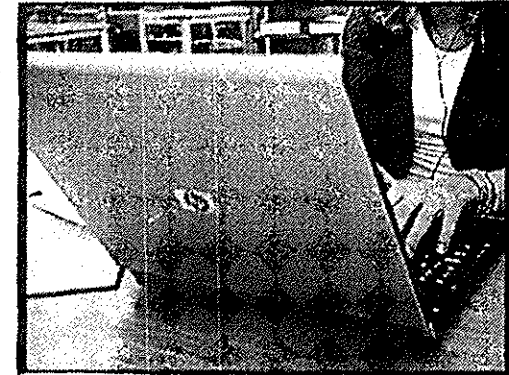
Youngstown

THE UNIVERSITY OF STATE UNIVERSITIES

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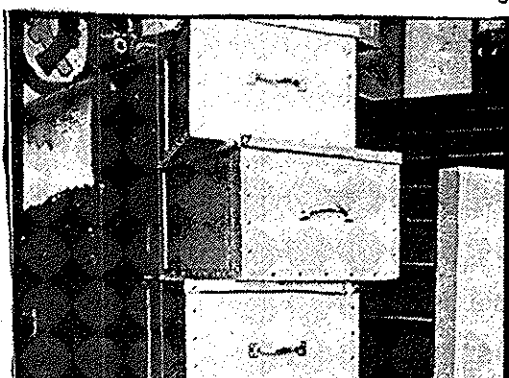
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thejambar
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Editorial & Opinion

Thursday, October 6, 2005

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thejambar

Excellence in Journalism since 1931

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) 941-3758
BOB MACKAY | Columnist (330) 941-1913
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

We must be ready for avian flu

Mother Nature's newest trick designed to kill us all is on the way.

The H5N1 virus, or "avian flu," has health officials worried that the world may be on the verge of a flu pandemic that could kill millions. The virus has infected thousands of birds in 11 different countries in Asia. The disease can spread to humans; some 100 human infections, 60 of whom died, have been attributed to the disease.

There is no evidence that the flu can be spread between humans, but world health authorities are worried that in the next few years, the virus may mutate into a highly-infectious, highly-lethal contagion.

Of course, this may not happen. It might be that the virus never mutates to a stage where it can be transmitted between humans, or if it does, it may be that it becomes weaker and less-lethal. It might be that this disease is nothing more than another SARS or mad cow disease, deadly on an individual basis, but far less threatening to the world than originally thought.

Or, as Michael Leavitt, secretary of Health and Human Services, warned in a briefing in Washington last week, this disease might kill 100,000 to 2 million people in the United States in just a few years. An article in the Cleveland Plain Dealer said that outbreaks typically occur three times a century, the last was in 1968, the second of the 1900s.

Bush has mentioned the possibility of changing the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, which restricts the role of active-duty troops functioning in the U.S. He said the troops could be on hand to enforce quarantines should the need arise.

In the aftermath of Katrina, Commander in Chief Bush's trigger finger seems a tad bit antsy to authorize troop deployment within the borders of the United States. For a president who supposedly believes in the Republican value of small government, proposing an even greater domestic role for the federal military seems a bit hypocritical.

But hopefully through adequate preparation, such as vaccines, we can avoid having our troops patrolling our own cities.

Still, with a potential disaster this huge, now is not the time for our administration and emergency organizations to sit on their hands only to point fingers after the damage has been done as they did just weeks ago.

The Senate recently approved \$3.9 billion in a Pentagon appropriations bill to make preparations in the event of a flu outbreak. A spokesman for the Health and Human Services Department said that it has a goal of having 20 million courses of antiviral treatment on hand in the event of an outbreak. Leavitt said the government was supporting research to help speed flu vaccination production, which can take up to nine months to make.

Citing the colossal response problems with the recent hurricane, some Democrats are calling for the passage of a bill that would create a flu pandemic coordinator to oversee United States response in the event of an outbreak.

Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin summed up the Democrats' reason for doing this in one of the most spot-on assessments of the Katrina effort in the news recently. "Trust us" is not something the administration can say after Katrina," Harkin said in an interview with the New York Times.

This is a battle that must be prepared for well in advance by the government. Our leaders and protectors can't pass the buck only to look confused when the response effort fails. The mentality of "this isn't my job" needs to be dropped in favor of preparation and action; because, as individual Americans, we can do little more in the event of an influenza pandemic than wash our hands after touching doorknobs and hope for the best.

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.



Two-week hiatus. I'm back, like Jordan wearing the 4-5. Miss me?

Usually, reading a movie review is about as painful as having a Lasik procedure done with a chainsaw. You tend to get some delusional bastard with a thesaurus and a penchant for either overwhelmingly praising or ungodly derisive adjectives, depending on whether or not he is A. attracted to the lead actor/actress or not so much, B. paid well by the studio or left to grovel over the Internet for donations, or C. really stupid or really stupid.

The biggest problem with your average movie review is that your average movie reviewer is not your average movie watcher. The people that shell out cash to see "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" don't care which roles Dennis Hopper deserved an Oscar for, which movies really highlighted the human experience through the eyes of a panda, or which directors have a penchant for creating visually and culturally and politically and musically life-altering films. Your average movie watcher is, well, you. And me.

And even though my memory of actors and roles and movies is at times disturbing to my friends, I still watch movies for the same reason you do: Recreation.

I sincerely wonder whether or not Gene Siskel ever watched a movie for fun before he died. He's the dead one, right? I forget because I always thought Roger Ebert was one Adam Sandler movie away from hanging himself.

Typically, reviews of action movies containing literary references and complaints about subtle feasibility problems aren't useful for people who like action movies. Reviews about romantic comedies that try to piece together sometimes barely cohesive narratives and ignore the ideas of fantasy and Prince Charming and love (aww, love) aren't useful to the sensitive-type people who enjoy a good funny romp through love.

