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Youngstown, Ohio

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### A DECEMBER TO REMEMBER



Sarah Thompson / The Jambar

**HONORING VICTIMS:** Ann Inge, senior, visual arts and education, decorates a tree outside of Kilcawley Center in the warm winter weather for Columbian Southside Middle School. Seventh- and eighth-graders picked "patriotic penguins," according to Inge, who student teaches at the school, in order to honor the fallen victims of the events of Sept. 11. Students printed victims' names on the ornaments.

## Mid-year tuition hike approved

By VALERIE BANNER  
Jambar Editor

It's official. The YSU Board of Trustees voted Tuesday at a special board meeting to raise tuition for spring semester by 5.5 percent, which means \$120 for a full-time student.

But members of the administration and the board said they do not expect this to be the only tuition increase in the near future and also considered other ways of coping with future cuts.

During a lunch meeting of the Finance and Facilities Committee, board members discussed the likelihood of raising tuition again in the fall.

They said they are expecting more budget cuts from the state, which is why some trustees were hesitant to approve this size of tuition increase.

They were also considering a tuition increase that would amount to \$60 more next semester.

Mollie McGovern, student trustee, said she thought students would rather have a larger tuition increase at once,

instead of spreading out several smaller ones.

"If we raise it \$60, then I think we're almost guaranteed to raise it again," said McGovern at the committee meeting.

Larry Esterly, trustee, disagreed.

"I think we're guaranteed anyway," he said.

Trustees were discussing the possibilities of laying off employees if the state makes further budget cuts. Several trustees questioned why the cuts haven't affected employment.

They said most businesses lay off workers when they lose money.

University President Dr. David Sweet, however, was visibly agitated by the suggestion.

"We have budgeted positions, and we're not filling them.

"That creates pain in a university," he said. "It's not as blatant as putting someone on the street, but it shows pain."

Budget cuts won't affect  
Rec Center. Page 2

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Jewel is headed the right way with her CD. Page 6.

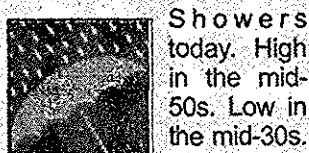
### Sports

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Dr. Dale Harrison says goodbye to YSU as he moves on to Auburn University. Page 2.

## Weather



Showers today. High in the mid-50s. Low in the mid-30s. Partly cloudy Friday. High in the mid-40s. Low in the mid-30s. Cloudy on Saturday. High in the mid-30s. Low in the mid-20s. Partly cloudy Sunday. High in the mid-30s. Low in the mid-20s.

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## HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS, CONCLUSION OF A SERIES

### Festival of lights

By PATRECKA ADAMS  
Jambar Assistant Editor

Just after sundown, the festivities begin.

The family gathers together to light the menorah and say blessings. Children spin the four-sided top called a dreidel and may be rewarded with chocolates wrapped in gold paper called gelt.

The group sings songs and eats traditional foods.

The celebration concludes for the evening but will resume

again the next day at sundown.

The eight days of Hanukkah serve to commemorate the Jewish people's victory over the Syrians in 165 BCE. This year's celebration begins Sunday.

Rabbi Joseph Schonberger, instructor, religious studies, said the overall theme of Hanukkah crosses racial and ethnic lines.

"Hanukkah has a universal theme. It teaches the importance of religious tolerance and freedom," he said.

Schonberger added that the "success of Hanukkah represents the ability of a small

group to survive against a superpower."

While each event of Hanukkah is important, the lighting of the menorah is by far one of the most symbolic of the holiday, said Joy Elder.

Elder has been a volunteer librarian at the Schwartz Judaica Library at the Jewish Community Center in Youngstown for nearly 30 years.

The menorah is the lamp used to hold the nine candles of Hanukkah. Eight candles represent each day of Hanukkah, and there's a mid-

See HANUKKAH, page 2

### Wiccans explain holiday

By LA'EL HUGHES  
Jambar Reporter

A group of six holds hands as it channels its energy into candles.

The high priestess appears and gives a speech that rejoices in the news that the "God of the Sun" is back in the world and that dark and death have been turned into life and birth. This ritual is called Yule.

But not the traditional yuletide caroling that most people think of - this Yule is celebrated Dec. 21 by people who study Wicca.

Nicole Wallace, freshman, art and technology, is a high priestess for a group of students at YSU that practices a religion known as Wicca, which is a combination of Celtic Druidism and Ceremonial Magic.

Wallace said Wiccans celebrate Yule as a replacement for Christmas. The ritual is usually held at the high priest's house.

"Spells can be cast during this time," said Wallace.

Usually, a Wiccan's personal energy can be channeled into a candle; the energy would include his or her personal desires or prayers for a loved one. Wallace compared it to lighting a candle for the

See WICCANS, page 2

## Christians embrace diverse celebrations

Christmas traditions take different forms.

By VALERIE BANNER  
AND PATRECKA ADAMS  
Jambar Editors  
LA'EL HUGHES  
Jambar Reporter

With temperatures hovering in the 60-degree range, it doesn't seem like Christmas is approaching.

But Athena DiIullo said her grandmother has already started baking Christmas cookies.

"I just called my grandma, and she started baking today,"

said DiIullo, junior, English. "She starts baking now, and she freezes what she can. We bake tons of cookies, and we give them to neighbors and friends."

She said she gets to have two Christmases because Greek Christmas usually falls a couple weeks after Dec. 25. The Greek Christmas celebration is Jan. 7, 2002.

For most Christians, the December holiday conjures up images of cookies, family, Santa, the nativity, Christmas

trees and lots of food. But every family has its own unique celebration.

For DiIullo's Greek family, the celebration includes ethnic food, such as lamb instead of turkey or ham, and bastichio, a type of Greek lasagna. She said they also eat baklava, finikia and kourabadis for dessert.

Dr. Daniel Ayana, assistant professor, history, also celebrates an ethnic Christmas. He is originally from Ethiopia.

See CHRISTIAN, page 4

## Teacher ratings prove serious

Faculty evaluations are an important part of curriculum, deans say.

By ROBERT DEFRANK  
AND TIFFANY BOGDA  
Jambar Reporters

YSU students recently filled out the student evaluations of faculty, rating their instructors' teaching styles. Although the evaluations are designed to compile honest opinions, some students don't take them very seriously.

"I only circle Bs; I don't think anyone really cares," said Bob Mackey, freshman, telecommunication.

Nicholas Daniel, sophomore, art and technology, said "They're only good for the teachers you hate." He said he would definitely write in the comment section. He said he has been planning his comments about one particular teacher for months.

According to Dr. Jack Yemma, Dean, College of Health and Human Services, student evaluations of professors shouldn't be taken lightly.

He said, "Students should take them very seriously. They have a lot of say so. It's an honest tool, and if students don't, it's a detriment to themselves."

See RATINGS, page 4

# Journalism professor says goodbye to YSU

By HENRY GOMEZ  
Jambar Assistant Editor

Getting ready to sit down for an interview to discuss his departure next week from YSU, Dr. Dale Harrison makes the mistake of walking through The Jambar newsroom.

Though it's a walk he's made countless times as director of journalism and a former adviser to the student newspaper, on this day, Harrison is particularly in demand. Students and staffers seek advice on contests and story ideas, realizing it could be their last chance to pick the associate professor's brain.

But after fielding questions from students he says he has advised and befriended over the last five and a half years, Harrison took a smoke break to reflect on his time at YSU and discuss his feelings about his new job - director of journalism at Auburn University in Alabama.

He said he'll miss his colleagues and the students - though the students, he said, leave him every year at graduation.

And he said that despite the problems he's had with administration along the way, his decision to leave is really just a matter of what's best for his family.

"They met all my requests, rather unexpectedly, and made me an offer I couldn't refuse," he said of the people at Auburn.

Harrison said his telephone call from Auburn last summer came as a surprise, but it wasn't his first contact with the university. Harrison said that two years ago he was "on the market" - not tenured as a professor and looking for a new job. He said his frustrations with problems between faculty and administration led to his job search. Although he was turned down by Auburn at the time, two other schools made offers, Harrison said.

"But it looked like things were going to improve," he said. "When it came time to make the decision, I didn't think it was bad enough to leave."

He would later go on to serve as vice president of the YSU-OEA faculty union, saying the experience allowed him a chance to get involved.

"I decided I wanted to be a part of solving



"In comparing the jobs, workload here is a huge problem. That affected my decision big time."

— DR. DALE HARRISON  
Director, Journalism

some of the problems," Harrison said.

He said both professional and personal reasons factored into his decision to take the Auburn job. He said that with only two full-time instructors in the journalism

department, student needs are not being met. "In comparing the jobs, workload here is a huge problem," Harrison said. "That affected my decision big time."

He also said the move allows him to be closer to his parents, and with the increase in salary, his wife, Dr. Megan Isaac, an associate professor of English at YSU, can take some time off to be with their infant son, Nathan.

Journalism students at YSU, whose major was approved by the Ohio Board of Regents last summer, expressed disappointment with Harrison's decision to leave a program they say is starting to show signs of strength.

"It's awful," said junior Chad Christy. "I think the quality of the program will definitely decrease. It's a shame we just got [the approval] and now a strong member of the faculty is leaving."

Other students said Harrison was more a friend than a professor.

"Well, considering the fact that Dale Harrison has had a large influence on me, I'm sad about it," junior Michael Balala said. "When I was a freshman, he encouraged me to change my major. No professor ever tried to help me before. He'd do anything to help."

Harrison said he understands he is leaving a program that is building strength but said that is another reason why he feels comfortable leaving it.

He said the trick for a future director and future faculty will be to recruit students who show an interest for journalism.

"When I started in 1996, there was one person in the program. Today, there are around 80 [students]," Harrison said. "[The program] has got a great foundation."

Dr. Gary Salvner, chair, English, said the department will miss Harrison.

"It's going to be very, very hard to replace a Dale Harrison," Salvner said.

