

Atwater, Ondreyka differ on vacancies

By LA'EL HUGHES
The Jambar



ATWATER

Top university administrators are scrambling to find money to fill vacant positions, and the provost is abandoning a proposal to

save cash. Officials in the Office of Financial Affairs said they already have cut funding for at least 14 staff and administrative positions, but Provost Tony Atwater said he intends to find money to fill those vacancies.

"They [the Provost's office] will simply have to look somewhere else, because the money has already been taken out," University Budget Director Beth Kushner said.

With Atwater's earlier consent, Kushner and Vice President of Financial Affairs Terry Ondreyka both said the university had planned to leave the 14 positions vacant and delay the hiring of 20 more positions during this fiscal year.

Atwater, however, said nothing is "in granite."

When asked if departments and offices were told about the possible vacancies or delays, Atwater said decisions regarding personnel are very complex.

"I haven't agreed to leave any positions vacant," he said. "Personnel decisions are very dynamic and complex. We are dealing with a moving target."

Atwater also said personnel decisions are "too complex for the average person to understand."

Ondreyka said the university's plan was to save \$500,000 by either delaying or not filling the 34 positions.

Atwater, however, said he has other plans.

Atwater and Ron Chordas, assistant provost for Academic Administration, said the 14 vacant positions would be filled even though money for these positions has already been removed.

When asked where he would find funds, Atwater refused to answer directly.

"I resent the fact that [The Jambar] is implying that we would hire someone without having the money as if it's going to blow up in everyone's face," he said.

The university has saved money, Chordas said, by delaying hirings and not filling other positions. Chordas said those savings will be used.

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City man found guilty in murder

By REBECCA MARQUIS
The Jambar



TREASIC

More tears were shed in Judge Maureen Cronin's courtroom Wednesday as a jury found a

Youngstown man guilty in connection with a YSU student's 2002 murder.

Freddie Lewis, 20, was convicted of charges of complicity to commit aggravated murder and complicity to commit aggravated robbery for the shooting death of Justin

Treasic.

Lewis originally was charged with aggravated murder and aggravated robbery. His bond has been revoked until his sentencing, which will be today.

According to the Mahoning County

Prosecutor's office, Lewis could receive 25 years to life in prison for the complicity to aggravated murder charge and 10 years for complicity to aggravated robbery.

Treasic's mother, Jane Treasic, said Lewis and her son met only four days before the

shooting. She said she was satisfied with the jury's verdict but felt sorry for the Lewis family.

"[Lewis'] parents are victims, too, but that doesn't lessen to me what the crime

See GUILTY, page 2

Health College numbers lead YSU

By ANGELA OLIN
The Jambar

When final enrollment numbers are released next week, the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services is expected to lead with the largest jump in enrollment.

In a Tuesday press release, the college was noted for experiencing a jump in enrollment of 346 students — a 15.5 percent leap from last spring.

"The enrollment increase is due to a lot of different things," said Health and Human Services Dean John Yemma. "We have the programs the kids need, the faculty is in tune with what the students need, and the job market is good."

"We serve the students," Walt Ulbricht, executive director of Marketing and Communications, said YSU's other five colleges did not show as significant an increase as the College of Health and Human Services.

According to the news release, as of Monday YSU is expected to exceed the 12,000 mark — a first in eight years.

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A SHORTSTOP IN YOUNGSTOWN



Ronnie Gural/The Jambar

SIGN HERE: Pittsburgh Pirates shortstop Pokey Reese signs autographs Wednesday at the Butler Institute of American Art. Resse was part of the annual Pirates caravan.

Interviews shed light on black history

By ALICIA HOUSTON &
JAMI BONINSEGNA
The Jambar

An African-American minister, who spent more than 80 years of his life living in the Mahoning Valley, remembers a time when blacks played a key role in politics.

A few years before he died, the Rev. Edward Stonework Jr. spent hours talking to a historian about politics, work and life in general.

Stonework said there was a time when there was more African-Americans registered to vote than whites.

"Most of the foreign population was unable to vote," Stonework told a historian in 1989. "They were just coming in, some of them... but the Negroes had the majority."

Stonework's interview is one of the many manuscripts of oral interviews with African Americans in Youngstown that can be read on-line through www.maag.yosu.edu/oralhistory.

The YSU Oral History Program, founded in 1974 by Dr. Hugh Earnhart, collects and preserves first-person narratives of northeastern Ohioans who have participated in or closely observed economic, social, political, religious, and intellectual events that have significantly affected the state and nation.

The collection is one of the largest oral history archives in the states, containing almost 2,000 interviews and over 25,000 pages of transcribed material.

Researchers have used the oral history material for theses, dissertations, articles and books.

The collection includes a wide variety of subjects, including Jewish history in Youngstown, the Ku Klux Klan, women in industrial unions, the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company, the steel industry, World War II, Vietnam, Youngstown College (University), politics, the Holocaust, religion and ethnic cultures, such as African-American culture in northeast-

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International students receive new lounge

By ELIZABETH TABAK
The Jambar

Bright colors and laughter filled a bleak winter day Wednesday at the dedication of the Lariccia Family International Student Lounge.

The lounge, which is located behind the Bagel Stop on the first floor of Kilauea Center, was named for the Lariccia family, which has been a longtime donor to YSU.

Students and university

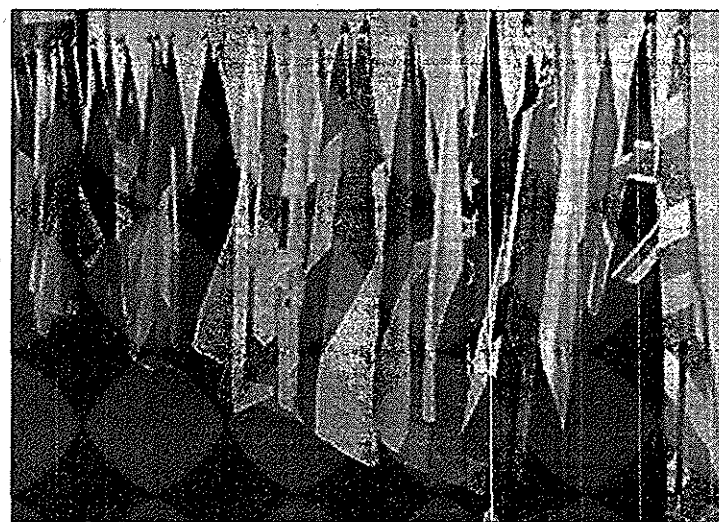
employees who attended called the dedication a wonderful, peaceful event, and 41

"This is a wonderful event... a greater step ahead in not only the YSU community but in the global community."

— BRENDA CHADAMBURA
International Student Association President

International Student Association President Brenda Chadambura, who called the dedication "truly heartwarming," spoke on the importance of the lounge.

"This is a wonderful event... a greater step ahead in



Ronnie Gural/The Jambar

FLAGLINE: Forty-one flags representing different countries stand on display Wednesday in the newly dedicated Lariccia Family International Student Lounge.

not only the YSU community, but in the global community," Chadambura said.

