

Cinder Road leads to The Wedge
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THE Jambar

THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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YSU News

YSU Board of Trustees meetings

The YSU Board of Trustees meets Friday at 3 p.m. The board's Academic and Student Affairs Committee will meet at 1 p.m. followed by the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting.

Smoky Hollow 5K run, walk

Smoky Hollow 5K Run and 1-Mile Family Fun Walk takes place July 7 starting at 9 a.m. The run and walk celebrates the history of Smoky Hollow and the efforts to renew the neighborhood. The start and finish will be at Harrison Field on Walnut St. in Youngstown.

Ohio Business Week

The annual Ohio Business Week is being held at YSU through Saturday. The Ohio Business Week Foundation is a statewide non-profit organization that gives high school students the opportunity to have experience in business and entrepreneurship.

Please remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar

YSU

Study suggests fixes for Early College

Adrienne Sabo
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Recommendations from an outside consultant call for YSU to eliminate the cap on the number of Youngstown Early College students per college classroom. Currently, the program only allows a certain number of high school students into a given class.

Alison Harmon, a consultant with J&H Consultants assessed the program and presented her report at the June 19 meeting of the YSU Board of Trustees.

YSU President David Sweet said the report was complimentary and also

identified areas that need improvement. Sweet said the next step is to sit down with Wendy Webb, superintendent of the Youngstown City School District and go through the reports and recommendations.

Allowing more YEC students to enroll in a each class would foster a learning community where the students support each other.

"There wasn't a mass of students who could work together," Sweet said. He said he does not believe the groups of students in college classrooms would be a problem.

Junior Ashleigh Noel said she has

not noticed any of the YEC students in her classes, but she likes the idea. "I think it's a good program," she said.

Sophomore Ryan Kallok agreed and said he does not notice or care if high school students are in his classes.

Sweet said the students are indistinguishable and from what he has heard "some of the students are outstanding."

YSU and the YEC program need to make sure what the students learn in college classes aligns with what is taught in high school Sweet said.

Junior Mary Grimm said, "I do notice high school students in my class and the only reason why it bothers me

is I don't know if they're ready for college yet."

Grimm questioned whether the students are missing out on what high school offers.

Of the inaugural class of 75 students, 46 are projected to graduate and of those 6 will reach the goal of graduating with 45-60 college credits, 7 will earn 30 college credits or more and 33 will earn between 15-30 credits. The report attributed these numbers to a poor transition into the YEC program.

The assessment cited several issues

please see **EARLY**, Page 2

HEALTH

Buzz Kill

Health professionals label energy drinks as unhealthy

Sarah Sole
NEWS EDITOR

YSU Junior Megan Shargo drinks 5 to 6 energy drinks per week. Working two jobs while attending school, Shargo said she drinks them to stay awake.

A health expert at Msnbc.msn.com confirms that there is a healthy limit to how much caffeine should be consumed in a day: 300 milligrams a day, according to registered dietician Karen Collins.

A single 16-ounce Zero Carb Rockstar energy drink has more than half that amount, with 240 milligrams of caffeine. Other flavors of Rockstar contain 160 milligrams per can.

Zara Rowlands, assistant professor of human ecology, called energy drinks harmful substances that offer a false kind of energy.

Junior Eric Daniels drinks

about two energy drinks per week, choosing either Red Bull or Rockstar. He usually drinks them in the morning to stay awake.

"They just wake you up and keep you moving," Daniels said.

Though Daniels buys the drinks, he admits the energy boost is followed by an inevitable crash. "It hits you and you get pretty tired," he said.

It is possible to get addicted to the energy rush, he said. "If you drink it conservatively, then I recommend it. If you drink a lot, I don't think it's good."

While Katie Walton, a junior, has tried energy drinks, she said she has since stopped drinking them.

"I think they all taste gross,"

please see **BUZZ**, Page 2



Jambar/ Adam Rogers

YSU

Mixed memories of YSU orientation

Jen Brown
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Looking back on orientation, students have mixed feelings. For some, the experience was confusing.

Kayla Rantamaki, now a junior, started at YSU in 2005 as an incoming freshman. "To be honest, orientation made me more nervous to start college," Rantamaki said.

"There should have been a little more relaxing," she said. Rantamaki described information overload: there was too much to consider about what would happen in the years to come. "I was exhausted when I left there," she said.

Junior Melissa Kordes said her orientation experience was a great one. Her peer student took her group of four or five students around to each of the buildings, she said, and even showed them where their classrooms were.

Kordes said her peer student was helpful and friendly, putting the new students at ease. "She made us feel that we could talk to her and ask questions," Kordes said.

Orientation is an opportunity for universities to put students' minds at ease about the nerve-racking prospect of starting college. Kordes says her younger sister is nervous about starting school in the fall, but attending an early orientation made her feel more comfortable: "Her experience was just like mine — she had a blast."

