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THE Jambar

THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

Thursday, May 24, 2007

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YSU News

SMARTS exhibit

YSU art students showcase their work in a Students Motivated by the Arts exhibit that runs through Friday. The exhibit will be shown from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 58 Federal Plaza West in the Adler Art Academy in Youngstown.

Ringworld II

The Ward Beecher Planetarium will be wrapping up Ringworld II, a program that showcases the planet Saturn and its rings. The last four shows will be held Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Student and professor win awards

YSU student Alaina-Marie Hershman and Nancy Landgraaf, associate professor and chair of YSU's Physical Therapy department, will receive awards at the American Physical Therapy Association's national conference in Denver on June 29.

Please remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar

CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

Construction continues after gas leak

Richard Louis Boccia
MANAGING EDITOR

The Campus Gateways Project expanded to Elm Street Tuesday despite a gas leak that evacuated four buildings on campus and halted construction for an hour. Inside Kilcawley Center, the smell of gas was strong after the construction crew broke a four-inch gas line beneath Spring Street about 60 feet from Coffelt Hall.

Police notified staff and students at approximately 9:30 a.m. to leave additional campus buildings including Coffelt, Tod, and Sweeney Halls. "Everybody just grabbed their purses and went out the door," said Sue Davis, Director of International and Undergraduate Admissions.

Her department is located in Sweeney Hall, and although there was a rush to evacuate, staff had time to set up call-forwarding before leaving the front desk. Davis has seen two renovations in her building and says the construction outside doesn't make her nervous, even after today's evacuation.

The YSU Bookstore was not evacuated, students said.

Elm Street was closed to vehicular

traffic Tuesday, but pedestrians and delivery trucks were still allowed through as an excavator tore into the sidewalk. Work continued on this second site during the leak, and the crew was notified. Local contractor Tony Pannunzio said the gas line on Spring Street will be relocated deeper beneath the street.

The crews also have to watch out for water lines beneath the concrete. Pannunzio jumped down below the pavement at one point to use a hand shovel for some of the delicate work around the newly-exposed fire hydrant valve. Parella-Pannunzio, Inc. will replace the blacktop and curb and add brickwork and planter areas to the sidewalk.

"It's a beautification project," Pannunzio said. State money will fund the \$1.6 million project rather than student tuition.



Sophomore John Haug was working at the YSU Bookstore during the gas leak. "It was confusing. We saw people outside leaving Kilcawley and could smell the gas."

Sophomore Carla Hill had a hard time getting to her car on Wick because of yellow caution tape. "I had to walk all the way around the Rec."



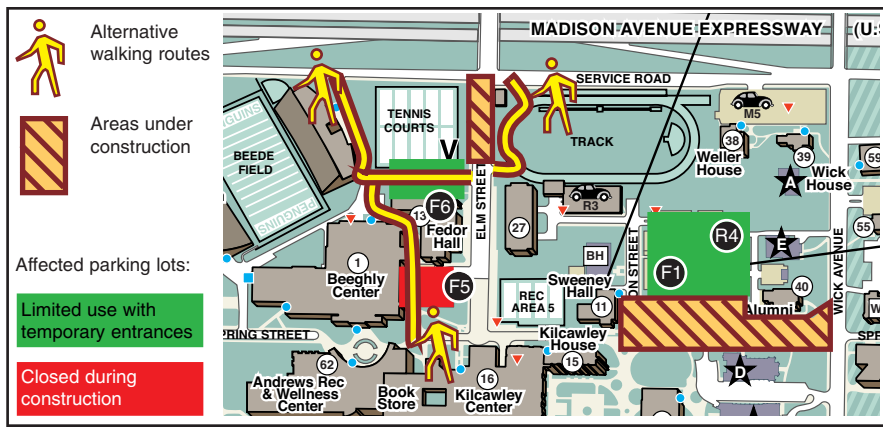
"We'll finally have an official symbolic entryway to the university," said Paul McFadden, Chief Development Officer for YSU.

The F5 lot between Beeghly Center and Fedor Hall is closed. The F6 lot north of Fedor remains open, with temporary access from the stadium side behind Beeghly. The entrance to the F1/R4 lot has been relocated from Spring Street to Wick Avenue. Construction should be completed by Aug. 24.



Top: Construction on University Plaza was halted during the gas leak.

Above: Anitha Mottavarapu takes an alternative route through the track on Elm Street.



Photos and art by Richard Louis Boccia

LABOR RELATIONS

Letters in Vindicator highlight continued debate

Sweet attacked and defended by letters to the editor

Adrienne Sabo
EDITOR IN CHIEF

The job performance of Youngstown State University President David Sweet was the focus of a series of letters to the editor printed in the Vindicator beginning May 11. The first letter called for Sweet's resignation due to problems with morale and labor relations.

