

Habat probe hits delay, trustees waiting

BY LA'EL HUGHES
& ANGELA OLIN
The Jambar



HABAT

YSU's chief trustee said he expects discipline against John Habat if an independent committee finds he used his university-issued laptop to view

any type of pornography. University President David Sweet had asked the committee to complete its investigation of Habat, vice-president for Administration,

by Monday. Monday morning, however, committee Chairman James Morrison said there was a delay and a report would not be issued for at least several days.

Members of the Board of Trustees will receive the report once it is complete. Board Chairman Joseph Nohra said

the university will make a final decision on if and how Habat will be punished.

"I think it is absolutely a no-no," Nohra said. "I'm not saying he's guilty. But our policy states that porn is not allowed."

"The level of discipline depends on the frequency of

viewing porn. A person caught viewing porn could be put on probation, time off or a suspension."

Nohra said if a person was caught viewing child pornography the discipline enforced would be harsh.

"They should be gone." Morrison, a psychology

professor, said although the report was not finished Monday, he hopes the committee will have the final report in Sweet's hands "shortly."

The committee is investigating allegations that Habat used his university-issued lap-

See HABAT, page 2

Safety measures, protests mark war's second week

President prepares campus for alert

BY REBECCA MARQUIS
The Jambar



SWEET

Campus officials said they have identified at least seven on-campus areas as potential terror targets if the Office of Homeland Security raises the national alert level to red.

In a Friday CUE-Mail message to the university community, President David Sweet said a 2000 Justice Department workshop helped identify security weaknesses at YSU. These areas, which officials will not reveal, will receive higher security with a higher alert level.

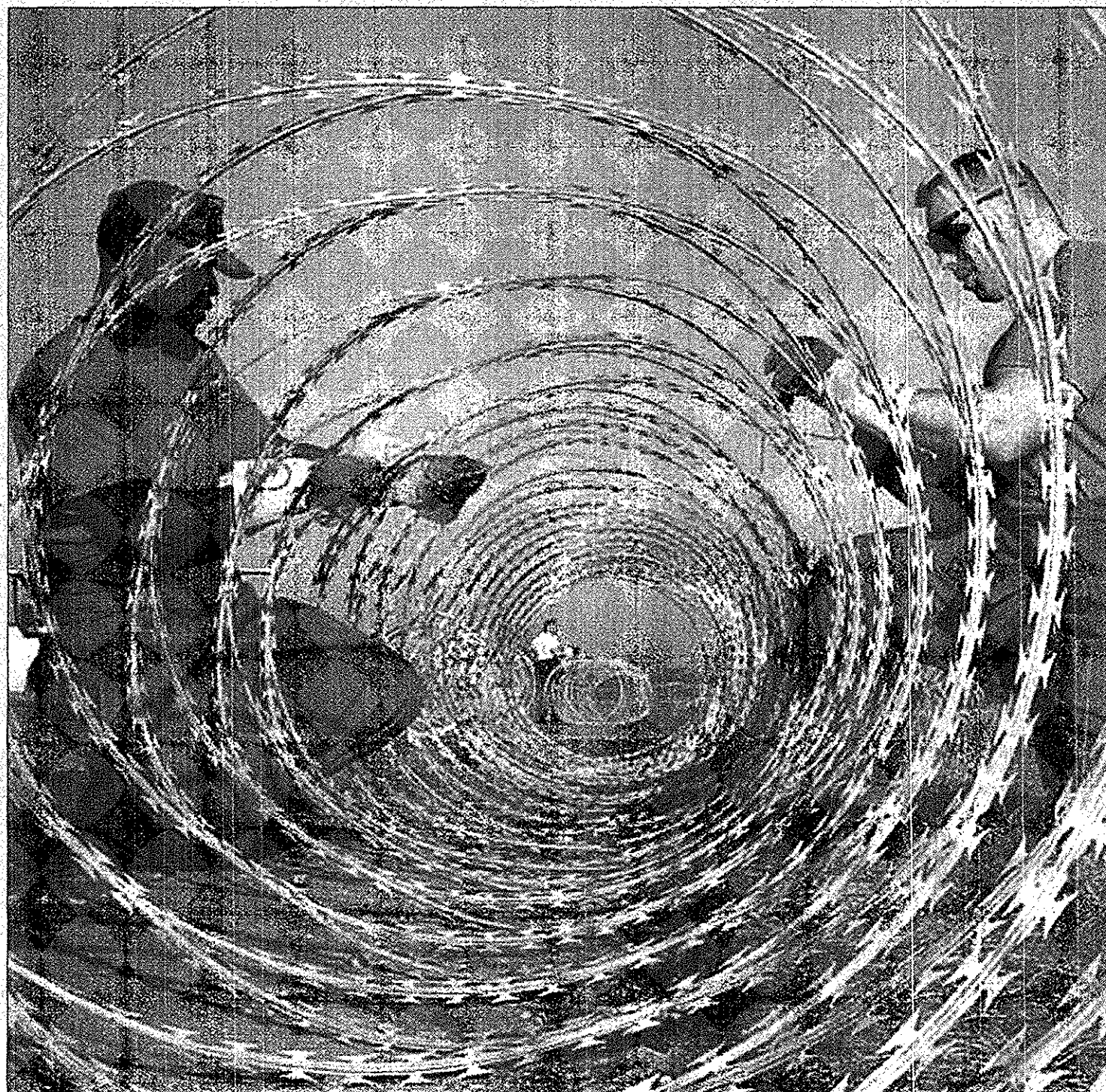
Sweet, however, urged students, faculty and staff to not overreact to such situations and said the university would remain open if the Office of Homeland Security issues a red alert. The increased concern follows President Bush's decision to strike Iraq.

"If a condition RED is declared, it is quite unlikely that an imminent threat to your immediate safety exists," Sweet wrote. "You should continue with your normal routine; classes and university operations will proceed."

Campus officials, Sweet said, are prepared for all worst-case scenarios.

"In the event of an incident, information will be communicated to the university community as necessary via the telephone tree, campus radios and pager systems," Sweet said. "Information also will be posted on the University website at www.ysu.edu and broadcast on WYSU-FM 88.5."

See ALERT, page 2



Photos courtesy of U.S. Department of Defense

COMBAT READY: Above, members of the 424th Air Base Squadron Civil Engineering Flight, set up concertina wire along the perimeter of Royal Air Force Fairford, United Kingdom. The base is home to military units in support of the global war on terrorism and potential contingency operations. At right, a member of Charlie Company 1-41 Infantry, First Armored Division fires his weapon during a tactical movement exercise at Camp Virginia, Kuwait. The division is currently deployed as a part of Operation Enduring Freedom.



City rally unlikely to mimic Chicago

BY HENRY GOMEZ
The Jambar

John Russo said he has never been afraid to stand up for his beliefs.

RUSSO

A two-time president of the YSU-Ohio Education Association, Russo has led faculty through two heated rounds of contract negotiations. A professor of management and labor studies, he has debated workers' issues and fair labor practices.

The war with Iraq has brought another cause for which Russo rallies — the cause of peace.

"I'm a veteran at this," Russo said with a laugh. "I'm a 60s guy. Picketing is my form of exercise."

Russo will participate in Saturday's Rally for Peace in Downtown Youngstown. The event will begin at noon outside the federal courthouse, and some expect turnout to triple that of previous rallies.