Other speakers included

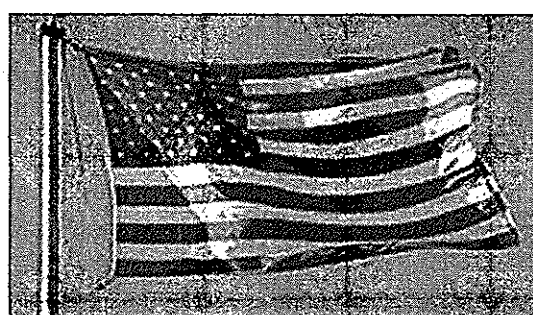
See LOUNGE, page 5

Inside today's issue:

Leonardo DiCaprio is back starring in a new hit film, "Catch Me If You Can." Page 8



YSU reacts to President Bush's State of the Union address. Page 5



The top five mainstream rock releases of the past year. Rock 'n' Roll Damnation, Page 8



SGA meeting includes jokes about student activities

By ROXANNE TORELLA
The Jambar

Some Student Government Association members, including the president, said Monday's meeting was time they could have spent more productively.

At large Representative Heidi Critser said the rest of the meeting, which included some representatives making fun of several activities, was nonproductive.

"The meeting was an unprofessional meeting and was informal," Critser said. "We came so far last semester, and we really need to keep it up this semester."

Although Monday's meeting produced three financial appropriations, SGA President Jeff Parks agreed the meeting was conducted in an unprofessional manner. He said he likes the meetings to be informal, but he wants future meetings to be more productive.

"We didn't hit anything big,"

Parks said. "Our reps tend to focus on old issues."

He said he hopes that after next Monday's committee meetings, more can be accomplished at the next general meeting Feb. 10.

At the meeting, SGA discussed campus events - primarily ones held by the Student Programming Board - such as the "Hula the Night Away" beach party that will be held Feb. 27 in Peaberry's Café at Kilcawley Center.

After several SGA representatives joked about the event, other representatives said the derogatory behavior was not the right way to reconnect with students.

College of Education Representative Matt Knight said SGA is wrong to poke fun of campus events.

"We need to go out to campus events and have fun," he said.

College of Arts & Sciences Representative Rajah James said he wished he had gone to more campus

"Our meetings don't require action from week to week, however once committee meetings start next week we can begin to focus on more active issues."



— JEFF PARKS
SGA president

events while he had the time - saying that now in his senior year he has no time to participate.

"I regret not going to these things," said James. "I wish I would have taken advantage of these events when I had the time."

Tony Spano, student coordinator

for Student Programming, said that as the organization continues to plan these events he encourages SGA members to look at the Web site and share ideas in making campus events more fun for students.

Besides hosting "Hula the Night Away," the Student Programming Board plans other events for students as well; however, SGA turned down their \$826 proposal for a March event.

At large Representative Michael Iannetti even joked about the funding, recommending that SGA give the Student Programming Board negative \$100.

Student Programming Board has already received funds on three separate occasions this year and with only \$4,425 left in financial appropriations, SGA must now be more conservative with their funds, according to the SGA Executive Board.

College of Health & Human

Services Representative Matt Pastier, however, said SGA is doing well with funding and still encourages other student groups to apply for funding.

"Our meetings don't require action from week to week, however, once committee meetings start next week, we can begin to focus on more active issues," Parks said.

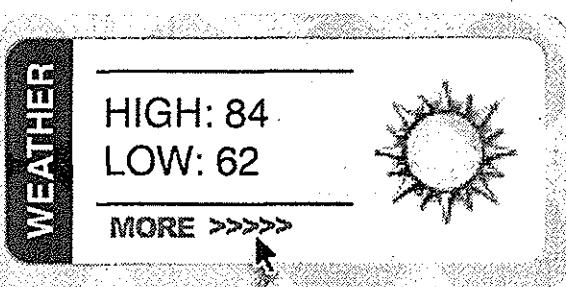
During representative remarks at Monday's meeting, Critser also said that SGA will need to work on reconnecting with the students.

"We give money to student events, so if we reach out that's the only way we can reconnect," said Critser.

College of Fine & Performing Arts Representative Robert Greaves agreed and said he encourages SGA to do what needs done on campus this semester.

Call Roxanne Torella at (330) 941-1811.

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was," she said. "We all have a loss."

Justin Treasic, who was 21, was found last Feb. 21 in a field on the North Side of Youngstown, shot once in the head and once in the arm. He died at St. Elizabeth Health Center the following day.

During the trial, Lewis' defense attorney, Ron Yarwood, alleged that Lewis' cousin, William Vaughn, was the person who pulled the trigger.

Vaughn, who is being tried separately, appeared in court today for jury selection. His trial will begin when the jury is seated.

On the final day of Lewis' trial, Jane Treasic said that testimony was given which she found particularly disturbing.

She said Youngstown Police Det. John Kelly, who headed the investigation, testified that before Treasic was shot, he was made to exit the car, kneel and beg for mercy.

"It made me want to throw up when I heard it," she said.

Jane Treasic, however, has found memories of Justin and said she could not be prouder of her son.

"He was just trying to find his way," she said of her only child. "I'll never experience things other parents will."

For others, however, the ordeal far from complete.

"It's halftime," said Al Paolone, who sat with Jane Treasic at the reading of the

verdict.

Both Jane Treasic and Paolone belong to Parents of Murdered Children, a support group.

Sophomore Kevin Kerrigan, a childhood friend of Justin Treasic, said he is happy the first trial is over.

"We'll just wait to see what happens with the next one."

Call Rebecca Marquis at (330) 941-3523.

VACANCIES, continued from page 1

But Ondreyka said that if Atwater fills some of the positions that were to be left open, other positions will have to remain unfilled.

Victor Wan-Tatah, director of Africana Studies, said he was outraged that he has not received any word on the status for a full-time secretary. He said the university could not blame the budget.

"The office has been without a full-time secretary for eight or nine years," Wan-Tatah said. "Having a secretary is not a luxury. It has been very difficult to get along without one."

"We're always last. There is no real commitment on the part of administration. Maybe people don't know how hard it is to do all the things we do

around here with only two student assistants."

According to the documents supplied to The Jambar by the Budget office, Atwater's Academic Affairs volunteered to leave the following positions vacant for the 2003 fiscal year:

- Executive Director for the Maag Library.
- Coordinator of Choral Activities in the Music Department.
- Internship coordinator for the Social Work department.
- Secretary for the Social Work department.

Hiring, however, for the executive director for Maag library is well under way, Kushner said, with many candidates already interviewed.

Under the category of

administration, Vice President John Habat agreed to leave the following positions vacant:

- Police officer.
- Police dispatcher
- Maintenance repair worker.

YSU police Lt. Gregory Clementi said the department has not received any word about whether it will be allowed to hire for the two positions.

Other positions that were supposed to remain vacant under the original plan are:

- Development officer.
- Web editor/designer.
- Coordinator for Equal Opportunity and Diversity.
- Executive director for Enrollment Services.
- Associate director for Financial Aid.

Ondreyka said one of the weaknesses of filling positions at this time, is that "the university does not have a position control system."

So, he said, while the university tries to fill positions by priority, there is not a means to track what positions are being left open to fill another.

"There are multiple conditions that influence decisions on personnel divisions," Atwater said. "The financial constraints of the university contribute to this complexity. The Academic Affairs division is proceeding expeditiously in supporting staff needs throughout the university."

Call La'el Hughes at (330) 941-3523.

STUDENTS, continued from page 1

In 1995, the last time enrollment exceeded 12,000, the numbers were at 12,452.

The head count as of Monday was 12,221, representing a 3 percent increase of 362 students since last spring.

"The efforts of everyone on campus to bring more students to the university are continuing to pay off," University President David Sweet in the news release.

Official 14th day enrollment numbers will be available next week.