"These problems undermine the quality of education for the very students who are the heart and soul of YSU. Therefore, we request his resignation."

The letter was written by faculty members Nancy White and Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez, and was signed by more than 40 other faculty and staff. "[We] have lost all confidence in the ability of Dr. David Sweet, president, to guide the university out of the many major problem it now faces."

White, a psychology professor at

YSU, said, "Being at YSU for 22 years, I have never experienced such negative morale." She said labor-management relations have never been worse.

White said it is routine for letters such as the one printed in the Vindicator to be constructed and once a vote of no confidence has been passed it is routine for that individual to resign.

She said, "He's had seven years to learn how to do this."

Flora, a psychology professor at YSU wrote a letter in response to the initial letter. In it he wrote, "No doubt Sweet had made some mistakes and missteps as president of YSU. But he is not an evil man. Sweet works extremely hard at YSU, for YSU and Youngstown."

Flora concluded the letter with, "If

the faculty worked as hard on our jobs and worked as hard for YSU as President Sweet works for YSU and at his job, YSU would be a wondrous place indeed."

Williams responded after two letters were previously printed and the "issues was made public."

"Dr. Sweet doesn't need me to defend him," Williams said.

Williams said he felt the need to respond because no leader is without mistakes and those mistakes do not overshadow the accomplishments.

In his letter Williams wrote, "I am deeply troubled by the recent spat of criticism directed toward Dr. David

please see LETTERS, Page 2

YSU

Summer means studies for YSU students

Sarah Sole
NEWS EDITOR

If The Jambar is in your hands right now, chances are you opted to take summer classes. Professors and students agree that there are advantages and disadvantages to spending the warmer weather months at YSU.

After taking a year off, Youngstown State University Junior Wendy Rabosky is taking summer courses to graduate faster.

"I really want to get done as soon as possible," said Rabosky. Summer classes can sometimes be easier, Rabosky said. "It depends on the professor."

Senior Molli Simcox said that the professors seem a bit more lenient during the summer, though the classes are smaller and the courses are faster paced. The university should offer a bigger variety of courses during the summer, Simcox said, especially upper-division classes.

Shealla Myers, a sophomore, said that the limited availability of some classes made scheduling difficult. Myers is taking required courses and is aware of the change of pace. "There's only a certain amount of time in the summer," said Myers, "there's like, exam after exam." Myers said that she is not too worried about an increased workload though, because she expects a lot of work to be done during class time.

Psychology Professor Steve Ellyson agreed about the rapid pace of summer courses. "Everything is compressed and quick," said Ellyson, adding that his own course, Human Sexuality, has four tests in 6 weeks.

"It's intense and there's no let up," he said. Ellyson said that positive results often depend on the student. "It's a real problem budgeting your time," said Ellyson, especially when students try to balance work and school during the summer. "It becomes a kind of double whammy," he said.

Junior Dan McCowlin is aware of the challenges of holding down a job and attending his introduction to chemistry class. "With working and stuff, it makes it a little harder," he said. McCowlin said that during the summer it is easier to get more familiar with your teachers. He also said that he looks forward to meeting more people since classes will be smaller.

Jake Paxton, a freshman, said that professors seem more motivated teaching in the summer. "It's a better learning environment," he said, considering the smaller class size.

The atmosphere during the summer semester is more laid back, said freshman Danielle Myers, although she will have to read every day in order to keep up with class work. Her professor said each summer class is equivalent to four fall or spring classes, and students are only allowed to miss one day without being penalized.

"All my classes are three hours each," she said, so missing out on warm weather is a drawback.

Paul Sracic, associate professor of political science and pre-law advisor, said that teaching during the summer requires additional effort. "You might need to work a little bit harder to maintain the interest of the students," he said.

YSU

Graduates earn first certificates in entrepreneurship

Sarah Sole
NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University graduates Tim Moyers and William Leek received the university's first two Certificates in Entrepreneurship at commencement on Saturday, May 19.

Moyers said that he decided to take the courses after seeing a flier about the certificate in 2003. "I've always wanted to start my own business someday. I thought this would be a better way to do it," he said.

James Kohut said that he and fellow faculty member Bill Vendemia started the entrepreneurship program in 1999 after acquiring a grant from the Coleman foundation. Kohut is chairman of the Department of

Marketing, and Vendemia is an associate professor of management. They both serve as co-directors of The Nathan and Frances Monus Entrepreneurship Center.

The Center provides students with the necessary skills to start up a business. Classes include New Venture Creation, New Venture Financing and Small Business Consulting and either Business Plan Development or an entrepreneur internship.

"It forces you to use your knowledge base," said Moyers of the program. "You have to look at the whole business." The certificate teaches students how to formulate business plans and proposals, said Moyers, which will help him to present plans to coworkers and superiors in the proper format. Moyers said that much class activity consisted of prac-

tical application.