"Without him, we would not have a rich journalism program."

## Rec center not affected by cuts

By BONNIE BODNAR  
Jambar Reporter

Budget issues are dominating recent and upcoming board meetings, and tuition hikes are on the table for discussion.

Nonetheless, University President Dr. David Sweet and Student Trustee Jeff Parks say they are confident the Recreation and Wellness Center plans will not get disregarded.

Some students said they are not so optimistic and said they are worried budget cuts and the current economic condition will halt or dramatically slow the progress of the rec center.

Katie Kurth, freshman, psychology, said that since the state is cutting funding to universities, the rec center seems like a large project YSU can't handle at the present time.

Parks and Sweet said they think student concerns about the financial situation as well as concerns that imply plans are not going on at all have some validity. Both said work is going on behind the scenes.

Parks said, "There are a lot of nitty-gritty plans going on, but I am confident the plans will and are moving forward." Sweet said, "We are currently in the quiet phase of fund raising. I am going out meeting one-on-one and talking about the rec and wellness center."

The president said he couldn't deny that the economic situation has hindered the effort.

But, he said he is still optimistic for construction of the center because it is an impor-

tant priority for the betterment of the university.

Also in response to student concerns, Parks stated that in recent YSU Board of Trustee meetings questions of budget cuts did arise.

Sweet also said that while the attention of the board may be focused on current budget issues, plans for the rec center's construction is still going on.

Parks said he thinks President Sweet is also very committed to the project. Sweet said he will be bringing alternative funding suggestions to the board in upcoming meetings.

Sweet did confirm that work for the center is indeed still going on. He said he is exploring private funding for the center, and he said the private donations will hopefully cover the cost of the construction.

In turn, students who voted to assess themselves a fee for the center will then pay for the operating costs.

He also said he is confident private donations will drive down the cost of the assessment fee.

According to Sweet, part of his funding strategy is to find as many individuals as possible to invest in this project.

He said he thinks the project will be successful due to the receptiveness of potential investors.

He said he thinks the university has a strong core of financial supporters who understand the importance of the Recreation and Wellness Center as well as the importance of YSU to The Valley.

## SAE raises money for charity

The Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity collected over \$1200 in five days, which it used to purchase toys and other supplies for children of the Sojourner House, which is located at an undisclosed location.

The local charity provides a safe, anonymous place for woman and children who are the victims of domestic violence.

SAE finished a week-long community service fund raiser to raise awareness about domestic violence by setting

up an informational table on the first floor of Kilcawley Center.

Students were able to pick up informational packets about domestic violence and donate any sum of money to help the women and children of the charity.

Vice President of SAE, Scott Minadeo, sophomore, mechanical engineering, said the fraternity would like to thank the students and staff, as well as the community for helping to make the fundraiser a success.

## Global terrorism topic of forum

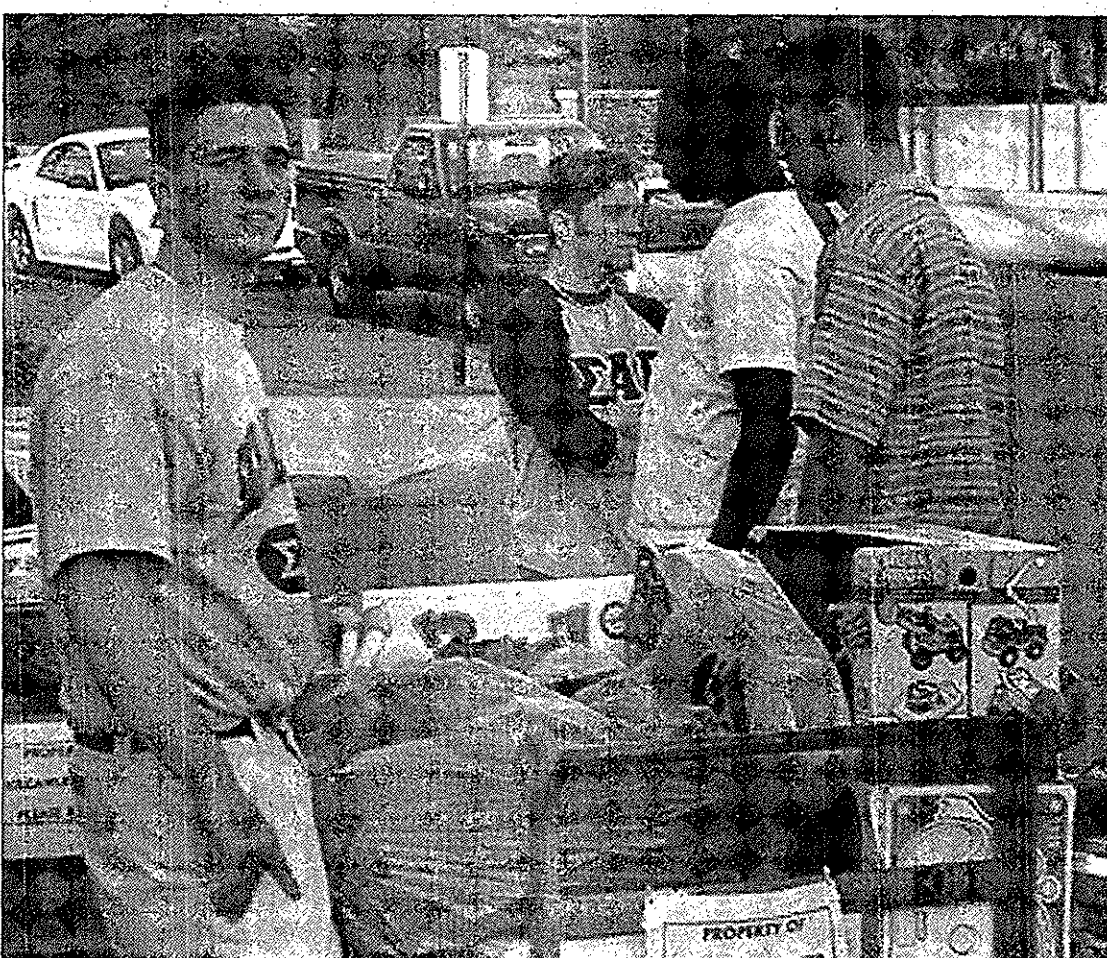
The fourth annual forum on Global Terrorism and the U.S. Response will be held on 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. today at Kilcawley Center's Resnahan Suites.

The program, which is held at discussions and demonstrations regarding Sept.

11, is free and open to the public.

The discussion will feature Diana Fagan and Chet Cooper of the Department of Biological Sciences; Keith Lepak and David Porter, political science; and Col. Roderick Hosler, military science.

## GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY



Anthony Mitzel / The Jambar

**'TIS THE SEASON:** Members of the SAE fraternity load up the toys they collected during their fundraiser to support women and children of the Sojourner House.

## HANUKKAH, continued from page 1

dle candle, or Shamash, that lights all the other candles.

"The candles are placed in the menorah from right to left, but they are lit from left to right," she said.

"It's symbolic of the oil that was supposed to burn for only one day but burned for eight days."

The event Elder spoke of is when the Jews defeated the Syrians, they went to rededicate the Temple in Jerusalem, which they had defiled. The Syrians discovered there was only enough oil to light the menorah for one day.

However, the lamp continued to burn for eight days, which is where the eight days of Hanukkah comes from.

"Hanukkah is symbolic of the Jewish people fighting

against oppression," she said.

Elder also said though each Jewish family celebrates Hanukkah differently, in each celebration the menorah is lit, blessings are said and traditional foods are eaten.

Some of those foods are latkes, or potato pancakes fried in oil and dipped in applesauce or sour cream, and sfganiyot, or hole-less jelly doughnuts.

Elder said Hanukkah is not a major holiday like Rosh Hashanah or Passover.

He said it is still celebrated by Jewish people around the world in many alternative ways.

Both Schonberger and Elder said people need to remember that Hanukkah is a holiday separate from

Christmas and that one has nothing to do with the other.

"Hanukkah is not Christmas for the Jews," said Elder. "Sometimes it comes at Christmas time, but other times it doesn't."

Shonberger said gifts are given at Hanukkah but that it is more of a "function of family" than a necessity.

"Gift giving began so the kids wouldn't get left out. It's become part of the embellishment of Hanukkah."

"It just doesn't have the priority that Christmas has," he said.

Schonberger added that Hanukkah, which means "dedication" in Hebrew, is a time for families to come together and rededicate themselves to their beliefs.

## WICCANS, continued from page 1

spirit of a loved one in the Catholic church.

Wiccans may pray for personal desires to be answered or pray for a friend or someone in their family. Wallace said material possessions are usually not asked for.

Wiccans make food sacrifices to the Watch Towers during the Yule ceremony.

The Watch Towers are supposed to represent the elements of the Earth.

The food sacrificed includes thick, plain cookies with little taste and hot apple cider or wine.

Wiccans are not allowed to eat meat or heavy food before the Yule ritual so their bodies can channel energy.

Wallace said the Wiccans believe in one god who has multiple representations.

"We do not believe in multiple deities but different aspects of God."

"During Yule, God is represented by the king, 'Re-Risen Child of the Sun,' and the 'Oaken' king. The goddess is represented by the 'Mother,' which means full moon, and the 'Crone,' which means old lady," she said.

Wallace said the name of the god and goddess depends on the fullness of the moon.

Black, heavy cotton hooded robes are worn, but it is only by preference.

To add a twist, Wallace said white robes may be worn this year. However Wallace said,

"A lot of people think that wearing black robes is negative, but it is not."

One element that Wallace said their holiday tradition has in common with all others is the fellowship that they share during Yule.

# Students provide a helping hand

By LARISA PIWTORAK  
Jambar Reporter

Peanut butter, spaghetti sauce and cereal, canned veggies, tuna and soup, all in huge cardboard boxes piled high and almost touching the ceiling.

This is what many YSU students saw during the tour of Second Harvest Food Bank. Even with busy lives, students at YSU have found time to volunteer.