So here's my take on the movie review, only I'm not going to tell you which movie I'm reviewing. It's funner this way (Yes, I just said 'funner.' No, 'funner' is not a word. Yes, I knew before I typed it that it wasn't a word. No, I don't care whether or not you think I'm stupid. Yes, I enjoy starting sentences with 'no' and 'yes.' No, I'm not going to stop this little rant yet. Yes, I have some free time. Yes, I'm sure you're tired of this. Shoot me.)

Our movie revolves around the ill-fated love story between two angst-ridden twenty-somethings. The director — this is his first major release, though major might be a stretch despite its publicity — chose a non-linear narrative to really show the ups and downs of a tumultuous relationship. The story is broken into four striking vignettes, each with its own unique style of cinematography and production. Each vignette draws heavily on films previously released, most of which were praised for their ingenuity. Though our director might be accused of a lack of originality, the films drawn from are of such vast differences and the director's interpretations are such unique ways of considering the originals that instead of berating him for choosing this route, we ought to praise his careful consideration and well thought out presentation.

The genius of the film is relayed through the dialogue, or to be more specific, the general lack thereof. Instead of telling us what the characters feel through boring narration or long, drawn-out diatribes, the director allows us to feel our way through the film, grasping at expressions and body language to try to piece together the real, raw emotions of the film. Though it is at times confusing, this

nod to the silent-film genre really allows us to see a gripping lack of communication. The seeming lack of scripted conversation doesn't force our characters to not talk, but rather, it forces them to talk only when it's natural, only when the situation could stand the weight of speech.

Another chance our director took was in the lack of a grand musical score for this film. Not only are there no Diddy-produced ditties, no Ludacris appearances (adjective and proper noun, here), no salient Celine drop-ins, or John Mayer fluffalicious sound bytes, there's also the lack of a rolling, John Williams-esque symphonic background. There isn't even any "boop-boop-bowwowow" porn-like, cheesy music playing.

There's no music in the movie. The absence of any suspense-building musical accompaniment really shows our director's maverick side. He doesn't use slowly building and quickening keyboards to build suspense; he uses suspense to build suspense. He doesn't use an acoustic-guitar-white-blues melancholic tune to show melancholy; he uses melancholy to display melancholy.

(Pause. Yes or no? Did I just set a record for the use of melancholy in one paragraph? Somebody want to look this up for me?)

The first vignette is haunting and not just because the director was obviously influenced by "The Blair Witch Project" in considering the style of it. This chapter is shot in black and white like parts of that indie-blockbuster of a horror film. It does feature a handheld camera, and the camera does move with the characters, only our subjects are not running through the woods. They're in a far more horrifying and gripping scenario, if only because movie-watchers can surely relate. They're in a room. Alone. Together. Forced to converse and interact, and we get to watch the struggles of interpersonal communication unfold before us.

Unlike the final scene of that cult hit, 'Blair Witch,' our first chapter doesn't culminate in a scream and a dropped camera. This scene ends far more disturbingly, with one character walking away and us hearing the lone audible part of speech as the camera fades away. The male character's word will haunt you. "Bitch," is all he says and the scene fades to black.

What happens in the meantime, between the grainy opening and the chilling ending is equally intriguing, though I won't spoil you the journey, despite my spoiling of the ending. It's much more telling to see how they got there and what happens in between than to worry about the start or finish.

The vignettes that follow draw from films such as "Castaway," "Swept Away" (that oft-overlooked piece of real humanity starring Madonna) and "The Usual Suspects."

The last vignette, the one that reeks of Keyser Soze, Verbal Kint and Agent Kujan, is remarkable. Control, relationships, human expression, the battles of loss and suffering and sacrifice, the elusiveness of truth and power, and the fleeting characteristics of all of those themes really come through in the chapter, despite our only being able to hear a sentence or two and the fact that for the last 20 minutes or so the camera never moves, forever locked on one side-view of our characters trapped in time forever, a real slice of life.

Well. There it is. My movie review. Reads like something from a big-time movie-reviewer, huh? Kind of just goes to show you how much bullshit is really reeking from people who review movies. 'Cause I was just playing.

They take their work so seriously that they never realize how formulaic it all is, how useless it all is. None of that review made sense, and yet it made perfect sense at the same time. Of course, none of it would be useful to anyone who really wanted to purchase "One Night in Paris."

I love you, mom.

Mark Stevens is a really charming guy underneath the callous exterior. He's also single. That's either obvious or a damn shame. Call him for a date at (330) 941-1807. Ha ha ha. "Jambar Personals?" Segue into the next column? Tune in next Thursday and see.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Professor clarifies Jambar criticisms

Editor:

I would like to respond to B.J. Lisko's letter to the editor, "Jambar Commentaries Worth the Space."

First, nothing in my original letter suggested that commentary be denied space in The Jambar; commentary has a purpose in any newspaper, as Lisko points out. My point was about the relative lack of investigative and other forms of professional journalism that, to me, would help to balance the paper and make it worthy of YSU students.

Second, nothing in my original letter suggested that I am "left-wing" or a "disapprover" of the latest commentaries. I'm not sure how Lisko came to that conclusion, or how he even connects these ideas together. There was nothing "left-wing" about my comments, and my only "disapproval" was that I'd like to see journalism students practice journalism more seriously (which does not mean they always have to write with a "serious" tone). Note that I didn't make any comments at all about the quality of the commentaries themselves, and I still won't.

Lisko is correct about one thing, though: The Jambar is the students' newspaper. I'm a professor, so maybe I'm not really the intended audience anyway. And if that's how students want it to be, I have no problem with that. I'd find it a little sad, but that's just because The Jambar is the only student-run periodical on campus. Where I went to college there was a large "general" student paper, a smaller alternative student paper, as well as a "left-wing" magazine and a "right-wing" magazine, all produced by students. Maybe it's time for more student publications!

Jay L. Gordon
Assistant Professor
Department of English

Intelligent design is 'intelligent thought'

Editor:

In a recent editorial, "Keep intelligent design out of schools," perhaps the title should have been, "Keep intelligent thought out of schools."