While students may not necessarily use those skills immediately, said Kohut, they will have a solid foundation to support them later.

"We don't promise that you'll be a millionaire," Vendemia said, but the certificate gives people a general background in entrepreneurship. Entrepreneurial skills are especially relevant in today's business world, he said.

"The types of things you do in the company are more entrepreneurial," Vendemia said, compared to 15 years ago when people would have looked down on someone with such a certificate.

"When we began, we had a tough time getting enough students," said Kohut. "We do a lot of marketing and advertising. We get around 15 to 20

students in the intro class," Kohut said, adding that the success stories surrounding the Business Incubator in downtown Youngstown has also helped.

There is a decent number of students taking the courses, said Moyers. Since some classes are only offered during spring or fall, scheduling often became a problem, he said.

"Typically, it's taken during senior year," said Vendemia, of the program. The first course requires junior standing.

Larger metropolitan areas have a greater demand for this type of program, said Kohut, but he believes the program offered here will also gain popularity. "I think it will be a good, strong program," he said.

Vendemia said that the program is open to all majors.

"We'd love to have the fine and performing arts students here," he said, since musicians often do not give enough thought to how they will make a living with their talent.

He also said that students majoring in engineering could benefit from the Certificate in Entrepreneurship.

Moyers said that the entrepreneurship certificate helped him get his internship with ZDL Universal Cultural Development Co. Ltd., a media publishing company located in Beijing, China. "I think it indirectly helped out," he said.

In addition to getting a certificate in Entrepreneurship, Moyers was also one of the first students to receive the Enterprise Research Planning Certificate.

SURVEY

Study shows more jobs available for new graduates

Adrienne Sabo
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Recent studies show that there are more employment opportunities for 2007 graduates.

A survey released by CollegeGrad.com shows that college graduate hiring is up 7.7 percent for 2007.

The survey also ranked the top 500 employers on their entry-level hiring and sixty percent of these employers plan to hire more college graduates this year.

Bernie Cummins, director of the Career and Counseling Center, said that surveys like this show that the Youngstown area job market is growing. While not as good as the national market, it is "vastly improved," said Cummins.

"We're seeing a lot more activity," he said. Job recruitment increased in the area and more employers are reaching out with job postings.

The survey ranked Enterprise Rent-A-Car Company as the number one entry-level employer with 8,000 projected entry-level hires for 2007. This is a 14 percent increase over 2006.

One thing for summer graduates to remember is that most companies begin hiring in the fall. Cummins recommends that students do not wait until the end of the summer to begin looking for a job after graduation. Starting early is more competitive, he said.

Throughout the job search process, Cummins said it is important for applicants to be clear about the type of job they want. "Be clear in terms of what [you're] looking for. Sell

yourself in the job search," he said. Cummins also recommends that students explain what they can bring to the company and the position.

The NACE Job Outlook Spring 2007 Update, a similar survey released in April by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, found that college-graduate hiring will be up 19.2 percent this year, compared to the initial reports of a 17.4 percent increase.

In a press release, NACE Executive Director Marilyn Mackes said, "Employers cited business growth and expansion as reasons for the increase in hiring."

"In addition, many reported plans to put more emphasis on college hiring this year," she said.

LETTERS, continued from page 1

Sweet, president of Youngstown State University."

The letter went on to say, "This community would endure tremendous loss of presence in the absence of Dr. Sweet."

The letters were printed within nine days of one another.

Williams said he does not think that the letters will affect public opinion of the university and Sweet. He said, "I, as mayor, support Sweet."

Since the letters were printed, White does not think that any changes will be made. "I think we will be completely disregarded," she said.

Flora shared a different reaction. "I'm hoping people will work together rather than bicker and throw stones," he said.

Sweet did not return calls to his office or university cell phone. Staff indicated that he was out of town until June 8.

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JOB OPENING

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Advertising Sales Assistant for The Jambar beginning August 2007. Must be self-motivated, detail oriented, and organized. Outgoing and friendly phone personality and Advertising sales experience is a plus.

The Sales Assistant is responsible for bringing in new advertisers, assisting the Advertising sales manager with ads and forming new contracts with potential advertisers. Must be a full-time student in good standing. Previous experience in sales is helpful, but not required.

