

# YSU reacts

to guilt of rep BY ANGELA OLIN Jambar Reporter

Following the recent conviction of U.S. Rep. James Traficant Jr., some students and professors around campus said it could be a turning point for the Mahoning Valley.

Traficant was found guilty Thursday by a 12-person jury on all 10 counts alleged against him, including bribery, obstruction of justice and tax evasion.

U.S. District Judge Lesley Brooks Wells will sentence the congressman June 27. He could face four to six years in prison.

Some professors said the conviction will have no effect on YSU at large but will impact the Tri-county area Traficant represented. Some said it might offer a new start for the area.

Dr. Martha Pallante, chair and professor, history, said the end of Traficant's trial will have a large impact across the Valley and in the long run will

**New SG constitution stands** 

BY PATRECKA ADAMS approved it. Jambar Assistant Editor

According to Student Government's official election tally, the proposed constitution was passed by a vote of 273 to 85.

Prior to the election, many were concerned that the proposed constitution would not be allowed on the ballot because certain members of the

tion on the ballot. Long said he sees the passing of the document as very positive for SG. "I feel like it was a good

idea to put it on the ballot," he said. "No one has objected to it yet.'

administration had not yet tion who were against putting

the proposed constitution on Joe Long, SG president, the ballot really were not concerned with the issue. was one of the biggest proponents of putting the constitu-"The biggest reason for the

whole fiasco was because they don't care either way," he said. "The fact that they didn't care when [we put it on the ballot] says they didn't care much at all.

Jeff Parks, president-elect Long added that he thinks of SG, said he's going to vigorthe people in the administra- ously pursue efforts to make the constitution official.

There's a process that has to be completed for it to become official," he said. "I'll be working to make sure it gets

completed." Parks said he wants the constitution ready for the fall semester, which is when he and his staff will assume their offices.

Parks, senior, criminal justice, said he has contacted Dr. Cyndy Anderson, vice president of Student Affairs, to

voice his concerns Anderson did not return a message left at her office Monday.

Parks added that if the administration wants items changed in the constitution, he would want students to have their say in the matter.

"I'd like to see students have the opportunity to [possibly vote] on the finished ver-

See SG, page 2

Officials appoint dean, director

Meredith Young was previously Admissions head at Notre Dame College of Ohio.

BY JAMI BONINSEGNA Jambar Reporter

On Monday afternoon, Provost Dr. Tony Atwater



have a positive effect.

"I hope that [the conviction] does something to improve our image," she said. "It may allow us to deal with some of the larger problems that affect us."

"If we look at history, it is not the first time a congressman has been convicted of a crime, not just in Youngstown, but across the country," she said. "It will be very interesting to see how all of this plays out."

Dr. Paul Sracic, associate professor, political science, agreed the conviction would not have an effect on YSU. He said this is partly because Traficant did not have a large affiliation with the university. "As popular as [Traficant]

was, it will be nearly impossi-

See REP., page 4



<u>News</u> Central Christian Church donates religious artifacts to Maag Library. Page 4 Jambar Editor

<u>Sports</u> Staffer says Tiger Woods on fast pace to become best golfer ever. Page 2

Weather

Partly cloudy today. High in the lower 80s. Low in the lower 60s. Cloudy on Wednesday.

Jambar Reporter high around 80. Low in the mid-50s. Index

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DEVIANCE: Mary Ann Rufener, sophomore, sociology, above left, and Carole Cook, junior, sociology and anthropology, break unspoken dress codes in a local church to see the reaction of Sunday worshippers. Rufener and Cook, bottom, discuss reactions of congregation members after the service.



The students said their findings about faith and acceptance inspired them and

refreshed their belief in Christianity.

By KATIE BALESTRA

Their hair glistens from raspberrycolored hair dye as loose strands spike out in every direction. Purple lipstick lines the curves of their lips, complimenting the layers of black eyeliner, gobs of thick mascara and shades of gray eye shadow.

Intricate tattoos curl around their wrists and fingers. Tiny silver hoops hang from their noses as safety pins dangle from their ears. Dog chains swing carelessly from their necks.

One is dressed in black from head to toe. The other looks like she just pulled the clothes she is wearing out of the hamper. And both are on their way to church.

Mary Ann Rufener, sophomore, sociology, and Carole Cook, junior, sociology and anthropology, were assigned by professor Beverly Gartland at the beginning of spring semester to "violate a social norm" for their social deviance course and report the results and reactions to the class

The women decided they would dress this way and head to church to gauge the



Katie Balestra / The Jambar

reactions of fellow worshippers. Gartland, associate professor, sociology and anthropology, said the deviant act Rufener and Cook performed worked well for the assignment.

"They violated the norm for appropriate dress in a church," Gartland said. "Church members might see that as sacrilegious."

Rufener and Cook said their findings about acceptance and faith in Christianity both surprised and inspired them.

The two dressed in "Goth attire," consisting of black leather jackets, chains, piercings, tattoos, rings and dark makeup, for an unsuspecting Methodist congregation.

See NEIGHBOR, page 4

announced that the new dean of the Beeghly College of Education had been selected.

