

D.C. sniper has YSU interns worried

By LA'EL HUGHES
The Jambar

As Kristin Serroka walks from her job to her apartment, it is now a natural instinct to look over her shoulder.

She looks for the D.C. Beltway sniper, who has been terrorizing the nation's capitol and its outlying suburbs with random shootings for two weeks.

Serroka, Adam Booth and Deena DeVico are three YSU political science majors interning this semester in the Washington, D.C., area.

All three students said they are on the lookout for the sniper and the light colored van as they try to continue to go on with their daily activities.

At home, the tragedy has captured the attention of their former classmates, some of whom discussed the media's coverage at a panel discussion Wednesday.

Serroka, who is an intern for U.S. Rep. Michael Oxley, R-Ohio, said she did not think the sniper shooting spree would last this long.

"When I first heard of the shootings, it seemed as though it would be a one-

time event," she said.

DeVico, who is interning at the Office of the Corporation Counsel in the juvenile section, said she does not remember paying much attention to the sniper's first attacks.

"But once a pattern developed, everyone became aware of the situation," DeVico said. "I did not feel scared at first, just nervous that the sniper could move closer and closer to us, and he did."

Booth, who is working at Harsoft Public Relations, said he is a little on edge. He said the last shooting was the closest of all the sniper attacks - 10 minutes away from where he is living.

"I don't want to seem like I'm being a sissy or anything," Booth said. "But I do find myself looking around for a light-colored van while I am out."

The last shooting, in the suburbs of Falls Church, Va., was 10 minutes away from the home of Serroka's fiance, George Zokle, a YSU graduate.

Serroka said Zokle just left Seven Corners shopping when the local news channels alerted residents of the sniper's



BJ Lisko/The Jambar

DISCUSSION: WKBN-TV 27 editors Somoud Niser, left, and Nick Matesi talk to YSU journalism students Wednesday as part of a panel discussion on the media's coverage of the D.C. Beltway sniper.

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Groups meet to discuss diversity

By ALICIA HOUSTON
The Jambar

Members of various campus organizations gathered Wednesday to talk about their plans to raise diversity awareness.

The organizations met as part of the Diversity Week Global Gathering Diversity Fair, where students discussed their ideas for future gatherings and functions. Diversity Week, sponsored by Housing Services, kicked off Monday.

The Muslim Student Association, which recently reorganized to promote awareness of its religion, is planning to host a Ramadan celebration. All students will be invited to join in the celebration and learn about the religion.

Sophomore Saima Khalid said it is important to understand different cultures and religions and to be respectful of them.

Sophomore William Tate, member of the National Society of Black Engineers [NSBE], said his organization is planning to host a Black Expo next semester. The expo would spotlight black organizations.

Also at the fair, the Center for Urban Studies educated students about its initiative to clean up Wick Park.

The Community Partnership of the Wick Park

See DIVERSITY, page 2

Candidates stump for YSU Homecoming vote

By MELISSA MOSCHELLA
The Jambar

Ryan McNicholas and Stacey Best stood outside Kilcawley Center on Wednesday campaigning for this year's Homecoming court.

McNicholas, nominated by Delta Zeta for Homecoming king, and Best, nominated by Alpha Omega Pi for Homecoming queen, said they were the only two candidates passing out their flyers and talking to students both Tuesday and Wednesday.

"Basically I am just trying to get people to vote," McNicholas said. "Only like 400 people have voted. 'No one cares.'"

Heidi Critser, Homecoming queen candidate nominated by Student Government, said she and a couple of her friends stood outside campaigning for a couple hours Tuesday.

"People know who they're voting for anyway," Critser said.

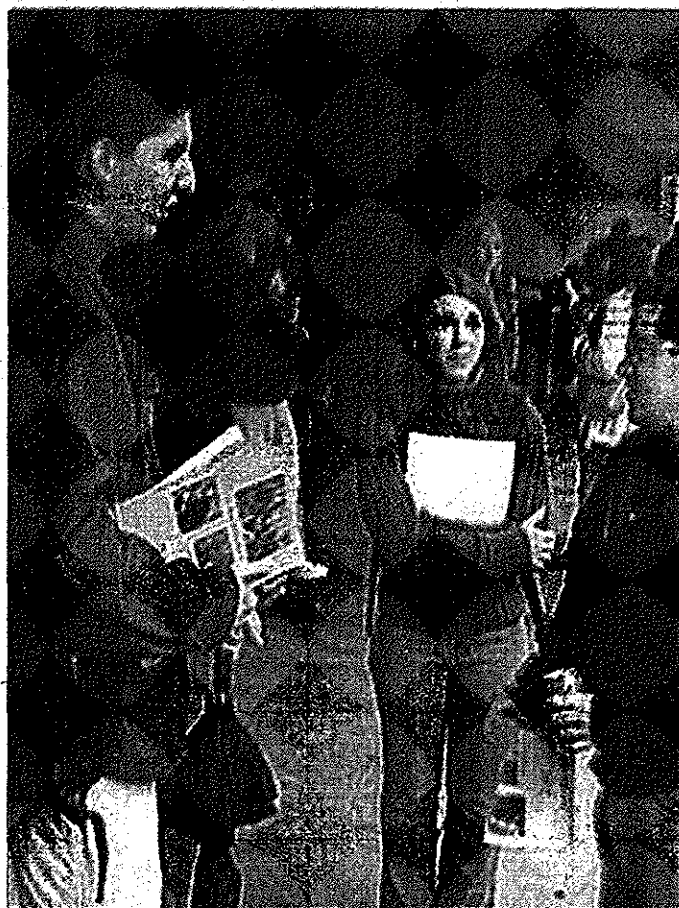
She did not do any campaigning on Wednesday.

Greg Gulas, assistant director of Student Activities, said this year's election is a little slower than last year's, but just as enthusiastic. Gulas said Tuesday was a slow day with only 331 students casting their votes.

He said he anticipated over 550 votes by the end of the election.

"We might get 600 votes," said Gulas, who reported past elections to have as little as 600 and as many as 900 voters.

Students said they had mixed reasons for not voting. Freshmen Paul Dionne



Cecelia Fugitt/The Jambar

Stacey Best and Ryan McNicholas campaign for a spot on homecoming court Wednesday outside of Kilcawley Center. Both made the cut as 10 finalists for this year's Homecoming were announced. Candidates for king include James Douglass, Seth Hooker, McNicholas, Daniel Procopio and John Schumacher. Queen candidates include Best, Heidi Critser, Maren Myers, Eboni Williams and Maria Wright. Homecoming king and queen will be announced at the Nov. 2 football game.

said he did not vote because he didn't know about the election.

Students who did vote in this year's Homecoming election said they knew someone or had a friend on court.