Not knowing what to expect at orientation can create more anxiety.

While scheduling classes at orientation was stressful, sophomore Jaelyn Burns found it to be interesting. "It actually wasn't too bad. Everyone got through it okay," said Burns.

Compared to the University of Toledo's orientation, Burns said, "My mom and I agreed that YSU's orientation was better."

Incoming freshman Alyssa Minerva attended orientation June 19 and found it to be helpful. "I'm not nervous about my classes anymore, and I'm more familiar with the campus."

"I like meeting new people," said Minerva, "and I loved how we were in the same group with people of similar majors."



"People my age are stressed. There are only so many hours in a day and we need some sort of stimulant."

Senior, Jacob Jones



I think younger people like [energy drinks] because not that many young people like coffee."

Junior, Katie Walton

YSU

First Place Bank donates \$500,000 to business college

Sarah Sole & Laura Brown
THE JAMBAR

First Place Bank Community Foundation announced a donation of \$500,000 for the new \$30 million Williamson College of Business Administration building at a press conference Wednesday.

The donation will help link the university to the local economy, Sweet said. "It reflects First Place Bank's commitment to this university."

First Place Bank's support of YSU goes back many years, Sweet said, with donations to the Rich Center for Autism, student scholarships and the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

The new building will be adjacent

to the downtown area, Sweet said. It is intended to facilitate local business internships for YSU students, working with the Youngstown Business Incubator.

"We're focused on further becoming a linkage. It's going to be much more than just a faculty-student operation," Sweet said.

Steven Lewis, chief executive officer of First Place Bank, already sees the link.

Currently, there are 80 First Place Bank employees that are either current YSU students or alumni, Lewis said.

"Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice," Lewis said. "This is without a doubt a common sense investment in the community."

please see **DONATION**, Page 2



Photo courtesy Youngstown State University

SPORTS

Athletes struggle with hardships of early success

Lou Gattozzi

JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Imagine living out of your car or enduring 14 hour bus rides and cheap hotel rooms. These are some of the obstacles young athletes must overcome in order to reach the lavish lifestyle in the professional ranks. Not many sports draft athletes out of high school and college: football and basketball are the only two.

Sports like baseball, golf and hockey are some of the more difficult sports to make it to the highest level. Breaking into these sports can be very trying — to the point where athletes may be

forced to put their dreams of making it big on hold, or else give up on their ambitions for good.

John Lannan, minor league pitcher in the Washington Nationals organization described the hardships. "It is very difficult to keep your head straight," he said. "You are playing a game that ends around 10 p.m., and then have to get on a bus for 12 hours and play the next night at 7 p.m."

In baseball, a minor leaguer does not make much money, making it difficult to cover ordinary expenses like lodging and food.

"You really learn to enjoy hot dogs and hamburgers given to you after the game for free,"

Lannan said. "Rooming with three other grown men is tough itself, but in a cheap hotel room is even worse with uncomfortable beds and small rooms."

Baseball players may not have the worst situation. Aspiring professional golfers may be forced to live out of their cars if they are not making money on tournaments. Having to drive from city to city takes its toll on young athletes.

Cleveland native Ryan Petretti is only 22 years old, but he already knows that life of the road causes fatigue — both physical and mental. "I must try to find sponsors for each tournament I

enter in order to pay the tournament fee and gas to drive to each tournament," Petretti said.

"There has been times that I have not played well and missed the cut in the tournament and have to sleep in the car for the night," he said. "The dollar menu at fast food restaurants has become my best friend."

In hockey, as with baseball, getting drafted does not mean going to the professional level right away. Hockey players must stay in hotel rooms with three other players at times, and face even longer bus trips than baseball players, sometimes through snowstorms.

BUZZ, continued from page 1

Walton said. Walton said her boyfriend is addicted to energy drinks. "He gets angry if the store doesn't have the brand he likes," she said.

"I think younger people like them because not that many young people like coffee," Walton said.

Rowlands highlighted some of the negative aspects of energy drinks.

"After a while you sort of crash. It's like being in overdrive," Rowlands said.

Two main ingredients of energy drinks are sugar and caffeine, Rowlands said. Since caffeine is a diuretic, people can become dehydrated from energy drinks.

People should also pay attention to the herbal supplements contained in the drinks, Rowlands said. Ephredra, a stimulant that promotes the effect of caffeine, is added so that peoples' bodies do not build a tolerance for caffeine. "They'll add one of these herbal supplements to keep you pumped," she said.

Drinking energy drinks can be fatal for those that have heart problems, Rowlands said. "When you drink that much caffeine, sometimes it can play some really bad tricks on your blood pressure."

Dr. Mohammad Shayesteh, of Fit for Life Nutrition and Weight Loss Center, feels the same.

Energy drinks are not good for anyone, Shayesteh said. "Those are the worst things you can actually have."