Yes, intelligent design may not be testable, but no more so than other theories of creation and beginnings. Such theories, intelligent design included, are tested primarily by how well they explain and relate to what we see and measure now, not by repeatability.

If, as your editorial says, "any hypothesis that can't be tested therefore cannot be scientific and has no place in a science classroom," then we will be in trouble teaching lots of hypothesis-based areas of study if testing means repeatability.

Please stop propagating the idea that intelligent design is religion and not science. It shows a lack of understanding of what science is. The intelligent design with which I am familiar deserves consideration because it makes use of scientific methods to test its hypotheses.

"The scientific community embraces evolution as the best current theory" because they seem afraid to even consider other theories. The reasons for this may be that many scientists do not wish to grapple with the existence of an intelligence outside the material world, perhaps believing it would disallow cause and effect to work reliably.

Also, an intelligence that created and can control the physical events of the universe might require some allegiance from us, and many are not open to the implications of that. Those of us in the universities need to be open to the range of ideas, even those which seem strange. To be open is not to blindly believe, but rather to be willing to intellectually consider them.

We seem afraid to expose children to, or even allow ourselves to think about, ideas that are out of the mainstream. Are we afraid of

the outcome? I believe that an openness and testing of ideas can lead to truth. It will not hurt children to teach them to think.

Phil Munro
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

'Safer sex' not really safe at all

Editor:

In this age of sexual "enlightenment" that is currently being celebrated with "safer sex" week, attitudes about how to handle issues of safe sex, premarital sex, teenage sex and sex education have become increasingly liberal and, as is always the case with liberal ideas, increasingly irresponsible.

Disseminating (no pun intended) information on "safe" sex without mentioning failure rates for fear of scaring people away from condom use is in effect saying, "Go ahead. Be irresponsible. We give up." However, according to a study of contraceptive effectiveness published by no less a liberal organization than Planned Parenthood, when used perfectly, condom use results in pregnancy 3 percent of the time and 12 percent with typical use. This doesn't even mention their effectiveness with regard to the spread of disease.

This is an alarmingly high failure rate for something that we tell teenagers and young adults is "safe". We owe our children better than what we're giving them. Anyone who's ever seen the beaten honesty in the eyes of a much-too-young mother can see the folly of our freewheeling sexual attitudes. Our youngest generation is playing at the edge of a cliff. We're telling them to be careful. We need to get them off the cliff.

J. Breen Mitchell

WEB SITE, continued from page 1

"A really important way to reach our audience is a Web site," Britt Haugland, the center's director of public programs, said Thursday at UMD.

The site includes information on economics, education, the environment, history, politics, jobs, internships and what is happening at colleges statewide. It also links to conservative campus organizations and newspapers.

"Our goal is to be a resource to conservatives," Haugland said. "We're concerned about the lack of intellectual diversity on campuses."

College professors overwhelmingly present a liberal viewpoint, Haugland said.

According to intellectualtakeout.com, a 2005 study estimated that 72 percent of college faculty identify themselves as liberal.

"I think all academics, just like other citizens, have their political beliefs and opinions," said UMD Department of Political

Science head Paul Sharp. "As professional academics, they do their very best, just like journalists and judges, to be fair and balanced."

"I think the terribly important thing is not how successful they are in doing that in the judgment of somebody else who may have very strong views, but that they are trying to be fair," he said.

UMD political science professor Thomas Powers, a self-described conservative who has written for the conservative Weekly Standard, said he probably agrees politically with the Center of the American Experiment on a lot of issues.

But he is a little suspicious of what the center is doing "in the sense of openly politicizing academia," he said.

"As someone who is openly conservative, I have gotten nothing but support here at UMD," he said. "I have never run into anything but respectful disagreement."

AWARENESS, continued from page 1

disc jockey. All events are free to anyone with an interest in Hispanic culture and heritage and are open to public as well.

William Blake, the director of Student Diversity at YSU, praised the university's efforts.

"YSU students and employees have been working so hard," Blake said. "Thanks to everyone involved this will be a true celebration of culture."

"There is a strong Hispanic community present, and it's great to see all this diversity coming together," added Blake.

This is the second consecutive year YSU is officially celebrating Hispanic Heritage Awareness Month. Chris Bidwell, the secretary for the Office of Equal Opportunity, said the event was held in previous years, but came back last year after a brief hiatus.

Bidwell said approximately 100 people attended events last year, but hopes that the numbers will go up this year.

"We hope to get about 200 people to attend this year," Bidwell said.

Despite efforts to publicize the event through fliers, mass emailing and posting university marquees, Flores said she is concerned about

low event participation.

"I'm not real happy with YSU's promotion of the Hispanic Awareness Month," Flores said. "You have not heard that much about it around campus this year. Maybe that is due to the strike, I really don't know."

Maria Gomez, a freshman, said she looks forward to the events because they will give her a chance to meet other Hispanic community members.

"We're new to the area and see this as opportunity to get better acquainted with the local Hispanic community," Gomez said.

Other local events to commemorate the month include art displays and book discussions at the Youngstown Public Library, film festivals and Spanish dance classes at Fred Astaire Studios in Youngstown. Also, students will get to hear Spanish music from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. being played at the fountain area near Kilcawley Center.

Hispanic Heritage Awareness Month runs till Oct. 22. For more information call the Office of Student Diversity at (330) 941-2087.

Call Cheryl Thompson and Sean Ryan at (330) 941-1913.

DRESS, continued from page 6

the Communication and Theater Department. The production manager is Todd Dicken, also a member of the Communication and Theater Department. Jane Shanaberger will handle costume design and Gary Shackleford, a senior music and theater major, is the sound designer.

Author Alan Ball has wrote and co-produced "American Beauty" which won an Oscar for best picture in 1998. He directed and wrote for HBO's "Six Feet Under" and wrote for television sitcoms "Cybil" and "Grace Under Fire." "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress" is one of Ball's four critically acclaimed stage scripts.

Shows on Oct. 9 and 16 start at 3 p.m. with all other shows starting at 8 p.m., including tonight's opening performance.