"I'm a scholar and three of my classmates are running," senior Beth Hochstetler said.

Freshmen Roland Evans

said he was voting because he knows Maria Wright and he wants to exercise his vote.

Other students stood outside Kilcawley on Wednesday afternoon discussing the proposed changes to the Student Government constitution that

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Part-time student up for Congress seat

By REBECCA MARQUIS
The Jambar



HALLECK

A part-time YSU student will challenge an incumbent Democrat for Congress next month, but don't expect to see him on campus unless he is at class.

Republican Michael Halleck of Salem said although the new 6th Congressional District includes many YSU students like himself, he will focus his campaign at colleges within new district lines.

Southern Mahoning County and all of Columbiana County were split from the rest of the Mahoning Valley when state legislators redrew lines earlier this year. YSU is in the redrawn 17th District.

Halleck faces U.S. Rep. Ted Strickland, D-Lucasville, in the Nov. 5 election. Strickland is in his fourth term in the House. He said he spent time at YSU in the spring and would visit again if invited by students or staff.

Halleck is a senior majoring in sociology and political science and former Columbiana County Commissioner. He said he spent time at YSU earlier in his campaign but now is visiting areas where he is not well known.

"There are seven colleges in the [district]," Halleck said Wednesday morning. "You can't be everywhere," he said.

According to the University Registrar, about 6 percent of YSU students - 868 of 12,698 - live in Columbiana County. Strickland said he hoped those students would take a look at his record in Congress.

"I would just ask them to check me out," he said in a telephone interview Wednesday evening. "If they see anything that is contrary to what they believe, maybe they should vote for Mr. Halleck."

"There are seven colleges in the district. You can't be everywhere."

— MICHAEL HALLECK
Congressional candidate

William Binning, chair of political science, said that about one-third of Columbiana county and the lower half of Mahoning county carry about one-third of the vote in the 6th district.

Binning said the district is a difficult one to campaign in, given the size of the district and the different interests in different parts of the state.

Strickland and Halleck both mentioned economic factors as key campaign issues. Strickland also touched on recent budget cuts to higher education.

"I think it's a big problem," said Strickland, who was once a psychology professor at Shawnee State University. "I'm hugely disappointed with the state of Ohio."

"I cannot imagine what I

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Sneak Peek

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Inside today's issue:

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YSU head football coach Jon Heacock says victories are giving his team life. Page 4



Heavy metal rockers Brothers of Conquest will perform at The Nyabinghi this Friday. Full weekend listings Page 6



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ninth shooting. The victim was shot in the same shopping center Zokle had just left.

Booth said he has to pick up his dry cleaning today in a big shopping center, and he is concerned about doing such a "basic activity" because large shopping complexes have been the location of recent attacks.

Booth said he now gives an extra glance to the people around him, as well as his surroundings when he leaves his house.

"I am being extra cautious," he said. "I am looking for anything that appears suspicious."

Seroka said she hasn't changed her schedule too much since she works on Capitol Hill. She said she feels safer in the city.

"There is an immense amount of security and many streets are already blocked off," she said. "However, I will get my gas in D.C. instead of down the road from my apartment because the shootings have not occurred in the city."

DeVico said she has altered her daily routine significantly and since she is experiencing a heightened amount of fear, she has begun to take more precautions.

"I do not walk to and from the Metro [an underground subway] alone anymore, I go to big shopping areas as little as possible now, and I avoid gas stations that are near major highways and interchanges," she said.

The three students said they are all in constant communication with their families.

Receiving telephone calls three or more times a day from friends and family has become common.

"I call my boyfriend everyday to let him know that I am safe," DeVico said.

She said her boyfriend and her family always tell her to shy away from going out alone and to keep away from big public areas.

Kim Seroka, an assistant professor of nursing at YSU, is leaving today to visit her daughter and Zokle in Alexandria. Kim Seroka said she desperately wants to see her daughter but is terribly scared of taking the trip.

"I could hear it in Kristin's voice," Kim Seroka said. "The last shooting really shook her up, because it was so close. She called me before I even had a chance to see it on the news - because I usually call her first."

Kim Seroka said she is worried about the drive down to Virginia.

"My husband and I are going with George's family, and we will have to travel on 495 and route 290, which is where the sniper attacks have been happening," she said.

Booth said he also has been receiving phone calls from his family on a daily basis.

"My older sister calls me to make sure I'm taking care of myself," he said. "She tells me not to walk alone and to try to not hang out so much."

"Me and my roommates talk about the sniper when we get off of work, we can't help it, news about the sniper is

everywhere and is always on television," Booth said.

The TV coverage was discussed in Youngstown on Wednesday, as Alyssa Lenhoff, interim director of Journalism, held a forum for journalism majors.

The discussion addressed the ethical implications of whether or not the media was affecting the sniper case. Representatives from a local news station and the two local newspapers participated.

Nick Matesi, news director at WKBN-TV 27, said the lack of information at news conferences could cause the media to go out and look for more information.

"If you do not fill their appetites, you're inviting reporters to look for more stuff," he said.

While George McCloud, dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts, disagreed with many comments made by other panel members, he sympathized with decisions that had to be made.

"There are no simple answers to the role of the media," McCloud said. "There are no rules and guidelines, and I respect the decisions the media makes under pressure."

As for the D.C. interns, Seroka said although she takes precaution, fear still lingers with her daily.

"It's a horrible feeling to be scared to leave your house or do the things you normally do."

Call La'el Hughes at (330) 941-3758.

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appeared on the Homecoming ballot.

Senior Joe Trocci said he voted against changes in the SG constitution. McNicholas and Best said they agreed with Trocci's reasoning for voting against the amendment.

"I don't like it," Trocci said. "It gives the president absolute power. If the president has full power he can make any decision he wants."

Those who make the Homecoming Court will participate in this year's Homecoming parade. The king and queen will be announced during halftime of the Nov. 2 football game against Southern Illinois.

Call Melissa Moschella at (330) 941-1811.

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Neighborhood is designed to enrich the lives and residents of the neighborhood by providing homeownership programs for families, technical assistance and support to community groups and information on home and business revitalization programs.

Jamael Brown, community organizer, said that Wick Park will be a model neighborhood for revitalization, and hopes to return the area to the community it once was.

"The Diversity Fair was a success," said Nikki Ghiya, graduate assistant of Residence Life for Housing.

"This week has been going great. Hopefully next year it will be bigger and better." Sophomore Jaymin Patel, president of the Diversity

Council, said that he was humbled this week by the events he has attended so far.

Throughout the week, Patel said he learned that diversity is not just a word people use to describe various cultures but has a very powerful meaning.

"I actually learned what diversity is. Everyone is diverse. I wish more people would get involved. It brings us all together."