While the high sugar content makes an individual's blood sugar rise, the hormone Insulin makes the blood sugar go from high to low levels, causing an individual to become sleepy and shaky, Shayesteh said.

Additionally, Shayesteh said the dehydration caused by caffeine can cause fatigue.

Rowlands and Shayesteh agreed that



"If you drink [an energy drink] conservatively, then I recommend it. If you drink a lot, I don't think it's good."

Junior, Eric Daniels

energy drinks can be addictive.

Energy drinks are absolutely addictive, Rowlands said. Caffeine is quite addictive; withdrawal symptoms include migraines, tremors and fatigue.

Similarly, people can also become addicted to the herbal supplements included in energy drinks. If people suddenly stop taking herbal supplements after their bodies have become used to the supplements, they can experience some withdrawal symptoms, Rowlands said.

Shayesteh said caffeine is not recommended in excess, because it increases urinary loss of calcium. Drinking one or two cups of coffee is all right, although Shayesteh also included black or green tea as options. Instead, Shayesteh recommends drinking water with lemon or Gatorade during high levels of physical activity.

Shayesteh said it is also possible for people to become addicted to the sugar contained in energy drinks. When sugar levels become low, people crave more sugar. People will gradually increase the amount of energy drink they are consuming. "The body gets used to it," he said.

Instead of depending on energy drinks, Rowlands and Shayesteh said there are many ways to stay alert naturally.

Although aware of the health risks, some students are set in their ways.

Jacob Jones, a senior, drinks Red Bull twice a week.

"I'm addicted to caffeine products," Jones said.

While Jones is against regulating energy drinks, he admits there are possible dangers.

"There's always a crash and you have to prepare for it," Jones said. "You can be awake, but you can't concentrate."

Jones said the consumer should decide whether or not a product is appropriate. "People my age are stressed. There are only so many hours in a day and we need some sort of stimulant," Jones said. "There are far worse habits."

Senior Dave Spatholt depended on a stimulant during spring semester, when he was running for president of the Student Government Association.

"I drank Full Throttle and Red Bull," Spatholt said. "That started to mess with my sleep more than anything."

Spatholt said he stopped drinking energy drinks after reading about sleep deprivation online.

Spatholt also had to deal with the inevitable "crash."

"After you drink there will be a part in the middle of the night where you'll get really tired," Spatholt said. "It's almost like you're zoned out."

Spatholt said he was addicted to caffeine. "I'd start to get headaches," he said. "I got sick of having migraines."

Spatholt said good planning is probably better than resorting to energy drinks. "They work for what you need them to do. They're great for procrastinators," he said.

Additional reporting by Lisa Steredni

DONATION, continued from page 1

During Lewis' 24-year career at First Place Bank he has seen it grow to a \$3.2 billion company. "With size comes responsibility and leadership," Lewis said. "Our commitment to the community has grown."

Betty Jo Licata, dean of the Williamson College of Business Administration, said the college has received much support for the new facility.

We want to be a resource center for the community, Licata said. "The new building of course will give us much greater visibility and accessibility."

Licata said the new building is set to open by Fall 2009. It will include state of the art technology, student gathering spaces and conference centers.

"We hope to break ground by the end of the year," Licata said.

EARLY, continued from page 1

that slowed student progress, including poor student attendance, poor preparation for college classes, a lack of transitional support, no conversion process from YSU college credit to high school credit and a lack of curriculum alignment with YSU placement requirements.

The YEC was designated a School of Excellence for two years after the students surpassed the Ohio Graduation Test rate for the school district.

During the assessment Harmon made monthly visits to the program to conduct interviews and focus groups with parents, students, teachers, administrators, YSU faculty and staff and other stakeholders.

Other recommendations include opening a YSU office for the college and modifying the YEC curriculum and credit conversions — as well as hiring a full time administrator, administrative assistant and academic advisor. The review also suggests creating a plan to sustain the YEC beyond its current grant.

Additional reporting by Jen Brown.

Police Briefs

Credit card theft

A Youngstown State University police officer went to Commerce Street in reference to an officer stopping a subject on June 20. The man stopped was identified as the subject involved in the theft of a credit card from Williamson Hall. The suspect was found to have a warrant for his arrest and placed under arrest. He was found with a sum of money and was transported to Liberty Police Department.

Assault at Kilcawley House

A Youngstown State University police officer responded to a call at the Kilcawley House in reference to an assault on June 21. A woman reported that she was stuck in the upper back with a one-inch gravel stone. The suspects were two females who were waling behind her throwing stones. When questioning the two suspects, the suspects ran south through the inner core.