Organizers said the rally would be similar to February's Valley Rally, and although recent anti-war protests have turned violent in San Francisco and Chicago, Russo and others said such chaos is unlikely in Youngstown.

"We're going to have marshals and Youngstown Police," said Mike Alexander, one of the event's organizers. "There is no civil disobedience planned."

Russo said although civil disobedience may not be planned, it's not entirely impossible.

"I don't know what's going to happen here," said Russo, who tried unsuccessfully earlier this year to pass

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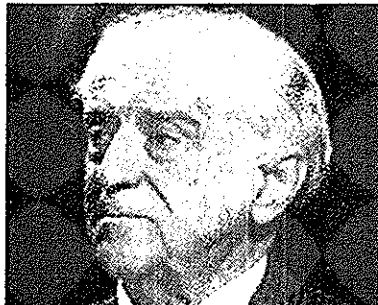
Sneak Peek

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Inside today's issue:

Former YSU women's basketball coach reflects on his career. Page 8



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Staffer gives his pick for the NCAA tournament. Page 6



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top to access pornography, in abuse of the university's computer policies. Sweet ordered the committee to investigate Habat last month following two e-mails from Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez, a professor of philosophy and religious studies.

Morrison said he is still waiting for the "forensic analysis" of Habat's hard drive. Morrison would not say who the committee asked to analyze the contents.

Once the analysis is complete, the committee will write

the final report. Morrison said the report should be finished in two days after he receives the forensic analysis.

The Jambar requested contents of the C-drive, however, University Counsel Sandra Denman said they would not be available until the investigation is finalized.

Palmer-Fernandez appeared before the committee as a witness last week to explain his position in the investigation. According to e-mails and other memos, the professor was confronted by

Ron Krauss, a Computer Services troubleshooter, about an ethical issue.

Palmer-Fernandez said three people, who he would not name, told him there was pornography on Habat's laptop. Palmer-Fernandez eventually relayed the concerns to Sweet in two e-mails, one in January and another on Feb. 19.

"I explained my position and assured them that I would be cooperative and truthful," Palmer-Fernandez said of his testimony before the commit-

tee. Palmer-Fernandez said he is worried that one member of the committee does not understand the complexity of the investigation.

"There was a serious misunderstanding of one panel member," he said. "My view is that some of his questions were outside the committee's."

Serving with Morrison on the committee are retired Counseling Center Director George Letchworth and music professor Darla Funk.

Student Trustee Jeff Parks

said he was confident with the committee and will trust whatever decision it makes.

"I believe the investigation is rightly focused on the violation of university procedure or laws in place here," Parks said. "I am looking forward to viewing the report."

Trustee Charles Cushwa said he does not have much knowledge about the details of the case but said he would not pass judgment before he saw the report.

"All I know is what I see, and as far as I can see, [Habat]

seems to be a pretty competent administrator," he said. "Though there has been no official ruling on whether Habat is innocent or not, I do believe viewing pornography at work or on university equipment is something you just don't do. And, I question anybody who looks at it at all."

Call La'el Hughes at (330) 941-3523 and Angela Olin (330) 941-1989.

ALERT, continued from page 1

Len Perry, director of the Office of Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety, said he could not reveal which areas had been identified as weaknesses because it could compromise security measures.

He did, however, give a brief description of what "high security" may entail.

"We would possibly lock down some areas," Perry said, adding that the campus police would provide 24-hour surveillance.

YSU Police Chief John Gocala also declined to comment on the specific measures that would be taken, although he did say that the YSU police

department is "prepared and ready."

"You can rest assured that if we go to red alert there would be additional steps," Gocala said.

Perry also said that ultimately, the decision of whether or not to shut down the university would come from Gov. Bob Taft.

"In case of an imminent threat, you would be looking for state or federal government to give directions," Perry said.

Jeff Grayson, spokesman for the Ohio Department of Public Safety, said the nature of the threat would drive what measures are implemented by the state gov-

ernment.

"The most important thing to remember is... the red level is called for a specific location or critical facility," Grayson said.

For example, the red alert may be called for the city of Youngstown or YSU specifically, although it is unlikely that the alert would encompass the county, the state of Ohio or the United States.

In addition to security measures taken by YSU, the Security Task Force of Ohio would review the event or intelligence surrounding the alert and make a recommendation to Taft regarding a course of action. The governor then,

puts into action homeland security measures, Grayson said.

However, he said, there are no known threats in Ohio.

"At this time, there are no credible threats against anywhere [in Ohio] as it relates to terrorism," Grayson said.

"We hope we never get there."

There will be a statewide drill testing the alarm and tornado systems throughout Ohio on Wednesday at 9:50 a.m., according to the memo. There will be no need to leave buildings.

Call Rebecca Marquis at (330) 941-3523.

RALLY, continued from page 1

an anti-war resolution through the YSU-OEA. "I don't anticipate any violence. But there might be some people who lock arms and are arrested. It's not uncommon."

Locking arms, Russo said, is when protesters join to make physical statement and agree to be arrested to prove a point. He said the reports from San Francisco and Chicago are not strong enough to indicate wrongdoing by anti-war protesters.

"Who are the provocateurs?" Russo asked. "You have to be careful in watching these over time. The cases in San Francisco or Chicago — I really don't know the extent of it or who's responsible for it." Alexander agreed and accused the media of slanting its coverage of the protests.

"You're looking at demonstrations of 200,000 people and see images of peo-

ple burning flags," Alexander said. "The media focus of that is kind of disingenuous. We don't expect any problems at all."

Several students from YSU will speak, Alexander said. Also scheduled to attend are state Sen. Bob Hagan, D-Youngstown, and local labor leaders.

"We'd like to see 1,000 or 2,000 people," Alexander said. "Last time we had 350. We expect a much larger turnout than we had in February."

Russo said the protest will be a key opportunity for Mahoning Valley residents to show their opinions.

"It really is about exercising our Democratic rights," Russo said. "Rights mean nothing if we don't."

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TODAY'S EDITORIAL

Sweet should call for plagiarism probe

Maybe University President David Sweet did not understand the e-mail from and subsequent Jambar interview with Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez.

So if he needs to see it one more time in black and white, here it is: There are allegations that an Urban Studies employee has passed off plagiarized grant proposals as his own.

But Sweet and Provost Tony Atwater refuse to investigate these claims. Palmer-Fernandez, they said, must follow all appropriate procedures to ensure such an investigation. Doing so would have required the philosophy and religious studies professor to make a formal complaint to Graduate Studies Dean Peter Kasvinsky.

Palmer-Fernandez, however, was simply passing along a tip — a tip he thought would lead the university's president to a common sense decision to make his own formal complaint and investigation.

We agree. Sweet should order an immediate investigation into the allegations surrounding James Shanahan to find out whether there is any credence to the reported suspicions.

Shanahan has denied he plagiarized, and there very well may be no evidence to make the accusations stick. However, the administration owes it to the entire campus community for a full investigation.

Students are academically ruined — and rightfully so — if they plagiarize. A teacher, chair or dean can recommend severe penalties for a student caught passing another's paper of as his or her own. So when a university's urban planner is accused of doing the same thing — but with federal grant proposals — it must be taken seriously.