To apply see Lynn Haug in the Kilcawley Center Staff Office, and ask for a Jambar application

Deadline to apply is July 23, 2007

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF YOUNGSTOWN - Public Safety Services Dispatch Supervisor, Youngstown Police Department- \$37,763.96. Thorough knowledge of the rules and regulations, and practices and procedures, of an E-911 system. Previous E-911 supervisory experience is desirable. Examination bonus points available for E-911 Telecommunication/Police and Fire Dispatch Experience, 240-Hour Firefighter II Certification/Ohio Peace Officers Training Academy OPOTA Certificate, Telecommunicator Training Instructors Certificate and Honorably Discharged Veterans. Please see the City website for further information www.cityofyoungstownoh.org. **Must be a Youngstown resident when appointed or must become a Youngstown resident within 120 days following appointment to the position.** Applications accepted at the Civil Service Commission Office, 7th floor, City Hall, Youngstown, Ohio, from May 21, 2007 through June 1, 2007. Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. (The Civil Service Commission Office will be closed Monday, May 28, 2007 in observance of Memorial Day). Written exam will be given on Saturday, June 9, 2007, starting at 10:00 a.m. Full details will be available to applicants when they apply at the Civil Service Commission Office.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF YOUNGSTOWN - Plant Mechanic, Youngstown Waste Water Treatment Plant - \$46,525.18. Employee performs skilled work in the construction, welding, iron work, carpentry, maintenance, and repair of mechanical equipment, machinery, apparatus, and facilities at the municipal wastewater pumping stations and treatment plant. Applicants must have three (3) years of experience in a wastewater treatment plant or industrial firm having comparable facilities; high school graduation including or supplemented by course work in shop practices in one of the mechanical trades; must obtain a Class I Operator Waste Water Works License, as issued by the Ohio EPA within two (2) years of eligibility. Bonus Points will be added to passing scores (70%) on the following basis: 20%-Military Service (DD-214 showing 180 days of consecutive active duty service with honorable discharge) 10%- Possession of a Class I Operator or higher Waste Water Works License (applicant must submit proof of License) 10%- five (5) or more years of experience in a waste water treatment plant (Applicant must submit proof of experience - e.g. Letter from previous employer documenting work experience and dates of employment.) Proof of bonus point eligibility must be submitted by the close of the application period. **Must be a resident of Youngstown when appointed or must become a resident within 120 days following appointment to the position.** Applications accepted at the Youngstown Civil Service Commission Office, 7th floor, City Hall, Youngstown, Ohio, from May 21, 2007, through May 31, 2007 (The Civil Service Commission Office will be closed Monday, May 28, 2007 in observance of Memorial Day). Please see the City website for additional information www.cityofyoungstownoh.org call (330) 742-8798. Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Examination will be given on Saturday, June 2, 2007, starting at 10:00 a.m., at the Choffin Career and Technical Center

Jambar Editorial & Opinion

Thursday, May 24, 2007

www.thejambar.com/thejambar@gmail.com/330-941-3758

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THE Jambar

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

OUR SIDE

Not-so-sweet letters

The stress of finals week is over, but summer is far from being worry-free for Youngstown State University students. Labor relations are a continued concern after several letters to the editor concerning our university were printed in the Vindicator.

The initial letter had more than 40 signatures from YSU staff and tenured faculty and asked for the resignation of YSU President David Sweet. These are people who work for our university, and they felt deeply enough about the issue to publish their concerns in the local newspaper. In response to their call for resignation, YSU Professor Stephen Flora and Youngstown Mayor Jay Williams both fired back, defending Sweet.

As students, it is alarming to see labor and management clash so publicly. There are accomplished professionals on both sides, and we would expect them to be able to work together, especially since both sides agree that our university faces many challenges. Students should be able to look up to faculty, staff and administration for leadership and for examples of compromise. These compromises are needed to keep the university moving forward.

Perhaps it is time for both sides to stop accusing and start communicating. We want to hear more about the specific issues that are being contested, rather than general calls for resignation. In that same spirit, concerns about leadership should not simply be dismissed.

If the current administration is staying put, then the rest of campus needs to figure out a way to work with it rather than against it. Perhaps we should enlist the help of the counseling department for mass mediation, or at least to rein in the conflict and reintroduce civility into the workplace.