Tickets for the show are free for YSU students, \$10 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens. For more information, call the University Theater box office at 330-941-3105.

Call Eric Grosso at (330) 941-3758.

Oakland to host Tessier-directed production

By: Katie Libecco
COPY EDITOR

"The Sisters Rosensweig" will open Friday night at The Oakland Center for the Arts, showcasing the directing talents of Youngstown State University professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies, L.J. "Tess" Tessier.

"Sisters of Rosensweig," written by Wendy Wasserstein, is the first show directed by Tessier. However, she has an extensive theater background, including working frequently with the Oakland since she moved here from California in the late '80s. In California, she stage-managed professional dance companies.

Tessier told The Jambar that

"Sisters" does not have a typical plot. Instead, the show offers the audience a chance to observe the characters.

"This is a story about the lives of successful, middle-aged Jewish women. It has a lot to do with identity issues and decisions," Tess said.

The cast includes Linda Metts as Sara Goode, a successful London banker, Ellen Licitra as the youngest sister, Pfeni, who is a travel writer. Pfeni's bi-sexual boyfriend is played by Youngstown theater favorite Tommy O'Donnell. Geri DeWitt plays Boston radio personality Dr. Gorgeous.

The show takes place in Sara's house on her birthday, as her sisters visit.

"So much of this show is about sis-

ters and how they interact," Tess said. "It's about that deep-seeded, loving, connection."

Sarah's daughter will be played by Brooke Slanina, with Jonathan Emerson appearing as Slanina's love interest. The treasurer for Oakland's Board of Directors, Harold Davis, will make this acting debut as Nicolas Pim, a stuffy British gentleman, and Mervyn Kant will be played by Richard Haldi.

"The Sisters Rosensweig" will be performed at 8 p.m. Oct. 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, and 22. There will also be a Sunday Matinee at 2 p.m. Oct. 26.

The Oakland Center for the Arts is located at 220 W. Boardman St. in downtown Youngstown. To reserve tickets, call (330) 746-0404.

Parking deck scuffle resolved with no charges being filed

By: Bill Rodgers
NEWS EDITOR

A fight on the M-2 parking deck at Youngstown State University on Sept. 28 was later resolved between the two parties with the victim taking no legal action against his alleged attackers, Youngstown State University Sgt. Mike Cretella said yesterday.

It still remains to be seen if one of those involved in the fight made false statements when giving a statement to police officers. Cretella said it's possible that the university might take disciplinary action against the students for the fight.

Cretella said the fight occurred as the result of a misunderstanding between the victim and the attackers. He said an uninvolved third party misinformed the attackers about a rumor concerning the victim.

In a statement to the police, the victim said he first noticed the attackers circling him at Kilcawley's candy counter. As the victim went out to the parking deck, he was confronted by the three men and attacked. The report states that one of the attackers yelled, "No one touches my sister!" during the fight.

Claims that the attackers tried to throw the victim off the second level wall of the parking deck and that one of the attackers called for one of his friends to retrieve his

gun were later proved false after police interviewed the victim and attackers.

"That information is all false," Cretella said.

Cretella said that the police will have to conduct further questioning to determine if one of the men interviewed lied in his statements to police officers.

"That would be falsification," Cretella said.

Cretella said that after the misunderstanding had been discovered, the victim decided not to press charges. He said the participants in the fight resolved their differences through a meeting.

The victim and attackers were advised that there could be possible consequences with the university because of the fight. Cretella said he warned people on both sides of the fight not to confront the third party who misinformed the attackers.

Check out The Jambar online at thejambar.com

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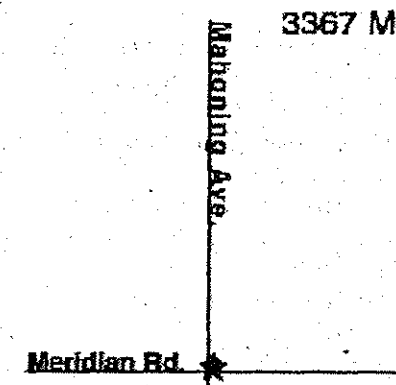
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Every Wednesday night starting
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- ▶ 10/7 — Cross country @ All-Ohio Championships
- ▶ 10/7 — Men's tennis @ Duquesne
- ▶ 10/7 — Volleyball @ UW-Green Bay
- ▶ 10/7-9 — Women's tennis @ West Virginia Invitational

YSU FOOTBALL

YSU looks to maintain momentum

By: Justin Smolkovich
SPORTS REPORTER

After defeating the Illinois State Redbirds last Saturday, the Penguins football team will hit the road for the third time this season, taking their hard-earned No. 22 ranking with them as they battle the Indiana State Sycamores.

The Penguins will travel Saturday to Terra Haute hoping to notch another win in their belts and increase their win total to five for the season. Following last week's come-from-behind win, the Penguins are flying high and have the ever-important momentum riding in their corner.

Head coach Jon Heacock said that his team has matured after last week's 20-17 victory over the Redbirds that saw the Penguins battle until the end of regulation.

"Sometimes it is tough to believe in things you can't see," Heacock said. "I think now those guys have been through it. All of a sudden that ball drops on the ground and everyone thinks it is the end of the world ... it isn't."

The Penguins will need that same desire to win when they battle the Sycamores, a team that is winless at 0-5. The Sycamores, however, possess a potent offense capable of moving the ball against the best competition the Gateway Conference has to offer, something they demonstrated last week when they racked up 490 yards of offense against the number three-ranked team in the country, Western Kentucky. The Sycamores lost by a score of 38-28 but led during in the fourth quarter.

The Sycamores offense will be a threat for the



Penguins running back Marcus Mason (23) looks for some space during last week's game against Illinois State. Mason ran for a career-high 126 yards in YSU's 20-17 victory. YSU coach Jon Heacock said that controlling the football would be key for the Penguins this week against Indiana State, which could mean lots of opportunities for Mason to keep adding to his stats. The game, a road game for YSU, will be the Penguins' second Gateway Conference game of the season.