Secondly, a secretary in Shanahan's office says the paperwork regarding the proposal in question is now missing. We find that more than suspicious, and we would expect President Sweet to see it that way, too.

Finally, to ignore Palmer-Fernandez' e-mail, which Sweet did for almost two months, is an offense within itself. It undermines the academic honesty of YSU and discourages professors from reporting such claims to the administration.

Palmer-Fernandez is not the professor making allegations against Shanahan. Rather, someone he's talked to is making them. As an ethical person, Palmer-Fernandez took his concerns to the university president.

That e-mail went unanswered until after the investigation of John Habat, whose own alleged indiscretions were first reported in the same e-mail, became public.

Something stinks here. The president may think it erroneous to make such a big deal of the matter, but if Palmer-Fernandez chooses not to become further involved, Sweet should stop getting caught up in the process and do something.

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As the war in Iraq continues, we want to hear from you.

STAFF COMMENTARIES

War protesters send the wrong message

By JAMI BONINSEGNA
The Jambar



Wednesday night as the 48-hour deadline expired, which President Bush set for Saddam Hussein and his sons to leave Iraq, the United States went to war.

Simultaneously, however, the U.S. entered another war — a war within.

Thousands of Americans began rioting and protesting war in major cities across the country. Uncontrollable crowds broke out in Chicago and San Francisco, and people turned away from the American flag during sporting events throughout the states and Canada.

These campaigns were not all constructive by any means, either. Many anti-war protesters used violence and vandalism in an effort to get their peace points across.

Isn't that a dichotomy? These so-called Americans thrash Bush and his administration for not dealing with Iraq in a peaceful way — the American way — without force. Yet they are at home dividing our nation. They say they want to conserve peace and save our nation, yet they are tearing it apart.

Rather than opt for constructive debate or voicing their opinion in a peaceful way, they are opting for chaos and savage-like

behavior to get their points across.

And, what point are these protesters making anyway? That Hussein is a liar? That there was no peaceful way to get through to him? That President Bush was right?

Hussein proved that he was a liar in the very first days of the war when he lit oil wells on fire, after just three weeks earlier in an interview he promised he wouldn't. And, when he fired the same scud missiles that he firmly said he didn't have.

I have just one question? Regardless of what your opinion is on the war, is it not time that we put our opinions aside and stick together? The war has begun — and we can't end it until it is over.

So, it is time to move into the next phase — and support our troops as a united nation. Under the United States Constitution, we have the right to assemble and protest — but morally, and as Americans, do we have the right to dismantle our nation?

Refocus your anger and aggression. Despite your view on the war, use your energy to show our troops that we are standing together back home. Put food packages together. Write to them. Just support them. You may support the war, and you may not, but stick together for those that are risking their lives for us back home.

Call Jami Boninsegna at (330) 941-1913.

"Isn't that a dichotomy? These so-called Americans thrash Bush and his administration for not dealing with Iraq in a peaceful way — the American way — without force. Yet they are at home dividing our nation. They say they want to conserve peace and save our nation, yet they are tearing it apart."

SGA wannabes make crowded field



Between The Lines

Henry Gomez

No matter how you slice it, this spring's Student Government Association elections will be a free-for-all between "experienced" candidates and those who hope to challenge SGA's weak power structure from the outside.

Already, at least six teams have taken out petitions to run for the top spots of president and vice president — a stark contrast to previous years when only two or three teams vied for the executive offices.

As someone who has seen both sides of the SGA coin — as a former representative and as a current journalist — allow me to throw in some unsolicited advice to this year's candidates: Stop making those same, god-awful empty promises.

SGA Chief of Staff Nazim Wahab told me last week that the early field of hopefuls includes many current SGA members. Vice President Emily Eckman plans to run for

the top spot with University Scholar Adam Vukovic as her running mate.

Eckman has been active this year with her push for student forums and the DogEars Web site.

Also in the mix is SGA Vice President for Finance Matt Pastier, a student trustee and president of the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity. Pastier would be fourth consecutive SGA president to be affiliated with Sigma Tau if elected with running mate Jaymin Patel, an at-large representative.

Student Programming Board Coordinator Tony Spano, an SGA cabinet member, also has taken out petitions for a presidential run. He plans to seek the win with sophomore Melissa Morvay. Spano hopes his visibility on campus will translate into votes. He also hopes his candidacy will draw more voters to the polls.

Also considering a run for president is College of Arts & Sciences Representative Michael Phillips, who would run with College of Fine & Performing Arts Representative Rob Greaves.

The in-house candidates aside, the best hope

at increasing voter turnout could be the SGA outsider tickets. Political science students Trevor McAleer and Courtney Trimacco have taken out petitions, and senior Colette Tabet also is planning a run. These candidates, widely unknown outside SGA and Greek circles, could drum up interest in the apathetic annals of campus.

But if there needs to be a universal message in this year's crowded campaign, it must be tuition and political activity.

For too long SGA has ignored the political and economic climates surrounding it. For too long the message has been "we're going to reconnect to the students." In my time at YSU alone, Bob Harvey, Joe Gregory, Joe Long and now Jeff Parks all have made "reconnection" the centerpiece of their respective administrations.

No, this year it must be about higher education funding, about the dangerous role our administrators are playing the advancement of public and economic policy. It cannot be about increasing student participation through campus activities and campus expansion.

It must be about the few issues that directly relate to all students. And those few issues all relate to one: money.

Let the free-for-all begin!

Call Henry Gomez at (330) 941-1991.

READERS' LETTERS

Bush should be fighting for peace

Editor:

Last week, George W. Bush issued the unprecedented ultimatum to Saddam Hussein, requiring him to take his sons and relinquish power and forever leave Iraq.

Minutes after hearing the news, Hussein publicly announced that these requirements would never be met, escalating an already uneasy situation of possible conflict into imminent war.

A war to oust the stubborn dictator and eliminate the perceived threat of the infamous weapons of mass destruction, as it is detailed by the Bush administration, will not only accomplish these goals, but will also prove to be the final shovel of dirt that buries the American way of life forever.

This war will not be short. While it is true that American forces will roll right over Iraq and likely accomplish the goals that their leader has there, it is absurd to think it will stop there. The vast majority of Arab countries strongly oppose this war, and should it go on as planned, Islamic fundamentalist organizations in the region that already despise the U.S. will commit acts of terrorism against its interests at home and abroad.

OTHER STUDENTS REACT TO WAR

"We need to give diplomacy more of a chance, and I don't agree with the rush to go to war, damn it!"
— Katie Hollis, senior

Of this you can be sure, for even the president himself says so.

What is unfortunate is that if the fear of terrorist attacks can drive our country to war with another, the fuel of death thrown on the fires of anti-American sentiment in surrounding Arab nations will produce atrocities that dwarf 9/11. And in response, Bush will push for war with the countries that harbor the perpetrators.

To fight a war on terrorism is to feed the beast of hatred that powers it and shows an admission of the fear that we are intended to feel through its execution.

I do not want to be the one that says "I told you so." You have all been warned more times than I can count. Now is the time for action, as it has been for over a year, to stop this conflict, preferably before it starts, but in its tracks if need be.