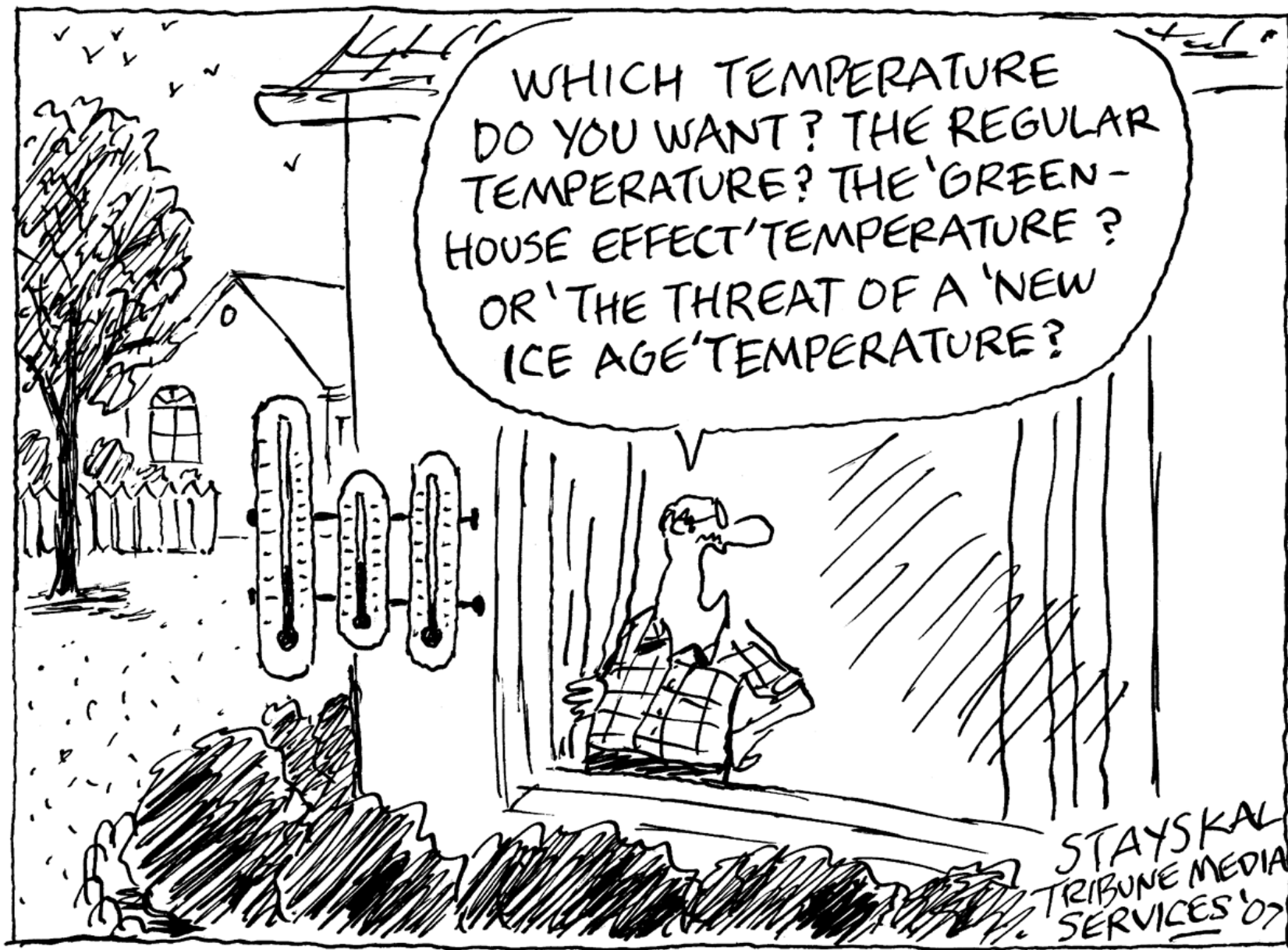
Conflict is natural, but labor relations at our university should not be a battle. The cost of staying mired in conflict is missing out on opportunities for the growth of our university. Rather than one side winning at the expense of the other, students would like to see management and labor fighting for students rather than against each other.

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

LETTERS 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 letters that do not follow policy. The views and opinions expressed in published letters do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff or YSU faculty, staff or administration.



COMMENTARY

Antidepressants: benefits outweigh risk

McClatchy News Service
MCT

The following editorial appeared in the Minneapolis Star Tribune on Thursday, May 10:

To hear some people talk, you'd think the last thing a depressed college kid should do is take antidepressants. Naysayers point to the Food and Drug Administration's recent move to slap new black-box warnings on a whole class of drugs.

The decision springs from FDA findings that the newest generation of antidepressants — the family of drugs that includes Prozac — can sometimes spark suicidal thinking not just in children, but also in adults up to age 24. Shouldn't that discovery prompt anyone with depression to be wary of the drugs?

Cautious, certainly — but there's no reason to be fearful. The serotonin-lifting medications have worked wonders for millions of Americans once caught in the life-crushing grip of depression. The medicines hold hope for mil-

lions more whose brain disorders have yet to be diagnosed — if they're willing to reach for relief.

What a shame it will be if the lifesaving promise of antidepressants is eclipsed by news that, for some patients, they pose a small risk.

And the risk really is small: The studies prompting the FDA action determined that antidepressants caused suicidal thoughts or behavior in 14 out of every 1,000 patients under age 18. Among 18- to 24-year-olds, the figure was five in 1,000. Those numbers matter, but so does this critical fact: Depression, not medicine, is the most common cause of suicide.