According to Rebecca Martinez, director of resource development at Second Harvest, YSU students have served the food bank in many ways in recent months.

Martinez encourages peo-

ple to volunteer because "there are plenty of people in The Valley who are hungry; lots of people still work minimum wage jobs," she said, adding that "donations to us are fully tax-deductible."

Second Harvest is a non-profit organization that redistributes food to about 200 agencies and organizations in the Tri-County area.

These agencies then provide food for the hungry in the community.

Exercise science majors Tony Candel, junior; Jason Groves, senior; and Kelsey McClelland, junior; all took part in a food drive held by the Physical Educator's Club.

Candel said the events of

Sept. 11 inspired the club to do something to help.

He said that once the food drive got going, members of the club realized that people don't just need help during a national tragedy - that there are also plenty of needy people in the community all of the time.

McClelland, who organized the drive, said if for one day people put volunteering at the top of their lists, great things could happen.

"Nobody can say they're too busy to bring one can," said McClelland. "Any excuse [not to volunteer] is a poor excuse."

Candel said the club is also planning to help paint the

walls at Second Harvest's warehouse in December.

Martinez said the talent of the students at YSU could really benefit the food bank.

Centurian Vice President Matt Banjo, junior, accounting, said, "The Centurians volunteer their time at the food bank on the second Friday of every month."

He said Centurians perform different duties at the food bank depending on what needs to be done on that given day.

Anyone interested in volunteering at Second Harvest can call (330) 783-1122 or stop in.

They are located at 1122 E. Midlothian Blvd. in Youngstown.

# Editorial & Opinion

## What We Think SG should pay organizations for blood drive

Give blood. Get money.  
Student organizations on campus said that is the promise Joe Long, Student Government president, made to them.  
The Alpha Zeta Deltas, Centurians and University Scholars said their organizations donated the most blood during the YSU blood drive, and that means they have won the contest.  
According to the groups, Long promised that the three top organizations donating blood would win cash prizes.  
Long said it was not a promise; it was just something SG was considering to make the blood drive successful.  
Long said he is afraid certain organizations like Tongzi, formally known as LGBT, or the International Students would be upset since under Red Cross stipulations, some members of those clubs cannot donate blood.  
Since the organizations that donated the most blood say a promise is a promise and they were counting on the cash prizes, they should get the money.  
Long's proposal was obviously convincing enough for so many people to take him seriously. Then SG should pay up and give the organizations their money.  
We understand it is not fair for all those other organizations that were unable to participate in the blood drive. But SG should have thought about that before suggesting the contest.  
Next year SG should set guidelines for the contest. As for now, its time it follows through with its original proposal.  
We think it is too late to go back on your word now.  
You should not convince groups to participate in a contest funded by SG, then decide not to go through with the payment.  
You may have just made a mistake in not explaining your self better, but that's not anyone's fault but your own.

## EDITORIAL CARTOON



## Letters to the Editor

### Increased tuition: Who will pay?

Editor:

Ah, registration — a crazy and expensive time for any college student. After 85 percent of YSU students finalized their spring schedule, they heard some news they did not want to hear: A \$3 million cut from a state that is already ranked 43rd in the nation for higher education funding, leaving the YSU Board of Trustees no other alternative but to raise tuition.  
What a surprise! Tuition is raised once again! I know the board had no choice but to do this, but now it will be even harder for people to be able to afford a good education.  
During the Vietnam Era, the Montgomery GI bill gave the opportunity to many children of World War II veterans to be able to go to college. At that time it was the highest rate of students in colleges and universities in the United States.  
Currently, 18 percent of the U.S. population has a college degree or better, 13 percent of Ohio's population, and 8 per-

cent of Youngstown's population (Youngstown Chamber of Commerce) while 99.9 percent of the population of Japan has a college degree or better.  
We hold the most powerful nation in the world status, but did we attain and keep that status because we have a strong military, or can we say that knowledge is our power?  
These days it seems like the only way you can guarantee to have money for a college education from the government is if either you or your parents belong to the military.  
Quite often we see Armed Forces recruiters linger in the halls of Kilcawley Center looking for the next Colin Powell and guaranteeing that you will be set for a college education.  
Does this mean I have to join the Army now? That is the message the governor seems to be sending. I understand that you can study hard and attain a scholarship, but not everyone was in the top 10 percent of his or her class.  
YSU is a commuter school, and most, if not all of us work

to make ends meet and pay for our education.  
Not all of us are able to join the military. I know that the military is the pride of our country, and I have my freedom because of them, but is it fair to the people who join only because they want to go to school, knowing that this is their only way?  
As we all try to dig deeper into pockets that already have holes from the last tuition increase, think for a second, what can you as an adult, someone who has the legal right to vote, do about this?  
The answer is simple, we voted our officials in office, and we can just as easily vote them out.  
The state elections will be held this spring; will you exercise your right to vote and care about who is running the government that you live under? That will remain to be seen a few months from now.  
Angela Chasebi  
Student Government  
Secretary of University Relations

### Bidding farewell to prof, friend

Jambar Staff

The day Dr. Dale Harrison walked into The Jambar office and asked us into the conference room, we knew it couldn't be good news.  
The look on his face was enough to tell us he was having a hard time breaking the news to us.  
Harrison told The Jambar staff he would be leaving YSU for a new position at Auburn University.  
After all the congratulations and smiles, tears soon followed.  
There isn't enough we can do to repay this man for everything he has brought to this university, to The Jambar and to our lives in general.  
This professor did everything from advising, teaching to even analyzing our dreams. He could read us like a book.  
If something was bothering any one of his students, he knew how to make us feel better.  
The relationship many of his students had with him was not a normal student/teacher relationship. It was always a relationship between friends, and that's exactly what he is to all of us.  
We will miss you, Dale. Take care, good luck, and never forget all the little people you left behind because we sure won't forget you.  
We are proud of all your accomplishments and hope you are just as proud of all of us.  
There's one suggestion we want to give all the Auburn students: Watch out for flying chalk and flying Pez. Your day will come when you'll have to dodge those suckers.

**Write for  
The Jambar.**  
**Call (330) 742-1989.**

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VALERIE BANNER Editor in Chief	AMANDA SMITH Web Editor in Chief	The Jambar is published twice weekly during fall and spring semesters and weekly during summer sessions. The first copy of The Jambar is free; each additional copy is 5 cents. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press All-American honors.
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### Racism is racism, says resident

Editor:

A few friends of mine were recently kicked out of this fine school for having racial propaganda hanging on the door. As I take a walk down any dormitory hall, though, it seems there are still racial propaganda and slander hanging on the walls and doors.  
It is the slander against Osama bin Laden and all the "terrorist" Muslim people. How is this any different from what the two college freshman who were kicked off of campus were displaying?  
People may find the Osama bin Laden "cartoons"

funny, but there are still some people who find the same cartoons offensive.  
If YSU feels that any racism, even in jest, is ill manner and improper, why does it allow this bashing of the Arabian race?  
Is this fair? Is this defacing of the Arabian race right? I guess in the eyes of YSU it is. I guess in the eyes of YSU, prejudice and racism is only wrong when a large number of people are offended.  
YSU frowns upon the displaying of the swastika, but it doesn't frown on the displaying of hate messages toward the Arabian race. I'm not saying that displaying the Nazi

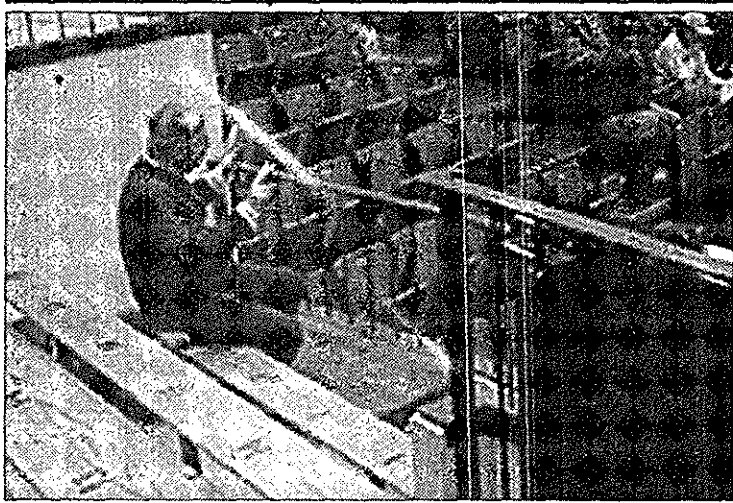
symbol is OK to do, but it shouldn't be OK to show Osama bin Laden being blown up or targeted by a sniper.  
YSU is a bit inconsistent with its views on racism and prejudice. It's as though YSU doesn't care about what offends few people, rather, what offends more.  
What YSU doesn't realize is that no matter the size of the prejudice and racism, it still is prejudice and racism. And yes, racism was the reason for two freshmen being kicked out of YSU.  
Tony Chopcinski  
Freshman  
Sports medicine

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU . . .

Write a letter to the editor.

Be sure to include your name, rank, major and phone number.

**SUPER FAN, continued from page 8**



Gina Amerol/The Jambar

**POSITIONED IN HIS PERCH:** Super Fan sits for a moment as he watches the action below him on the basketball court.

Enter the year 1988, the Youngstown Pride team of the World Basketball League, a group of statisticians, and Bartholomew sitting in the stands of Beeghly Center.

Arms waving, signals flashing, his presence grabbing the attention of every fan.

With tight gym shorts pulled over his pants, he wore his traditional sweat suit and occasionally a flowing red cape. Back then, his features were more menacing. He had a mass of dark gray hair, overgrown and frizzy. His beard was long, straggly at the ends, and it covered a large portion of his face.

He started being noticed. Fans paid attention to his unique mannerisms, his odd choice of clothing.

From 1988 to 1992, the Youngstown Pride basketball team used Beeghly Center as its home venue. Bartholomew was there for almost every game.