Robert D. Rhoads III
Sophomore
Professional Writing and Editing
Youngstown State Peace Action Network

"I have two cousins in the Navy right now so I worry about them. But if we don't do something about Hussein now, he'll think he can do whatever he likes."
— Jens Peterson, sophomore

Compiled by Karen Weir / The Jambar

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Atkinson ends term at YSU

By LA'EL HUGHES
The Jambar

A YSU trustee is saying goodbye after 11 years of service.

The quarterly board meetings, where trustees hash out university business, will be short one member as Eugenia Atkinson's term expires.

Atkinson attended her last meeting as a trustee Friday.

Atkinson was appointed to serve on the Board of Trustees in 1991, when she was appointed to replace the chair. She served in that capacity until last summer, when Joseph Nohra replaced her. Atkinson now currently serves as the Executive Director for the Youngstown Metropolitan Housing Authority.

Atkinson's term as a trustee will officially be over May 31 and several colleagues expressed praise over her many contributions.

Nohra said Atkinson's services were "outstanding," and said they shared a "wonderful working relationship." Other strengths that Nohra cited were Atkinson's broad knowledge of the needs of the university and community.

"She made us aware for our need to increase diversity," Nohra said.

He said he also would remember her good business savvy.

"She had very sound business knowledge," he said. "She had so much knowledge about how to deal with employees

and negotiations."

Keeping a promise and admirable "people skills", is what Charles Cushwa, another trustee, said he would miss about his colleague.

"She was always true to her word," Cushwa said. "Things that were delicate and difficult to say, she found a way to say them."

He also mentioned Atkinson's efforts to "always be as diplomatic as possible."

Cushwa said Atkinson was very instrumental, during the Board's national search for a university president.

"She was very much at the forefront, when we were looking to replace Cochran and other top key positions."

Cushwa said Atkinson knew what the university was looking for and she showed commitment to those needs. He said the search, which led to the hiring of President David Sweet included "well qualified candidates."

"The candidates were filtered through Atkinson," Cushwa said. "She helped so much during the application and interview process. We needed a new regime in here and she helped the university reach its vision to increase diversity, financial responsibility and getting students."

Jeff Parks, a student trustee member, said Atkinson sincerely cared for students.

"I've only known Eugenia for two years," Parks said. "But when I first got appoint-

ed, she was the very person I went to when I needed to know what was going on or I needed to understand something."

Parks said the trustees usually look to their student representatives to get the voice of the students, and Parks said Atkinson had a strong student-oriented voice as well.

"When the university made decisions, she always put the students first, she explored every option and stayed open minded," he said.

Parks said he also enjoyed having conversations with Atkinson that did not always relate to YSU business. Parks said he enjoyed several casual conversations with Atkinson and her husband, Youngstown City Councilman Richard Atkinson.

"They both made me feel so comfortable, you can tell both of them knows how to speak to the issues concerning students," Parks said.

Nohra said he also takes pleasure from watching the relationship between Atkinson and her husband. He said that although Atkinson always displayed a good work ethic, she did have a sense of humor when it came to her husband.

"She always made jokes about how she would keep her husband, the councilman, in line."

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

Commentary

Simpsons' writers worthy of worship

By JOHN MILLER
Sidelines (Middle Tennessee State U.)

(U-WIRE) MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — Have you ever had someone ask you what your favorite movie, musician or book is?

These questions are all hard for me to answer because I have many movies, books and musicians I like greatly.

I have always liked "The Catcher in the Rye," "On the Road" and "High Fidelity."

Decisions, decisions. My tastes seem to change over time. They transform with age, location and the new people who come into my life. However, there's one entertainment question I have always been able to give a definitive answer to: "What's your favorite TV show?"

That one I know without even thinking. "The Simpsons" is, by far, my favorite TV show of all time.

That's right — a cartoon. Like many of us, I grew up watching "The Simpsons." I remember when they debuted on "The Tracey Ullman Show." My mom would let me stay up late to watch a family of five semi-poorly drawn characters.

In the beginning, the skits were only 30 seconds long before and after the commercial breaks.

They caught my attention and never let go. As you can imagine, I was thrilled when they finally got their own show in 1989.

How did a cartoon about a semi-dysfunctional family become one of the most popular shows in television history? These characters never age. Most episodes don't coincide with the ones before, yet they seem to captivate our attention.

There aren't many things I liked when I was 10 that I still enjoy now in my early 20s.

"The Simpsons," however, are still as entertaining now as they were then, if not more so. The show's knack for changing with the

times has given it the ability to stay fresh and interesting. This is in no small part due to the great writers who create each episode. If anyone ever tells you "The Simpsons" is nothing more than a kid's show, just educate them to the fact that 10 of the writers are Harvard University alumni.

One of the more famous former "Simpsons" writers now hosts his own late night TV show, "Late Night with Conan O'Brien."

In some ways, an episode of "The Simpsons" is more difficult to create than your average TV show.

There are more steps involved in the writing and editing process than many other programs, not to mention the time it takes for animation, voice-overs and post-production.

Most people don't realize that almost every voice heard in a "Simpsons" episode are done by the same five actors.

That's pretty impressive when you think of the dozens of character who have been on the show over the years.

I would have to say one of the reasons I have liked "The Simpsons" so much over the past 14 years is that the show is a farce of the American family and provides humorous commentary on American society.

Situations that are funny and even silly at times, nonetheless, make a point.

Homer's feeling of despair when it comes to his job, Bart's lashing out against authority, Lisa's living with a family she doesn't feel understands her, Marge's search for an identity beyond that of a wife and mother of three and Maggie's insignificant role in the family all provide snapshots of the not-so-perfect American family.

The next time you watch "The Simpsons," read between the lines.

Look beyond just the pure humor of the jokes and try to see if there is something more than just a crazy family living in your average American town.

SGA rep to hold meeting Wednesday

STAFF REPORT
The Jambar

A Student Government Association representative wants students to know more about learning disabilities.

Jaymin Patel, at-large representative, said he will hold

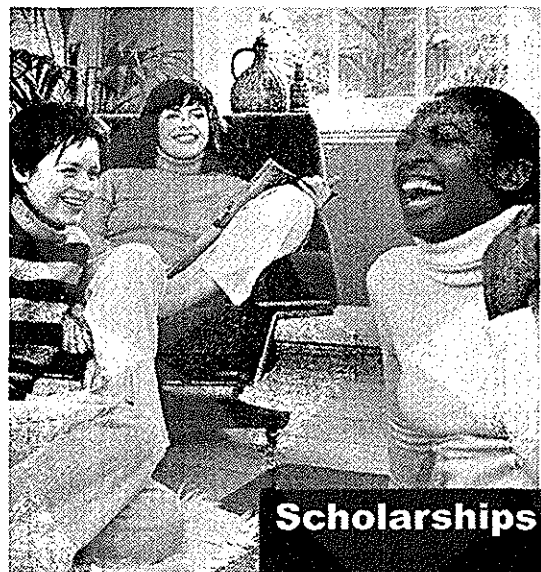
an informational meeting from 3 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Breshnahan Suite at Kilcawley Center.

"I've been working on this for awhile," Patel said.

He said students who think they have a learning disability can come and receive

information about professional help and other issues. No doctors or counselors will be on hand, but Patel said he hopes to direct concerned students to Jain Savage, coordinator of Disability Services and other professionals.