Diversity Week activities continue through Friday.

A Diversity Dance from 9 p.m. to midnight at Christman Dining Hall will close the week.

Call Alicia Houston at (330) 941-3758.

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perceive to be the passivity of college students today in light of tuition increases."

Halleck said the constituency's interests in the district are divided, with industry being important in the north, coal in the middle and environ-

mental issues in the south.

Binning said another factor in the race could be money.

"Strickland had half a million dollars before the campaign started," he said.

Binning said although the district is split evenly between

Republicans and Democrats, Strickland is viewed as a favorite because of his incumbent status and a larger bank account.

Call Rebecca Marquis at (330) 941-1811.

Place an ad in The Jambar, call Jen @ (330) 941-2451

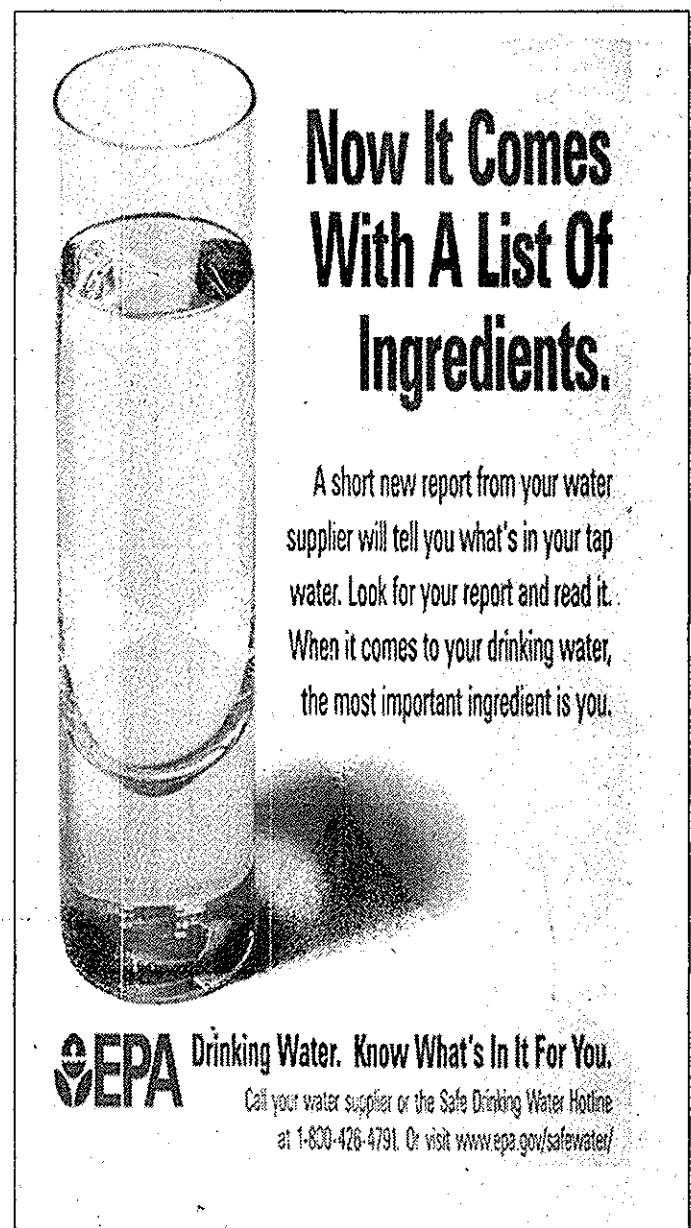


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Today's Editorial

Election issues relevant to YSU

The quality of higher education and the integrity of Mahoning Valley politics are at stake in the Nov. 5 election. Now, more than ever, it is important for YSU students to exercise their right to vote.

Traditionally the most apathetic voting block, 18- to 24-year olds has whined for years about anything from the drinking age to foreign policy to college funding. But until this dormant demographic shows signs of life, no candidate or officeholder will listen.

There is much to be said about a student like Jim Calko, a YSU political science major trying to overcome his age (21) and party (Republican) to overcome a Democrat in a historically Democratic state House district.

And, there is much to be said about students who in the past have sought office. Some, like former Girard City Councilman Brian Kren, were successful. Others, like failed state House candidate David Sisk, were not.

But it does not take candidacy to make college students a viable voting bloc at the polls. It takes simple participation in democracy.

Vote.
Many students will be forced to wrestle with the candidacy of James A. Traficant Jr., the colorful ex-congressman who now calls a Pennsylvania prison home. Traficant had a cult following as a maverick lawmaker from Ohio's 17th District.

But whatever credibility Traficant held was diminished by a 10-count felony conviction, eight-year prison sentence and expulsion from the House of Representatives.

Students who live in the new 17th District will have to decide: Should the independent Traficant be elected from jail over state Sen. Tim Ryan, a former YSU student and relative newcomer to politics, or state Rep. Ann Womer Benjamin, who lives in Aurora.

There also is the gubernatorial race — a classic showdown between an incumbent, Gov. Bob Taft, and a renegade challenger, Mahoning Valley native Tim Hagan.

Taft has been the subject of intense scrutiny from those in the higher education circle. Critics say he has caused the state's public universities to fall behind financially.


Hagan will spend the next few weeks berating all that Taft has done. With little campaign cash, Hagan must make every word count.

So, pay attention to his words and Taft's. Keep an eye on Ryan, Womer Benjamin and whoever is speaking on behalf of the imprisoned Traficant.

And, keep an eye on the state House and Senate races. These lawmakers will have a large say in the state's budget, not to mention YSU's piece of the pie.

This is an important election, no doubt. Editorials and letters that have run on this page since August show the students at YSU have strong opinions and intelligent minds.

Prove it at the polls on Nov. 5.



THE \$203,520 QUESTION

Should University President David Sweet accept his pay and housing allowance raises?

He seems to think so.

TELL HIM HE'S WRONG!

(330) 941-3101

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Send in the crowns



Letters to the Editor

Letter writer offered illogical argument

Editor:

I hope Pauline Ervin takes her own advice to "take her nose out of someone else's business and put it in a book."

I would suggest she start with two books: a book on grammar and one on informed argument.

Her logic is nonsensical. Whether or not you agree with Dr. Sweet's raise, what does that have to do with the condition of the study lounge in Kilcawley? Does Ms. Ervin think that the president is directly responsible for its maintenance? The president has many responsibilities to be sure, but vacuuming, trash removal and cleaning windows are not among them.

Ms. Ervin also suggests that the president's raise is none of

our business. Wrong again. This is not a private, corporate business; it's a state-funded university. What goes on inside this university is the business of anyone who pays taxes.