Call Angela Olim at (330) 941-1989.

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Today's Editorials

Vice presidents must be on the same page

The irony continues at YSU. Two of this university's vice presidents, despite being paid lush, ludicrous salaries for their presumed competence and skill, do not seem to have a clue which vacancies will be filled and how much money will be saved.

After a Jambar article last week, in which it was reported that the university would leave certain positions open in an effort to save money, several employees called the newspaper with questions, concern and a whole lot of confusion.

When asked for clarification, Vice President for Financial Affairs Terry Ondreyka and Provost Tony Atwater played a proverbial game of telephone hot potato.

Neither seemed to know the answers — Atwater even seemed somewhat defiant of the budget plan to save money.

This confusion is unacceptable. We strongly urge University President David Sweet to address these errors and this confusion by whatever discussions or reprimands are necessary.

The problems are eerily reminiscent to problems reported last year about a local hospital's missed payments to the university for a shared nursing program.

With all the reports of corporate fraud, YSU cannot afford to be sloppy when it comes to finances — especially in a time of fiscal uncertainty.

Atwater and Ondreyka must be on the same page. We are for saving money — if a few positions need to be vacant to save a buck or two, we're all for it.

Unfortunately, it doesn't appear that YSU is saving anything. And it doesn't appear that they would have found out anytime soon.

This most likely is a communication or paperwork problem — and it must be solved now.

Accountability is a must when it comes to positions like these, especially when money is at stake.

We want to believe in the competence of our vice presidents. We sincerely hope this is just a slight misunderstanding that will never happen again.

Bush spins conservatism

With the hullabaloo surrounding Iraq on Tuesday, President Bush had a convenient mask to the ultra-conservative philosophies he spewed during his State of the Union address.

Tucked neatly between a bipartisan effort to secure prescription drugs for the elderly and a historical rundown of Iraq's misbehavior, Bush took bold stands on abortion rights and human cloning.

These two moral issues have no place in government, and Bush succumbed to conservative pressure Tuesday.

On abortion, Bush pleaded for a day when partial-birth abortions would be illegal. This has been a hot topic for years, and with the 30th anniversary of Roe v. Wade last week, it has been on the minds of many recently.

Bush felt the need to grandstand for conservative Republicans who have hoped the president would make a bold stand on abortion. And he finally did.

The government is right to keep abortions of any kind legal; any government decision on this matter would be an attempt to legislate morality, and because the U.S. is a secular country, we do not legislate morality.

The president also asked for a ban on human cloning for fear of the moral repercussions. Again that word: moral.

What is moral and what is immoral always has been and always will be a matter of opinion. But to spurn technology simply because it is against Christianity is unconstitutional. Bush should know better.

The next year will be a crucial one for President Bush. Not only does his re-election bid hinge on the success of his oversold war with Iraq, it hinges on the reception of his newly found ultra-conservatism.

The Jambar editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambar. Letters must be typed and should not exceed 400 words. Each letter must include a name and telephone number for verification purposes. All submissions are subject to editing for spelling and grammar.

The Jambar will not print letters that libel others or threaten harm. The editor in chief reserves the right to reject letters that do not follow policy.

Opinion pieces submitted by students, staff and others outside the staff are welcome and should be no longer than 500 words. The newspaper reserves the right to edit or reject submissions. The views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff or YSU faculty, staff or administration.

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Pipe Dream?



America, Iraq and YSU

Editor's note: The impending war with Iraq has many people on campus talking about the pros and cons of an American attack. The Jambar will be accepting viewpoints on the escalating situation in the coming weeks. Included on today's page is a copy of John Russo's YSU-OEA resolution opposing war.

Potential war spurs many questions

By KEITH J. LEPAK
Special to The Jambar

consternation. Yet, if we are to exercise any responsi-

Does the United States of America face such a significant national security threat from Saddam Hussein's regime that an invasion of Iraq is required? If such an invasion is imminent, must or should the United States receive the blessing of the United Nations? What are the possible political consequences of sustained military action in Iraq, the destruction of Saddam Hussein's regime, and the likely occupation of the country? Why are major American allies reluctant to support an assertive American policy? These and other questions are currently perplexing many Americans and foreign observers as events in and around Iraq unfold. They are questions which yield no hard and fast answers, questions which unavoidably produce political debate and

"They are questions which yield no hard and fast answers, questions which unavoidably produce political debate and consternation."

— KEITH J. LEPAK,
political scientist

ble idea of citizenship in our contentious in public, discuss and debate them we must. Members of the YSU community will have an opportunity to do just that at a campus forum on Wednesday, Feb. 5, from

3 to 5 p.m. in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center. The forum is titled "A War for 'Peace' or 'Oil'?" America, Iraq and the World" and will be guided by a panel of faculty and students who will initiate discussion of various aspects of the current and prospective situation. The forum is sponsored by the YSU Protestant and Catholic Campus Ministries, the YSU Peace and Conflict Studies program and the YSU Political Science department. Take some time out of your busy day and give your attention to something that vitally concerns all of us. For more information, contact me at (330) 941-3437 or e-mail me at kjlepek@cc.ysu.edu.

The writer is an associate professor of political science and director of Peace and Conflict studies.

A resolution opposing unilateral action

By JOHN RUSSO
Special to The Jambar

Faculty and YSU-OEA Executive Committee,

I plan to introduce the resolution below. So that everyone has opportunity to see and consider the following resolution before the YSU-OEA meeting, I am sending you this draft of my resolution regarding opposition to unilateral action against Iraq while supporting the men and women in the armed forces. It is patterned after resolutions that are being passed by various organizations throughout the country including city councils, labor organizations, and various church groups.

In unity,
John Russo

A Resolution by the YSU-OEA Opposing Unilateral Action against Iraq while supporting members of the armed forces.

WHEREAS, the United Nations is in the process of conducting weapon inspections in Iraq; and
WHEREAS, it has not been proven that the issues with Iraq cannot be resolved by traditional diplomatic efforts; and
WHEREAS, more time and money may be necessary to resolve issues in a diplomatic manner; and
WHEREAS, military action against Iraq will cost billions of dollars at a time when the American economy is struggling and at a time when the federal government is operating with a deficit; and
WHEREAS, the cost of war include costs in terms of human life both American and Iraqi is concern to all; and
WHEREAS, the State of Ohio is facing deficit situations and budget constraints; and
WHEREAS, the State of Ohio public schools and universities are also facing serious financial problems; and
WHEREAS, while making preparations for a costly war against Iraq, the Bush Administration is proposing a tax cut for the very wealthy and this tax cut will result in less dollars being pro-

vided for education, health care, aid to American cities, and desperately needed social services; and
WHEREAS, military action in Iraq will divert attention from economic and educational issues and challenges confronting the American people and American cities and public education; and
WHEREAS, the National Council of Churches and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops have also passed resolution opposing military action against Iraq; and
WHEREAS, military action against Iraq is opposed by John Sweeney, National President for the AFL-CIO
WHEREAS, military action against Iraq is also opposed by many prominent clergy and other leaders in the community
WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health, or safety, now, therefore
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Youngstown State University Chapter of the Ohio Education Association (YSU-OEA):

Section 1. That the YSU-OEA supports the men and women serving in the armed forces and honors their commitment to our nation's safety and security.
Section 2. That the YSU-OEA opposes unilateral military action against Iraq and urges President Bush to continue seeking a peaceful resolution of issues with Iraq in a diplomatic manner.
Section 3. That the YSU-OEA is hereby directed to transmit copies of this resolution to President Bush, U.S. Senator Michael DeWine, U.S. Senator George Voinovich, Congressman Timothy Ryan, Congressman Sherrod Brown, and Congressman Steven LaTourette, Congressman Ted Strickland, Ohio State Senator Robert Hagan, Ohio State Senator Mark Dann, and YSU Board of Trustees.
Section 4. That this resolution shall take effect and be enforced immediately upon its adoption by the YSU-OEA Executive Committee.