"In Phil Ginnetti we have a most capable leader with an intimate knowledge of the college's history and it's opportunities for advancing to the next level of academic excellence," said Atwater.

Dr. Philip Ginetti will be the next dean of education at YSU. Ginetti was previously a professor and the assistant dean in the College of Education.

Dr. Richard McEwing, professor of education, headed the committee that performed the search for the new dean, which began months ago.

Atwater said, "Dr. Ginnetti has an impressive background as a former P-12 teacher and principal. He has also established an impressive record as a professor and associate dean of education at YSU."

On the same day, a new director of Undergraduate Admissions started her new role at the university.

Meredith Young joined the staff of YSU. Young topped the national search for director of Undergraduate Admissions.

Young, a Cleveland State University graduate, was previously the director of Admissions at Notre Dame College of Ohio.

## **Organization starts Dump and Run on campus**

and shoes, which should never BY LINDSAY SINKOVICH end up in a landfill, said

Petuch. Ever wonder what happens to all the leftover "junk" in the dorms during spring move-out? Jim Petuch, YSU Recycling Program manager, said, "100

cubic yards of material is discarded annually during YSU move-out --- enough to fill an 18-wheeler in just three days." Among the materials discarded are reusable items such

Traditionally, Bill Sperlazza, associate director of

Housing Services, rents large rollover bins from the BFI at an estimated cost of more than \$800 to rid of all of the items left over from move-out.

This year, Petuch and Sperlazza are working with the non-profit organization Dump and Run to plan a comprehensive reuse and recycle campaign as blankets, linens, clothing for the May 2002 move-out.

national environmental organization founded by Lisa Heller. Heller started the organization in Ohio to work with Dump while she was a student at the

University of Richmond. The organization's goal is to recover the reusable materials leftover at residence halls to and Appalachian State reduce the amount of solid waste that pollutes landfills.

Petuch said the organization then sells the materials for Heller said. reuse and donates all proceeds to local charities. Any material unusual items left behind

Dump and Run is a charities as Goodwill and Meridian Services. cuffs."

YSU is the first university Andrea Sand, junior, nursand Run. Other participating universities include Columbia University of New York, Acadia University in Canada get?"

University of North Carolina. "YSU is around the 20th

She said some of the more

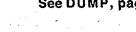
leftover is donated to such included "a kitchen sink and a 2

red spandex shirt with fake fur

ing, and resident of buechner Hall, said, "I think it is a great idea, but what about valuable items the students may for-

Jennifer Martin, junior, music education, and resident assistant of Kilcawley House, said, "During move-out, everyone is helping out to make sure nothing valuable is

See DUMP, page 4



university to participate,"

# Woods wins once again



Can anyone beat Tiger Woods? From the looks of things this weekend at Augusta and from the looks of most of the tournaments in which Woods has recently played, the answer is most definitely no.

When Woods bears down and seriously concentrates, it seems he can knock out phenomenal shots at will. It's almost as if he fiddles around

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the upper level of Kilcawley Center.

his opponents amused, before he makes an unstoppable run to blow away the field. Not since Bobby Jones, per-

haps, has the golf world seen a player in the likes of Woods' caliber. If Woods can keep up the pace he's on, he will undoubtedly come out the best golfer the world has ever seen. Perhaps what's even more

amazing is, even with his domination of the sport, he still is frustrated much of the time with his performance. "G-- damn," and "s---" fre-

quently spew from Woods' mouth on television, yet he still comes away a four-shot winner and a three-time Masters champion. The real question should

be, "Can anyone beat Woods ry. but Woods himself?"

Maybe former Masters champ Vijay Singh could give

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for the first 36 holes, keeping him a run, and Phil Mickelson always seems to be nearby, but both have to play their best golf consistently to be in the running with Woods when it seems

The Jambar

Tiger is playing sub-par. It's not even so much a matter of Woods being totally on his game. Tiger wins when he's truly focused. It doesn't matter if he's not playing totally to his ability. When he's focused he comes up with the shots that separate him from the rest of the pack.

It's scary to think of what Woods will do in the future. At only 26 years old, he has a very long career ahead of him, and he's already ripping into the PGA record books. Sunday's Masters victory was his seventh major and his 31st career victo-

Woods is a phenom and has only begun to amaze PGA fans everywhere.

sion," he said. "It wouldn't be

right to just change the constitution that they voted on and not give them a chance to

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Call Tiffany or Alex

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SG, continued from

[accept or reject it]."