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Chem program earns high rank

By RYAN McCABE
The Jambar

Some schools are losing chemistry majors, but Chemistry Chair Daryl Mincey said YSU has held steady over the years.

So steady that a national journal has placed the university high in a survey of chemistry programs across the country.

YSU awards more chemistry degrees than any other university in Ohio and ranks 14th overall on the national level, according to a recent report in Chemical and Engineering News.

"We see an increase of around 5 percent every year," Mincey said.

For the 1999-2000 academic year, 53 students received bachelor's degrees in chemistry from YSU.

According to the article, this outnumbers larger schools such as Michigan State University, Indiana University and the University of Texas at Austin.

The magazine surveyed 1,052 chemistry departments at universities and colleges across the United States and Puerto Rico. The University of California at San Diego awarded the most degrees in chemistry with 108.

YSU's 14th place ranking sandwiched it between the University of California at Los Angeles and the University of Pittsburgh.

"We're always battling the Youngstown mentality that we're not good enough," Mincey said. "But we're as good if not better than anywhere else in the country."

Mincey said the Chemistry department does a report on their status and sends it in to the magazine.

"They never get back to us," he said. "Then it just shows up on my desk."

In a news release last week, Provost Tony Atwater and Board of Trustees Chairman Joseph Nohra commended Mincey and the program.

"The academic quality and

student graduation success of our Chemistry department are points of pride for the university," Atwater said. "This national recognition confirms the department's status as a signature program at YSU, epitomizing the university's commitment to academic excellence and student success."

Mincey said that while this isn't the first time YSU has received recognition in Chemical and Engineering News, it is the first time the recognition has been so prestigious. He attributes the success of the chemistry program to the faculty members and their emphasis on the students.

"We focus our attention on our undergraduate students," Mincey said. "Our students have to do undergraduate research as well as create a thesis, and most are published by the time they graduate."

Mincey said such opportunity is usually reserved for graduate students at other universities.

To learn chemistry, you have to have the proper equipment and facilities, Mincey said. He credits his colleagues in their efforts to secure grants to get state-of-the-art equipment for the chemistry department.

"Anything you'd find in a research facility, you'd probably find here," Mincey said.

Mincey estimates there is over \$5 million in their research facility and said that most other universities tend to not allow their undergraduate students access to such equipment.

The terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 and continued concerns about the increased threat of bio-chemical warfare have increased the demand for chemistry majors.

"It also doesn't hurt to have shows like 'CSI,'" Mincey said.

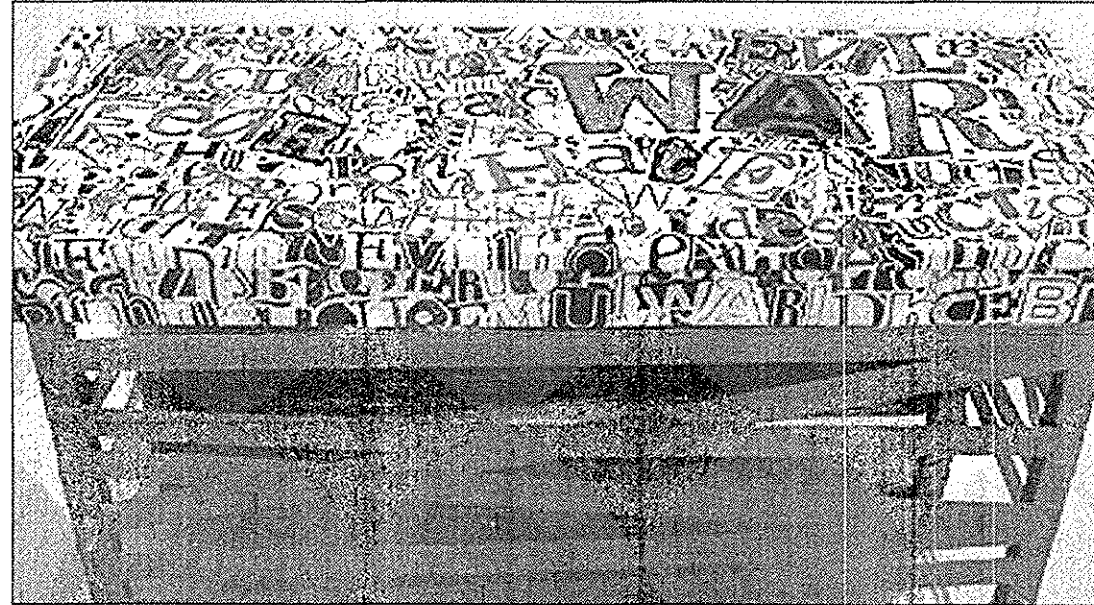
He said he receives e-mails everyday from companies looking for students to fill positions.

"There just aren't enough students to fill all the spots."

"We're always battling the Youngstown mentality that we're not good enough."

— DARYL MINCEY
Chemistry Chair

WAR'S ON THE TABLE



EXPRESSION: Jay Gordon's "Ignorance," (top) and Barbara Dubelko's "The Issues on the table," are two of the pieces currently on display at the Bliss Hall gallery, as part of its war display.

By Lisko/The Jambar

Festival highlights Cuban lifestyle

By HEATHER SHAW
The Jambar

Laughing, sweating and singing men, women and children packed themselves into the Ohio Room in Kilcawley Center on Saturday to spend the afternoon learning how to dance Cuban style.

Among many activities held this weekend in celebration of the third annual YSU Cuban Arts Festival, YSU students and people from the valley came to rejoice the Cuban way of life.

Jim Lepore, associate professor of dance at George Mason University, has been teaching the Afro-Caribbean dance since 1991 and brought some of his students along to help participate in the Salsa Dance Workshop.

Lepore taught students not only many Cuban dances, but he also briefly lectured on the origin of this Cuban dance.

"Salsa is Cuban," Lepore said. "However it originates from a form of dance called Son, which is a rhythmic pattern used in Cuba in the 1800's. In 1977 the word 'Salsa' was used as a marketing tool to sell this style of dance."

During the two-hour seminar, Lepore taught students dance steps, counting rhythms and advice for novice dancers.

"When Salsa dancing you should dance like your simply having a conversation," he said. "The best way to learn is to listen to the music all the time, in your house and car. It will make learning the dance much easier."

In addition to the Salsa Dance Workshop, many other Cuban inspired activities were held on Saturday. A panel discussion was held with YSU Professor of Foreign Language Ivania del Pozo. Later in the evening a traditional Cuban style dinner was held followed by a concert and dance performance.

Michelle Lepore-Hagan, director of Fine and Performing Arts, said she was delighted with this year's success and attendance of the festival.

"I'm really happy to see this festival growing in positive ways," Hagan said. "It is wonderful to see so many diverse people here who represent the community."

The Ballet Western Reserves and many other valley children's groups and Hispanic groups of the Mahoning Valley also attended the festival.

Any students and staff interested in learning how to Salsa may contact Christine Cobb, assistant professor of human performance and exercise science, at (330) 941-1896 to inquire information on Salsa or other dance classes offered at YSU.

Call Heather Shaw at (330) 941-1811.



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'Monologues' highlight female perspectives

By ALICIA HOUSTON
The Jambar

"The Vagina Monologues," performed last weekend at Ford Theater, took a comedic but serious look at women and their discoveries of themselves.