Sports

Boardman High quarterback standout selects YSU

By Joe Simon
The Jambor



ZETTS

A local high school football standout said YSU is the place for him and has set his sights on the starting quarterback job.

Tom Zetts Jr., a senior at Boardman High School, confirmed in an interview this week that he would be joining the list of Penguin football recruits, who university athletic officials will officially announce next week.

Zetts said he is already looking forward to seizing the starting job from freshman Aaron Marshall.

"I'm hoping to battle for the starting job next year," Zetts said. "The coaches are putting me in a position to work with the offense and I'm excited for the opportunity to start."

This past season, the Penguins ranked seventh in the Gateway Conference in passing - out of eight total teams. Although Marshall showed significant improvement during his eight starts, he averaged only 12 attempts per game, 88 yards passing a game and had a completion percentage of 52.

Marshall had just six touchdown passes this season and the Gateway's all-time rushing touchdown leader P.J. Mays is graduating.

Zetts, the fifth all-time

leading passer in Boardman history, has given a verbal commitment to attend YSU. The sixth all-time leading passer is a former YSU star: 2002 graduate Jeff Ryan.

Ryan, a four-year Penguin starter and 1998 Boardman graduate, is the all-time leader at YSU in touchdown passes (50), rushing yards by a quarterback (1,812), total offensive yards and is second in passing with 6,226 yards.

Boardman Coach Garry Smith, who coached Zetts and Ryan, said Zetts is the better quarterback of the two.

"He is the best pocket passer," Smith said of Zetts. "Both are very competitive, but Tommy has the better arm."

Last season Zetts passed for 1,446 yards and was named

first-team All-Steel Valley Conference. He finished his career at Boardman with 2,802 passing yards.

Zetts said the University of Akron and the University of New Hampshire have also shown interest in recruiting him, but he is content with YSU.

"All in all, YSU is the place for me," he said.

Justin Smolkovich, quarterback coach at Liberty High School, has seen Zetts in action and said Zetts will hear his share of Ryan comparisons.

"He reminded me of a Jeff Ryan-type, good passer on the run and very mobile," Smolkovich said.

When asked what anchored his decision toward YSU, Zetts praised the football

tradition as well as the coaching staff.

"All of the coaches have been great and have definitely influenced my decision to attend YSU," Zetts said. "The football program is one of the most unbelievable in all of Division I-AA."

Throwing the football is not the only skill that Zetts possesses. In his years at Boardman, Zetts' fastball topped off at over 90 mph.

He said he also intends on pursuing baseball at YSU.

"That's another reason I'm coming to YSU," Zetts said, speaking of his baseball aspirations. "There are great facilities, it's close to home and I'm able to play baseball, too."

Zetts, who has a 4.0 grade-point average, said he is unde-

termined on what his major will be.

A slight setback for Zetts was an injury he suffered late in the football season. In the team's second to last game of the year against Austintown Fitch, Zetts suffered a broken collarbone and finished the year in a sling.

Yet Zetts said the injury is "fully healed" and won't affect his passing ability.

Recruits will make their final decision on which university they will attend Feb. 5.

The Penguins will hold a press conference at 3 p.m. in the Penguin Club to announce all of their new recruits.

Call Joe Simon at (330) 941-3758.

HISTORY, continued from page 1

em Ohio.

Currently, the collection includes 13 interviews pertaining to African American history in Youngstown that can be read on the Internet or at the Maag library.

"It's a wonderful resource, however we could do a lot more," said Donna DeBlasio, director of the Center for Historic Preservation.

"We interviewed several African Americans from steel mills. They are stories that you're not going to get a lot of other places."

"Everyone's experiences are different," said DeBlasio.

"When you do an interview, you don't want to walk in with assumptions. Some of the stories about African Americans are just heartbreaking."

DeBlasio directs the Oral History Program and was once a student of the oral history course.

New additions to the YSU Oral History Program include interviews with immigrants in Farrell, Pa., former YSU football players, residents of Lowellville, and Irish immigrants.

For the past two years, students in an oral history class have also interviewed workers at the General Motors Lordstown plant. The project will continue through this year and expand to include the IUE at Delphi-Packard.

The Oral History Program, which is part of the Center for Historic Preservation at YSU, offers an interdisciplinary approach to historic preservation.

The center includes areas from seven different University departments, including history, geography, anthropology & sociology, art, urban studies, and the Butler Institute of American Art.

In 2001, Maag Library began placing all of the YSU Oral History Collection transcripts on-line. Today, the collection can be accessed anywhere in the world by the Internet.

Last year, the Digital Oral History Collection received an honorable mention for an Award of Achievement in the IT/Internet Resources category by Northern Ohio Live! magazine.

DeBlasio said the oral history program brings a clearer understanding of the history of Youngstown.

"The stories are great," DeBlasio said. "It gives a richness to history, being able to read the personal experiences of regular men and women."

"Most of us don't leave a whole lot of information behind," said DeBlasio.

"The working class didn't have much time and the immigrants couldn't read or write in English. It gives a voice to the voiceless."

Call Alicia Houston at (330) 941-3758.

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PHOTO BY JEFFREY S. HARRIS/PHOTO

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Hussein, Iraq center of State of the Union address

By DAN BALZ
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Few presidents have confronted such a daunting pair of challenges—looming war and an economy stubbornly stuck in a jobless recovery—but President Bush left no doubt Tuesday night that Iraq is the issue that dominates his own thinking.

Mindful that a recession was his father's undoing in 1992, Bush focused first on the domestic agenda, restating his proposal for a new tax cuts and offering initiatives to overhaul Medicare and add substantial funding to fight the scourge of AIDS in Africa.

But the passion in his State of the Union speech came in the second half, when he turned to the war on terrorism and the confrontation with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, offering a muscular indictment of the Iraqi leader. "If this is not evil," Bush said after offering a listing of the way Saddam has tortured his own people, "then evil has no meaning."

Tuesday night, in stark terms, Bush restated the case that others in his administration—and chief U.N. weapons inspector Hans Blix—have made in recent days, that

Saddam has failed to account for tons of chemical and biological agents, has frustrated weapons inspectors, has shown "utter contempt" for a string of U.N. resolutions and will not change behavior until forced to do so. "He clearly has much to hide," Bush said.

The president appeared to have his eye more on the American people than on Republican and Democratic lawmakers or world leaders who demanded more evidence that the Iraqi leader is hiding weapons of mass destruction. Rather than offer new information to satisfy such critics, he used the speech to lay out in simple terms the urgency of confronting Saddam, at times repeating assertions that have been previously challenged by other countries and experts.

Bush once again linked Iraq to his war on terrorism, restated what he calls America's obligation to act, and tried to discredit Saddam in the eyes of the American people to reassure them that there may be no other solution that war to eliminate the threat he poses.

The president has made this case before, beginning last September in a speech to the United Nations and in October in a speech in Cincinnati, but he has never commanded the

kind of prime-time audience he did Tuesday night, nor at a more critical point in his presidency.