13

All items FOUND this semester, that

are not claimed by the end of finals

ek, will be donated to area charities.

page 1

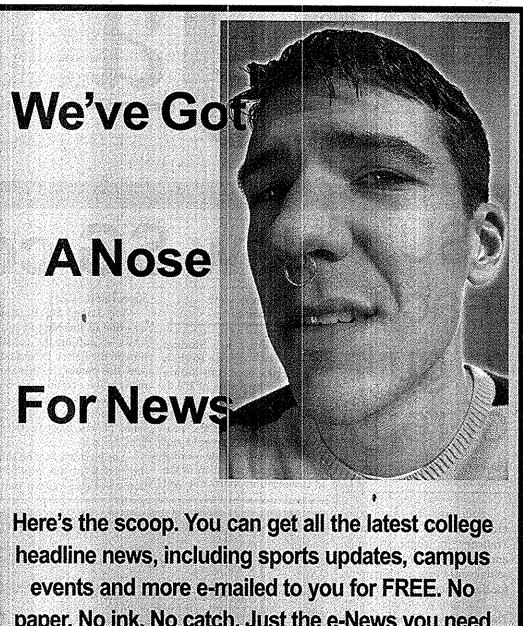


Earth Day is coming to YSU from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday. The event will include involvement from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and NASA.

ing for the planet, and 20 different environmental organizations' displays will be set up in front of Kilcawley Center. For more information, contact Jim Petuch at (330) 742-

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

The day is dedicated to car- 2294.

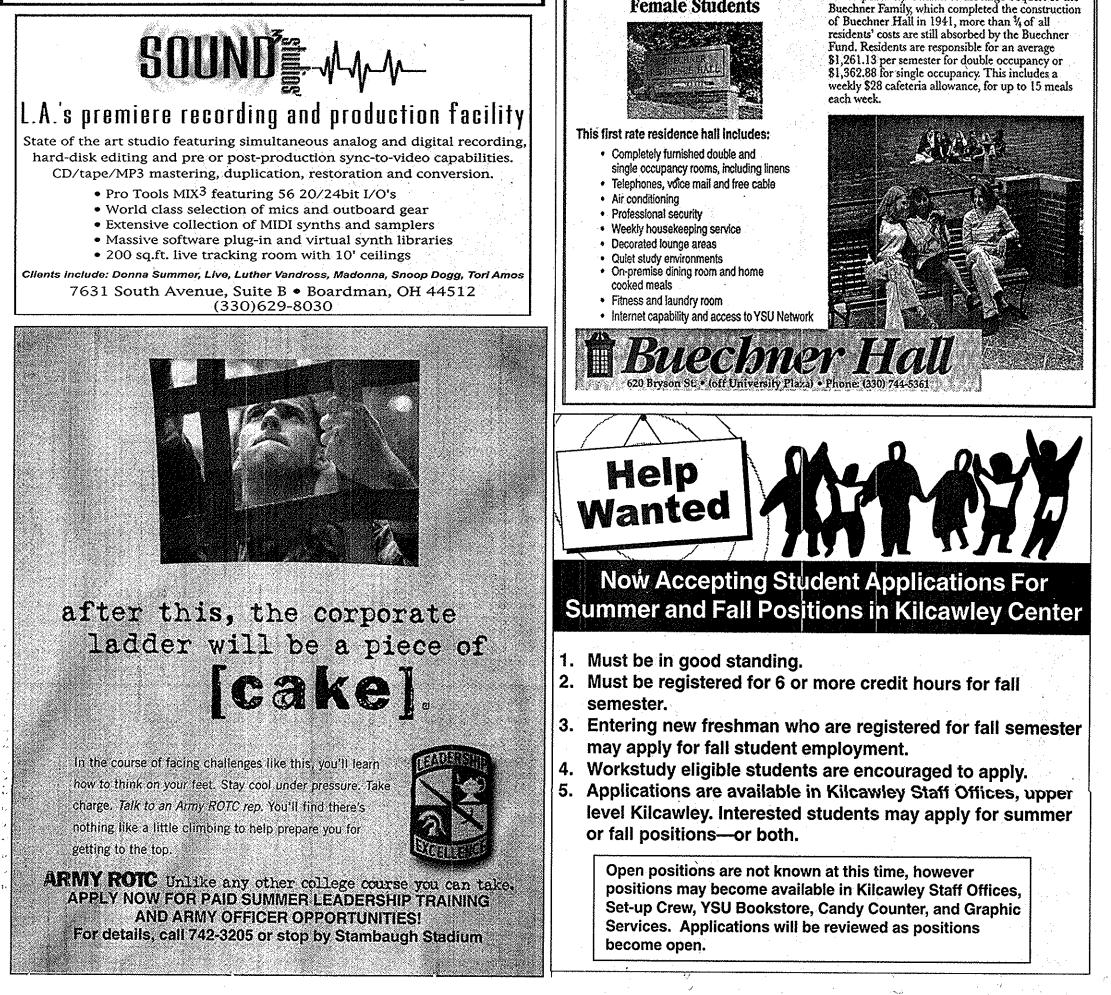


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# Editorial Opinion

# What We Think **Traficant's term** should be ended

A guilty verdict times 10 has not been able to silence the most passionate defenders of U.S. Rep. James Traficant Jr.

The nine-term congressman, convicted last week by a jury of his peers on 10 criminal counts ranging from bribery to racketeering, says he still will seek re-election as an independent in November.

And if he does, political opponents and analysts say he still will draw considerable support. Comments of locals sympathetic to the criminal congressman usually include sentiments such as, "He just got caught" or "He still has done a lot for us."

Not only do these defenses of Traficant prove to be weak and embarrassing, they prove to be wrong as well.