Photo / Ron Stevens

Penguins, Heacock said, but he believes that the Penguins controlling the clock can limit their big play ability.

"Our best defense will be our offense controlling the football."

The Penguins should be able to do just that as the Sycamores gave up 293

yards on the ground last week. Penguin tailback Marcus Mason will look to continue last week's rushing success that saw him run for a career-high 126 yards. Mason, who is only a junior, gives the Penguins a different look when he takes the field, Heacock said.

"He is a downfield back," Heacock said of Mason's gritty running style.

The Penguins controlled the clock most of the fourth quarter last week as they ate up more than ten minutes in the final stanza, keeping the high-powered offense of Illinois State on the sidelines.

The Penguins also picked up some much-needed confidence in the special teams department behind last week's strong performance by freshman kicker Brian Palmer who booted two field goals in the fourth quarter, including the game winner.

Heacock said that there is

nothing more important than being tested by fire for Palmer.

"What better confidence builder is there?" Heacock asked at the weekly press conference.

Not only do the Penguins have momentum in their corner, they also have history. The Penguins are 13-1 all-time versus the Sycamores including their last trip to Terra Haute that saw the Penguins win in overtime 30-24.

Keys to the game

Sustain drives: The Penguins ate up huge chunks of the fourth quarter last week, limiting the Redbird offense. YSU will have to repeat the same tactic this week due to the fact that the Sycamores will utilize a no huddle offense at times.

Force turnovers: The Penguins showed a lot of moxy last week as they picked off Redbirds quarterback Luke Drone four times. The Penguins will need more dazzling work from the secondary. The Sycamores threw all over Western Kentucky to the tune of 365 yards including two touchdowns.

Trick plays: The Sycamores reached into their bag of tricks against the Hilltoppers when they ran two fake punts and scored a touchdown on a fake field goal.

Smith at 26: Penguins wide receiver Kyle Smith recorded his record-chasing 26th consecutive game played with a catch last Saturday. Smith ended the night with seven catches for 97 yards and a touchdown.

Call Justin Smolkovich at (330) 941-3758.

COMMENTARY

No defense for lack of black coaches

By: David Teel
KRT CAMPUS

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — The East Coast snoozed Saturday night as UCLA rallied for a 21-17 victory over Washington. But the 2 a.m. finish was notable on two counts.

The result sets up a battle of ranked unbeaten this week between UCLA and California, both of which have future dates with No. 1 Southern California, college football's two-time defending national champion.

Of more cosmic significance, the game was the season's only matchup of African-American Division I-A head coaches. Moreover, according to ESPN, it was only the 12th such matchup in history.

The Newport News Daily Press' Dave Johnson examined the lack of black head coaches — three among 117 I-A programs — in Sunday's paper. Theories he reported from two reputable sources merit comment.

Virginia's Craig Littlepage, the only African-American athletic director in ACC history, said progress hinges on more minorities ascending to the offensive and

defensive coordinator jobs that ADs scout when hiring a head coach. Hampton University coach Joe Taylor opined that blacks are less prevalent in college football than in basketball because schools, in general, are skittish about turning over their most lucrative and visible program to an African-American.

First, Littlepage. Coordinators are, indeed, frequent head-coaching candidates. Of the 23 Division I-A programs with first-year coaches

coordinators and find 13 blacks among 65 programs. Four work in the Southeastern Conference, three each in the ACC and Big East, two in the Big Ten, one in the Big 12.

The Pacific 10 has no minority coordinators but is home for two of Division I-A's three black head coaches — UCLA's Karl Dorrell and Washington's Tyrone Willingham. The other is Mississippi State's Sylvester Croom.

Three of 117. The ratio is indefensible. Although my sphere of college football reference is generally limited to the state and ACC, I've encountered no shortage of quality African-American coaches. Among them Taylor, Mike London and Mike Tomlin.

Absent an enticing I-A offer, Taylor has remained at I-AA Hampton, where his 14-season winning percentage is a sterling .734. London and Tomlin opted for the NFL, where they serve as defensive assistants, London with the Texans, Tomlin with the Buccaneers. Taylor certainly is more acquainted than I am with hiring practices, but let's hope he's mistaken about schools not wanting to entrust football to minorities.

No question, football is I-A's

Three of 117. The ratio is indefensible.

this season, 10 hired men who last season served as I-A coordinators. One other, Notre Dame, appointed an NFL coordinator Charlie Weis of the New England Patriots.

Alas, none of the hires is an African-American. Little surprise when you scan the rolls of Bowl Championship Series conference

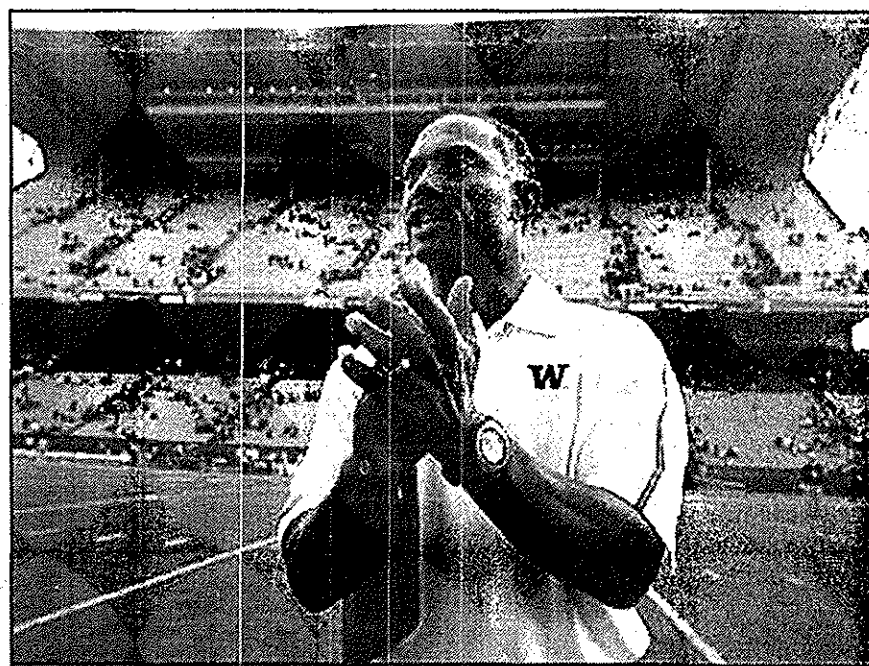


Photo courtesy of gohuskies.collegesports.com

Tyrone Willingham, head coach at Washington University, is one of just three black head coaches in NCAA Division-I football. The others are UCLA's Karl Dorrell and Mississippi State's Sylvester Croom.

cash cow, and on many campuses, the football coach is, for better or worse, the institution's public face.