More will follow in Bush's closing argument, starting this weekend when Bush meets with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who faces deep opposition to war with Iraq at home and who has urged him to give the U.N. inspectors more time, and next week, when Secretary of State Colin Powell will present intelligence on Iraq's weapons program.

The speech did not appear to quell criticism on Capitol Hill, particularly among the Democrats, who continued to call on Bush to explain in more detail the risks of war and the costs of the post-war occupation of Iraq.

Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., said Bush still must make a "more compelling case" before committing the country to war.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., a Democratic presidential candidate, said Bush has practiced "blustering unilateralism" in his war on terrorism and that instead of holding Saddam accountable has "too often ignored opportunities to unify the world against this brutal dictator."

YSU and the OEA sponsor a resolution opposing the war with Iraq..

By RYAN MCCABE,
KAREN WEIR
& ZETTA DUMKRIEGER
The Jambor

He had been contemplating it for more than a month, but it was not until he heard President Bush's State of the Union Address on Tuesday that he decided his thoughts needed to be heard.

John Russo, president of the YSU-OHIO Education Association, met with his colleagues Wednesday in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center to discuss escalating tension in the Middle East. At the meeting, Russo proposed a resolution he drafted opposing a war with Iraq.

"You have to look at the terrific cost of human lives, both U.S. and Iraqi, which were conspicuously absent from Bush's speech," Russo said.

"That's what is so great about the United States, we have the right to protest."

— LT. COL. RODERICK HOSLER
Military Science professor

Russo said that although only 30 members of the YSU-OEA attended the meeting, those present overwhelmingly passed the resolution.

The executive committee will vote on the resolution next, and Russo said he expects the full faculty to vote by Wednesday. Ballots should be mailed to union members Monday, Russo said.

While the resolution opposes war with Iraq, it does support members of the Armed Forces.

Within the resolution, Russo cited reasons to seek a diplomatic alternative. Russo said that military action in Iraq would take attention away from important educational issues, such as the financial problems plaguing Ohio's public schools and universities.

Russo's proposal follows

similar recent resolutions passed by the National Council of Churches and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Although he said he had not heard about the proposed resolution, Lt. Col. Roderick Hosler, an assistant professor of Military Science but not a member of the faculty union, said he would not comment on whether he agreed with the resolution.

"That's what is so great about the United States, we have the right to protest," Hosler said.

Hosler said he trusts Bush because he is the nation's "Commander in Chief," and said he has given a great deal of thought to the current situation in the Middle East.

"We, in the military, are not robots or marionettes," he said.

So far, he said, the growing hostilities have not had a major impact on the YSU ROTC.

"No cadets from YSU have been called into active duty," Hosler said.

Before the meeting, Russo said he was anticipating opposition to the resolution.

"This is a democracy and amendments may be made," he said. "I want to make sure the faculty can discuss this in a public forum."

Political science honors students react to Bush address

By HEATHER SHAW
The Jambor

Two members of YSU's new political science honors society said President Bush delivered a strong speech with his second State of the Union address.

Bush's speech Tuesday moved from plans for economic growth to plans for a possible war with Iraq. Bush reminded Americans of Saddam Hussein's history of ignoring United Nations terms and called him a dictator.

His proposal included a 10-year, \$674 billion package of tax cuts; ending human cloning; spending \$1.2 billion to develop eco-friendly cars powered by hydrogen; an overhaul in Medicare; and helping "turn the tide against AIDS" in Africa.

Sophomore Bonnie Bodnar, secretary/treasurer of the Psi Sigma Alpha honors fraternity, said she had mixed

emotions about the president's speech.

"I thought the overall speech was well-given," Bodnar said. "Bush spent significant time talking about the economy and stressing recovery, growth and immediate relief through his tax cuts."

Bodnar, however, said she felt Bush could have made a stronger case for war.

Junior Trevor McAleer, another member of PSA, said he felt Bush's speech did not get off to a good start but ended on a serious and informative note.

"I felt it was a rather boring speech, but once he started talking about the AIDS problem in Africa in across the world he really turned the speech around for the good," McAleer said.

Sunil Ahuja, an assistant professor of political science and adviser for the honors society, disagreed with his students about the strengths of

Bush's speech.

"I think he could have made a stronger case than he actually did," Ahuja said. "He couldn't connect the dots a little more. He could've been a little bit more forceful."

Bodnar said she was surprised Bush did not spend more time talking about the economy, especially considering the president's sagging popularity.

"With his current approval ratings considering the economy, I thought he might spend the most time talking about it," Bodnar said. "So I was surprised that the latter half of the speech was about terrorism and the war in Iraq."

Ahuja wasn't so sure Bush did a good job addressing the economy, either.

"I don't think he really made a strong case on this, as well," he said.

McAleer said he felt Bush's strongest point of the night was listing the weapons

that the UN and the United States both say Iraq have possessed in the past.

Bodnar said it was good to hear that the war on terrorism is still going on everyday, because much of the news coverage is about Iraq and he still wants a coalition to fight the war on terror and Iraq.

"I thought [Bush] pretty much was making his case to America why we need to go to war, and did include some reasons why he is do adamant about disarming or else," she said.

Bodnar and McAleer agreed that Bush spoke about several issues just to appease both the Democratic and Republican parties.

"His stance on abortion, cloning, social security and health care were typical Republican positions," Bodnar said.

McAleer agreed that Bush clearly made a devoted move to stick with the Republicans

by starting his speech with his tax plan, but quickly re-directed the speech to gain support from Democrats.

"Talking about taxes was clearly a partisan move, but then [Bush] quickly felt compassionate for the drug problems that Americans face, which clearly got the democratic people on board," McAleer said.

Ahuja said the first half of Bush's speech was nothing surprising.

"He sort of went through a laundry list of things most State of the Union speeches have," Ahuja said.

Both Bodnar and McAleer agreed that Bush prepared the nation for war.

"President Bush eluded that further evidence will be given on Feb. 5 at the [U.N.] Security Council meeting," Bodnar said. "From this anyone could assume that unless Saddam [Hussein] disarms and relinquishes power, we are

going to war."

McAleer said the impression he got from the speech was that "Saddam is gone from this point."

He said that Bush led him to believe that the Iraqi leader will not be around for much longer and the U.S. is going to war regardless of what the UN does.

"The president gave us some very surprising statements on aids and torture methods that Saddam uses, which were graphic, but clearly got the point across," McAleer said.

McAleer added that he felt the president's speech ended dramatically.

"The president ended the union in a dramatic fashion that left most Americans thinking we need to invade Iraq."

Call Heather Shaw at (330) 941-1811.

College Success Workshop Schedule

Time Management and Procrastination

1:00 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 4, Gallery, Room 2968, KC
9:00 a.m., Wednesday, Feb. 5, Gallery, Room 2068, KC

KC = Kilcawley Center
BCOE = Beeghly College of Education

Co-sponsored by Reading and Study Skills Center, Center for Student Progress, University Counseling Center.

LOUNGE, continued from page 1

Lariccia, a 1966 YSU graduate and benefactor.

Lariccia complimented the university on its work to become a global campus.

"Forty years ago, I think we were only recognized for engineering and education, but now...we're a giant in the community," Lariccia said. "Certainly there weren't people that were in dormitories here from all over the world."