First, yes, Traficant did get caught. Not just caught nailed on 10 different federal crimes. Many of his defenders have taken a "so what" stance when interviewed. So what? Because Traficant is a public official, you - the

taxpayer — are paying Jim Traficant's salary. And according to a jury, not only have you paid Jim Traficant's salary, you have paid a host of others to work on a farm you've never seen.

It was your money that paid former Traficant staffer George Buccella to work on the congressman's private farm rather than his public office. It was your money that paid Traficant staffers higher

salaries, which they in turn kicked back to Traficant. You should be mad, not defensive of your congressman.

Second, the argument that Traficant has done a lot for this area is not supported by more than a handful of legislative actions the congressman has made since 1985.

The harsh reality of the Mahoning Valley is that it is a jobstrapped, cash-strapped region still struggling to adapt to the loss of steel mills that closed before Traficant even set foot on Capitol Hill.

If Traficant or his defenders want to claim success in the last 17 years, they must also take responsibility for the continued plight.

That's not a record on which you win re-election.

If for no other reason, without a committee assignment in Congress and with his own party leader calling for his resignation, Traficant must go.

At any rate, the 10 women and two men who found Traficant guilty on all counts Thursday in Cleveland did something the voters here have been afraid to do for more than a decade: hold Traficant responsible.

What You Think What are you doing with your tax return?



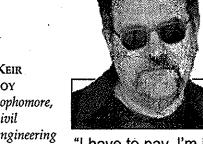
"I'm not getting one. I have to

"Spend it. I want the new Kobe

ing him about

pay."

Bryant's."



mail it."

"Pay bills."

KANDIA BARNES

sophomore

political

science

Melczak senior, secondary education "I have to pay. I'm just about to

Shannon

sophomore,

DILLINGHAM

elecommunicatio



"Same as everyone else. Pay my bills."

JOSH

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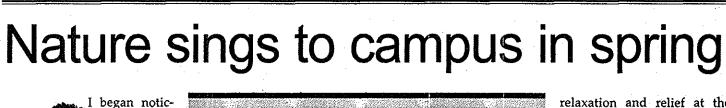
education

Macmillan



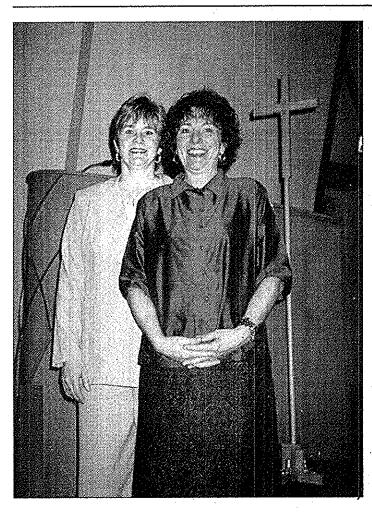
"I'm not getting a return. I work for myself, so I end up paying.

Compiled by Jami Boninsegna / The Jambar



relaxation and relief at the close of this semester.





#### **NEIGHBOR, continued from page 1**

Gartland said the two could have expected a number of reactions.

"Some people will look, but they probably won't do more. Some church people may group together to 'save them' so they can see the error of their ways."

As Rufener and Cook walked into Mahoning United Methodist Church on Sunday, April 7, the two looked less-than conservative with their purple hair and dark dress, but, to their surprise, the congregation didn't seem to notice.

Several children stared on in disbelief as Rufener and Cook strutted down the aisle, acting as though they owned the place.

Church members paused while looking in Rufener and Cook's direction - Cook slouching in one of the pews as her foot rested on her opposite knee and her arm extended over the back of her seat, looking as if she was preparing to watch a movie.

But all was quiet as the sermon commenced, and most people ignored Rufener and Cook as the worship began.

When it came time to shake hands during the sermon, Rufener and Cook said they were surprised at the number of people who came up and greeted them.

"I was shocked," Cook said. "At

greeting time, people came over to us the whole entire time. People were making eve contact with us and shaking our hands - even with our black nail polish," she said.

in Austintown.

"And the older they were, the more receptive," Rufener said. "I really thought it would have been the other way around."

Cook said one man in particular stood out to her because of his kindness and willingness to stand close to them.

"An older man came over to us and asked us where we were from. He said, 'Welcome. Welcome. And please come back any time," Cook said.

Both women agreed they definitely stood out within the group and that they were violating unspoken norms within the society of the church.

"The dress [we wore] is not a norm," Cook said. "People would think it's an angry look. And it's not always true that a church practices preaching acceptance. Being a Christian, I had high hopes [about the reactions], and we were ecstatic with the outcome."

Rufener and Cook both agreed the reaction they received was refreshing. "The one older gentleman called us

ble for him to be reelected in stances, is so incredibly weak ence, said he hopes the convic- prised by the jury's verdict.

minded and naïve. It's hard to tion will be the end of a long

'ladies," Rufener said with a laugh. "What an experience!"