"I went to 100 straight games," he said.

A group of statisticians for the Pride took sight of him in the stands. They watched his antics and grew intrigued. They invited Bartholomew to tailgate with them before basketball games, and he joined them on their nightly trips to Inner Circle Pizza. He became part of their entourage of friends, and they soon 'adopted' him as one of their own. But they had to give him a name.

Superbubbaruski? They tried it, but that name didn't quite catch on.

There was one name that seemed fitting, one that embodied everything he represented to everyone around him - Super Fan.

This group of seven men started to understand. Despite what many others thought about Super Fan, they learned that he wasn't harmful, he

didn't do drugs and he wasn't an alcoholic.

Among these statisticians was Joe Conroy, YSU's current head volleyball coach. His involvement with Super Fan went above and beyond what anyone could ever imagine. Conroy dedicated his time, his money and his heart to Super Fan.

While other people looked at Super Fan as a strange, peculiar man, Conroy saw a person who was misunderstood. Others saw Super Fan's eccentric clothing, his tousled appearance and his unconventional habits. Conroy saw someone who needed help. He saw a friend.

"People want to classify him in a certain social class just because of how he looks. I think his appearance was a self-defense mechanism to make people stay away from him," Conroy said. "When people get a chance to meet him, they love him."

With his kindness, Conroy changed Super Fan's life in many ways.

Every weekend, Conroy took him to buy groceries, made sure he was eating protein and vegetables, and he influenced him to quit smoking. He organized Super Fan's food stamps, helped him straighten up his apartment, drove up a list of goals and helped him earn his driver's license. He got him on the right medication, kept in contact with Super Fan's doctors and caseworkers and visited him during his stays at local mental institutes. Because of Conroy, Super Fan even had a place to go on the holidays.

"He wasn't eating right, he wasn't getting food stamps, and he had horrible hygiene," Conroy said. "His living space was a wreck and full of clutter. He would just flick cigarette butts all over the floor, and an empty space in his house was littered with cups."

During Conroy's time with Super fan he was able to learn more about his life before and immediately after the accident. He talked to caseworkers, doctors and family in order to piece together the history of John C. Bartholomew's transformation into Super Fan.

"He opened up to me the most, and he turned off the Super Fan around me," Conroy said. "People don't realize he was no different than anyone else until he was dealt an unfortunate circumstance, but he's dealing with it. Before the accident he was probably better off than most of us."

Although there are still some unknown details of Super Fan's life, it is certain that Conroy

gave him what he needed to cope with life after his accident. Conroy was right there with Super Fan, taking life with every step. When Super Fan needed structure in his life of disarray, Conroy was there with a list of goals. When Super Fan's apartment was unsuitable for living, Conroy came in with trash receptacles. When Super Fan's doctors needed someone to contact, Conroy was there with time and consideration. When Super Fan needed family, Conroy extended his home.

"I was just taking care of a friend, that's all. It's not about what I did for him," he said.

Greg Gulas, a friend of Super Fan and former statistician for the Pride, has known Conroy for 20 years.

"Joe has a heart bigger than Stambaugh Stadium. It really tugged at my heart to see him undertake the project of Super Fan getting everything that he deserved out of life," Gulas said.

During the same time he spent shaping Super Fan's life, Conroy married his wife and started a family. His time soon became filled with new obligations - his three children, work.

"After my first daughter was born, I told him it would be harder to spend time with him,"

Super Fan, whose real name is John C. Bartholomew, was born Oct. 13, 1954 and grew up in Youngstown. He attended Wilson High School and received his GED from South High School in 1966. Shortly after he served in the Army until being discharged in 1968.

In 1974, Bartholomew was in a tragic car accident on Market Street and Route 224. His now ex-wife and stepson were also in the car at the time. As a result of the accident, Bartholomew was hospitalized for a period of time and diagnosed with a severe mental disability.

For years to follow, Bartholomew's life was full of visits to institutions and prescriptions for wrong medications. His entire collection of possessions from his normal life in Las Vegas was all he had, but those were taken away from him when he needed to be institutionalized again.

In 1988, Bartholomew started attending Youngstown Pride basketball games, which were held at Beeghly Center. During this time, Bartholomew was officially given the name Super Fan, which was thought up by a group of statisticians for the Youngstown Pride.

Many fans, and even opponents, of the Youngstown Pride took notice of Super Fan's enthusiastic cheering and unique game-day attire. Soon he became a big part of the Youngstown Pride and was featured in newspaper articles and even sat in as a guest speaker on a local radio station.

During this time, Joe Conroy, YSU's head volleyball coach, tried to change Super Fan's life for the better. According to Conroy, it was a project he felt driven to do. He helped him straighten up his living environment, made sure he ate healthy foods and managed his financial and medical obligations. For eight years, Conroy befriended Super Fan and helped him eventually progress to the level of independence he currently enjoys.

These days, Bartholomew is on the right medication, has a strong enough prescription for his eyeglasses and carries out his daily activities on his own. Although signs of his illness are visible at times during conversation, Bartholomew carries out his life as normal as possible.



**SUPER FAN**  
in short

**RATINGS, continued from page 1**

Yemma said if a professor gets negative evaluations there are ways to improve his or her weak areas.

He said, "We work with them by mentoring and following the progress closely to help improve their weak areas."

Dr. Kram Khawaja, dean, College of Arts and Sciences, said these evaluations are useful in helping an instructor understand how his or her students have reacted to the class and the strengths and weaknesses of the instructor's teaching style.

"They reflect the students' thoughts," he said.

He said a problem with the evaluations is when students mark "agree" or "disagree" based on whether or not they find the subject interesting, or if they mark "disagree" instead of "not applicable" when a question doesn't deal with anything having to do with the class.

"It cuts two ways," Khawaja said.

He said the department chairs have more to do with reviewing the evaluations than the deans themselves; most questions regarding evaluation results are dealt with on that

level.

Carol Kordupel, human resources associate, said a professor's faculty evaluation results are one factor in deciding whether or not the faculty member will receive a promotion or tenure.

Dr. George McCloud, dean, College of Fine and Performing Arts, said he believes student evaluations of teachers are taken seriously. He said the main objective of the evaluations is to help the faculty and how students respond to them.

He said it's the faculty's responsibility to interpret the evaluations. "It's their responsibility to have constructive use of them," said McCloud. "It depends on whether they have taken advantage of them."

"Over the country, for the past 30 years, research over time has shown a positive effect, but it's not perfect - nothing is," he said. "It also depends if the faculty pays attention."

One key factor McCloud said is important to keep is regular communication.

He said, "It is important to keep dialogue going."

**CHRISTIAN, continued from page 1**

Ethiopians celebrate Christmas on Jan. 10.

Now that he lives in America, he said he mixes both traditions.

He said that in Ethiopia the decorations on the tree were "very bright with the affirmation of blackness."

He said the evenings there were very impressive because there was no electricity in the rural areas and the churches were lit with candles. Then people would carry those same candles home with them, and they would illuminate the streets for miles.

"This is my fondest memory from home," he said.

He said the Christmas feast varied according to class. The wealthy would eat lamb and chicken, and the less fortunate would eat beef. It was very common to eat green vegetables as a side, he said.

He said they didn't have desserts and they would usually drink honey wine after the meal.

The children drank weaker wine "so as not to intoxicate them," he said.

The gift exchange usually included books, clothing or cash.

"The books were given to students according to their studies," he said. "The less fortunate ones were forgiven if they could not give at this time. It was [the wealthy people's] obligation."

Kiyoshi Fish, senior, political science, said his favorite part of Christmas is buying gifts for other people.

"It teaches you to sacrifice your time and money for someone else," he said.

He said he goes to church no matter what day Christmas falls on.

On Christmas day, his family starts the day off by prayer. That night, they sing Christmas carols in their home.

He said he and his sister give each other a list of things they want and expect each other to buy at least one item from the list.

Fish said, "I think the true spirit of Christmas is that it's a time to look back over your life and be thankful for the things you do and don't have. In America we are blessed," he said.

He said this is a time to be even more grateful.

"So many soldiers and civilians are not able to celebrate Christmas because they are giving us the greatest gift that someone could receive," Fish said.

"They are giving their lives for us; so did Christ."

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## Campus Calendar

## Today:

**Crosswalk Ministries** will be holding "Thursday Night Live" at 8 p.m. in Peaberry's, Kilcawley Center. A night of Christian fun and fellowship. For more information contact Tim at (330) 480-6289 or email [mcvaytimothy@hotmail.com](mailto:mcvaytimothy@hotmail.com).

## Tuesday:

**The InterVarsity Christian Fellowship** is holding a Bible study from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in Room 2069, Kilcawley Center. All students and faculty are welcome. For more information contact John Angelis at [studentYSU@aol.com](mailto:studentYSU@aol.com).

**The Gaming Guild** is holding Anime Night from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. and from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. The 4 p.m. session will be held in Room 2057, Kilcawley Center. The 5 p.m. session will be held in Room 2000, Schwebel Auditorium, Mosher Hall. For more information contact James Seckler at (330) 534-4636 or e-mail [gantoris@earthlink.net](mailto:gantoris@earthlink.net).

## Sunday:

**The YSU hockey team** will play Slippery Rock at 7 p.m. at the Ice Zone in Boardman. Admission is \$2 for students. For more information visit [www.geocities.com/ysuhockey](http://www.geocities.com/ysuhockey).

## Help Wanted

FedEx Ground had openings in the Youngstown Terminal for part-time package handlers. To qualify you must be able to lift at least 50 pounds, work Monday through Friday or Tuesday through Saturday approximately 5 hours per day and have reliable transportation. The job requires loading and unloading package vans and trailers. We currently have two shifts available: 3 a.m. to 8 a.m., Tuesday through Saturday at \$8/hr., and 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday at \$7.50/hr. (with a raise after 90 days for both shifts.) We also provide TUITION ASSISTANCE for those enrolled in college. Call (330) 538-2287 for details. EOE/AA.