The play provided excellent performances in each of its 19 skits and tackled issues such as the many names for the word "vagina," the different types of moans, menstrual cycles, sexuality, rape and giving birth.

The cast sought the answers to the questions, "If your vagina got dressed, what would it wear?" "If your vagina could talk, what would it say?" and "What does your vagina smell like?"

The skit "I Was 12, My Mother Slapped Me" involved four women discussing their crossover to womanhood as they experienced their first menstrual cycle.

"My Short Skirt," performed by senior Stena Buck, who produced the play, discussed the issue of rape and how clothing is not an invitation for a woman to be raped.

"The Flood" and "My Angry Vagina" were two of the most comedic skits in the play's exploration of vaginas.

"The Flood," performed by junior Kerri Richard, was a 72-year-old woman's explanation of why she never explored "down there."

"My Angry Vagina," performed

by junior LaShyka Clark, and seniors Alisha Kopcosos, and Megan Reed, informed the audience of everything and everyone that angers the vagina.

Some of the more serious skits were "My Vagina Was My Village," performed by senior Mandy Callahan, and "Under the Burqa," performed by senior Valerie Thomas, which brought to life the realities of female oppression.

L.J. "Tess" Tessier, professor of philosophy and religious studies, appeared in several skits and said she was pleased with the outcome of the play.

"It was a wonderful experience," Tessier said. "Many of the actresses in the play are not theater majors, but they wanted to do it because it means a lot to them."

"There's a lot of laughter and tears in the green room."

The cast was pleased to announce that before the first performance of the play, they had already reached their goal of raising \$15,000 for the Sojourner House.

The clothesline project, a display of shirts made by victims of violence against women, was on display outside of the theater, as well as a sheet the audience could sign to support women's rights and fight against the brutalities that occur against women.

Call Alicia Houston at (330) 941-3758.

Student protests rise nationwide

By BRENDEN CLAWSON
The Maneater (U. Missouri)

(U-WIRE) COLUMBIA, Mo. — Protests erupted at campuses across the country Thursday, a day after the U.S. military took action against Iraq.

Professors at Harvard University rescheduled midterm exams so students could participate in an afternoon walk-out to protest the war. Protesters estimate that 2,000 people took part in the rally.

At Duke University, about 250 people attended a rally despite pouring rain. A professor financed a tent to protect the microphone and equipment from getting wet, said Duke senior Donnell Baird, a member of the antiwar group Peace at Duke.

Baird said he thinks college protests serve an important purpose during times of war.

"My personal opinion is that while these protests may not affect the opinion of the administration, they do show that Americans are not unified for the war," Baird said.

But not all protesters were rallying against the

war.

At the University of Michigan, a rally to support American troops was held alongside an antiwar rally.

It is important that those who support action against Saddam Hussein also let their voices be heard, said Ruben Duran,

"We are ecstatic that there are so many people committed enough to take part in these protests."

— SHENAL SHINGAVI
Student activist, University of California Berkeley

managing editor of the Michigan Review, Michigan's conservative student newspaper and one of the organizers of the rally.

"We saw in the Vietnam War how antiwar rallies destroyed the morale of American troops," Duran said. "As quick as news travels, we don't need the troops watching CNN and seeing people rallying against them. We need to show them that we are

going to support them."

Some college students even traveled away from campus to protest.

About 150 University of California-Berkeley students took part in antiwar rallies in San Francisco.

Snehal Shingavi, a student activist at Berkeley, said protesters' actions were impressive.

"We are ecstatic that there are so many people committed enough to take part in these protests," Shingavi said. "We are all very proud."

Berkeley activists expected more than 1,000 people to take part in a walk-out at noon Thursday, which moved some professors to hold classes outside for the day.

At the University of Nebraska, a student protest fell short because the war began during spring break, said Becca Kaisler, member of Coalition for Peace.

"As far as organizing goes, there's not really a united student front right now," Kaisler said.

About 300 Nebraska students walked out of their classes March 3 to protest the then imminent war.

Sports Commentary

Look for Pitt to cut the nets down at NCAA tourney

By DAVE DEVEREUX
The Jambar

Heading into this year's NCAA Tournament, I felt there were only three teams, Kentucky, Arizona, and Pittsburgh that had a legitimate shot of finishing off the dream of cutting down the nets on the floor of the Louisiana Superdome.

While Kentucky and Arizona were rewarded fair seedings by the NCAA Tournament selection committee, Pittsburgh got shafted when they received the #2 seed in the Midwest Region where they would likely have to meet Kentucky in the Regional Finals.

The Panthers finished with a 26-4 record, third best of any team from a major conference and although their RPI ranking was low because of a soft early-season schedule the RPI is not supposed to be the almighty determinant in seeding teams.

The Panthers 9-1 record in their last ten games (always considered a key factor by the committee) combined with an impressive 18-point victory over Connecticut in the Big East Tournament Final should have secured the Panthers a #1 seed in one of the other two regions.

When this didn't happen the Panthers at the very least should have been the first or second #2 seed in the field, however, by being placed in the same region as Kentucky, the "S"

curve system showed that Pittsburgh was considered to be the lowest #2 seed. This was a huge slap-in-the-face to Pitt as far as I am concerned and an indication that the Big East received very little respect from the selection committee.

After the first weekend of games in the tournament two things were apparent: The Big East was better than expected by posting an 8-0 overall record and Pittsburgh took their seeding as disrespectful and came out in this tournament playing with a chip-on-their-shoulders.

If Pitt continues to use their lack of respect as extra motivation it could prove to be a key psychological edge the rest of the way.

Combined with the Panthers hungry attitude they displayed in last weekend's games, Pitt possesses other characteristics that could separate them from other contenders for the National Championship.

Along with their mental toughness they also possess a physical toughness that would make Pittsburgh Steelers teams of the 70's proud. Coach Ben Howland has instilled a hard-nosed, aggressive style of basketball that frustrates opposing players and systematically wears them down. The Panthers finished the regular season with the sixth best scoring defense in the nation, holding opponents to 58.8 points per game.

And unlike several teams I watched this past weekend, the Panthers are one team that understands the importance of guarding against the three-point shot.

The landscape of college basketball has changed. Although some teams do possess skilled inside presences, the majority of teams rely primarily on outside shooting. In their second round game against Indiana on Sunday, it was the ability of the Panthers' players to defend the Hoosiers perimeter shooters that led them to the win.

In addition to team toughness the Panthers are perhaps the most balanced offensive team in the tournament. While much of the national attention goes to Knight, their senior point guard, they have five players whose scoring averages range from 10-12 ppg. Joining Knight is one of the most athletic players in the nation, Julius Page, a 6-3 sophomore guard, who possesses both an outside and mid-range game and can lock-up his man defensively.

Also in the backcourt is Jaron Brown, a 6'4 guard who plays bigger than his height and because of his rebounding ability creates match-up problems for opposing teams' off-guards. Brown could very well be the token unsung performer you find on most championship teams.

Inside the Panthers have three players in Ontario Lett, Donotas

Zavackas and Chevon Troutman who dish out a lot more punishment than they receive.

Zavackas can step out and hit the from beyond the arc, which is evident by his 43 percent three-point shooting percentage, while the 6'7 Troutman controls the paint while he's in the game, shooting an astonishing 71 percent from the field this season.