In fact, nearly all young people who die by suicide — the age group's third-leading cause of death — are known to have suffered from depression or a related disorder. As the U.S. Surgeon General's Office noted in a landmark 1999 report, depression among youth heightens the risk of suicide 12-fold.

The FDA is right in urging watchfulness when antidepressants are prescribed to young people. But physicians and consumers would

be terribly wrong to interpret the warning as a condemnation of the drugs.

Research published last month in the Journal of the American Medical Association concluded unequivocally that the benefits of antidepressant use by adolescents outweigh the potential risks. Equally noteworthy is research from last November's American Journal of Psychiatry, which found that suicide rates for children and teens are lower in U.S. counties with higher numbers of antidepressant prescriptions.

A preliminary report from the National Bureau of Economic Research suggests that the correlation holds up on a global level as well.

There's no denying that treating depression is tricky — especially when its sufferers are young. But that challenge is no cause to panic or to demonize drugs that only rarely are dangerous.

Even as prescribers, patients and parents remain vigilant for adverse reactions to antidepressants, it must be remembered that these occasionally risky drugs have saved many lives and can save many more.

COMMENTARY

Extend study-abroad opportunities to all U.S. college students

Rep. Tom Lantos
& Rep. Lleana Ros-Lehtinen
MCT

The United States is failing to take full advantage of a valuable tool that should be used to enhance our standing in the world and to improve our national security: college-level study abroad programs that open the doors to all.

Only a small percentage of U.S. college students today study abroad. Those privileged few largely limit their travels to a narrow range of countries, mostly in Europe. As a result, our foreign affairs agencies are hard-pressed to find recruits who have a firsthand understanding of critical cultures and languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Pashto and Dari.

But we are about to change that. The Sen. Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act, which we hope to bring to the floor of both the House and the Senate for passage later this year, will vastly expand the talent pool of young Americans with global skills.

Inspired by the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission and the congressionally chartered Lincoln Commission, the Sen. Paul Simon Act will create a new government corporation charged with democratizing study abroad for American students the way that the GI bill democratized higher education.

It will create opportunities for students from diverse academic, socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds, and will significantly expand participation in study-abroad programs in nontraditional destinations, particularly in the developing world.

Through administration by a small, innovative, mission-driven government corporation, the program will pursue an unprecedented, cost-effective program model by leveraging private-sector resources and support.

The benchmark we've set in the legislation for this effort is extremely ambitious. It mandates the achievement of a nearly five-fold increase in the number of col-

lege students studying abroad within 10 years. If the goal is met, 1 million American students will study abroad each year.

At that level — almost half of undergraduate degrees (bachelors and associates) awarded annually in the United States by colleges and universities — study abroad will become a commonplace rather than an exceptional part of college education for American students.

The government corporation will also be charged with transforming the demographic composition of study-abroad programs to more accurately reflect the demographics of the nation.

It will reach out to students enrolled in community colleges and minority-serving institutions.

It will also be responsible for ensuring that a vast new institutional capacity is built up by U.S. institutions of higher education to sponsor study programs in areas we need to understand better such as the Middle East, Africa and Asia. Today, despite excellent preparation in a vast array of aca-

demie fields, most American graduates enter the workforce without substantive experience in living and learning outside their own culture. Few have had an opportunity to gain a sophisticated understanding of another country or to confront their own assumptions about non-Americans. Few can speak the strategic languages that our foreign affairs agencies need so urgently — or speak any foreign language at all.

This state of affairs must change. Our nation's security, leadership and competitiveness hinge significantly on the international competence of our citizens.

We must act now to enact the vision of the late Sen. Paul Simon from Illinois who worked tirelessly to promote a public-private partnership to democratize and normalize study abroad. We must act quickly to pass and fund the Simon Study Abroad Act. It is a crucial, long-term investment in America's leadership and security in the 21st century.

got an opinion?

Send letters to:
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JAMBAR Feature

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Thursday, May 24, 2007

THEATER

Oakland audiences bitten by 'Bat Boy'