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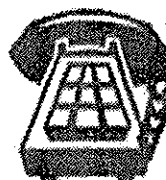
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# Arts & Entertainment

## 'Real World' is too predictable



By KELLY WALSH  
Jambar Editor

As many of you probably know, the season finale of "The Real World" aired Tuesday night. And while I am fanatical about the show (sadly, making it an absolute priority of my day), I cannot help in being disappointed.

The only thing the show seems to have going for it these days is that it's extremely addictive. But in reality, ten years of taping have been too many because the show has become all too predictable.

Because each character is chosen on the basis of what category he/she can be pigeonholed into, it is almost a given at the start of the season what changes the characters will go through.

Here is a list of the categories that I see the members of the house thrown into:

1. **The extremely sheltered and close-minded character:** This season, it was Mike, who, through his ignorance gave our state of Ohio a bad name. When the season started, he was so stuck in his privileged white-boy world that he had absolutely no clue that saying, "Black people tend to be slower because they have less education," was racist and offensive. But of course, as much as this angered viewers, they can expect a complete turn around in his attitude by the end of the season. That was exactly what happened.

2. **The typical spoiled brat who has trouble with independence:** Season 10 presented us with Rachel, whose natural ability of being annoying was only saved by her adorableness. She of course cannot think beyond the rules of someone more authoritative than herself — kind of like Amaya, from the Hawaii season. It was inevitable that by the end of the season, Rachel would find her voice and strength. Big surprise: She did.

3. **The entertainer of the past:** Last year David graced viewers with his clever lyrics, "Come on be my baby tonight." This year it was Lori, who seemed as if her only incentive for being on the show was to get a record contract. She dabbled with music

during the season, and that was that.

4. **The angst-driven characters:** Nicole and Coral fall into this category, but each has her own twist on it. Coral is the one who is vocal and stubborn with many of her opinions, which causes conflict in the house. Eventually she comes to understand where her other roommates are coming from and is able to approach them in a less aggressive manner. Nicole is also stubborn and needs to learn the value of compromise, but first she must look within herself. And of course, she did.

5. **The loveable big brother type that acts as a peacemaker:** This time there were two: Malik and Kevin. Malik kept to himself, which defines this type of character, and was generally pleasant to everyone. He got involved in the drama only when he was dragged into it, but he never initiated it. Kevin, too, was not involved in the drama. He always tried to make things work out smoothly among the housemates.

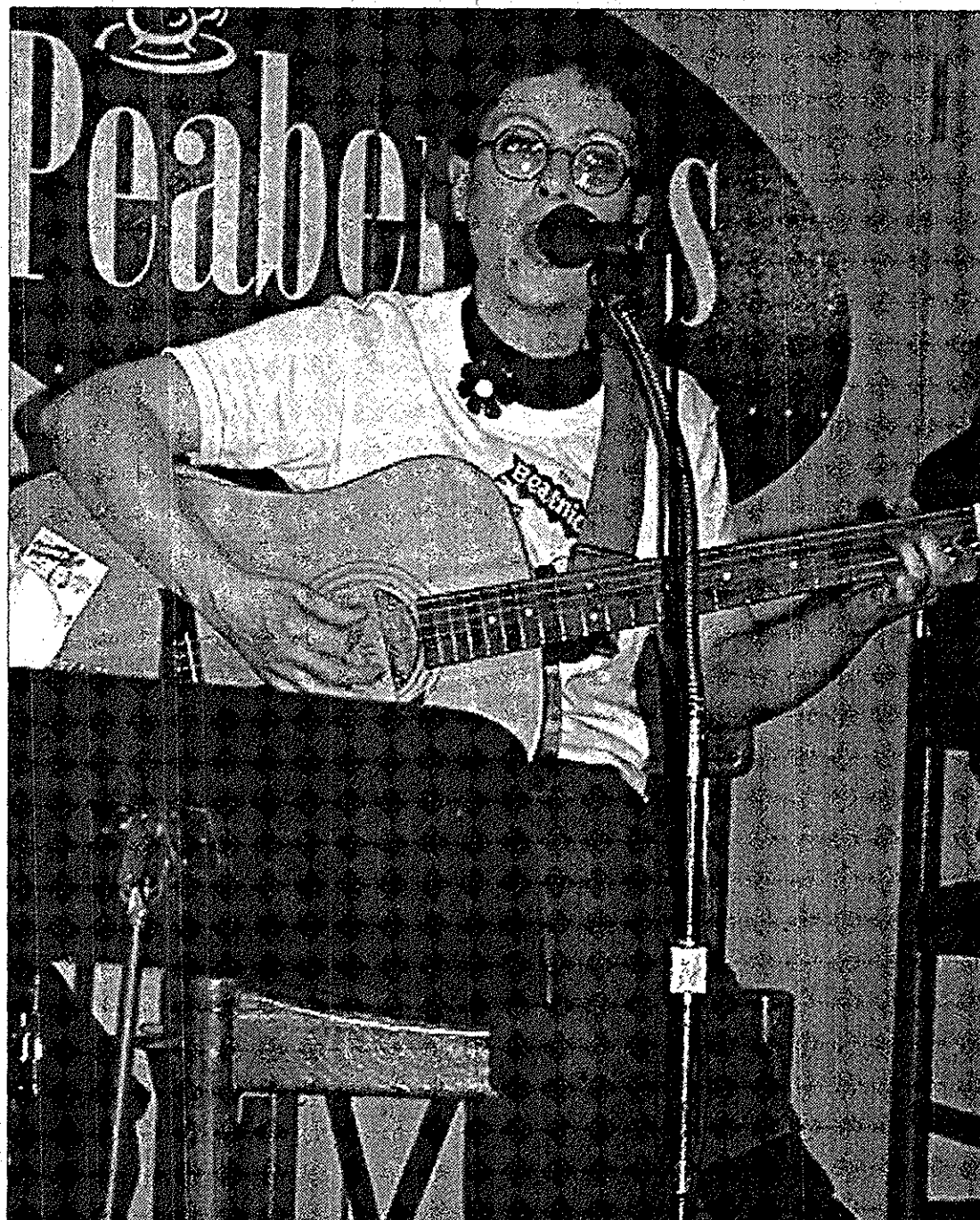
Although each season seems to have such similar characters that are absolutely predictable, the show has changed a lot since its first season and not for the better.

The original New York season was so much more real than the past four or five seasons. The absence of fancy camera angles, editing tricks and artistic shots added to the reality of the situation. The cast was not extremely pampered or given jobs or given trips. They lived with each other like normal people do in as normal living arrangements as possible.

And also, what's with this "Real World" online auction? Viewers (more fanatical than I) can log on to MTV's site and bid ridiculous amounts of money on items that were in the house. Isn't it just taking the whole thing a bit too far when a bouncy ball (worth at the most \$2) that the cast sometimes threw around is being auctioned at \$60? There is a single bowl signed by members of the house going for \$60. And I am sure the prices have gone up since the last time I checked.

MTV really needs to re-evaluate "The Real World." The things that have stayed the same on the show make it uninteresting, and the things that have changed are not for the better.

## BEATNICK BEATS



Rockin' Beatnicks

The Impopstar: Nick Blake and the Beatnick's graced Peaberry's stage at noon on Wednesday. They can be characterized as a being politically minded folk/punk rock band. In their own words, they have a "crazy mod sound." The band is made up of two girls and two guys, and Lees Ruoff is the female power behind the drums. **Pictured above is** Nancy Bizzarri who is the lead singer and writer. She is an alumni who studied art and English. **Pictured left** is Brian Allemen sings and also plays trombone. He is a YSU alumni who majored in music. The band is playing Dec. 15 at Dorian Book Books, 8-10 p.m. It will be an evening of music, poetry, movies and the band's special edible art called Eatnick.

## Events Calendar

**Thursday**  
Avalon Gardens Love Cake 8 p.m.

Avalon Inn Jeff Wachter, piano  
Cedars Swing night  
Cellar Retribution, Shattered Soul  
Choices Boogie Nights Live  
Club Leon's Gary Pirrung  
Nyabinghi Striking Lizaveta, Creta Bourzia  
Opus 21 Joe Augustine, piano  
Youngstown Crab Co. Big Daddy Revue (jazz)

**Friday**  
Avalon Inn Jeff Wachter, piano 7-10 p.m.

Cedars Geo C. and the Storm 10 p.m.  
Club Leon's Nevermind  
Frieda's Live Jazz  
Funny Farm Basile, Alex House  
Hot Rod Café Infinite Velocity  
Kuzman's Mike Roncone  
McMenamy's Guys Without Ties  
Nyabinghi Clock Eating Planet, Centrifuge  
Opus 21 Joe Augustine, piano 6-10 p.m.  
Roadhouse Café Jay Byrd (acoustic blues) 6 p.m.  
Royal Oaks The Noodge  
Rudy's Café Jay Byrd  
Salty Grog's Area 51

**Saturday**  
Avalon Inn Jeff Wachter, piano

Boomer's Carnival 10 p.m.  
Cedars Via Sahara 10 p.m.  
Frieda's Live jazz  
Hot Rod Café Barflies  
Kuzman's Bob Matasy, Staiduhar  
McMenamy's Guys Without Ties  
Mocha House Silent Lion 8-11 p.m.  
Nyabinghi Alabama Thunder Pussy  
Opus 21 Joe Augustine, piano 6-10 p.m.  
Roadhouse Café Jay Byrd

**Sunday**  
Avalon Gardens Cruise Control (jazz)  
Avon Oaks The Casuals 4-8 p.m.  
Mocha House Boardman Brent

## CD is good listen for fans

By PAUL MAUCH  
Jambar Reporter

Paul McCartney's new album *Driving Rain* gives listeners everything they have often from McCartney since the early sixties. Don't expect anything original from this album.

The success of this album depends on the McCartney and Beatles fans who will buy anything they put out.

Those fans are in for a treat with this album. Everyone else would do well to leave it alone or be disappointed.