SERMON: Left, Rufener and Cook attend church dressed in

their "normal" clothes. Above, Rufener delivers a sermon

about acceptance to the Mahoning United Methodist Church

Katie Balestra / The Jambar

Rufener, who said she thinks the idea for the class experiment came to her from God, is studying to be a minister in the Methodist church. Her "mentor" during her schooling is the pastor of the church in which she and Cook performed the deviant act.

The following weekend, with the permission of the pastor, Rufener gave a sermon on acceptance to members of the congregation.

At the beginning of the sermon, Rufener said to the congregation, "Who in this church has seen me before?" Not one hand raised.

"I was sitting in that same pew last week," she said. "But that was a scary person sitting there, wasn't it?" she asked as eyes widened and mouths dropped around the room.

During the sermon, Rufener shouted out, "Thank you! What a witness you have been to me. How welcome you made me feel in God's home. You shook our hands and welcomed us.

"Our hearts were just warmed. We looked so strange, but you saw what was in our hearts. Thank you for accepting us."

# Maag archive helps preserve Valley history

#### BY SCOTT SEELEY Jambar Reporter

Religious artifacts help tell the story of the Mahoning Valley.

The Sacred Landmark archive at Maag Library can help those interested in history understand more of this story through the preservation of religious vestiges.

The Sacred Landmark archive is a collaboration among YSU, Cleveland State University, Kent State University and the University of Akron.

Composed of local religious institutions in cooperation with YSU, the purpose of the Sacred Landmark archive is to pull together the communities surrounding the university in an effort to preserve local history.

Central Christian Church, 3000 Market St., made the first major contribution to the local Sacred Landmark archive.

Thomas Atwood, executive director of Maag Library, said he was delighted by the donation.

"Students doing historical research on [the Mahoning Valley] will want to check this out," he said.

Atwood said the information donated by Central Christian and other local religious institutions is important because of the vast amount of change in the Mahoning Valley

#### DUMP, continued from page 1

#### left behind. The rooms are the YSU community." checked by other roommates, and the RA's go around with a checklist."

Heller said, "[We] have a system to take care of that. In my experience only one or two students have contacted [me], and they have had immediate ess to their things."

throughout the past few decades. "People want to find out information about their past. Churches are a way to do this," Atwood said. "If you get the

churches involved in the university, you're getting the people involved in the university." Norma Stefanik, YSU

Center for Urban Studies, runs the local Sacred Landmark project and has created a list of more than 350 sacred landmarks within the Mahoning Valley.

"[The Sacred Landmarks archive] helps preserve and disseminate our cultural and religious heritage," Stefanik said. "It makes [the information] available to a broad spectrum of the public."

University President Dr. David Sweet was a part of the program while at Cleveland State University and said he continues to support its efforts at YSU.

"The kind of program being conducted on these hidden treasures within the Valley can be of importance to the entire community," Sweet said. The materials donated by

Central Christian included a musical composition written for the church, a list of charter members and the acts of incorporation for the church.

They will be catalogued and preserved for future reference. The materials will soon be available at the Maag Library or through its Web site.

Sperlazza said, "In joining the campaign with Dump and Run, the \$800 price tag of BFI will significantly decrease."

Petuch and Sperlazza urge students to volunteer for the actual move-out from May 9 to 11. Volunteers can work as little as an hour a day or as much as

He said it will be especially fathom how someone could be difficult for the congressman to so idiotic," said Tim Crowe, obtain votes from people of sophomore, business manage-Portage and Stark counties, who ment. will have the chance to vote for munication, said he would vote him for the first time in November. for Traficant again in November

**REP.** continued from page 1

November," said Sracic.

"This has opened up Valley because he is pleased with how politics; it looks like [Traficant] he represents the area. is going away. We'll see what someone else has to offer," he said.

County," he said. "I would vote for him again because we have Some students disagreed something in common; I'm a on whether or not they would vote for Traficant in November. truck driver's son, also." Dr. William Binning, pro-

"Whoever would vote for fessor and chair, political scihim, especially after the circum-

story for Youngstown.

"In the short term, it's not positive news, but with all of the indictments these past five years it would be good for the John Leach, senior, telecomlocal economy for all of this to end," Binning said. junior, education.

Students across campus agreed the guilty verdict will "He represents the worknot affect YSU, but some were ing-class citizens of Mahoning happy to see the trial come to an end.

> "It's about time," said Crowe. "The outcome was justifiable, and our legal system did great this time."

YSU'S COLLEGE OF F&PA'S PERFORMING ARTS SERIES welcomes

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Leach said he was surcle.