Finally, I would remind Ms. Ervin of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution which guarantees freedom of speech. Everyone is entitled to an opinion and to express that opinion, even if that opinion is based on faulty logic, as is hers.

Susanne M. Miller
Editorial Assistant, English Journal
Part-time English instructor

YSU's business is everyone's business

Editor:

This letter is in response to the letter to the editor by Pauline Ervin. I applaud her for voicing her opinion but feel the need to comment on some of her remarks in the letter.

Being in a democracy allows one to state opinion and disagree with the policies and rules of an organization. President Sweet's title of "president" denotes that we are a part of a small democracy. Student's tuition money is being used to fund his raise and the benefits that come with being president of a university.

This is not a kingdom and YSU is not Sweet State University. I believe that it is only just and responsible that students, staff, and faculty express their opinions. Some of the most valuable lessons that higher education can teach students are the abilities to think for themselves, express their opinions, and fight for what they believe in.

I have no doubt that President Sweet does a great deal of work within the university, the state collegiate system, and the community to forward the progress and betterment of Youngstown State University.

But, the things that you thank President Sweet for doing on campus are things that any campus should be guaranteed: they are not luxuries that are bestowed upon students by some benevolent power. Also, these "amenities which we have grown accus-

tomed to" are not the responsibility of President Sweet. They are the jobs of hard working, underpaid members of the ACE union and other unions who had to fight tooth and nail for a 3 percent cost of living salary increase that is miniscule compared to the "cost of living" raise that President Sweet received.

I have never seen him closing my building at 10 p.m. with a police officer or cleaning up a lounge in Kilcawley. Give credit where credit is due.

At the beginning of the semester, I don't think that President Sweet lost much sleep over how he would pay his country club dues. However, the single mother working in housekeeping who has to buy new school clothes while wondering if an impending ACE strike will cost her a job is a different story.

It is condescending, self-righteous and insulting for anyone to suggest that students, who are adults, not "kids" or "babies", should silence their voices and stick their noses in a book. Their opinions have the same validity as your opinions. YSU business is everyone's business.

Alisa C. Gonzalez
Assistant Reference Librarian
Maag Library

'Our lives end when we become silent'

Editor:

I am writing in reference to the recent letter to the editor: President's raise is none of our business. The letter was written by early childhood education major, Pauline Ervin.

Youngstown State University is just that — a state university. State tax dollars are used to fund this university. Thus, everything that goes on here is not only students' business, but also the business of every taxpayer in the state of Ohio.

By law, salaries of all persons employed at the university are made available for public knowledge. Salaries are accessible at Maag Library, as well as in the department of Human Resources. If salaries weren't the business of the people, they would be kept confidential. YSU is not a private business or industry.

Ervin goes on to say: "I mean come on some of you complain about parking, diversity, and salaries so much it's ridiculous."

What concerns me the most about that statement is Ervin's passive attitude about diversity issues. If an early childhood education major doesn't prioritize diversity on the YSU campus, how is she going to respond to diversity issues in the classroom? It's a frightening thought.

Ervin states in her article: "Youngstown State University has some of the biggest babies, complainers, whiners, and nosiest people on the face of the earth."

I would like to respond to that comment with a quote from the late Dr. Martin Luther King: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

John Paul DeSimone
Junior, Psychology

PROTEST
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Sports

Heacock says wins giving team new life

By DAVE DEVEREUX
The Jambor

The YSU football team failed to get off to a good start this season. After dropping consecutive early-season games to McNeese State and Western Kentucky, the Penguins' record dropped to 1-2.

The slow start came close to putting a halt to any hopes the Penguins had of making a run towards the playoffs or their first ever Gateway Conference crown.

Since then, with their backs against the wall, the Penguins have responded by reeling off three straight wins against Southwest Missouri State, Indiana State and Florida Atlantic.

The Penguins record now stands at 4-2 overall and 2-1 in a tight Gateway Conference race.

At the Tuesday Press Conference, head coach Jon Heacock said the recent winning streak has given the team a new life and a great deal of momentum heading down the stretch.

"We've given ourselves a lease on life by the way we survived through the past few weeks," Heacock said. "I feel we've gotten better in all areas and we've really found out who we are."

"Everything that we want to do is still out there. There aren't a lot of folks who can say that."

Early in the season it appeared the group of 18 Penguin seniors wouldn't be able to balance out the fact that the team also had several inexperienced and unproven players.

When the Penguins met the McNeese State Cowboys back on Sept. 7, it was the Penguins' second game of the season but a match-up considered by many to be much like a playoff game. However, the Cowboys outplayed the Penguins in their own backyard and won the game 28-13, proving at that time, which team was playoff-caliber and which team was not.

The Penguins would then drop their Gateway Conference opener to Western Kentucky on the road. Senior linebacker Jon Tekac said that loss sounded the alarm and the Penguins had no other choice but to come together as a team and start winning games.

"After that second loss we had a team meeting and basically started over," Tekac said. "Since then this team has come together and we're playing better football each week."

In the last three contests, the Penguins have gone back to their "bread and butter" brand of football, meaning a fast but physical defense and a smash-mouth rushing attack. The Penguins' defense has collected 15 sacks and 13 takeaways, while the offense has rushed for almost 240 yards per game over the three-game stretch.

Heacock said one of the reasons the defense has been able to make plays is the offenses' ability to control the ball and keep the defense fresh.

"When the offense is controlling the ball and taking care of the ball they keep the defense off the field," Heacock said. "So now that puts the pressure on the opposing offense to get something done and that's the position our defensive players love to be in."

Despite the powerful running game, the Penguins have passed for a mere 80 yards in the three games since freshman Aaron Marshall took over as the starting quarterback.

Heacock said he knows at some point the team will be in a situation where they must pass however, he feels the team has been forced to rely on the running game because the games have all been close.

"We've been in a dog fight in just about every game we've been in," Heacock said. "When the time comes we know we're going to have to throw the ball but at the same time we don't want to experiment throwing the football when we're having success running it."

Against Florida Atlantic on Saturday, the Penguins came out on top 24-17; however, the Owls scored 14 points in the fourth quarter. Heacock said that has been a recurring theme this season and his team must do a better job fin-

ishing games.

"Overall I'm pleased with the win but hopefully this team is learning a lesson that you must put teams away when you have the chance," Heacock said. "We got up in the first game against Clarion and didn't finish the way we would've liked and the same thing happened the other night."

"We've done a tremendous job this season handling adversity," Heacock added. "We've stuck together through all the stuff that's gone on but we also have to be able to handle success. Hopefully we've learned our lesson."

Ahead for the Penguins are four crucial conference games, starting with Northern Iowa this Saturday. Heacock said despite his team's efforts the past three weeks, those performances won't be good enough against this team or any other team they face this year.