The title track sounds like it came from a boy band that is going for a retro sound. "345 Let's go for a drive. 910 Let's go there and back in."

It does sound, though, that McCartney is having fun. Much is good, for him and fans. Just don't expect too much of this on the radio. *Driving Rain* seems to be a collection of songs McCartney wrote just for the fun of it that decided his fans might

enjoy and threw together.

The album does take a bit of a turn from the typical McCartney tone, which usual



**BEATLE MANIA:** Paul McCartney's latest album, *Driving Rain*, is a bit more pop than previous efforts.

ly tries to be happy and funny. *Driving Rain* seems like a tribute to his late wife, Linda McCartney, and praise for his girl friend, Heather Mills.

It is easy to tell he was

thinking of Mrs. McCartney while writing the songs.

The first track on the album, "Lonely Road" is a slightly dark song about dealing with the death of his wife.

He sings: "I tried to get over you. I tried to find something new. But all I could ever do. Was fill, my time. With thoughts, of you."

McCartney still keeps some of the elements that made the Beatles spokesmen for the pop culture movement of the sixties; such as, interesting views of the world, culture and life.

In "Tiny Bubble" McCartney relates the world to "a tiny bubble floating inside, the truth."

*Driving Rain* offers a look into the mind of rock 'n' roll's most accomplished artists and gives us a chance to see how some things can remain the same in a rapidly changing world.

*Driving Rain* has some great writing if you are into aging artists and music that carries on the traditions of sixties rock.

## Latest effort is enjoyable

By AMANDA RICHEY  
Jambar Reporter

Honest, sweet, spiritual. These are the three words that best describe Jewel's new album, *This Way*. Jewel fans everywhere have been eagerly awaiting the release of this new album since her last album, *Spirit*, was released in November of 1998. They will not be disappointed.

*This Way* is much like her other albums in that it has the same "down-home" feel to it. Many of the songs on the album are simple love songs that have that same "honest" sound that fans from previous albums have adored.

Her first song on the album and also her first single to be released from it is called "Standing Still." This song is

"undeniably Jewel." It is similar to what listeners are used to hearing of her but adds a little more rock influence than many of her songs from previous albums.

She does some other experimental things with her music as well. It is easy to hear a country influence in some of her new songs. This is pretty interesting because it sometimes mixes with, sometimes overrides the folk influences that she has used in previous albums. She uses just enough of a change to give her music an exciting new twist but not so much as to destroy the sound that her fans are used to.

Overall, the album is great. She mixes songs that were written recently with songs she wrote before she

made it big, back when she was living in her van, so you get a real feel for her as a performer and an artist but also as a person. After listening to the album you feel somewhat more complete.

The new CD also has some neat perks. You get two good songs recorded live on a bonus track. You also get a video of her recording a song, a photo gallery with some great shots, downloadable wallpaper and screensavers and a link to her Web site.

The album is fantastic. If you already are a Jewel fan, you will love it. If you are not a fan yet but think it sounds pretty good, check out her Web site at [jeweljk.com](http://jeweljk.com) where you can listen to audio samples from all the songs from her latest album.

## Sun sets on another Beatle

George Harrison, 58, passed away on Sunday after complications from cancer. Harrison achieved stardom with the revolutionary band, The Beatles.

Outspoken in regards to religious introspection and organizer of various humanitari-

an functions, (Aid to Bangladesh, etc) Harrison will be missed by Beatles fans and introspective people threw out the world and the family is saying that Mr. Harrison's ashes will be spread over the Ganges River. He leaves behind a wife and son.

# Tailback Mays named player of the year

By BJ Lisko  
Jambar Editor

Junior tailback P.J. Mays became the first player in YSU history to be named the Gateway Conference Offensive Player of the Year on Nov. 28.

Mays had a remarkable year for the Pens in their successful 8-3 season. He broke school records in rushing yards with 1,446, and in yards-per-game, averaging 131.5. He also became the first Penguin to rush for four touchdowns in one game against Indiana State since 1992.

He rushed for more than 200 yards three separate times, six times for more than 100 and his 83-yard touchdown scramble against Clarion is the third longest in school history.

In addition to his record-breaking statistics, Mays scored 22 total touchdowns on the year, ranking him third in the nation. For his career he ranks 12th nationally in rushing yards per game.

"P.J. showed this year that he was capable of playing at the highest reaches of this game," said Pens assistant coach Sam Eddy. "He sets the example other guys have to live up to."

Pens linebacker coach George Small, on the

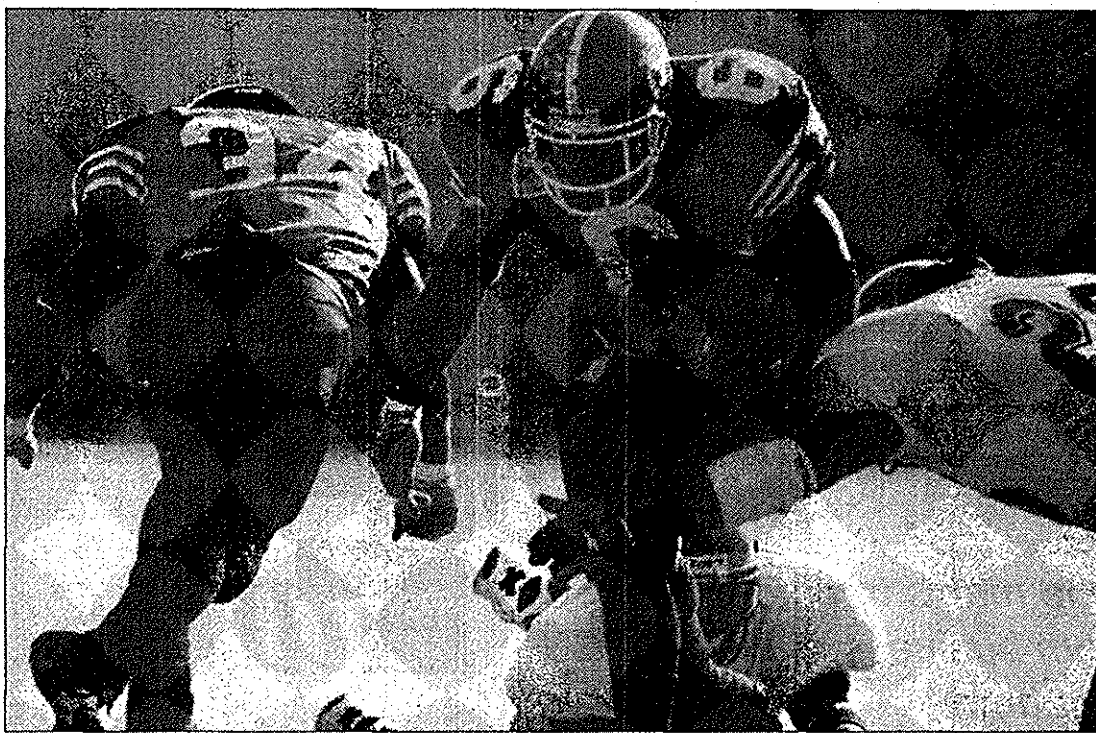
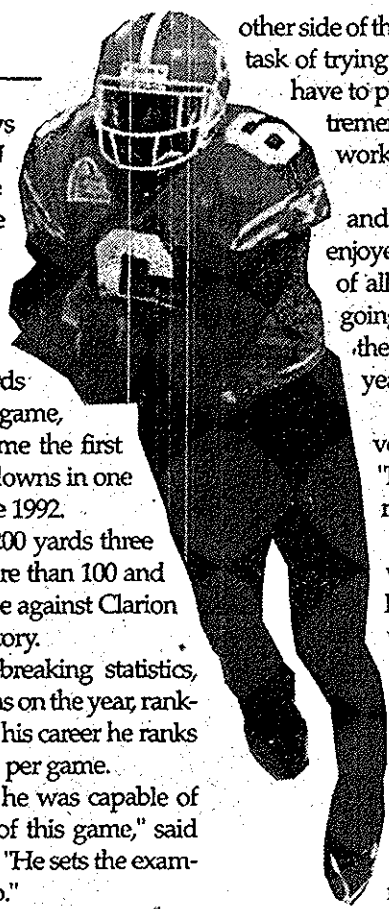
other side of the ball, was happy he didn't have the task of trying to contain Mays. "I'm glad I don't have to play against him," Small said. "He's a tremendous athlete with a tremendous work ethic."

On the field Mays dazzled crowds and bewildered opponents, but he enjoyed the behind the scenes action most of all. "Just playing with the guys and going to practices and meetings with all the seniors was the highlight of my year," said Mays.

"Despite all his success P.J. is a very humble person," said Small. "He's not a real vocal leader, but rather he leads by example."

Exclusion from playoff action was a major disappointment for the Pens this year, but Mays knows what it will take to be back in the hunt for next season. "We have to bring up the younger guys, take them by the hand, and do a great job in leading them on," said Mays.

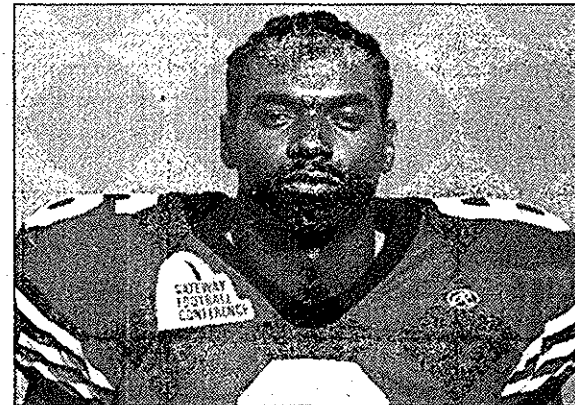
Penguin's fans look for another competitive season of football next year, and P.J. Mays will be right up front, leading the way.



Photos courtesy of Sports Information

### Break on through

P.J. Mays in action during the Penguins 2001 season. Mays was named Gateway Conference Offensive player of the year on Nov. 28.