Each night and really each time they bring the ball up the floor, any player on the Panthers team can be the hero. So while everyone else is taking the consensus favorites such as Kentucky and Arizona, I believe Pitt's offensive



Photo courtesy of Pittsburghpanthers.com

LAY-UP: Pittsburgh Panthers guard Julius Page takes a layup in a recent NCAA tournament game.

balance and overall team toughness will prove to be the difference.

However, from the looks of my bracket and the way my picks have gone thus far, please do not quote me.

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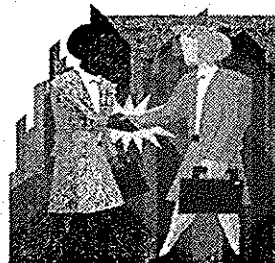
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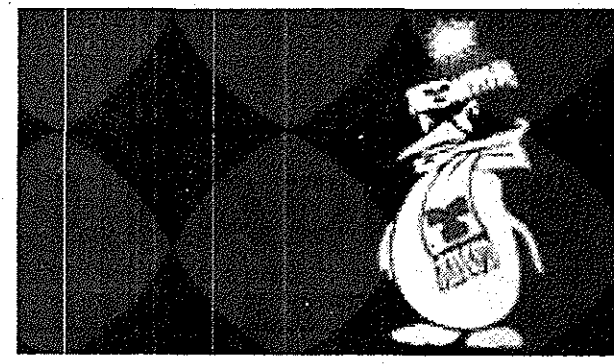
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Campus Calendar

Today:
The YSU Intersity Christian Fellowship meets Tuesdays at 3 p.m. in Kilcawley. See the Kilcawley list for room. All students are welcome. Contact Dr. Phil Munro for more information, 330-941-1748. pmunro@cc.ysu.edu.

Wednesday: The History Club is meeting at noon in Kilcawley, Room 2069. Dr. Eleanor Congdon, History, will talk about "Cotton-buying in Syria in about 1480." All are welcome. Please feel free to bring a lunch.

Notices:
Need Extra Cash? Earn \$100 just for designing a t-shirt! The Department of Human Performance and Exercise Science in conjunction with the College of Health and Human Services at Youngstown State University is currently planning the third annual Fitness and Wellness Expo to be held October 8th in Kilcawley Center. Various local, regional, and national fitness and wellness organizations, as well as a number of campus departments and offices will participate in the Expo, promoting their services and providing educational materials. The Expo is a non-profit event, whose proceeds will be donated to the Youngstown Ronald McDonald House. The various participating organizations will provide information and services ranging from such health topics as cardiovascular disease and cancer prevention, to arthritis and osteoporosis to nutrition and weight management, etc. Fun and entertaining demonstrations, contests, raffles, and games will take place throughout the day. To help kick-off the event, the Department is offering \$100 to the student who designs this year's Expo t-shirt to be worn and sold during the event. A maximum of three colors will be used for the shirt. The only requirements are that the shirt includes the words "The third annual Fitness and Wellness Expo" and October 8, 2003. T-shirt designs should be turned in to Room 307 Beechly Center (main offices) by April 23rd. The winner will be announced May 5th. Be creative and win \$100.

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DiGregorio reflects on 20 years at the helm

By JOE SIMON
The Jambar

It was a Sunday evening when he picked up the phone and made one of the most difficult calls of his life.

He had been thinking about what to do for several days and now it was time to make a decision.

The call came in to YSU Athletic Director Ron Strollo late that night, and the conversation that followed was one neither will soon forget.

After days of contemplating the future of his coaching career, the words slowly trickled from his mouth.

"It's time for me to step down," Ed DiGregorio told Strollo.

The intricate telephone discussion ended with the women's basketball coach retiring from a job he had held for the past 20 years and a combined 53 years in coaching. The five-minute conversation put an end to one of the most illustrious coaching careers ever accomplished at YSU.

DiGregorio coached the Penguins for two decades and has one of the most impressive resumes of any coach in YSU history.

The two-time Coach of the Year's history includes five consecutive regular-season league championships, five straight 20-win seasons, three conference tournament titles, three trips to the NCAA Tournament and an appearance in the second round of the "Big Dance."

Not too surprisingly, "Coach D" said the records and wins are great, but it's the impact he's had on all of the ladies he has taught, which means the most to him.

"People don't remember wins or losses," DiGregorio said. "I can only hope that I've touched (the players') lives, the way they've touched mine. That's what student's will remember, who went out of their way and help touch their lives, and that's what I always hoped to do."

Days after tendering his resignation and leaving the university he has been a part of since 1983, DiGregorio talked about his sudden departure and emphasized that he was not "pushed out" of his job.

"It's hard to give up something you've been doing for so long," DiGregorio said. "I always enjoyed teaching and associating with young people."

"I'm 76 years old and it's just time to step down. I've been under the gun for so many years that now I'm just going to relax and take care of my wife."

"It's going to be a challenge to get used to a new coaching staff next season."



—DEVIN NOVAK
YSU junior guard

The Penguins all-time winning coach took over the program in 1983 and, along with former football coach Jim Tressel, has had the most significant impact on YSU athletics in school history.

His accomplishments came both on and off the court and his guidance has influenced hundreds

"We are saddened by his decision and we are saddened to see him leave..."



—JESSICA FORSYTHE
YSU junior forward

of players at the university.

When asked what the greatest achievement of his coaching career was, the coach spoke not of personal success but of the amazing graduation rate his players amassed through the years.

"All but two of our young ladies graduated. One got married and dropped out of school and the other transferred. (Women's basketball) also annually led the campus in the number of scholarships given out and we were the only team to win five straight conference championships."

DiGregorio leaves the program after three straight losing seasons, including this season's 6-22 record, the team's first 20-loss season since the 1993-94 campaign.

Despite the struggles, junior Devin Novak said the team was shocked by DiGregorio's decision and feels the program is as strong as ever.

"As a team, I would say we were a little shocked," Novak said. "We've had a rough three seasons, but I feel the program is in good shape."

"It's going to be a challenge to get used to a new coaching staff next season. I think we'll be able to adjust, but it's going to be difficult."

DiGregorio said telling his players was one of the most diffi-

cult things he's ever had to do, but said he felt obligated to let them know his decision first.

Junior Jessica Forsythe said while she was grateful he notified them of his decision first, she is going to miss her coach of the past three seasons.

"We are saddened by his decision and we are saddened to see him leave after being here for so long," Novak said, as she reacted to her coach's departure at last week's news conference.

"He wanted us to know first this morning and we are glad he did that. He was very honest and open. It was a very touching talk this morning. Emotions were everywhere."

This past season the team was forced to deal with a number of injuries and ailments as three of the team's players missed almost the entire season. Before the year started, the team learned that junior guard Cathy Hanek would miss the entire season after being diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis, an inflammatory arthritis.

Hanek, deemed the team's best all around player by DiGregorio, had appeared in 27 games last year, including 20 starts.

Freshman guard Ashlee Russo missed all but four games of the season due to persistent soreness; after pre-season ankle surgery and Barb Fabianova missed the majority of the season after tearing the anterior cruciate and medial collateral ligaments in her right knee.

Now that he's finished, DiGregorio said he's going to miss "the kids" most of all, and that sometimes people need to remember they're the core of this university.