But at scores of other universities, men's basketball rules, and many of those employ, or have employed, black head coaches. Kentucky and Indiana headline the list, which also includes UCLA, Temple, Arkansas, Georgetown, DePaul and St. John's. Why, you can argue that basketball is at least the equal of football at Virginia, and the Cavaliers hired an African-American coach, Dave Leitao, to nurture the school's largest investment in athletics a \$130

million basketball arena.

Taylor is spot-on with another point: Schools fire black and white coaches with equal impunity. Lose too many games, summon the moving van.

Unlike the NFL, the NCAA is in no position to monitor or punish programs searching for a head coach. College sports' governing body can assist advocacy groups such as the Black Coaches Association, but change depends on the integrity of university presidents and athletic directors.

Scary thought that.

PLAY PREVIEW

Play dresses for success, but all in the same dress

By: Eric Grosso
 FEATURES REPORTER

University Theater will present Alan Ball's comedic drama "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress" Oct. 6 to Oct. 16 at Ford Theater in Bliss Hall.

Starring in the production are YSU students Alyssa Connelly, Nicole Dionisio, Stephanie Ottey, Kari Kleemook, Cristina Cala and Richard Bell.

The play centers around five bridesmaids in an upstairs bedroom of a

Knoxville, Tenn. estate, hiding from the reception below. The five women, reluctant to take part in the reception, discover common bonds, their conversations revealing they are more alike common than they think.

The play relies on the differences in character personality for entertainment and comedic relief. The characters include the no-nonsense Trisha (Ottey), Frances, the pure-Christian (Connelly), younger sister Meredith (Dionisio), a wife stuck in a bad marriage named

Georgeanne (Kleemook), and a lesbian relative, Mindy (Cala).

These characters don't hold anything back, with conversation topics ranging from cute boyfriends, deceitful ex-lovers, boring husbands and AIDS. The women discuss right and wrong as talk gets more involved, discovering ties between them. The raunchy talk is aided by adult situations and strong language.

The director is Frank Castronovo, a professor in

please see **DRESS**, Page 4



Photo courtesy of University Theater
 The five women wearing the same dress are being played by Stephanie Ottey of Beaver Falls, Pa.; Alyssa Connelly of Warren; Kari Kleemook of Ambridge, Pa.; Nicole Dionisio of Austintown; and Cristina Cala of Boardman.

JAMBAR EXCLUSIVE QUIZ

DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU COULD BE CRAZY AT THIS VERY MOMENT AND NOT EVEN KNOW IT? GONE ARE THE DAYS WHEN RAISIN CAKES COULD EASILY BE IDENTIFIED BY THE NAPOLEON COSTUMES AND TINFOIL GARMENTS THEY WOULD WEAR IN PUBLIC AREAS UNSUITED FOR BEING FRENCH AND/OR POTATO BAKERY. TODAY'S "NEW CRAZY" IS A STRANGE BEAST, SEEMINELY INVISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE. YES, YOU MAY LOOK IN THE MIRROR EVERY MORNING AT A WELL ADJUSTED PERSON WHOSE SKIN IS NOT CRAWLING WITH INVISIBLE BUGS, BUT AT SOME POINT YOU SHOULD REALLY ASK YOURSELF:

AM I A SOCIOPATH?

BY BOB MACKEY
 COLUMNIST,
 PHD IN FRIVOLOUS
 SCIENCE

WITH THE GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT OUTLANDISH AND JERK-CENTERED BEHAVIORS ARE A KEY SIGN OF MENTAL ILLNESS, NOT A DAY GOES BY WHERE I'M NOT ASKED THIS VERY QUESTION. TO ANSWER THE SKEPTICS WHO QUESTION MY SANITY, I USED SELF-ANALYSIS - THE BEST KIND OF ANALYSIS - TO COMPILE A LIST OF QUESTIONS, THAT, WHEN ANSWERED, DETERMINES THE CRAZINESS (OR BATSUIT QUANTITY) OF A PERSON. GRAB A PEN, TRY TO IGNORE THE BECKONING OF IMAGINARY DEVIL DOGS, AND QUIZ ALONG WITH ME AS WE SEE IF LARGE PARTS OF YOUR BRAIN NEED TO BE REMOVED AND STUDIED BY GRAD STUDENTS.

1.) HOW MANY FRIENDS DO YOU HAVE?

- A. BETWEEN 1-4
- B. I CAN'T COUNT THAT HIGH
- C. NONE. FRIENDS WOULD STEAL BOTH MY SEXUAL ENERGY AND TALLNESS

2.) ON THE WHOLE, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY YOUR BEST QUALITY IS?

- A. MY ABILITY TO WRITE NIGHT COURT FAN FICTION
- B. PERSPICACITY
- C. CURRENT STATUS AS NON-RAPIST

3.) IF YOU FOUND A \$50 BILL ON THE FLOOR, WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH IT?

- A. NOTIFY THE POLICE
- B. MAKE IT INTO A PAPER AIRPLANE TO THROW AT THE POLICE
- C. DOES AN OLD LADY'S PURSE COUNT AS "THE FLOOR?"

4.) WHAT OFFENDS YOU THE MOST?