# Not the typical flagline member

By JESSICA TREMAYNE  
Jambar Reporter

Watching the flag line, one would expect to see YSU banners flying high. One would expect the red and black colors waving in the wind as fans cheer on the Penguins. One would also expect to see these flags being carried by the usual female member of the line. In this instance, that's not the case.

The twelve members of YSU's flag line include Alan Spencer, freshman, undecided, from Champion High School. Fall semester marked Spencer's second year as a member of the line and sixth year as a flag line participant. As the only male member, he said he doesn't feel the least bit inhibited.

"I do the same routine as everyone else and put just as much into it as everyone else," Spencer said.

Despite stereotypes that speculate a male's role in a predominantly female venue, Spencer said he's just in it for fun.

"My older sister Mary was in flag line and told me how much fun it was. She was the main reason I joined," Spencer said. She was right; it's a lot of fun, and the energy it creates makes it that much better.

"The people involved in flag line make it exciting, Mr. Venesky is an awesome guy to be around and helps carry the energy," Spencer said. "Duana Sears,

[senior, secondary arts and flag line member], really helped to perfect my technique."

Those most attuned to Spencer's abilities made only positive comments about him.

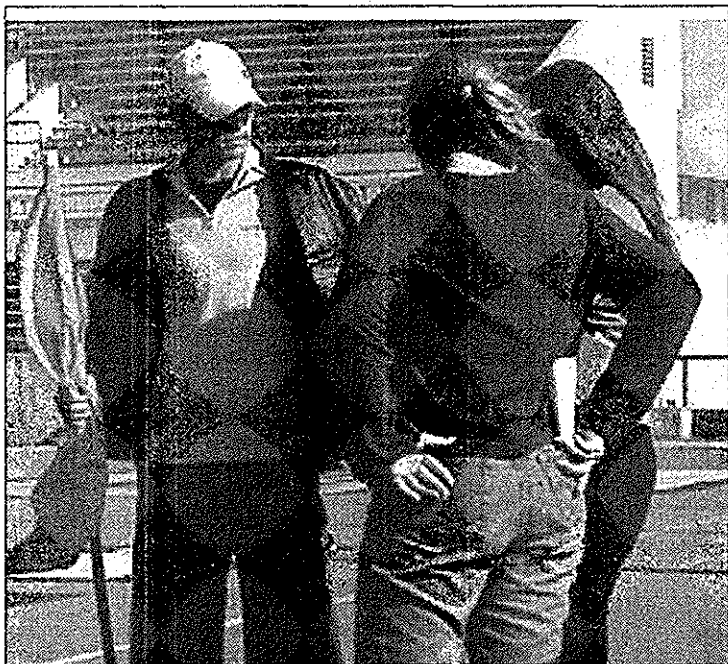
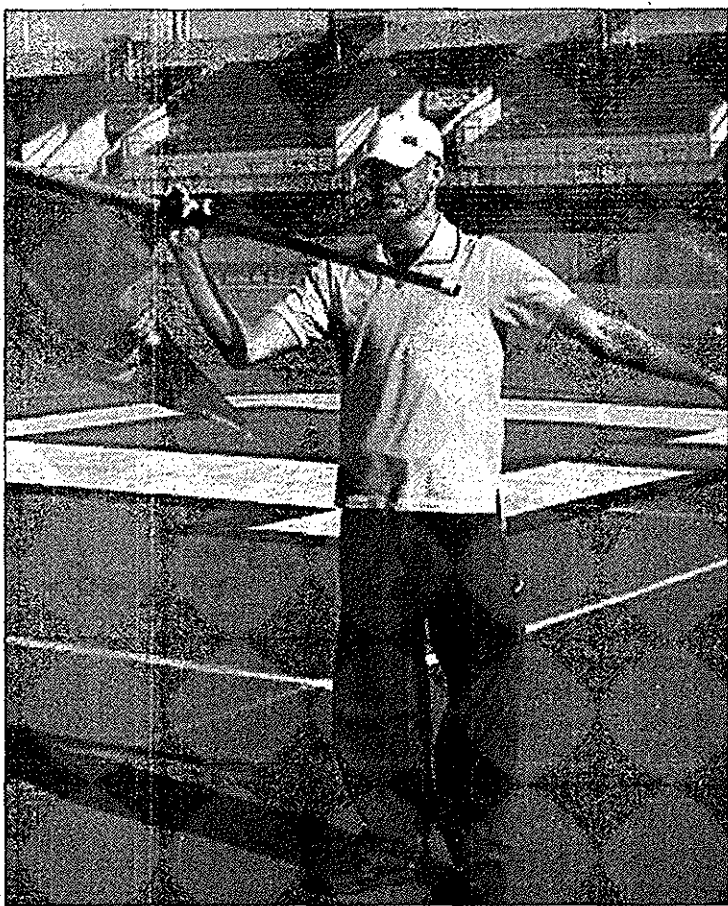
"Alan is one of the best twirlers I ever had," said Venesky, director of marching bands. "He is able to look beyond any stereotypes that say a male does not belong in a female dominated arena."

"He is so good at what he does that an onlooker wouldn't even think about him not belonging there, it's just natural," Venesky said.

There has not been other male members of flag line since Steve Gague, director of the marching band, came to the university. There was a male adviser for a few years, said Gague.

Venesky said, "We expect to have more male members of the line, but it is not as common in this area as other places. When we go to competitions, there are many male members of other teams. Many men compete in not only silks but auxiliary or rifle competitions as well."

Flag line competes for five hours a week, and they meet three hours before every game. Intense training has taken several of the line's members out for the year, which is why the team is so small this year. Perhaps next year's membership will be made larger with the addition of a few more male members.



Sarah Thompson / The Jambar

CARRYING THE FLAG: Alan Spencer defies stereotypes of only women being on the flagline.

# Penguin Sportswire

### Women's Basketball

Freshman Jen Perugini was named the Horizon League women's basketball player of the week, averaging 14 points and 17 rebounds in the Lady Pens last two contests.

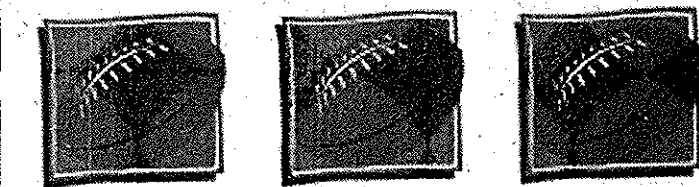
### Soccer

The YSU soccer team banquet was held last Sunday. Senior goalkeeper Christine Handte and junior forward Jessica Tait took home team MVP honors.

### Football

Linebacker Mike Thomas, Cornerback Antulio Aroche, linebacker Bob Sivik and center Dave Tesniarz earned Gateway conference academic honors this past week. Thomas was named first team with a 3.76 GPA in finance. Aroche was named second team with a 3.33 GPA in Pre-Med/Biology. Sivik and Tesniarz both earned honorable mentions.

Eleven total players were named to Gateway all conference teams, a Penguin record. Those named to the first team were P.J. Mays, Pat Crummley, Levar Greene, Bruce Highwater and Gerald Burley. Second team included, Jeff Ryan, Dave Tesniarz, Russell Stuvians and three more. The Pens earned honorable mentions.



**Football Lines** (favorite listed first)

College	10	Smis	Pro	7.5	49ers
TCU	3	Hawaii	Rams	5.5	Bears
BYU	6.5	LSU	Packers	5	Browns
Tennessee			Patriots	9	Lions
			Bucs	3.5	Cowboys
			Giants	7	Chargers
			Eagles	OFF	Cards
			Skins	9.5	Chiefs
			Raiders	6	Seahawks
			Broncos	5	Colts
			Dolphins		

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# Cisco Networking Academy Program at Youngstown State University

The Cisco Networking Academy Program is a partnership between Cisco Systems and Youngstown State University. Students learn to design, build and maintain computer networking systems. Successful graduates are prepared for industry-standard certifications, including Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) and Cisco Certified Network Professional (CCNP).

New CCNA Semester 1 classes begin Jan. 23 at the Eastwood Mall.

CCNP classes begin in February 2002 at the YSU Main Campus.

For complete information including times, locations, length of training and program costs, please call Christine Domhoff at (330) 742-2847 or send e-mail to cisco@cc.yosu.edu



Additional information can be found at:

<http://cisco.yosu.edu>



# Sports & Recreation

THE MAN, HIS METHODS AND HIS MAGIC

## A Super Fan Story

One man's transformation from business man to a YSU cult hero

BY GINA AMERO  
Jambal Editor

From his designated perch in the northeast corner of Beeghly Center, Super Fan sat on a bleacher and slowly chewed his McDonald's hamburger. Each bite danced across his tongue and lingered between his gaps of missing teeth.

With the YSU men's basketball team on the court below him, Super Fan jumped to his feet and demonstrated his own skills, what he calls his "hocus pocus."

With his sandwich still in hand, he imitated a combination of simulated bowling moves and tennis swings. Then, in a slow, heavy motion, he raised his long arms above his head, hamburger still clenched tightly in his fist - and started to flash a series of numbers with his free hand, 2-1-2, 3-2-1.

Super Fan was sending a message to the players on the court. A secret signal.

His eyebrows straight and stiff, and his large, magnified eyes blinking under his prescription glasses, Super Fan looked as if he was removed from the rest of the world. He was concentrating, signaling, signaling. It was as if he was holding unspoken conversations with each individual who touched the ball.

Go for a foul shot.  
Double coverage.

As his words lingered over hamburger pieces still waiting to be swallowed, he said with a wide-mouthed smile, "You have to have enthusiasm. It takes a lot of spirit and gumption to get up here and cheer."