believe he got all 10 counts," he said. "I think justice was finally

were happy, and it serves as an

example to us all. He can't be

trusted. He's our congressman

and should be a leader in our

reporter, contributed to this arti-

Michael Balale, Jambar

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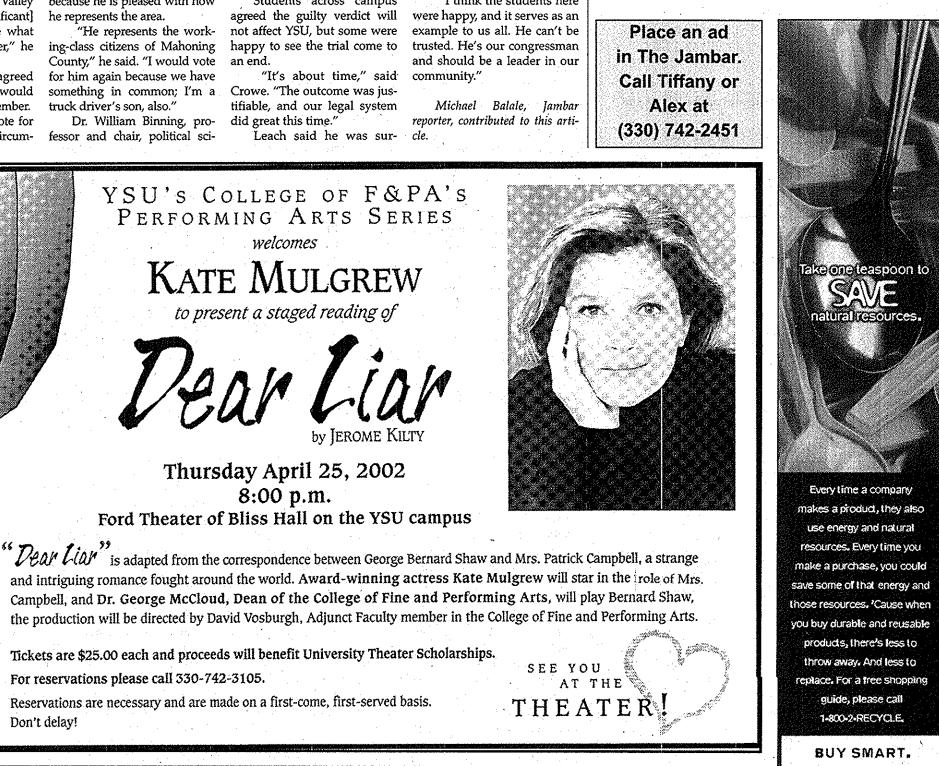
THEATER

community."

"He was guilty, but I can't

ous environmental advantages of reducing solid waste; Petuch served, and it showed people said he hopes to "save trashto see him guilty on all handling costs for the universicounts," said Melissa Kmetz, while instilling the ty reuse"ethic into students and "I think the students here

The project holds numer- several hours each day. All volunteer service hours will count toward hours for various campus organizations. Interested volunteers may call Jim Petuch at (330) 742-2294.



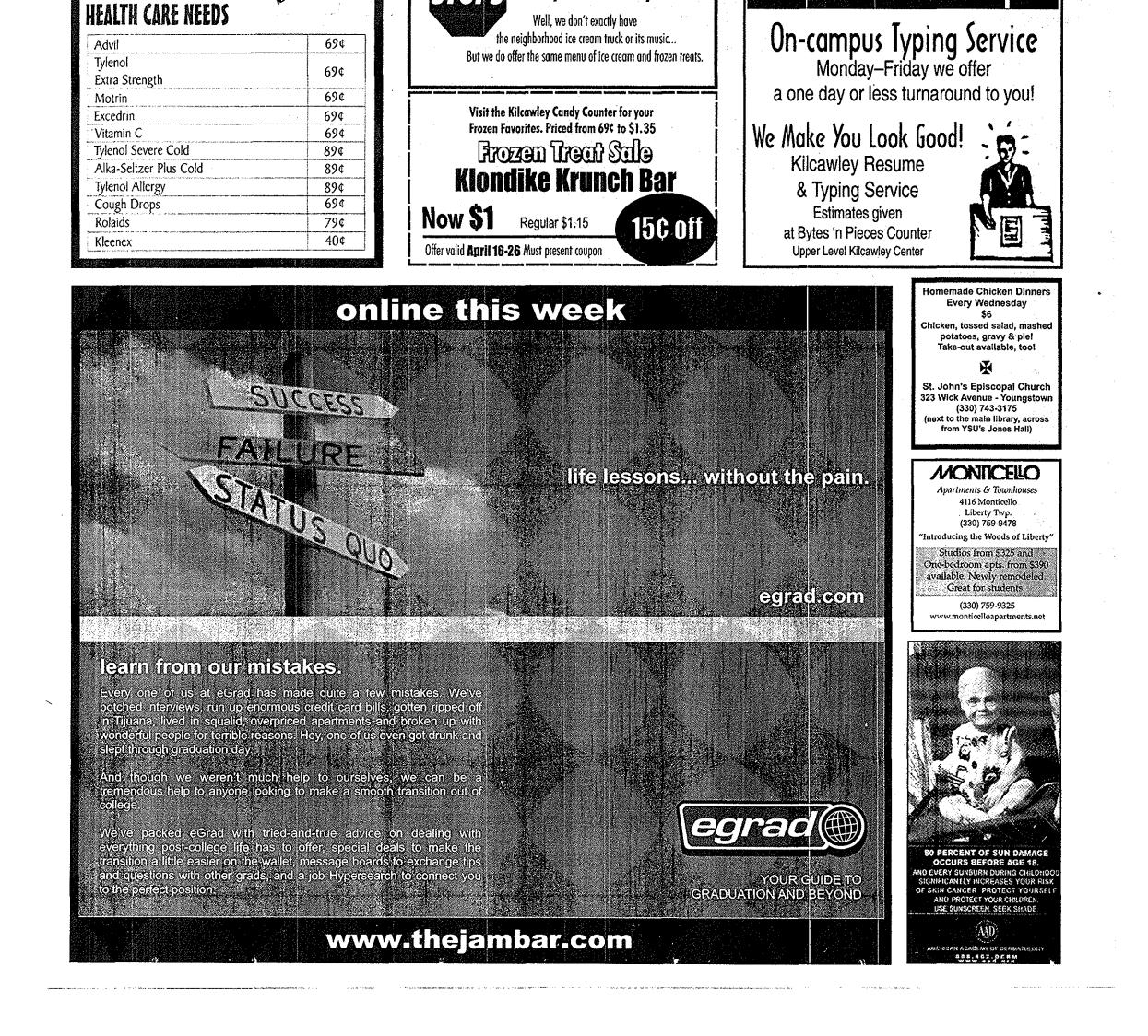
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11, 11-7. Weekend shift is starting	2517.	629-9475. An Army Of One. U.S.	ments or four-bedroom
soon. Saturday and Sunday all	Fraternities, sororities, clubs,	Army.	available. Stove, refrige
three shifts. Perfect job for sum-	student groups — Earn \$1,000		washer, dryer, microwave
mer. Interviews are being sched-	to \$2,000 with the easy	Medical Specialist — No experi-	more! Lit, off-street par
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# Sports Recreation BATTER UP BATTER UP