This is where we are but I think that's good news," Heacock said. "We're supposed to play better this week than we played the last three weeks."

Heading into the season, the Penguins date with Northern Iowa was immediately pinned as one of the premier confrontations in Division 1AA football.

Northern Iowa won the conference last season and reached the Division 1AA semifinals. They entered this season ranked second in the nation and were picked by most experts to win the conference again.

The Panthers, however, have run into some problems of late. After dropping a game on the road to Western

Kentucky, the Panthers returned home last weekend only to get hammered by Southern Illinois, 42-13 - their worst conference loss ever. The Panthers are now 3-3 overall and 0-2 in the conference.

Heacock said he can't explain the Panthers' recent struggles but knows the type of challenge they present.

"I watch them play and look at the personnel they have and I honestly don't know," Heacock said. "They're a scary team because you watch last year's team and then watch this year's team, and the same guys are playing."

Heacock said the team has uncharacteristically struggled with turnovers, something he can relate to. "The turnover margin has been very 'un-Northern Iowa-like' and much like we were early on."

The Penguins and Panthers have met 16 times with the Panthers holding a 10-6 lead in a series that dates back to 1978.

Panthers Head Coach Mark Farley said both schools are similar in both their proud traditions and their expectation levels.

"We don't accept losing around here much like Youngstown doesn't accept it," said Farley, whose Panthers defeated the Penguins 30-11 last season. Farley said his team is playing nowhere close to their capabilities and are now fighting for their lives.

"It's not a question of can we get in turned around, we must get it turned around quickly," Farley said.

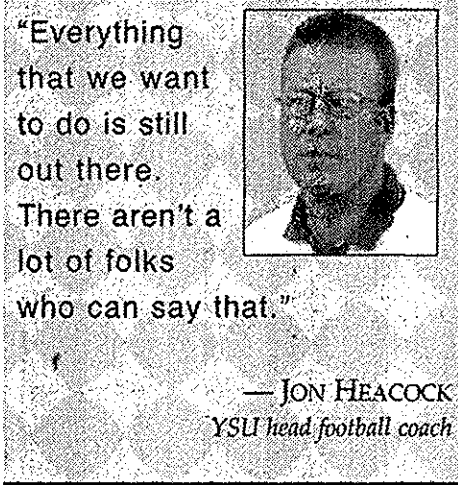
What was once considered by many to be a game that would decide the conference championship, Saturday's contest between YSU and Northern Iowa has now basically become an elimination game.

Heacock said the Penguins have played themselves back into position but must now seize their opportunities down the stretch.

"There is something out there that this team has decided they want to go after and we're now sitting here with an opportunity," Heacock said. "With five games left, I know what 18 seniors want to do and now we have to play our best football."

Heacock said despite the history and intensity between the Penguins and Panthers, he said the Penguins must take care of business against whoever they play.

"If we want to accomplish what we set out to accomplish, whoever gets off that bus here Saturday, we have to play them and we have to win."



— JON HEACOCK
YSU head football coach

"Everything that we want to do is still out there. There aren't a lot of folks who can say that."

YSU drops out of SI poll

By JIM VISINGARD
The Jambor

The YSU football team has played for six national championships in the past 10 years.

The women's basketball team has made three recent trips to the NCAA tournament, advancing to the second round in 1998 after beating Memphis.

And in 2001, the San Francisco Giants selected YSU former pitcher Brad Hennessey in the first round of the Major League Baseball draft.

Yet, with these latest accomplishments there are at least 200 colleges in the country with better Division I athletic programs.

In the Oct. 7 issue of Sports Illustrated, sports writer Phil Taylor ranked the top 200 schools out of the 324 that have division I athletics, with The University of Texas edging out Stanford University for the top spot.

While schools in the same conference as YSU, such as Gateway foe Southwest Missouri State [ranked 133] and Horizon League rival Butler [ranked 166] made the list, Taylor believes that YSU was left off the list because of the strength of the team sports at the university last year.

"Out of the seven major team sports from last year, the football team was the only program with a winning record, and they still did not even make the playoffs," Taylor said.

The rankings were compiled from the records and conference finish of the team last year.

The strength of schedule, conferences and recent success of the school were also taken into consideration in the ranking of the Sears Director Cup. The Sears Cup is awarded to the nation's best college athletic program.

While some might feel view the ranking as a bad thing, YSU Sports Director Trevor Parks does not.

"It is always nice to be included in a list like that," Parks said. "But it is not a huge disappointment not to be there."

Parks believes that improvements are on their way.

"With our facilities getting better and with us joining two new conferences recently, the Gateway in 1997 and the Horizon in 2001, strides are being made," he said. "The future of athletics here at the university is only getting brighter."

Athletic Director Ron Strollo said one improvement not in the immediate future is the addition of any sport to the university. The Athletic Department states that the main goal is to continue to improve the 18 sports already in place at YSU.

Ed DiGregorio, head coach of the women's basketball team, said he also does not see the ranking as a big disappointment.

He said, despite the ranking, he thinks YSU is in the top 200.

"When you take into account a team's RPI ranking, their strength of schedule and the strength of their conference, I think YSU is in the top 200," he said.

While the front brass might feel good about the ranking, there are some students athletes on campus who said they have ways to improve YSU athletics.

Freshman Quentin Humphries, strong safety for the YSU football team, said that the athletic programs should expand recruiting to find the best possible athletes.

"By expanding recruiting, we can find better athletes to increase the product we put on the field," Humphries said. "It will also erase the negative image that some athletes might have of this city by bringing them here and showing them around."

Starting center of the basketball team, freshman Tara Fleming, also said the teams need more publicity.

"More publicity for all sports will show the area and the rest of the country what YSU really knows," Fleming said. "And that there are some pretty good athletes here that can do some amazing things."

Taylor said not all sports need to have winning records to make the list, but just by being competitive, YSU can be ranked among the elite.

University hires Vindicator's Cole

By ANGELA OLIN
The Jambor

YSU officials have chosen a longtime education reporter to be manager of news and information services, a public relations position formerly known as news editor.

Ron Cole, education reporter for The Vindicator for 10 years, will begin his new job Nov. 4. The position had been open since spring.

"Ron represents a superior selection of outstanding experience and writing skills," said Walt Ulbricht, executive director of Marketing and Communications.

In an interview Wednesday, Cole said he is happy about the opportunity YSU has offered him.

"It will be a good step for me personally and professionally," he said.

Ulbricht said there were 110 candidates for the position;

the field eventually was narrowed down to three. He said the search committee carefully considered each candidate.

Finalists not chosen were Yalinda Moore and Daniel Shrensky.

Ulbricht said after interviews with the finalists were complete, each candidate was asked to write a news release based on a hypothetical situation at YSU.