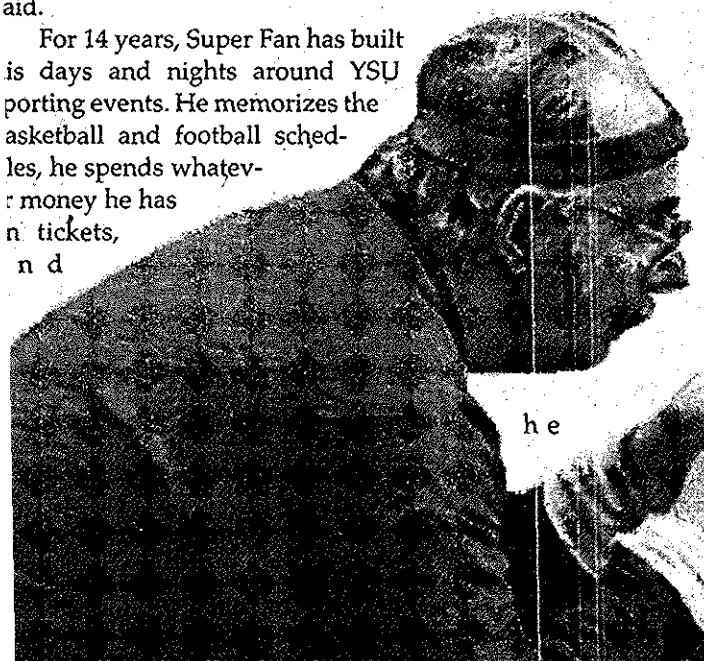
During basketball and volleyball games is when Super Fan is most easily spotted, brewing around in his roost, constantly keeping his hands and arms busy. His actions are like those of a nervous parent - pacing back and forth, nervously watching his or her child's performance.

At age 54, his motions are slow and controlled, perfected and precise, as if he's just going through the motions one more time. His wrists twist quickly - palms up, palms down - as his fingers lance and dangle with every signal he makes.

As the action increases on the court, his motions become aster and more dramatic. His arms sway and extend even farther, his hands move in exaggerated circular motions. He claps, he paces, he sits down, he stands up, he climbs up and down the next step in his small corner.

"Being Super Fan means to be a rooster," he said.

For 14 years, Super Fan has built his days and nights around YSU sporting events. He memorizes the basketball and football schedules, he spends whatever money he has on tickets, and



cares about each YSU player and coach.

"Sometimes, I feel like a player and a coach, but I always stay in the game at the Super Fan level," he said.

He hasn't changed much through the years - give or take 80 pounds. His traditional get-up includes a tight-fitting sweatshirt, matching sweatpants stretched to just below his kneecaps and white gym socks pulled to full height, exposing a strip of pale white skin between his pants and socks.

Around his wrists he wears wristbands, ones that are stretched out so much they look like the cut-off tops of gym socks. On his head he props a snug-fitting headband that hugs his ears and wooly gray hair.

But there's more to Super Fan than just appearance - more to him than just his dedication to YSU sports. Underneath the sweat suits and headbands there is a man who has found hope in a tragic past, a man who has inspired close friends and earned the loyalty of those who know him best.

He is a man who was once known to all as John C. Bartholomew, a businessman from Nevada with his own company.

At one time the strange man who spends his days either following YSU athletics or staring out the window of McDonald's was a regular workingman. He lived in Las Vegas. He had a wife and a stepson. He dressed in a suit and tie on a regular basis. He worked as a card dealer on the west coast and had his own limo service.

At this point, he was simply John C. Bartholomew, but that part of his life was short-lived.

Although Bartholomew was born in 1947, his Super Fan persona was born sometime after the year 1974. A bad year. The year of the car accident. This was the year John C. Bartholomew grew out of his suit and tie and began training for Super Fan.

He lost his rationality; he lost his way of life. Instead of looking at 2+2 and getting four, Bartholomew saw many numbers - strings of numbers. Numbers that were arranged in sequences to symbolize a certain number or word.

Today, he isn't much different.

"You see, 4+3+1+4 equals 12. Then there's 21 and 12; the kids and the money. So, in the flip of the cards, my mother gave me the key to make it work. She said you will knock on many doors until you find the right one, which is the door to success," he said.

After the accident, he lost many of his valuable possessions - his record collection, his maps. He frequently checked into and out of mental institutions, was prescribed the wrong medications and looked at the world through an incorrect eyeglass prescription that gave him constant headaches.

And Bartholomew, the person who would give the little he had to anyone who needed it, was taken advantage of. People borrowed money and never paid him back, street-thugs beat him up for spare change, lawyers cheated him out of Social Security.

But all those losses were replaceable for Bartholomew. The money, the Social Security, even his self defense - that would all



Gina Amero/The Jambal

A DECADE OF 'HOCUS POCUS': John C.

Bartholomew, better known as YSU's Super Fan, puts on a display of concise hand signals from his designated spot in the northeast corner of Beeghly Center. For the past 14 years, Super Fan has been cheering on YSU sporting events and drawing the attention of fans and opponents. This season, Super Fan goes for a more clean-shaven look (above) compared to the thinner and bearded image people came to associate with him in the '90s (right).



Photo courtesy of Joe Conroy

come back to him. But it would take years, years of waiting and healing.

His family couldn't wait that long. Shortly after the accident, both his wife and stepson left him - headed back to the West Coast. They left Bartholomew to deal with his condition on his own. They left him to deal with a world that didn't look the same as it did before his accident.

While staring out the windows of the campus McDonald's, Super Fan talked about his estranged family.

With his elbows propped up on the table, his hands reached up to fondle his newly shaven chin. It must have been habit, reaching for his signature beard he recently shaved off after 13 years.

"I've cleaned up. I cut my hair and shaved my beard. The man who owns my [apartment] building told me to." Super Fan's home is in downtown Youngstown, within walking distance of his two homes away from home - the university and McDonald's.

In between sips of coffee, Super Fan started to delve into his past, giving more passage to the life many know so little about. He seemed solemn yet content to talk about his wife, his voice low and steady. He talked fondly of her, described her as a kind, nice woman. He mentioned her zodiac sign, a Libra of the scales.

Balance. "I met her through a computer program. I filled out this thing to find a girl that was right for me, and it turned out to be her. She was born the same day, same month as me, only three years apart. I called her on the West Coast, she gave me her number, and I went out to meet her."

See SUPER FAN, page 4

## File finds: Eight years of souvenirs stir stories

BY GINA AMERO  
Jambal Editor

In the lower left-hand corner of Headleyball Coach Joe Conroy's desk hangs a collection of manila file folders. Plain and simple, the files hang row after row.

One stands out from the rest. The file is lacy, worn, and its contents bulge from both sides. The cover is playfully decorated in red and blue marker with the words "Super Fan" rolled across the front.

Inside, there are newspaper clippings, pictures and various things that relate to Super Fan's past and present. The file also contains Super Fan's high school diploma, a tiny old wristband sealed in a plastic bag and pages upon pages of Super Fan's writings.

Conroy is a Super Fan historian of sorts. Sitting at his desk, Conroy looked through the file of memories. Each item is a souvenir of some kind, a reminder of the time he spent sharing in Super Fan's daily life. Each has its own story, its own bit of Super Fan humor to go along with it. A picture of Super Fan sitting in the driver's seat of a silver truck, waving his hand at the camera. The picture is dated October 1991.

With Conroy, Super Fan earned a driver's license. The picture was taken the first time he was a legal driver. "I sent the picture to the YSU police so if I saw him driving a car, they knew he was

legal," said Conroy.

On the day he received his license, Super Fan drove to Conroy's house to make an appearance at his daughter's first birthday. The visit was unannounced and caught Conroy by surprise.

"I remember standing in my backyard, cooking on the grill when I heard this funny laugh come from inside the house. At that moment, I knew it was him. He came through the door, and said 'Hey everybody! Happy Birthday Emily!' He gave her a hug and a kiss, grabbed a hot dog and left. It was as quick as that."

A Youngstown Pride basketball ticket stub given to Conroy as a souvenir from Super Fan.

One of Super Fan's fondest memories of the Youngstown Pride games was when he won the Mahoning Valley Three-Point Shot for Cash halftime contest.

As Super Fan says, "People are still talking about that."

Anthony Gabriel, former director of marketing with the Youngstown Pride, recalls the circumstances surrounding the celebrated three-point shot.



Photo courtesy of Joe Conroy

FAN AND FAMILY FRIEND: Super Fan poses for a picture with Joe Conroy and his oldest daughter Emily in 1990.

court on their shoulders.

A receipt from Ponderosa, dated December 31, 1991 and time stamped at 7:57 p.m. Written across the top in Conroy's handwriting, are the words "John & Me, 'Thones."

This was from the night Conroy took Super Fan out to have dinner on New Year's Eve. Before they went to the restaurant, Super Fan asked Conroy to take him to Greg Gulas' house, YSU's Sports Information Director at the time. Gulas was one of the original people who gave Super Fan his nickname.

At Gulas' house, Super Fan did something neither Gulas nor Conroy had ever

expected. At one point, Super Fan reached into his pocket and pulled out a Christmas gift for each of Gulas' two young daughters. He gave them each a \$1 bill.

Gulas, who is currently assistant director of Student Activities at YSU, still remembers the affection he had watching Super Fan hand over what little money he had.

"This is a man who had nothing and gave up two of his own dollars to my daughters. If he gave a quarter or a dime, that would have been too much. The gesture speaks volumes of what he is about," said Gulas.

A vendor's license from 1996 that Conroy helped Super Fan receive for the launch of his Super Fan Fan Club. It was issued with the company name, Saint John Incorporates Super Fan, for the intention to conduct picture sales.

At one point, Super Fan started a fan club for all of his loyal followers. After paying a \$1 fee, each person receives an official Super Fan Fan Club membership card and an autographed picture. Currently, Super Fan's club has 317 members.

Athletic trainer John Doneyko, fan-club member number four, has been part of the club for six years.

"He's just a nice guy who's always around and never bothers anyone," Doneyko said.

"Before I joined, he made sure to show me his vendor's license so that I knew I wasn't being scammed."