According to a news release from CISIP, YSU had 129

international students enrolled as of Fall 2002. This is in comparison with Cleveland State University, which has 872 and the University of Akron with 846. T

Noah Midamba, interim administrator of the Center for International Studies and Programs, was on hand Wednesday to present the procession of the flags. He said he is sure YSU's CISIP program will grow in number.

"This center is going to be

the extension of the classroom," Midamba said. "It is the beginning of a long road to turn the campus into an international environment."

SGA spokeswoman Christa Natoli said she was happy to see a large turnout at the dedication.

"It's so incredibly amazing to see students unite here," Natoli said. "Everyone came to support the community. It seemed the world was peaceful for 10 minutes."

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Administrators talk admissions

YSU does not need to resort to policy like Michigan's, two officials said.

By DAVE DEVEREUX
The Jambar

A controversial policy at the University of Michigan has several YSU administrators thinking about how big a role race should play in college admissions.

In June, U.S. Supreme Court justices will undertake the case of three white students who say their applications were judged harder than those from minority students.

Michigan's admissions system allows for minorities to receive more points toward acceptance, but two YSU officials said they don't see the case having much impact here.

Sue Davis, director of admissions, said there is no easy answer and remains torn between both sides.

"You really are between a rock and a hard place," Davis said. "You want diversity, but at the same time you want equal admissions standards so the most qualified individuals are given a chance to succeed."

William H. Countryman, university registrar and interim executive director of enrollment services, said he has not

dealt directly with affirmative action because YSU has an open enrollment policy.

Countryman said University President David Sweet continuously stresses the importance of diversity.

"Dr. Sweet's initiative was to have diversity as much as possible," Countryman said. "We have special programs targeting minorities, which will help them become more aware of what the university has to offer and I'm sure they'll be more programs in the future."

In Michigan's case, potential applicants are evaluated on a 150-point scale based on their LSAT scores, grade point average and other variables. While white students receive one point for having a good essay, a minority will receive 20 points extra for being a minority.

Countryman said he believes YSU does its best in following the law and accommodating everyone.

"Our feelings are we try to treat everybody fairly across the board," he said. "I attended a meeting today for the International Student Lounge which consisted of 40 different flags from 40 different nations," Countryman said. "When you see that wide-range of representation on campus, it's truly amazing."

Call Dave Devereux at (330) 941-1913.

Professors praise distinguished recognition

By ELIZABETH TABAK
The Jambar

University faculty members praised the Distinguished Professor awards, which honor 24 faculty members yearly.

"It's one of the best parts of the labor agreement, people are just doing amazing things on this campus," said Robert Hogue, professor of computer science and information systems, and a former winner for excellence in teaching.

Julia Gergits, another winner for excellence in teaching, agreed.

"It is an honor and a surprise," said Gergits, professor of English. "I was very happy."

Winners are chosen in four categories, said Marlene Dailey, who works in the Provost's office.

"They are chosen for excellence in scholarship, excellence in teaching, excellence in public service, and excellence in university service," said Dailey.

She said each year there are a large number of nominations, especially in the teaching category.

Each of the categories has six winners. According to the Ohio Educational Association's 1999-2000 agreement, a student, faculty member, department chairperson or dean can nominate the winners.

Former recipient for excellence in public service, Steven Reese, explained that nominations are based on "something that catches your eye that is somewhat above and beyond."

"What you're looking for is an achievement that is extraordinary," added Reese, giving the example of a having a

book published.

A seven-member panel chooses the 24 recipients from the pool of nominees. Four of the members are current nominees chosen by University Provost Tony Atwater and Hogue. The last three are appointed by Atwater, and are former winners of the award.

Recipients receive \$1,500, and will be recognized on April 22 at the Honors Convocation.

"This process is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the excellence in teaching, scholarship, university service, and public service, characteristic of the faculty of YSU," Atwater said in a written statement.

Nomination forms can be picked up in the provost's office. The deadline for nominations is Feb. 13.

Entertainment

ROCK, continued from page 1

vocally, "Spend the Night" is the band's strongest release. An improved budget, and production have helped The Donnas immensely.

"Take it off" sports a monster riff ala AC/DC, as guitarist Donna R. continues to write some of the best riffs to grace the airwaves since thunder from down under brothers Angus and Malcolm Young.

Like QOTSA, "Songs for the Deaf," the backside of the album gets a little repetitive, but with most of the songs clocking in under three minutes,

Andrew W.K. won't lose your attention.

2. Andrew W.K., "I Get

Wet." Yes I can hear the blood curdling screams from a lot of you right now, but this is the most interesting album to hit the mainstream in a long time.

Even though Andrew W.K. is probably the most manufactured band since The Monkees, "I Get Wet" is the most anthem filled, fist pumping album in 15 years.

From "It's Time to Party," to "Party Hard," to "Party till you Puke" (get the idea?), listening to Andrew W.K. is like getting repeated bashes to the head with a hammer, while standing in a pile of your own sweaty filth — absolutely brilliant.

1. Butch Walker, "Left of Self Centered". Many of you might be saying, "Who is Butch Walker?" Well, if your familiar with bands like Lit, or SR71, Butch Walker is basically

the mastermind behind all of them.

With his previous band, "Marvelous 3," Walker started the pop/punk/rock movement that the aforementioned bands capitalized on. "Left of Self Centered" is one of the catchiest albums ever recorded.

How it isn't monumentally successful, boggles the imagination. It is extremely radio friendly but gets little support from MTV or rock radio.

If you're a fan of Lit, or any other radio friendly pop punk band, Butch Walker does it better than them all.

Call BJ Lisko at (330) 941-1807.



ANDREW W.K.

won't lose your attention.

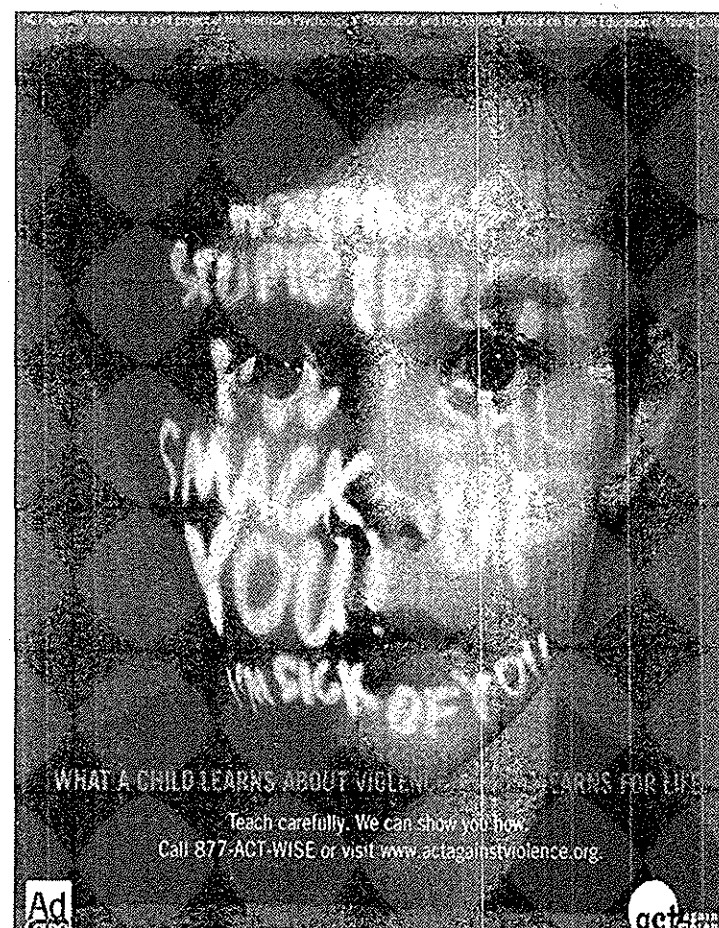
2. Andrew W.K., "I Get

2003-2004 Financial Aid Awareness Week

Stop by one of our tables for information on financial aid for the 2003-2004 academic year. The priority deadline to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Renewal FAFSA or FAFSA on the Web and the Institutional Aid Application is February 15, 2003