- A.) LACK OF JETPACKS IN MODERN SOCIETY
- B.) THE TOUCH OF ANOTHER PERSON
- C.) THESE STUBBORN GRASS STAINS!

5.) HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT RAYMOND?

- A. I LOVE THAT RAYMOND!
- B. I AM INDIFFERENT TO RAYMOND
- C. A FOX UPON THE RAYMOND HOUSEHOLD!

6.) CAKE OR PIE?

- A. CAKE
- B. PIE
- C. PIE WITH SMALL CAKES BAKED WITHIN

7.) FINISH THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE. "I HAVE..."

- A. ...NO IDEA HOW TO FINISH THIS SENTENCE.
- B. ...A PRODUCTIVE AND REWARDING LIFE.
- C. ...TO GET HOME AND WATCH MAURY!

8.) SO, ARE YOU SEEING ANYONE?

- A. I'M A DUDE!
- B. YES
- C. THIS IS HIGHLY UNPROFESSIONAL

9.) IF I HAD A MILLION DOLLARS, I WOULD..."

- A.) SHOW THEM, SHOW THEM ALL
- B.) WISH FOR MORE WISHES

C.) ...GIVE IT TO A CHARITY FULL OF PHOTOGENIC CHILDREN

10.) JOHN IS LEAVING CHICAGO AT 3:00 PM BY TRAIN, TRAVELLING EAST. IF MARY LEAVES CLEVELAND BY TRAIN TRAVELLING WEST AT THE SAME TIME AS JOHN, AND BOTH TRAINS ARE GOING 90 MILES PER HOUR, AT WHAT TIME WILL THE TRAINS PASS EACH OTHER?

- A. SURELY THESE TRAINS WILL COLLIDE AND KILL US ALL!
- B. UH... WEDNESDAY
- C. PEOPLE STILL GO ON TRAINS?

11.) WHERE'S WALDO?

- A. BEHIND THE MERMAID
- B. WALDO IS INSIDE US ALL- WAIT, THAT DIDN'T SOUND RIGHT
- C. I'M MORE INTERESTED IN FINDING THAT DOG OF HIS

12.) YOUR MAMA SO FAT...

- A. THAT SHE'S AT HIGH RISK FOR DIABETES
- B. TRULY, SHE SITS AROUND THE HOUSE
- C. THAT SHE ACTUALLY BROUGHT BACK "MAMA SO FAT JOKES"

13.) "THEY'RE GOING TO CLOSE THE YOUTH CENTER! WE SHOULD..."

- A. ...STEAL THE JIGSAW PUZZLES BEFORE THEY DEMOLISH IT!
- B. ...ORGANIZE A BREAKDANCING COMPETITION/FUND RAISER
- C. ...QUESTION OUR LIVES, IF THE YOUTH CENTER IS REALLY SO VITAL TO US

14.) WHAT IS THE NICEST THING SOMEONE CAN DO?

- A. FOREVER EXIST IN A LOVELESS RELATIONSHIP, AS LONG AS I'M HAPPY
- B. GIVE ME A HUG, AND NOT THE CREEPY KIND OF HUG WHERE THE PELVIS PUSHES AGAINST YOU AND YOU CAN'T GET OUT AND WHEN THE POLICE SHOW UP THEY DON'T BELIEVE YOU
- C. GET ME A WAL-MART GIFT CARD FOR CHRISTMAS

15.) WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

- A. WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
- B. I JUST REALIZED THAT GHOSTBUSTING IS A FICTIONAL PROFESSION
- C. I NEVER LEARNED HOW TO READ!

16.) HOW'S YOUR TELAESTHESIA?

- A. OKAY, NOW YOU'RE JUST MAKING STUFF UP
- B. I KNEW YOU WERE GOING TO SAY THAT
- C. UM, WORDS?

17.) WHAT DO YOU FEAR MOST?

- A. DEATH
- B. SPIDERS
- C. DEATH SPIDERS

18.) "IN THE FUTURE, I SEE MYSELF..."

- A. AS GRAND MARSHALL OF AN EATING CONTEST
- B. IN AN ADVANCED STAGE OF ROTTING
- C. COMPLETELY FREE OF DEBT

NOW, ADD UP YOUR POINTS!
 (1.) A:0 B:5 C:10 (2.) A:10 B:5 C:0 (3.) A:5 B:0 C:10 (4.) A:0 B:5 C:10 (5.) A:10 B:5 C:0 (6.) A:10 B:5 C:0 (7.) A:0 B:10 C:5 (8.) A:10 B:10 C:5 (9.) A:0 B:5 C:10 (10.) A:10 B:5 C:0 (11.) A:0 B:10 C:5 (12.) A:5 B:10 C:0 (13.) A:5 B:10 C:0 (14.) A:0 B:5 C:10 (15.) A:0 B:5 C:10 (16.) A:0 B:10 C:5 (17.) A:10 B:5 C:0 (18.) A:5 B:0 C:10

0-40 POINTS: "SANE" YES, YOU MAY NOW TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR SANITY, BUT DON'T GET CONFIDENT, AS THE CRAZIES WILL TRY TO STEAL YOUR BRAIN IN A FEELBE ATTEMPT TO "GUESS" THEMSELVES.
 45-90 POINTS: "SCIENTOLOGIST" YOU MAY PUNCH RANDOM PEOPLE IN THE THROAT AND TALK TO BALONEY, BUT YOUR CHARISMA MORE THAN MAKES UP FOR THESE SHORTCOMINGS. AND, IF YOU HANG OUT WITH A GROUP OF PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU, NO ONE WILL CARE WHAT YOU DO!
 95-140 POINTS: "CAPTAIN CRAZY" THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT YOU'RE INSANE. BUT IT'S THE CUTE KIND OF INSANE THAT WILL SOON HAVE YOU KNOWN AS "LOCAL COLOR." JUST MAKE SURE THAT YOUR ANTICS DON'T INVOLVE SHOOTING AT POLICE HELICOPTERS.
 145-180 POINTS: "MYAAAAAASHHHHHH!" ARE YOU READING THIS ON CAMPUS? IS YOUR SOCIAL WORKER WITH YOU? DO I NEED TO CALL SOMEONE? WHAT ARE YOU COVERED IN?