The Jambar



The YSU men's golf team struggles as its season nears a close.

By DAVE DEVERUEX Jambar Reporter

The YSU men's golf team's performance this spring has been sub-par. Unfortunately that means most of the scores have been well above.

After an impressive run of three consecutive top seven finishes to close out the fall season, a five-month layoff has resulted in a second half marred by inconsistency.

The Penguins' shaky stretch in March included a team score of 980 at the Florida Gulf Coast Invite and a 923 at the Johnny Owens Invitational in Lexington, K.Y.

Both were 54-hole events, with the Penguins finishing in the 12th and 18th places, respectively.

YSU team captain Jonah Karzmer led the club at the FGCI with a 24th-place finish. Karzmer shot rounds of 81-77-75 en route to a 233 (17 overpar). Senior Brian Newell finished 36th with a 241 (77-87-77), and junior Ryan Harmon placed 46th with a 248 (86-79-83).

Penguins began showing signs of a possible late-season surge, as the team finished sixth overall after tallying a score of 641. Sophomore Dan Traeger rode an opening-round 72 to a team-high 149. Traeger fin-

ished fourth overall just two strokes off the pace. Karzmer mentions Traeger as one who has elevated his level of play as of late.

"Dan has been playing real well. Everything is clicking for him right now," he said. "It's a good group,' Karzmer said. "... a fun team that knows when to get serious out on the course."

Joy, in his 18th season as coach, reconfirms the closeknit camaraderie that exists on the team.

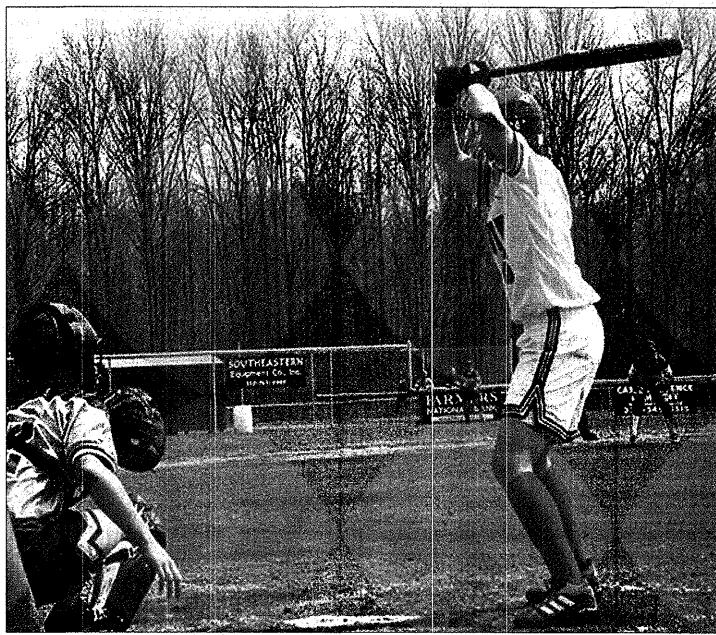
"A lot of these players played juniors together, and they came to YSU to play together," said Joy.

Although golf is often considered the most individualized sport, Karzmer says his team balances the mental challenge that lies in playing golf on a college team.

Harmon said the emphasis is still on winning as a team. "Nobody can help you out there, but you can help the team by knowing when to take chances and knowing when to be conservative for the good of the team," he said.