The following is a list of places, dates and times when staff from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships will be available to distribute forms and answer questions:

Monday, January 27, 2003	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	•Kilcawley Center - 1st floor across from bank •Bliss Hall - Lobby
Tuesday, January 28, 2003	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	•Kilcawley Center - 1st floor across from bank •Williamson Hall - Lobby
Wednesday, January 29, 2003	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	•Kilcawley Center - 1st floor across from bank •Moser Hall - Lobby
	5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	•Maag Library - 1st floor Main Lobby
Thursday, January 30, 2003	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	•Kilcawley Center - 1st floor across from bank •DeBartolo Hall - Lobby



Ad Council ACT Against Violence

Weekend Calender

Nyabinghi, Friday - Yakuza, Rebreather. Saturday - War Between One, Halo, Criminally Insane, Souless.

Cedars, Friday - Champions of All Time, Dizzy Park. Saturday - November Loop, Racermason.

The Splash, Friday - DJ's Ziota & Rektor of Ziotablue.com. Saturday 6 p.m. All Ages - One Forth Awesome, The Interns, Jump Start. Sunday - 6 p.m. All Ages - Shattered Soul, Mindlatch, Spahole, Relevant.

Plaza Cafe, Friday - Bedroom All Stars, Project Nine.



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Executive Vice President, Fifth Third Bank

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Presentations at 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. in Cafaro Suite in Williamson Hall/YSU

Presentation at 2:00 p.m. in Ohio Room in Kilcawley Center/YSU

Donald Graham is a 22-year veteran of Fifth Third Bank and has utilized his entrepreneurial skills to develop new markets for the Bank in Dayton, Ohio; Louisville, Kentucky; Cleveland, Ohio; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Buffalo, New York. Don opened Fifth Third's five-person Cleveland Loan Production Office in 1988. Today, Fifth Third's Northeast Ohio affiliate has grown to over 800 employees and \$4 billion in assets.

Fifth Third Bank operates 72 full-service Banking Centers within Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage and Summit counties.

Previous to his career with Fifth Third Bank, Don was a zone manager with the Ford Motor Company. Don graduated from YSU with a Bachelor of Science of Business Administration. He then went on to earn his M.B.A. from Xavier University and a Certification in Accounting from the College of Mt. Saint Joseph.



1982-2002

Mark your calendar for our upcoming Williamson Symposium Series:

Michelle Decker
YSU Alumna & Senior Vice President Systems and Technology Leisure Industries Corp. Henderson, Nevada

Topic: E-Commerce and Management Information Systems
Tuesday
April 8, 2003

Campus Calendar

Today: The History Club will meet at 1 p.m. in Room 2036, Kilcawley Center. Dr. Robert McLain, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, will talk about masculinity and the British Empire. The public is invited. Please feel free to bring a lunch.

Friday: Tongzhi-A Gay/Straight Alliance will meet at 2 p.m. in the Bresnahan Reception Room of Kilcawley Center. LGBT and straight allies are welcome.

Wednesday, Feb. 12: The YSU Women's Club Spring Luncheon will be held from 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Ohio Room, Kilcawley Center. Guest Speakers: Ventriloquist, Bill Lisby and his incredibly funny "dummy buddies." In keeping with our patriotic theme, members and guests are invited to wear Red, White and Blue. **DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2003 AT 5 P.M.** Reservations can be submitted to Mary Lynn Pavone, Membership Chair, Dept. of Geological & Environmental Sciences, ext. 3612 or mpavone@ysu.edu. Checks made payable to YSU Women's Club in the amount of \$15.95 for members and \$16.95 for guests. **GUESTS ARE WELCOME!**

Notices:
Attention Social Work Students: Tuesday, February 11, 2003 at 5 p.m. is the final day to sign up for admission to the Social Work Program. If you are a pre-social work major intending to enroll in Social Work Methods I (SCWK 3736) for Summer or Fall Semester 2003, you must complete an admissions application and sign up on the roster posted outside Cushman Hall, Room 303A. If you have any questions, please contact Kim Sheward, Department Secretary, at (330) 941-1598.

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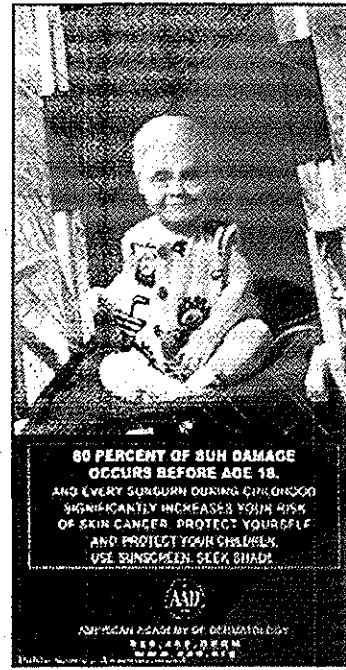
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Job Opportunities in Student Publications
 Student Publications Committee is seeking interested students for positions with *The Jambar* and *Penguin Review*

The Jambar (University Newspaper)
Summer Positions:

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- Advertising Manager

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- Advertising Manager
- Advertising Sales Manager
- Copy Editor
- Features Reporter
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Entertainment



Movie Review

DiCaprio bounces back with new picture

By HENRY GOMEZ
The Jambar

I have to admit I've never been a huge Leonardo DiCaprio fan.

If you're like me, you consider Leo's finest work to be that as the wayward runaway from TV's "Growing Pains" rather than the wayward Jack from the Oscar-winning "Titanic."

If you're like me, you wonder why the hell he — who probably couldn't play a believable journalist on screen — received the chance of a lifetime to interview then-President Clinton.

Recently, however, I found myself swallowing my pride and actually enjoying his acting as a young con artist in Steven Spielberg's masterful "Catch Me If You Can."

A comedy more than it is a drama, "Catch Me If You Can" is based on the true story of reformed con man Frank Abagnale Jr., who grew up in New York and hustled his way across America by passing bad checks and posing as an airline pilot.

In the movie's opening scenes, DiCaprio is shown with a nerdy looking Tom Hanks as FBI agent Carl Hanratty, portrayed after the real agent who brought Abagnale to justice and later formed a father-like bond with him.

However, after the opening scenes, Spielberg takes viewers on a flashback that spans much of the movie. The flashback shows the psyche of young Frank and why he ultimately turned to his scheming ways.

Frank's mother (Nathalie Baye) has a penchant for cheating on Frank Sr. (played to perfection by the lovable Christopher Walken). Frank Jr. catches his mother and grows resentment for her and a pity for his father, who he idolizes.

When his parents divorce, Frank Jr. leaves home with a \$25 checking account and the clothes on his back. That all changes, however,

when he tricks an airline pilot into forking over his old ID card. A few phony checks and a pilot suit later, and Frank Jr. is airborne, taking with him his extreme skill of fraud.