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CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF YOUNGSTOWN - ELECTRICIAN WATER DEPARTMENT

SALARY:\$50,993.80. This is highly skilled electrical work involving the installation, maintenance, diagnostic evaluation and repair of Water Department electrical systems, telemetry control systems, and building electrical systems. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENTRANCE TO THIS EXAMINATION AS ESTABLISHED BY THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN ARE AS FOLLOWS: Completion of a State Certified Electrical Apprenticeship Training Program with experience in electrical control systems and maintenance is required. At least one (1) year of experience as a Journeyman Electrician is required. Applicants must meet the above mentioned minimum qualifications to be considered. EXAMINATION INFORMATION: TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE EVALUATION: Applicant's grade will be determined based on Education and Experience found in the application and resume. Each applicant is required to submit a detailed resume of his/her education and experience at the time of filing application, supplemented by proof of educational attainments, training and experience. Applicants must be a resident of the City of Youngstown when appointed or must become a resident within 120 days following appointment to the position. Application must be made on the regular application form available at the Office of the Civil Service Commission, 26 S. Phelps Street, 7th Floor City Hall, Youngstown, Ohio. Applications will be accepted from 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 25, 2007 through 4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 6, 2007. City Hall is closed Wednesday, July 4, 2007 in observance of Independence Day. For additional information applicants may visit the CityWeb site at www.cityofyoungstownoh.org. APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER 4:00 P.M. ON FRIDAY, JULY 6, 2007.

Jambar Classifieds

Help Wanted

Bartenders wanted! Up to \$300 a day, no experience necessary, training provided. 800-965-6520, ext. 287.

Housing

Near YSU! One BR apartment for \$375. Small 2 BR for \$405. Large 3 BR for \$670. 4 BR for \$750. Call for details and to see. 330-506-0104

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING. 1 block away. Safe. Gated entrance w/ electronic keypad entry. 1-2-3 bedrooms for students and staff only. Year lease discounts. Call Mavis at 330-770-8679.

Very nice 2 bedroom apartments, 1 block from YSU. Available now! Rent starting at \$375 per student. Includes all utilities and cable/internet. Call 330-720-0964 or 300-770-4472

Private bedroom in a house you will share with other YSU students. All utilities, cable, internet, and Security System are included in the rent. Off-street parking. Groups of two to seven students are welcome. \$290 per month. Call 330-506-0104

Miscellaneous

Pet sitting. Experienced, loving, responsible care for all your pets while you're away. \$10 per visit. Karen 330-743-3858

JOB OPENING

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

THE Jambar MISSING: Distributor position
available beginning August 27. Must be available between 7 and 8 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday Mornings to distribute The Jambar. Must be dependable. For additional information, contact Olga at 330-941-3094, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. or stop by The Jambar office located in the basement of Fedor Hall.

Jambar Editorial & Opinion

Thursday, June 28, 2007

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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

Early expectations

How many of us know what the Youngstown Early College is?

Since we pay tuition we owe it to ourselves to be informed of the current programs and schools operated at Youngstown State University.

These programs affect the campus environment that we pay for, including our classes. On any given day in the fall and spring semester, campus is home to many kinds of students.

It is something that we are accustomed to. We wait in line during the English Festival at Arby's with students from high school and middle school — we know to avoid the Candy Counter during those days, too.

But some programs last longer than a few weeks and have become permanent fixtures on our campus. Instead of sharing lunch lines we have begun sharing classrooms with Youngstown Early College students.

The YEC program is a collaboration between YSU and the Youngstown City School District. High school students attend high school at YSU and earn college credit through YSU courses beginning in 2004. The goal is for students to graduate at the end of the four years with 45-60 college credits.

A current assessment of the YEC for the YSU Board of Trustees recommends that the program increase the amount of YEC students allowed to enroll in YSU classes.

More high school students could pose a problem for YSU students and faculty, possibly making some college-level classes feel more like high school classrooms.

YSU faculty does not know which students are from the YEC program and which are YSU students. In theory this will help the instructors to remain unbiased and teach the classroom at a college level.

In the assessment, YEC stakeholders such as students, parents and instructors were interviewed and observed through monthly visits, random telephone interviews, individual interviews and focus groups.

The recommendation for YEC students to attend college classes in a group would increase the number of high school students in the college learning environment. How will this change the classroom experience, if at all?