With three tournaments left on the slate, the Penguins are pursuing a climactic finish, which includes capturing the

League





BJ Lisko / The Jambar

Tuesday, April 16, 2002

**PLAY BALL: Sophomores** 

At the Johnny Owens Invitational, Harmon was the Horizon top YSU performer, finishing Championship and an auto-45th after posting a 224 (73-75matic bid to the NCAA 76).

In a 36-hole meet at Eastern Kentucky University, the Penguins managed a 13thplace finish after scoring 625 in the team competition. Karzmer, a junior, shot a 153 (77-76), giving the Boardman native a team-best 25th-place finish.

Although several players have occasionally posted low rounds this season, the inability to do so at the same venue creates a legitimate concern heading into the final few weeks of the season.

Head coach Tony Joy said he attributes his team's lack of continuity this spring to uncooperative weather. "We've been struggling as

Track/Cross Country

Robert

"Right now we just need to keep practicing, and we'll be ready in three weeks," said Karzmer. "If everyone plays their game we'll be competitive," he said. Joy adds, "Like any sport, you shoot for the conference

Regionals.

championship. "It's a competitive conference, but we have as good a

shot as anyone else." Harmon said the team is focused and looking forward to its upcoming tournament in Morehead.

Harmon said, "This is one of the best fields. It should be a good tune-up to see where we are heading into the final two tournaments."

Following this weekend's a team," Joy said, as his club Greg Palmer Eagle Classic, the prepared for the Greg Palmer Eagle Classic in Morehead, Ky. Penguins will play at the **Cleveland State Intercollegiate** "We haven't been able to string on April 21 through 23 and together practices; we never will prepare for the Horizon got our timing," said Joy. Recently, at the 36-hole

Penguin Sportswire

Sophomore Kurt Michaelis and Reshinan

Emily Schnitkey both set school records

Sea Relays recording times of 3:47.17 and

- The YSU men's and women's track teams will next compete at the Penn Relays,

Thursday through Saturday in Philadelphia.

Friday in the 1,500 meter run at the Tennesse

League Championships, which Morris-Duquesne are April 28 through 30 in Invitational in Pittsburgh, the Green Bay, Wis.

BY JOSEPH SIMON

After a rocky start, the YSU men's baseball team (8-13) is beginning to hit stride. The team started the season 0-4 but has recently begun playing much better baseball.

The resurgence seemed to stem from a vital four-game series against the conference-leading Flames (19-5) of Illinois-Chicago, where the Penguins split a hardfought series 2-2. The Flames were predicted to win the division, so the split was a great way to start conference play.

team, but when we use our brains we can beat those [better] teams," said head coach Mike Florak of the recent split.

Florak didn't cite any physical problems to improve but said he believes the team members need to continue playing with their heads.

times we haven't played very smart," said Florak. "We just need to grow up."

lost they have committed 28 errors, an average of more than two errors a game. On the other hand, in the eight games won by the webbed footers, they've cut that fig-

ure in half, averaging just more than one error a game.

26 of the 39 errors came in the first part of the season, and the Penguins, with the exception of a five-error catastrophe against UIC, have just eight errors in their last five games.

The team appears to be doing just what Florak wants, "growing up." With 20 of their 24 conference games in the second half of the season, the Penguins seem to be progressing at the right time.

Pitching woes have also hampered the Penguins thus far. In the first nine games of the season they had given up 79 earned runs, nearly nine runs a game.

However, with the help of Florak and assistant coach Dan Stricko, the Penguins have improved significantly. In the last 12 games, the Penguins have given up only 50 earned runs, a mere four runs a game and a five-run handicap to the first half numbers

Florak said that at the beginning of the year the team set a goal "to get better every day." As recent statistics show, the team is fulfilling its objective.

The only area in which there has been a slight decline is in the batters' box. The Penguins' bats have diminished, to some extent, since their hot start in the beginning of the season.

Amanda Berry (above) and Amber Smith (left) step up to the plate during the first game of their doubleheader Monday against Butler. The Lady Penguins (8-19, 1-3) dropped both games to the Buildogs by scores of 10-2 and 3-1. YSU will next face Robert Morris on the road at 3 p.m. Wednesday.

#### baseball hits halfway mark YSU

EARMERS

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### Jambar Reporter

They started the year out strong, averaging just about five runs a game, but recently have been struggling with just 33 runs in their last 10 games, compared to the 67 tallied by their opponents.

However, Florak said he isn't worried.

"Our team has a lot of guts and is full of heart," said Florak. "If we can start to think the game better, the guys will mature quickly, and we'll be fine."

The Penguins' batting leaders are very young, including freshman Tim Stacey and sophomore Kendall Schlabach. Stacey leads the team in three home runs and batting average, .387 (sixth in the Horizon League).

Schlabach leads the team in 14 runs batted in, 26 hits and is second in average at .342 (seventh in the Horizon League).

Florak said the team needs to "play smart baseball" in order to be successful in the second half of the season by pitching better and reducing the amount of errors it commits; the team is beginning to do just that

With the Penguins sharpening their beaks defensively and on the mound, they are a force to be reckoned with in the Horizon League.

And in just their first year in the league they have a great chance to contend for the conference crown.



"No question about it UIC's a good

"At times we've played well, and at

In the 13 games the Penguins have