Not so hot on his trail the whole time is Hanratty, a bumbling agent who misses several chances to catch Frank Jr. The money the young con artist makes goes toward lavish parties and a new car for Dad, who is down in the dumps after the divorce.

Eventually, though, Frank Jr. gets tired of running. He realizes he is his own worst enemy and begins tipping off Hanratty to his whereabouts and his activities until finally being caught in France — this after an engagement to an unsuspecting nurse (Amy Adams) with an attorney father (a hilarious turn by Martin Sheen).

The acting is extremely well-done, with DiCaprio, Hanks and Walken turning in superb performances. Walken deserves a Best Supporting Actor Oscar nod for his portrayal as the down-on-his-luck but still ever so loyal father.

Hanks' role as Hanratty was the second atypical performance for the accomplished actor in 2002. He played a vengeful Mafia thug in "Road to Perdition" and now plays the bumbling idiot for Spielberg.

Not as developed as much was Frank Jr.'s relationship with women. Obviously his mother's affairs scarred him, but the engagement portion of the movie is quick and not nearly long enough to explain the relationships he formed with the family.

Still, "Catch Me If You Can" is a quality movie that no doubt will garner deserved Oscar attention.

If you're looking to give Leo a second chance, this is the perfect chance.

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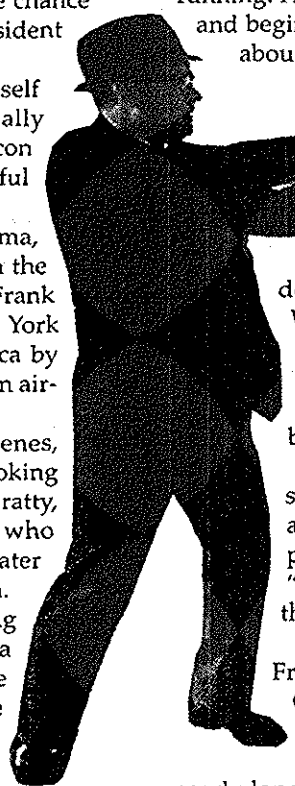


Photo courtesy catchmeifyoucan.com

LEO'S BACK: Leonardo DiCaprio, alongside co-stars Tom Hanks (far left) and Jennifer Garner (above), star in "Catch Me If You Can."

Ziotablue.com keeps Web site 'very pro Youngstown'

By BJ LISKO
The Jambar

Living in Youngstown, one is constantly reminded of the current perils of what once was a booming industrial city. Broken homes, prisons and porn stores seem to be recurring themes, and a general apathetic demeanor often seems to encompass the city's people.

Even those outside of the city, in the suburbs such as Boardman and Canfield, have developed the habit of muttering the actual word, "Youngstown," like a foul belch after a sour beer on a cold, gray night in the middle of winter.

Needless to say, optimism can sometimes be hard to find.

But Ziota and Rektor, webmasters of local activities/music site ziotablue.com, want to change that.

"We've got to get people out of the mindset that Youngstown is so bad," said Rektor.

Ziotablue.com, which made its debut towards the tail end of last year, is a Web site promoting all things in Youngstown — from music to art, and poetry to tattoos — a forum for all events in the Mahoning Valley.

"When we moved to the city we started going out often," said Ziota. "We realized there was nothing around here promoting everything in this area so we figured we'd try it."

Ziota and Rektor said that trying to find a resource providing information on all events seemed to be futile.

"There were Web sites with event calendars, but the

information wasn't always accurate, or everything wasn't listed," said Ziota.

With the launch of ziotablue.com came praise for the site's informational content, as well as the professional look and ease of navigating the page.

In addition to that came praise from many local musicians that felt frustrated with

"We've got to get people out of the mindset that Youngstown is so bad."



— REKTOR
Ziotablue.com

the exposure they received, or lack thereof from other local media outlets.

However, with praise came some criticism.

Instant comparisons to another local Web site — youngstownscene.com — seemed to surface, but, according to Rektor, ziotablue.com is trying to appeal to a different crowd.

"We're more artsy, and really I think we care about the local scene more [than youngstownscene.com]," said Rektor. "The only idea we really share with them is posting shows."

A look at the two does provide some noticeable differences.

Youngstownscene.com is far more casual, while Ziota and Rektor have taken a much more professional approach, especially in their writing

style. While most of the content on youngstownscene.com seems like a rant, ziotablue.com has designated a specific section for only that.

Not to say that either is better than the other, but confirming Rektor's comments, the pages certainly seem like they are appealing to different audiences, and will appeal to different people depending on their tastes.

The site has led to other ventures for Ziota and Rektor, as well, including hosting a few local shows as well as the launch of their own DJ night at The Splash on Steel Street. Their debut there is Friday night.

"We're hoping some people come out so we can do it on a regular basis," said Ziota. "We'll see how it goes."

Rektor and Ziota also have observed a few things concerning the attitudes of local musicians since the debut of their site.

"Egos are still a big con with the bands in this area," said Rektor. "It would be so beneficial if all the bands could work together, but everyone has the attitude that they are better than everyone else."

Even with a few egos roaming around, the positive outlook of ziotablue.com remains in tact.

"We're really pushing the area and trying to get everyone involved," said Ziota. "We're just very pro-Youngstown."

For more information visit www.ziotablue.com.

Call BJ Lisko at (330) 941-1807.



Rock 'n' Roll Damnation specializes in giving underground rock 'n' roll acts press in an area often oblivious to their existence. Today however, I'm going to take on a different theme and deal with a few bands, which are a little better known to the population here at YSU.

I've rated the top five new mainstream rock releases. I've been accused of being very anti-major record label, but every so often a band slips through the cracks onto the airwaves of Clear Channel Radio and MTV, and offers an exciting surprise to the formulated drudgery of the payola based existence that is known as the modern music industry.

So without further delay here are the top five mainstream rock releases of the past year.

5. Audioslave. When Zach De La Rocha left Rage Against the Machine a while back, it marked the end of one of the most innovative bands of the 90s. Soundgarden met a similar fate, breaking up with the fall of the grunge scene.

Teaming up Chris Cornell with the remaining members of Rage seemed like an interesting idea. What resulted was one of the most surprising records of the year.

The first single, "Cochise," sported a killer riff and probably the best vocal delivery of Cornell's musical career. One of the records best cuts comes surprisingly in its most mellow track, "Like A Stone," which again features a fantastic performance by Cornell. Tom Morello's trademark guitar sounds will keep Rage fans



Photo courtesy of butchwalker.com

LEFT OF SELF-CENTERED: Solo artist Butch Walker fresh off his solo debut, paved the way for modern rock acts such as Lit and SR71. In addition to recording, Walker is also an acclaimed producer.

happy, and round off a solid effort.

4. Queens of the Stone Age, "Songs for the Deaf." For half a decade now, QOTSA have flown the banner for the stoner rock movement. Opening cut, "You think I ain't worth a dollar but I feel like a millionaire," is the disc's most brutal song and will please stoners and metal heads alike.

First single, "No one Knows," has been plastered on MTV shows left and right and may be the jazziest tune QOTSA has ever recorded. The remaining songs on the record

follow a more familiar stoner rock formula, and while some of this gets a bit repetitive, "Songs for the Deaf" sports some welcome, long-needed sounds in the mainstream.

3. The Donnas - "Spend the Night." Female rockers, The Donnas have been kicking out the jams for a few years now, releasing a trio of albums on Lookout records, and making the major label leap with "Spend the Night."

While previous efforts are a bit on the cheesy side, and also leaving a lot to be desired

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