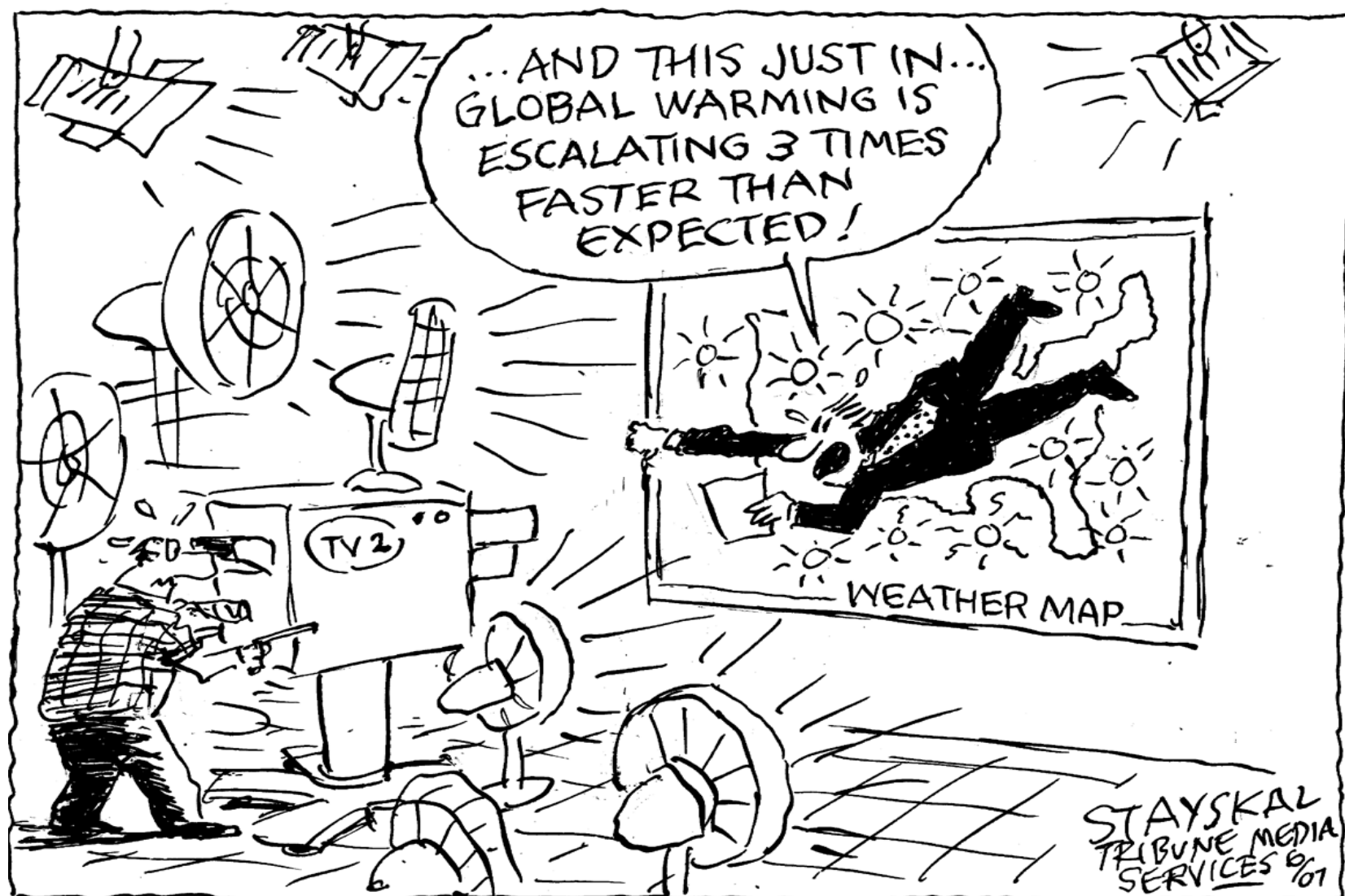
While we cannot predict the how the student dynamic might change, we know here is much that YEC students can learn from us — and there is much that we can learn from them.

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.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Going green with your diet

Editor,

In response to the article "Going green," I would like to compliment the author for discussing the individual steps we can each take to lighten our footprint on the Earth. However, I noticed one glaring omission from the article, which is our diet. Animal agriculture is one of the most destructive industries in our world today, as well as a vastly inefficient way to use our valuable resources. In fact, a groundbreaking 2006 report by the United Nations concluded that raising animals for food generates more greenhouse gases than all the cars and trucks in the world combined.

Across the board, animal agriculture wastes the limited resources we have, by funneling them through animals raised for meat and other animal products. For example, we currently feed more than 70 percent of the grains raised in this country to animals raised for food, rather than

eating the grains directly. Similarly, nearly half of the water and 80 percent of agricultural land consumed in this country is used for livestock, when it could be used to grow food directly for human consumption. This wasteful use of our resources has a devastating effect on our local environments as well. Currently, farmed animals produce about 130 times as much excrement as the entire U.S. population, much of which finds its way into our local waterways.

If we are to analyze our personal impact on the environment, it is imperative that we acknowledge meat production as one of most serious environmental contributors today. With vegetarian dishes such as BBQ "ribs" to vegetarian "chicken" sandwiches widely available in grocery stores and restaurants, it's easier than ever to choose more humane and environmentally-conscious fare.

Ryan Huling
College Campaign
Coordinator, peta2

Go see 'Sicko'

Editor,

See Michael Moore's "Sicko," his take on American health care opening at area multiplexes tomorrow, June 29.