"Everyone at this university should be working for the same common goal: to help the students excel," DiGregorio said. "I don't care who you are — the football coach, chemistry professor, lab instructor or vice president. That's what should be the goal of everyone on this campus, that's what it's all about."

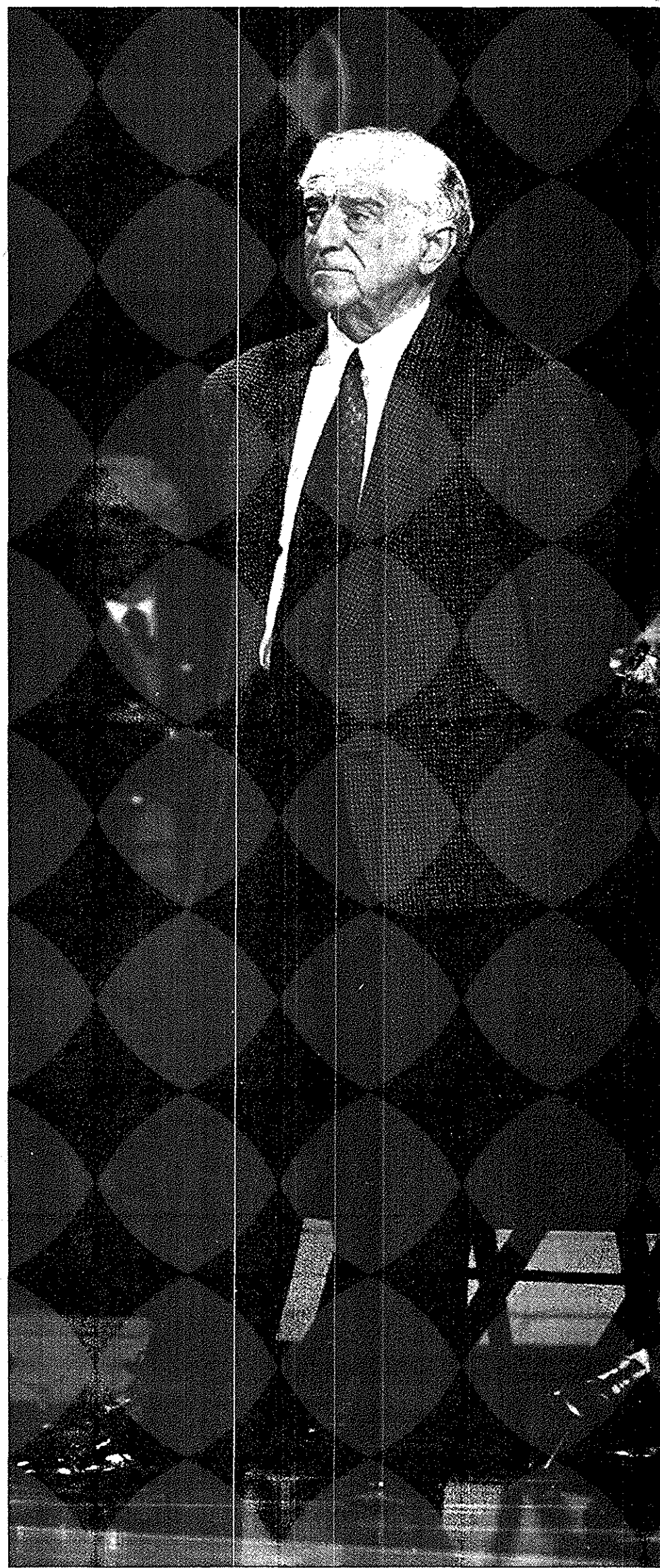
DiGregorio said while he will be on the search committee for the new coach, "he has not been offered any job on campus."

Now that he's finished with coaching, Coach D said he will take care of his wife and enjoy his retirement.

"I won't miss the paperwork, that's for sure," he said with a laugh. "I'm going to play golf, workout and relax."

"It's time to smell the roses."

Call Joe Simon at (330) 941-3758.



Photos courtesy of Sports Information

LEGACY: Long-time women's basketball coach Ed DiGregorio announced his retirement last week, after 20 seasons as head of the Lady Penguins program.

Softball boasts 9-8 record in young season

By JOE SIMON
The Jambar

Spring sports are now in full swing, and with the weather actually cooperating, there are many teams looking to excel.

Softball

The softball team had their first five games of the season cancelled, yet did not let the weather damper their season.

After starting the season off 5-1 the team has cooled off a bit and is currently boasting a 9-8 overall record.

Sunday at the Virginia Tech Spring Round Robin freshman Liz Holt went 2-for-3



HOLT

and cranked her third home run of the Round Robin but the YSU softball team dropped a 3-1 decision to St. Bonaventure.

YSU finished third in the tournament with a 3-2 record. Holt hit .308 with three home runs and five runs batted in and was named to the all-tournament team. Holt is currently leading the team in average (.389) and home runs (5).

YSU faces Kent State, Wednesday, March 26, at 2 p.m. and plays their first league game Saturday against Detroit.

Men and Women's Golf

Over the weekend, the men's team began the spring season at the ECU Spring Invitational and placed 13th out of 16 teams. The Penguins had a team score of 910 (301-312-297).

The top finisher for the Penguins was senior David Johnstone who tied for 28th place with a 222 (72-77-73). Senior Jonah Karzmer placed 55th with a 229 (76-80-73), freshman Nate

Johnstone Komsa carded a 231 (76-77-78) to finish 59th, junior Carmen DiPenti had a 232 (77-82-73) to place 64th and red-shirt freshman Josh Zarlenga shot a 239

(80-78-81) to finish 83rd.

After their fourth place finish at the North/South Women's Intercollegiate Invitational in Jacksonville, Fla., the women's golf team is preparing for the ECU Lady Colonel Classic in Richmond, Ky.

At Jacksonville, senior Jennifer Grossi led the way by carding a 182 (83-79). Meanwhile, sophomore Gina Abruzzo, 165 (83-82), senior Nichole Hamstreet, 170 (91-79) and junior Lori Hatcher, 172 (85-87) all chipped in for the fourth place finish.

Baseball

The team started the year off with a tough schedule but

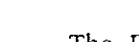
are currently on a 10-game home stand and have won three straight games at Cafaro Field.

Sunday against the Akron Zips, senior Jon Smart gave up just three hits and surrendered one unearned run to pick up a seven-inning complete game 3-1 victory.

The Penguins, now 6-9, play today at Cafaro Field in Niles against Davis & Elkins.

Call Joe Simon at (330) 941-3758.

SMART



YSU Sports Calendar

Baseball

Today, vs. Davis & Elkins, 1 p.m.
Wednesday, vs. Bethany, 4 p.m. Saturday,
Binghampton (DH), Noon. Sunday,
Binghampton, Noon.

Softball

Wednesday, at KSU (DH), 2 p.m. Friday,
vs. IUPUI (DH) 2 p.m. Saturday, vs.
Detroit (DH) 1 p.m. Sunday, vs. Detroit, 1
p.m.

Mens Golf

March 31-April 1, Liberty Spring Classic,
Smith Mountain Lake, Va.

Women's Golf

April 9-12, ECU Lady Colonel Classic
Richmond, Ky.



Girls & Sports