ENTERTAINMENT PROFILE

Scottish band sounds familiar, but only they know what lyrics mean

By: Jim Farber
 KRT CAMPUS

The members of Franz Ferdinand may be the only people in the universe who don't hear a whiff of '80s influence in their music.

"It's ironic," says front man Alex Kapranos. "I couldn't stand the '80s when I was living in them. I would fantasize about living in the '60s or the '20s or even the 19th century. But just because we've got these short-back-and-sides haircuts we became (known as) an '80s band."

Well, that's not quite the only reason. The Scottish band's jerking beats, scissoring guitars and manic vocals bring to mind some of the '80s most groundbreaking bands, including XTC and Gang of Four. But the comparisons might not be made so often were there not a rash of successful and similarly inspired rock bands out there now — like the Killers, Kaiser Chiefs and Interpol.

Kapranos says his group never heard records by the group they're most often associated with — Gang of Four — "until we read about them in all our reviews. Then when we checked them out we thought, 'What a great band. What a radical approach to playing.'"

Thankfully, Franz Ferdinand has its own approach to the goosed-up style associated with the '80s — especially on its second CD, "You Could Have It So Much Better."

This time, the four-man band from Glasgow broadens its influences to include a wider range of British pop sources, especially David Bowie, circa "Boys Keep Swinging," and 1960s Kinks.

Kapranos says he admires Bowie, not just for his music "but for the way he evolved. Compare 'Ziggy Stardust' to 'Low' to 'Young Americans.' It's astonishing that it's the same guy doing all that music. None of his contemporaries were so bold."

The Kinks connection is especially evident in the quirky melodic range of a song like Franz Ferdinand's "Walk Away."

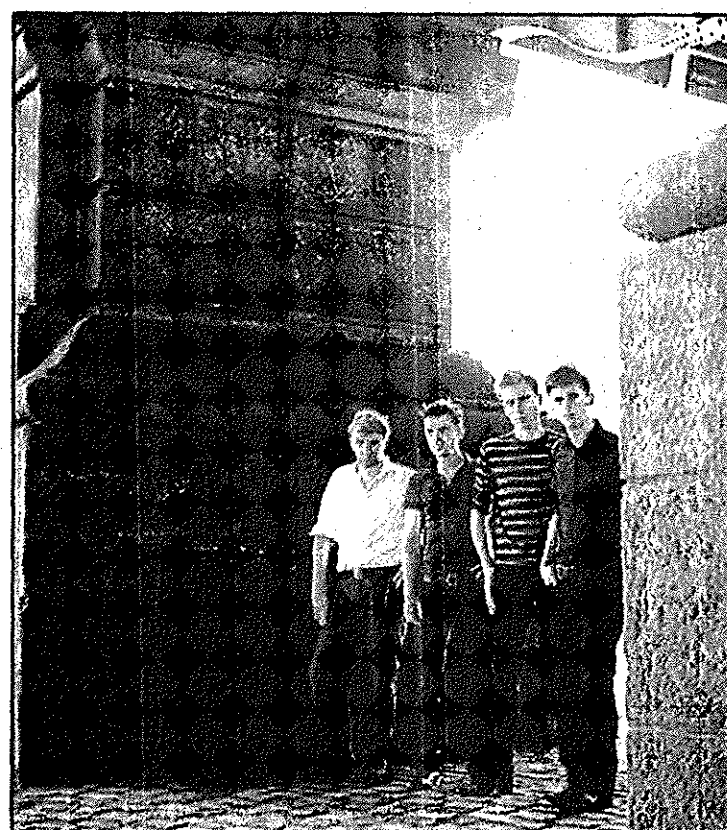


Photo courtesy of franzferdinand.co.uk

"(The Kinks') Ray Davies had that great symbiotic relationship between the music and the emotional content of the lyric," Kapranos explains. "Think of 'Waterloo Sunset.' It had all those great backing vocals, and that change of key from major to minor that gives it such soaring poignancy."

Kapranos' lyrics tend to be more cryptic. It's not always easy to fathom what he's singing about. "I don't want to pass the masses an easy answer," he states. "What sets lyrics and poetry apart from prose writing is the fact that there's room for

personal interpretation."

He says he likes to mix unexplained elements of his personal life with statements that speak directly to the listener.

"(As a fan) I love having my own meaning for a song and then only later finding out what it was really about," he explains. "Like (Bob Dylan's) 'Ballad of a Thin Man.' I listened to it for so long, loving the imagery and not knowing it was about a real guy. That makes it magic."

Franz Ferdinand whipped up their own magic around themselves from the start of their career. They developed a scene surrounding their sound at an abandoned warehouse, dubbed 'The Chateau, in Glasgow. There, they hosted rave-like events that featured both music and art. (Two of the group's members met at the Glasgow School of Art.)

In 2004, the group hit it big in both the U.K. and the U.S. with the irresistible hit "Take Me Out." In typical Kapranos fashion, the song's lyrics can be read two ways. Either the narrator is asking for a date — or to be murdered.

Kapranos seems to like his lyrics to be as provocative as possible. He littered the new album with drug references. "They're not the most drastic of drugs," Kapranos says. "Codeine, Valium and, oh yeah, echinacea — a real killer that one."

The band likes to play around with sexual references, too. Their debut featured a boldly homoerotic song, "Michael." "Michael, you're the only one I ever want," it goes. "Beautiful boys on a beautiful dance floor/Michael you're dancing like a beautiful dance-whore. ... I am a man, so come and dance with me, Michael."

On the new album, there's a ditty named "Do You Want To?" with a much more explicit homoerotic lyric.

"The speaker is not always the author," Kapranos explains. "(In 'Michael') I was writing about an erotic situation between two male friends. It didn't strike me as that odd. It seemed like a good subject for a song."