Recently docked at "Fahrenheit 9/11" and "Bowling for Columbine," the Michael Moore cruise

line lists angrily to political port, so you may want to invite your Republican buds to book passage.

Tell them the grim mathematics of commercial health insurance makes it more likely that Godzilla and the Abominable Snowman will be the next definable persons enrolled into our

antiquated risk pools rather than your medically uninsured and ailing moms and dads. Tell them Michael Moore's examples can be multiplied a million times over. Tell them America's health system may be worse than can yet be imagined.

Jack Labusch

Bringing back campus beauty

Editor,

Since walking onto the YSU Campus in 1990 I found that the university was a hidden treasure in a city lost to Post Industrialization. I came to YSU for a variety of factors from occupation breakdown to personal growth. I find that I not only enjoy the campus but even more linger its esthetically stimulating beauty. The Jambar recently wrote an article about student government rejuvenating the Wick-Pollack garden. While walking across campus this week I decided to look for the garden and upon finding it was amazed. What an awesome job the SG has done in restoring this hidden treasure on our campus. Having done massive landscaping projects myself and having an understanding of the amount of work these students have put into this project, I have a great appreciation for their

efforts. I walked about the garden and its tiers in awe of the work and beauty that these students have given the campus. Student Government deserves a big THANK YOU for this project. Cleaning out the overgrowth, planting the flowers, trimming the bushes and shrubs had to take numerous man-hours. Finding and cleaning the fountain and hauling away the debris had to be tedious and backbreaking work. I for one greatly appreciate a place that I can go and appreciate the beauty that these students had to work extremely hard to create. If your reading this and haven't seen the garden, it is a must see element of our campus. Take the time and go see it and most of all keep in mind that students that won't be here to appreciate their efforts a couple of years from now, brought back this enlightening beauty for the campus community to enjoy.

William Border

COMMENTARY

U.S. News' college rankings: Overrated

McClatchy News
MCT

Americans, pressed for time and eager for dish, love lists.

Not surprisingly, well-known people or institutions that fare badly on well-known lists tend to be less fond of them.

So, at first blush, you might think sour grapes was on the menu this week as a gathering of college presidents blasted the influential U.S. News & World Report rankings of "America's Best Colleges."

But wait. The Annapolis Group, the association of liberal arts colleges that just pledged to help develop a better alternative to the U.S. News list, includes every one of the colleges in the magazine's Top 10 national liberal arts colleges. That list includes Swarthmore (No. 3) and Haverford (No. 9).

Perhaps something else was driving the agitation at the group's meeting next to Chesapeake Bay.

It's this: U.S. News' clout in determining perceptions of academic value on campus has gotten out of hand. Even allowing for educators' typical reluctance to be judged by outsiders, the college presidents are right to seek to wriggle free.

The rankings are a good idea gone malignant. They've taken on far more meaning than any arbitrary statistical formula should. They have become a prime factor in the college admissions "arms race," which makes parents of

smart kids behave like crazy people and often makes those wonderful kids feel like losers at age 17 because they "only" got into Muhlenberg, not Amherst; "only" into Penn State, not Brown.

The nonsense has hit dreadful proportions. It does the cause of genuine education no good and should be curbed.

Of course, colleges and their presidents have been largely complicit in this spiral into nuttiness. In 1983, U.S. News began its rankings, betting correctly that parents of college-age kids would hail any bid to give them understandable, consumer-oriented information about the dark, costly mysteries of higher ed. It's likely that about eight seconds after the first rankings came out, the first college sent out a press release bragging about its rating.

The ratings, tweaked and refined over the years, combine various measures of a college's attributes and appeal, from average class size, to percentage of alumni who give, to percentage of applicants accepted, to percentage of accepted applicants who decide to attend ("yield").

All of the measures are plausible, but no number can really measure the heart of the question, the quality of the learning, scholarship and socialization that happen on a given campus.

To be fair, U.S. News doesn't oversell the validity of its rankings; but it doesn't lament the outsized importance they've come to exercise. After all, that has turned

the rankings into a lucrative product line.

The rankings also include, and heavily weight, the results of surveys of college presidents about their perception of the quality of other institutions.

A majority of the 80 college presidents at the Annapolis Group session last week vowed to stop taking part in that very subjective beauty contest, which tends to cement the position of certain prestigious brand-name colleges and to undervalue excellent but lesser-known colleges.

Fact is, the prestige of a college is no guarantee that it will match up with the needs, personality and aspirations of a given student. Lots of students get mediocre educations at "good" schools, while others learn tremendously at lesser-known schools.

What's more disturbing, the rankings have become an end in themselves in higher education. Alumni and trustees fret over their school's rating. Administrators have been known to get bonuses for pushing their schools up the rankings. And this has led to no end of gambits to game the magazine's rating system, sometimes with damaging results for families.