"Ron's results were the best," Ulbricht said. Cole said he thought the hiring process was very professional.

"I enjoyed it quite a bit," said Cole. "It was good."

Leon Stennis, the former news editor, said Cole might run into a few problems while covering the university.

"He might have a few things to overcome in terms of transitioning," Stennis said.

He said it would be hard for Cole to adjust from covering YSU to promoting YSU.

Cole had continued to cover YSU throughout the application process. After a Jambor article, in which journalism professors questioned the ethics of Cole and The Vindicator, Cole stopped covering YSU.

Stennis said he believed Cole would make the transition from The Vindicator to YSU well.

"Ron and I have been friends for years," said Stennis. "He's a strong man from an ethics standpoint. He's honest and straightforward. I wish Ron well."

Cole was also a reporter for The Times in Shreveport, La.; The Herald-Press, Palestine, Tx.; and the Kerrville Daily Times, Kerrville, Texas.

Cole has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Temple University in Philadelphia.

Call Angela Olin at (330) 941-1989.

News in brief

Priceline.com founder will be speaker

The founder of Priceline.com, Jay Walker, will be the speaker at this year's Colloquium on Free Enterprise, which will be held Tuesday, Oct. 29.

Walker was ranked among the top 25 most influential people in the digital age by Time Magazine and was named the "New Age Edison" by Forbes Magazine.

Walker Digital, Walker's property laboratory, holds about a dozen patents and has over 200

patents pending.

The colloquium will start at 7:30 p.m. in the Ohio Room in Kilcawley Center. Admission is free, and it is open to the public. Parking will be provided in the Wick Ave. parking deck.

The Paul J. and Marguerite K. Thomas Colloquium began in 1981 and provides workshops by business leader for students and the public.

Habitat for Humanity plans flower sale

The YSU Chapter of Habitat for Humanity will be selling roses and carnations from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 18 in Kilcawley Student Center.

Benefits from the Sweetest Day [Oct. 19] flower sell will be used for the Habitat

Alternative Spring Break, '03.

Information about the Alternative Spring Break trip will be posted. The trip is open to all students interested.

For more information, call (330) 743-0439.

Cafaro House offers safe trick or treating for Boys and Girls Club

By MARK KOMLANC
The Jambor

For some 50 to 60 children of the Boys and Girls Club of Youngstown, a trip to Cafaro House on Oct. 30 will be more than just candy, fun and games.

The 10th Class of University Scholars will sponsor a Fall Festival Night for the Boys and Girls Club. The evening will begin at 5 p.m. with face painting, story telling and, of course, trick or treating throughout the dorm.

The Boys and Girls Club executive director Richard G. Allen said he is excited about the opportunity the event poses for the children.

"It's an important event because it's a chance for these kids

to set foot on a college campus," Allen said. "It's chance to show them they aren't alien to the college settings."

While the event will be credited toward each of the University Scholars required 60 hours of community service a year, those students taking part said they are equally excited about the night.

Students Lori MacDonald, Angela Kwallerk and Josh Hiznay all expressed their excitement for the event.

The three freshmen said it's a great opportunity to give back to the community and present a safe, fun environment for the children.

Hiznay said he already has his costume picked out. Holding his arms out wide, he told of being "Lumiere," the candelabra from "Beauty and the Beast."

He added that he can't sing, but definitely would try for the children.

This is the first Fall Festival Night for the University Scholars, but they said they hope it's just the beginning of an annual event.

The evening will begin with dinner for the children followed by activities. The children will be broken into groups and sent to different rooms, where different activities such as story telling, face painting and games will occur.

After the activities are finished, the children will trick or treat throughout rooms in the dorm.

"The Fall Festival Night is a great way to give back to the community," Freshman Bob McGovern said. "It gives children in the area an opportunity to have fun in a safe environment."

Campus Calendar

Today: The Emerging Leader Program is hosting a workshop on communication and interpersonal skills from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in Jones Room, Kilcawley Center. For more information contact Melanie Kooztz at 330-941-7459 or mlkooztz@student.yzu.edu.

Friday: The International Student Organization will be meeting at 3:30 p.m. in Cafaro Suite, Williamson Hall. There will be a presentation on Mexico and food.

Notices:
 Tongzhi - A Gay/Straight Alliance will have a business meeting every other week, alternating with a social get-together in Peaberry's. Both will be on Tuesdays at 4 p.m. All LGBT people and straight allies are welcome to attend. The upcoming dates are as follows:
 Tuesday, 10/22: Social in Peaberry's Cafe
 Tuesday, 10/29: Meeting in Bresnahan Reception

The Department of Physical Therapy will host informational meetings for students who are interested in the Master of Physical Therapy Program. The dates for those informational meetings are Nov. 1, and Dec. 2, from 11:30 - 1 in Cushman Hall, B046. Advisors welcome.

YSU Women's Center Presents: The Second Annual International Women's Mini-Film Festival "Challenging Conventions" Following is a list of shows and show times: *All About My Mother* (Spain): Thursday, Oct. 17, 2002 @ 7:00 p.m. Discussions will follow. Showing in the Humphrey Room, Kilcawley Center. *In the Time of the Butterflies* (Dominican Republic) Tuesday, Oct. 22 2002 @ 2:30 and 7:00 p.m. Discussion to follow. Showing in Bresnahan I&II, Kilcawley Center. *Cry Me a Baby* (Soveto, South Africa) Co-Sponsored by the Dept. of African Studies. Wednesday, Oct. 30, 2002 @ 7:00 p.m. and Thursday Oct. 31, 2002 @ 2:30 p.m. Discussions will follow. Showing both days in the Humphrey Room/Coffelt Room, Kilcawley Center.

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Services

Sunday Mass: The Newman Center, Catholic Campus Ministry, 254 Madison Ave. (across from Lyden House) every Sunday at 6:00 p.m. Call (330) 747-9202 for info.

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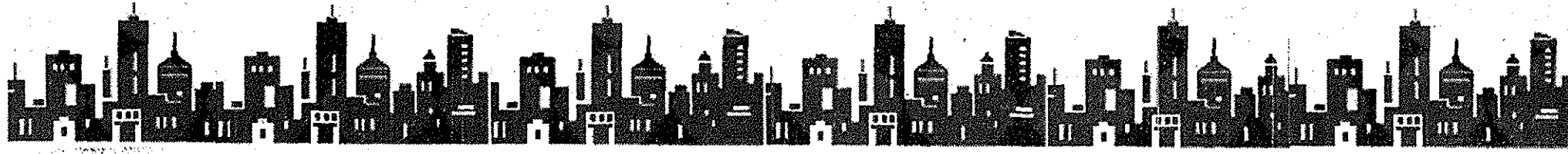
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Entertainment



Controversial video game to be released

BY PAUL MAUCH
The Jambar

Last year Rockstar Games released "Grand Theft Auto 3" for Playstation 2. It became one of the most controversial games ever released. Congress even tried to ban it.