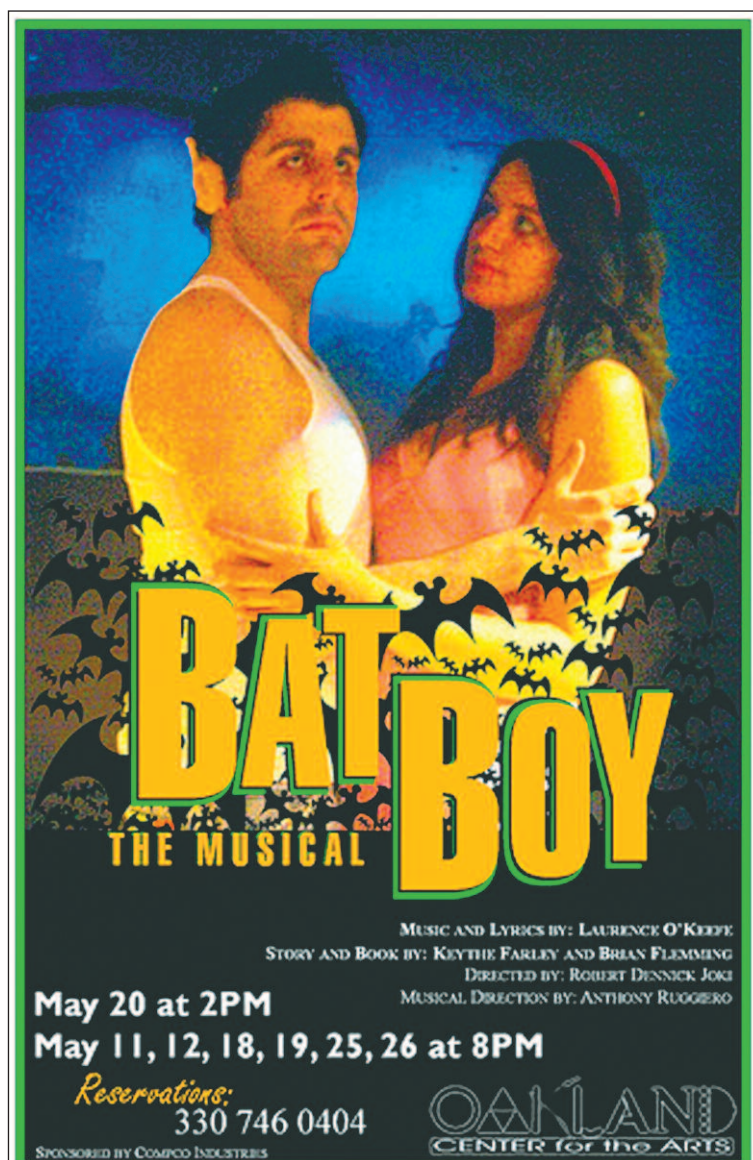
Richard Louis Boccia
MANAGING EDITOR

"No bats were harmed in the making of this musical" — that's how *Bat Boy: The Musical* was advertised in London. Can The Oakland's current production say the same? The bats of Youngstown are probably safe, but *Bat Boy*, a tragic and lovable character, is put through the wringer.

Shawn Lockaton makes quite an impression as the title character, despite spending four songs in a cage. Before that, his head is covered in a burlap bag, making for a stunning reveal of the character make-up. This *Bat Boy* has a striking look. Beyond the pointy latex ears, Lockaton is appropriately pale — after all, his character is found living in a cave.

Lockaton takes *Bat Boy* from dangerous, feral beast to frightened, cornered animal. Later he becomes a proper gentleman, complete with British accent, although the transition in "Show You A Thing Or Two" happens too suddenly. *Bat Boy's* character becomes a bit muddled towards the end — his spurts of violence appear almost on a whim rather than building logically.

Still, Lockaton's performance inspires both fear and sympathy, contradictory audience reactions reflecting the inner struggles that make his character so interesting. Lockaton's singing is often poignant and vulnerable.



The official *Bat Boy* poster for the Oakland Center for the arts. Featuring Shawn Lockaton as *Bat Boy* and Roxanne Hauldren as Shelley Parker. Design by Robert Dennick Joki. Photo by Chris Barzak.

Roxanne Hauldren gets to show off a powerful voice, too, although the age of her character (Shelley) was somewhat ambiguous. Matt White also gives a commanding vocal performance and is a frightening presence as a drunken, abusive father (Dr. Parker).

Brandon Smith plays Mrs. Taylor, and the reverse-gender casting puts a spin on what could have been a trite bereaved-mother character.

Vaughn Schmidt steals a love scene from the main characters when he slinks onstage as the satyr, Pan, in "Children, Children", which turns into one of the production's biggest numbers when the chorus appears in animal costumes. Trippy, interspecies mating comes next, representing the love between *Bat Boy* and his human family, and achieving one of the show's most entertaining songs, largely due to costuming.

"Dance With Me, Darling" was somewhat confusing, however, due to the flamenco outfits. When the masked dancers that represent the voices in Dr. Parker's head creep onstage at the beginning of the song, they seem out of step with the music. They look good, but their entrance seems oddly timed.

A slide projector adds visual interest by providing changing backdrops

for an otherwise simple set. The slides add another layer of humor when they rapidly change with the moods or stories of characters.

Director Robert Dennick Joki designed the costumes and set, and he makes a cameo appearance as Reverend Billy Hightower. The chorus of country yokels sit in a row of chairs facing the stage for "A Joyful Noise" in a move that makes the entire house into a congregation for the Reverend's big number.