Examples:

One way to increase yield, the percentage of a college's acceptances who actually matriculate, is to boost the percentage of students you accept "early decision." This trend to binding decisions in the fall of senior year has stamped many

students into the wrong school, and undercut many families' bargaining position on aid.

To increase "selectivity" (i.e. lowering the percentage of applicants accepted) some colleges indulge in P.R. campaigns to persuade students with little chance of being accepted to go through the trouble and expense of applying.

Average SAT scores of entering classes remain a factor in the formula. This can't help the acceptance chances of quirky, creative kids whose talents may not be well-measured by standardized tests.

Finally, the whole prestige chase, fueled by U.S. News, enables elite colleges to raise tuitions at rates outstripping inflation and seemingly immune to market pressure.

So, OK, the U.S. News rankings have gotten out of control. But the enterprise became a cottage industry for a reason. Parents and students thirst for an accessible, organized, thorough source of comparative information on colleges.

Actually, a host of fat books you can find at your local bookstore do a pretty good, qualitative job of that. But at-a-glance charts chock-full of statistics do have value. Recognizing that, the Annapolis Group presidents have agreed to work with the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and the Council of Independent Colleges to develop a better alternative to U.S. News.

The burden is on them to produce. Pick up those No. 2 pencils and get to work, folks.

JAMBAR Feature

YSU Arts fetstival is a 'cure for the common weekend'

Laura Brown

JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

"The cure for the common weekend" is the tag line for Youngstown State University's 9th annual Summer Festival of the Arts taking place on July 7 and 8. Over 15,000 people are expected to attend the free two-day event, which will include an array of local artists, performing groups and other cultural entities.

"By this time in the summer months many people are looking for new and different activities for their weekends," assistant director of the Performing Arts Series Lori Factor said.

"The Summer Festival of the Arts collaborates with outstanding arts and cultural groups to harness the energy of our dynamic arts community, and brings it all to one place!" Factor said.

The festival revolves around the artists' marketplace, where local, regional and national artists show and sell their handcrafted artwork. The artists are chosen by a jury to assure that the artwork is of high quality and represents a unique artistic style. Sixty booths line the campus core to showcase the artists.

Bob Barko Jr., one of the accepted artists, will be assisted by the Junior League of Youngstown in unveiling his 24-foot mural titled "Here in Youngstown." The mural, which was painted by local high school stu-

dents, depicts the history of Youngstown from the arrival of John Young in 1796 to the present day.

"The Summer Festival of the Arts inspires artists to create their artwork for conventional sale, but it also welcomes and promotes new and collaborative public art projects such as this mural," Factor said.

Allowing for the expansion of festival activities, Wick Avenue will close from the service road at State Route 422 to Lincoln Avenue for the duration of the festival.

"Closing this portion of Wick brings both sides of the Festival together and enhances the participation of the McDonough Museum and the activities there and in Bliss Hall," Factor said. "Providing the safest environment for our patrons is our



Photo courtesy of

The Summer Festival of the Arts revolves around the artists' marketplace, where local, regional and national artists show and sell their handcrafted artwork such as the one above.

highest priority."

The Festival of Nations, the events' ethnic portion, will highlight groups representing fifteen different cultures. Booths displaying memorabilia, maps and other cultural artifacts will line the part of the festival bordered by Maag Library, Ward Beecher Planetarium and the Butler Institute of American Art. Several groups will sell homemade ethnic foods while others will conduct performances in the ethnic performance tent.

Other activities include the Smokey Hollow 5K run and One-Mile Family Fun Walk and a silent auction of art. The churches of Wick Avenue will also come together on Sunday, July 8 at 10 a.m. for a community worship service at New Beginnings Outreach Ministry.

Fireworks to cap off night of music at Forte on the Fifty

Laura Brown

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Stambaugh Stadium will host Forte on the Fifty, a summer concert and fireworks spectacular on July 7.

The doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the Dana All-Star Band will perform at 7:30 p.m., followed by national

country fusion group Carolina Rain at 8:30 p.m.

The B.J. Alan Phantom Fireworks spectacular, for which the event has become known, begins at 10 p.m.

Pamela Palumbo, director of events management at YSU, said she is thrilled to have Carolina Rain as the featured performer. "Forte on the Fifty is one of those events which

people attend and look forward to year after year," Palumbo said. "And of course, the fireworks get better every year as BJ Alan showcases their new products for the season."

Tickets are on sale now at the Stambaugh Stadium ticket office. General admission tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

Forte on the Fifty has been presented by YSU since 1994 and is held in conjunction with the Summer Festival of the Arts, July 7 and 8. Patrons may save \$2 off the admission price by purchasing their tickets at the Summer Festival of the Arts Main Information Booth until 6:00 p.m. Saturday, July 7.