On Oct. 29, the prequel of GTA3 is to be released as "Grand Theft Auto: Vice City."

The premise behind these games is to steal, kill, cheat and destroy as much as possible to move ahead in a life of crime. The point of it all is to have as much fun as possible while doing these nasty things.

Since "Vice City" is the prequel to GTA3, it takes place in the early 80s, and everything in the game is made to remind players of big hair, neon socks and other fads from 20 years ago.

The main focus of this game is on driving. You can drive vehicles that range from family cars to sports cars, mopeds to motorcycles and funeral cars to stretch limos. Many of the vehicles are similar to the ones in GTA3, but all have been retrofitted to fit the era of the game.

Nothing sets the mood better for a game than the music. This game has over 80 musical tracks, the largest selection of music ever assembled for a video game. The track includes 80's songs from such artists as Judas Priest, Blondie, Flock of Seagulls and Grandmaster Flash.

Just like GTA3, "Vice City"

will have humorous and catchy talk on the radio. And just like everything else, it follows the 80's theme with lines like, "if you can't fit into a spandex jumpsuit, what can you do?"

But let's get back to the violence. Of course, one of your most powerful methods of mass destruction is driving the vehicles — imagine driving down a busy sidewalk in a city bus. But there is more to killing in "Vice City" than that, and there is more to it than in GTA3.

Players will have many new weapons.

There will be the trusty Uzi and a few other guns that resemble some of the automatics from GTA3, but now players will be able to use a katana, a screwdriver and a golf club.

There will be others — but Rockstar isn't willing to give away all the surprises just yet.

The graphics in "Vice City" seem only slightly improved from GTA3 but that's to be expected when both games are huge, and "Vice City" manages to be even bigger and more detailed than its predecessor.

When you are done playing "Vice City" for the first time, it is quite likely you will be inspired to say — in the words of Alex — in the words of Alex — "that was a real kick and good for laughs and lashings of the old ultraviolet."

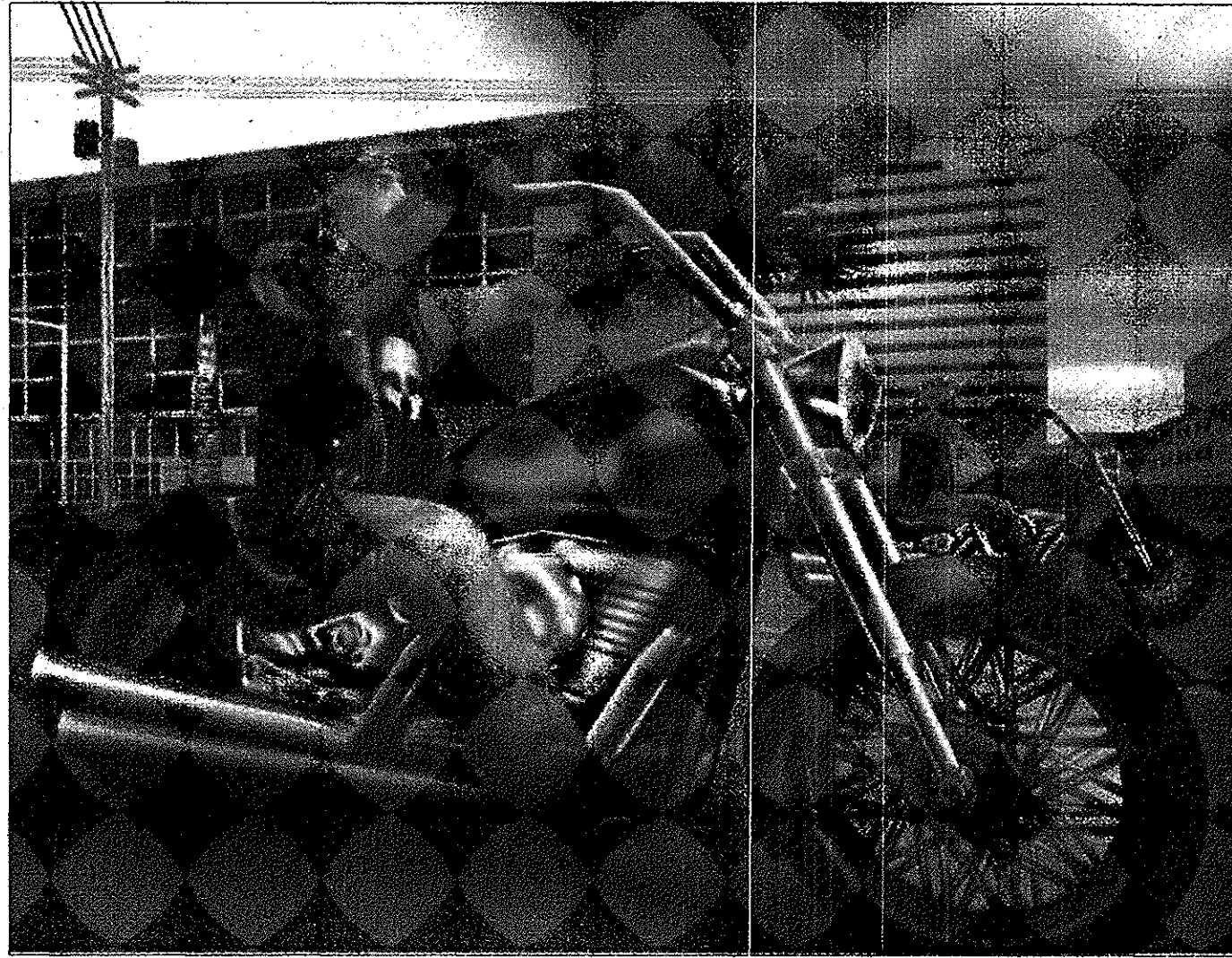
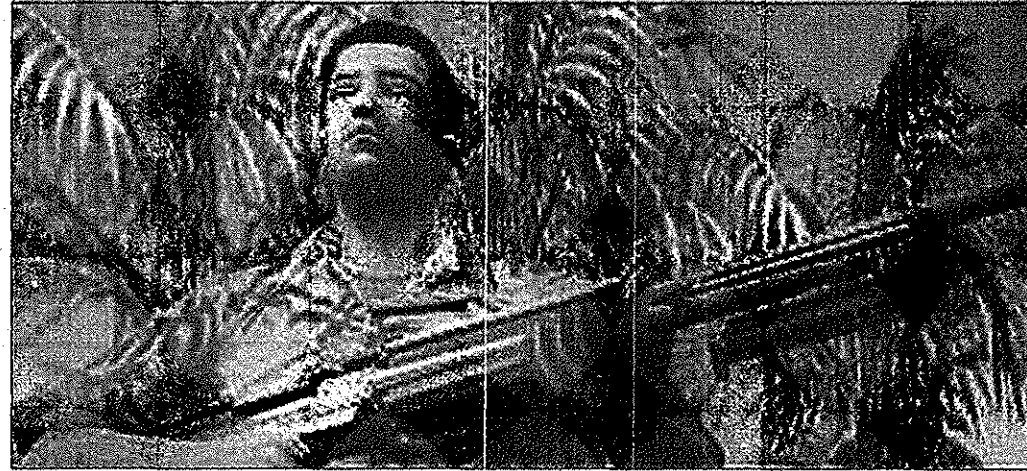