After the rowdy church revival scene, the second act brings the cast into the audience several more times, most effectively when *Bat Boy* and his family sneak in on the chorus for "Let Me Walk Among You" and when the animals converge from all sides in "Children, Children".

Sound quality was impressive on nearly all the solos, and the band, led by musical director Anthony Ruggiero, rarely overpowers the chorus. A few sonic jokes are also in effect: a megaphone used onstage provides some interesting distortion for the rap in "Whatcha Wanna Do?", and the manhunt for *Bat Boy* has the cast simulating walkie-talkies by making static noises with their mouths. Perhaps the lack of real walkie-talkies is another jab at West Virginia—the show is full of them.

Like any story about an outsider longing to fit in, *Bat Boy* questions conformity. It also slams ignorance (as represented by a certain, previously-mentioned southern state). Since *Bat Boy* is also a romance, it takes a look at the irony of love in all its tragic, unrequited, and confused forms. The result is biting musical comedy.

HEALTH

Turn up the heat with summer exercise

Shannon Floyd
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

No matter what the calendar says, summer is here, and getting fit doesn't have to be complicated or monotonous.

Summer is a time to enjoy the outdoors, and at the same time you can live a healthy life by being active. For many that involves activities such as swimming, playing contact sports, walking pets, and kayaking.

Nick Johnson is an employee at the Andrews Recreation and Wellness Center and a senior Hospitality Management major. "I exercise about four times a week," he said. "This usually consists of running outside and playing on a summer basketball league."

Will Franklin, also a senior Physical Education major, said he exercises about three to four times a week. "I mostly do weight training and some other activities," he said.

Some activities he suggested for summer fitness were hiking, bike riding, and yard work. According to *Outside Magazine*, exercise is not the only component of keeping fit. "The key to total fitness is a balanced approach to sports and health based on five pillars: body, mind, nutrition, active recovery, and adventure."

Exercise without a healthy diet can cause major damage to your body such as a build up of arterial plaque. "Arterial plaque is a by-product of high levels of low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol, which lurk in foods loaded with saturated fat."

Since the summer heat can be brutal, eMaxHealth.com offers some tips to keep your body safe.

1. First and foremost, hydrate. Carry cold water with you; drink often. Consider a sports drink with electrolytes if you are working out for more than an hour.
2. Monitor your heart rate. If your heart rate goes above your target, slow down or stop to avoid further distress.
3. Acclimate your body to exercising in the heat by starting slowly and allowing time to cool down afterwards.
4. Avoid exercising outdoors in the high heat and pollution of the day. Instead, try exercising before 10 a.m. or after 7 p.m.
5. Exercise indoors in a climate controlled environment such as a health club or indoor shopping mall.
6. Dress in light colored clothing; it reflects the heat better than darker colors.
7. Wear a hat to protect both eyes and face from excess sun exposure.
8. Wear poly-cotton fiber blends, which wick perspiration away from the body, allowing it to evaporate easily.
9. Use sunscreen, even on a cloudy day, to protect yourself from skin cancer. The sunscreen should be oil-free, so as not to interfere with the sweating mechanism and the sunscreen should be waterproof so that you do not sweat it off.
10. Shower and change clothes soon after exercising to avoid skin irritation.

10 Ways to stay safe in the summer sun

This plaque builds up on the walls of arteries and hardens, diminishing blood flow. The blockage could eventually break off during a routine workout, fatally blocking an artery.

According to eMaxHealth.com, Romeo Cabas, a certified strength and condition specialist, recom-

mends 30 to 60 minutes of aerobic activity most days of the week.

Ralph Smalley, a senior Physical Education major agrees. He suggests 30 minutes everyday. "Working out everyday doesn't have to be dreadful," Ralph said, "I do some kind of physical activity on a daily basis. I try to get my

workouts in during some kind of game play or any activity I enjoy."

According to eMaxHealth.com, along with exercising frequently, Cabas also emphasizes the importance of safety in the summer.

90°

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"I exercise about four times a week. This usually consists of running outside and playing on a summer basketball league."

Nick Johnson

Friday

Bat Boy
8 p.m.
Oakland Center for the Arts

Sweeney Todd
8 p.m.
Youngstown Playhouse

Saturday

Tooth and Nail Tour Presented By
White Castle featuring MXPX,
Classic 6 p.m.
Mr. Smalls Theatre

Bat Boy
8 p.m.
Oakland Center for the Arts

Sweeney Todd
8 p.m.
Youngstown Playhouse

Sunday

Sweeney Todd
2:30 p.m.
Youngstown Playhouse

Elliott Yamin
7 p.m.
Diesel Club Lounge

Lonestar
7:30 p.m.
Pepsi Cola Roadhouse

Upcoming
events