TECHNOLOGY

Students plan to keep in touch with iPhone

Mike Minotti

JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Although some mobile phones can store music, none approach the capacity of the new iPhone. Apple's attempt to marry its popular iPod to the mobile phone.

Along with its sophisticated touchscreen interface, capacity gives Apple's device a technological edge over the competition — but at a price.

"I think the price of the iPhone is inflated because of the hype surrounding it, so I'll wait a few months for the price to drop before I buy one," said junior Bruce Ciccone.

Mickey Hancherenco, software specialist at the YSU tech desk, plans on purchasing an iPhone.

"The device is spectacular and I'll be excited to own one," he said.

"However, there are a few shortcomings with the phone that are more or less the direct result of AT&T's 'big money' corporate attitude."

"I think the price of the iPhone is inflated because of the hype surrounding it, so I'll wait a few months for the price to drop before I buy one."

Junior, Bruce Ciccone.

photographs — either uploaded at home, or taken with the iPhone's 2.0-megapixel camera.

The iPhone's main interface is a 3.5-by-2.4 inch multi-touch screen that

and conferencing.

Beyond that, the Internet capabilities of the iPhone are vast. While most cell phones severely alter a web page to display it on a tiny screen, the iPhone presents the Internet exactly as it would look on a full-blown, computer web browser. Tapping zooms in.

The iPhone's online capabilities also allow quick access to weather, stocks, maps, e-mail and even videos from YouTube.

Technically speaking, the iPhone is impressive, and the activation process is innovative as well. By having users activate their phone and purchase a plan from their home computers using iTunes, Apple has removed the pressure of choosing a plan with a salesperson, or waiting at an AT&T store while they activate your new iPhone.

This makes a difference to buyers like Hancherenco.

The iPhone will be available exclusively through Apple's retail and online stores, and from local AT&T vendors.



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takes up most of the front of the device. Two thumbs can be used to type, and two fingers can pinch to resize a photo. Swiping or tapping with a finger makes a stylus unnecessary, and in fact, incompatible. Like the iPod's scroll wheel, the iPhone's screen requires a live finger.

The iPhone will have many features expected from a modern mobile phone, including caller ID, call holding, call merging



All in one

The iPhone is a combination cell phone, media player and wireless Web-surfing device.

- Offered exclusively by AT&T Inc.'s wireless division
- \$499 for 4 GB, \$599 for 8 GB
- Multi-touch sensitive screen
- 5 hr. (talk) and 16 hr. (audio playback) battery life
- 2.0 megapixel digital camera

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FEATURE



Photo courtesy of Cinder Road

Cinder Road leads to The Wedge

Sarah Sole

NEWS EDITOR

"We want the opportunity to play for everyone in the world," Mike Ruocco, lead singer of Cinder Road said. "The only way you're gonna do that is if you hit the road."

Coming off a two-month tour with American Idol runner-up Chris Daughtry, Ruocco and his fellow band members will get a chance to play for local audiences when they stop by The Wedgewood Entertainment Center in Austintown July 3.

Ruocco said he wants Cinder Road to move from the realm of indie bands into the mainstream collection of household names.

With the band's first single "Get In Get Out" released and their album debut planned for July 19, Cinder Road seems to be off to a pretty good start.

Ruocco and neighborhood friends formed a band called Plunge in 1995. Eventually adding two new members, the band recently changed its name to Cinder Road: Chris Shucosky on guitar, Nat Doegen on bass, Mac Calvaresi on drums, Pat Patrick on guitar and Ruocco on vocals and guitar.

"Music has been changing," Ruocco said. Often, trends last for several years, and he said that bands labeled as screamo, European hipster rock or rap rock usually have their own niches.

"We're just kind of a straight-up rock band," Ruocco said.

Defining the band's sound as, "old school rock with a new school twist," Ruocco said Cinder Road was heavily influenced by bands such as Def Leppard, Bon Jovi and Aerosmith.

"Just good old rock and roll music. I was really influenced by the whole 80s arena rock," Ruocco added.

Ruocco said the band feels most at home when they are out on the road, which has shown them the variety of venues and places on the U.S. touring circuit.

Playing on the road is more than just fun. "It really validates the hardships that we go through," he said.

Once, the tour bus broke down in Texas. "There's not exactly a bunch of tour bus mechanics hanging out looking for work," Ruocco said. The band ended up borrowing a hotel shuttle and later rented a minivan.

Ruocco cowrote the album's lyrics with producer Marti Frederiksen. Previously accustomed to writing by himself, Ruocco said the collaboration worked well. By the end, Ruocco said the duo could finish each other's sentences. He even compared his writing partnership to John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

Admitting that he is not much of a poet, Ruocco said his lyrics describe relationships, love and love lost. "My songs talk about everyday life experiences," he said. "That's what makes songs believable in life, when you truly feel it."