Photo courtesy of rockstargames.com/vicecity

GAMING: Rockstar Games will release the controversial prequel to its Grand Theft Auto series, Grand Theft Auto: Vice City, on Oct. 29. "Grand Theft Auto 3 was nearly banned by Congress for the games premise, which is to steal, kill, cheat, and destroy as much as possible to move ahead in the life of crime."



BY JAMI BOINSEGNA
The Jambar

Remember Sidney? She and James went out the other night. James said she was obnoxiously drunk and made a fool of herself. James said she was hanging on every guy in the bar, too. Then, she passed out in the bar and he had to ...

Stop! Gossip — why is it that we can't live with it, but we can't live without it, either.

It's like that "telephone game" many of us played as children. Everyone would sit in a circle, and one person would whisper a secret to the person next to them. Each person would repeat whispering the secret, until it got all the way around the circle, where the last person would reveal the statement aloud.

It usually was completely different than what the first person said, and nothing has changed now that we are all grown up.

You can't get more than three girls together without gossiping. You can't go out on Friday night without waking up on Saturday, picking up the phone, and gossiping about what happened. You can't go to class without talking about someone in the room. And, you can't go to work without gossiping about at least one of the other employees.

If you're not like this, you probably know someone who is.

So, why can't we live without it?

Gossip, as we all know, is fun. Any event we go to wouldn't be the same without it — parties, bars, or even going out to eat with your family.

For some twisted reason, it even gives many of us satisfaction. The great majority of the time, gossip is negative. It's something that

someone out there probably wouldn't want being said about them. Perhaps, hearing stories of other peoples' downs brings us up. It's like therapy for ourselves. Whatever, the case, pitching into the conversation and adding on to the story is fun.

Let's face it, we are born in a society, probably the only one in the world, where gossip is a way of life. The beauty shop is actually known for and associated with gossip. Does getting your hair done in other countries mean half the conversation with the hairdresser will involve "he said-she said?"

We have movies about gossip, we have television shows about gossip and we even have magazines that are strictly gossip. It's basically impossible to avoid.

So, why can't we live with it? Or should I say: Why should we live without it? Because most of the time, we are living off of hearing things that we don't know are fact.

And, even more so, if you find out you're the one being gossiped about, it's probably one of two things: What people are talking about is simply them living off of untruths, or what they're saying is true — but none of their business.

Gossip might seem harmless however, words can be very hurtful to us. Simple words have ruined friendships, ended relationships, and even broken family bonds.

The bottom line is, there's nothing good about something that's also called "dirt."

Call Jami Boinsegna at (330) 941-1913.

Movie sequel unnecessary

BY RYAN MCCABE
The Jambar

"John Carpenter's Vampires: Los Muertos," the unnecessary sequel to the mildly received John Carpenter's Vampires has arrived direct-to-video just in time for Halloween.

The Film's plot — if it can really be called a plot — centers around Derek Bliss (Jon Bon Jovi...yes, that Jon Bon Jovi), a "tough-as-nails" freelance vampire, who is hired by an "anonymous" client to assemble a team of hunters and prevent a renegade band of vampires from leaving Mexico.

Problems arise when every hunter Bliss tries to enlist is brutally murdered just before he gets to them. He seems to think the Master Vampire has established a tele-

pathic link with him and is picking his brain, but writer/director Tommy Lee Wallace inexplicably abandons this concept within a matter of 20 minutes.

Bliss finally assembles a rag-tag team of equally forgettable hunters, but the performances aren't even bad in the guilty-pleasure sort of way that is expected from B-movies — they're just bad.

It doesn't help that there's barely even a coherent script to work with. Almost a carbon-copy rip-off of the original, the only twist the film offers is a female Master Vampire. Never mind that she never gets a name, much less a back story.

The dialogue in horror films is expected to be lame, but Los Muertos takes the genre to new lows with such classics as, "Come out vampire, I can smell," and "There's

two ways you can die, slow and painful... or quick and easy." It'd be a shame if the Academy overlooked this film at the Oscars this year.

I wouldn't recommend renting this film, especially if you can't keep images of Bon Jovi with teased hair and tight leather pants singing "You Give Love a Bad Name" out of your mind while watching him pretend to be a fearless vampire hunter.

Sadly, they chose to leave the ending wide-open for another inevitable sequel. Here's an idea, if the filmmakers want to continue this crappy series, they should cast Bon Jovi's band mates in the supporting roles. That would at least be interesting, but as Bon Jovi's character says, "All right kid, but don't get your hopes up."

Weekend Calendar

Nyabinghi, Friday - Brothers of Conquest, Sourvein, Cobra Axis.



HEAVY METAL: Metal rockers Brothers of Conquest will be bringing their brand of heavy rock to The Nyabinghi on Friday night. Show starts at 11 p.m. For more info visit www.nyabinghi.com

Saturday - 6 p.m. All Ages: Verrado, The Kid Brother Collective, A Good Day to Die, The Funeral Bird, A Trunkful of Dead Bodies, and Prevent Falls

Cedars, Friday - Raul, Saturday - Four Foot Francis, Livid.

The Cellar, Friday - Disco Explosion, Saturday - War Pigz.

Plaza Cafe, Friday - Eleven Even, Oral, Saturday - Ash Blanket, Mushcup.

Irish Bob's, Running on Empty.

Entertainment in brief

Husband and wife to perform at folk festival

Husband and wife Steve Gillette and Cindy Mangsen will perform at the 8th annual WYSU-FM Folk Festival Friday, Nov. 8. The couple, from Bennington, Vt., will perform at 8 p.m. in Peaberry's in Kilcawley Center.

Anyone is welcome to the free concert, and

parking is \$3 in the M-8 lot off of University Plaza.

Gillette and Mangsen work together at Compass Rose Music, which offers contemporary and traditional folk music and an Internet songwriting tutorial.