



The JAMBAR

THURSDAY

July 17, 2003

Mostly Sunny
HIGH: 82 LOW: 59

Vol. 85

www.thejambar.com

Issue 62

Summer courses offer little relief

Students, faculty deal with the heavy summer workload.

By AMANDA ELIAS
The Jambar

Sitting in room 358 of DeBartolo Hall, listening to her professor discuss the significance of her 200-page reading assignment while writing a to-do list for the remainder of the day, frustration overcomes senior Carissa Plate.

Stressed out by the immense amount of coursework in a six-week semester, Plate is not the only YSU student to experience the heat of summer classes. Other students are also dealing with crammed workloads.

"I feel as though I have no summer vacation," senior Sarah McCrea said.

Senior Leslie Granger agrees. She describes the summer workload as "impossible."

With only six weeks to master 15 weeks worth of material, some professors do not even think the short classes are appropriate. Stephen Flora, psychology professor, said summer classes are not the "ideal learning situation."

Flora said he feels as though a summer term is not as effective as a 15-week term.

"If I teach one (class) the stress is minimal.

With two it's almost unbearable"

—STEPHEN SNIDERMAN
English Professor



Professor Stephen Sniderman also said he believes that six weeks is not enough time to cover material effectively.

"It depends on the course," Sniderman said. "But, in general, no."

Along with the students, some professors are also stressed

See STRESS, page 2

Tressel returns to YSU



Photo courtesy of the Department of Marketing and Communications

AUTOGRAPH: Ohio State Buckeyes head football coach Jim Tressel takes time out to sign autographs during his visit to campus last Friday.

By DAVE DEVEREUX
The Jambar

Jim Tressel, Ohio State University football coach, returned to YSU campus last Friday to give \$125,000 to the campaign to build a new \$12 million student recreation center at YSU.

When he stepped to the podium in Kilcawley Center, surrounded by old colleagues and friends, Tressel said it felt like he never left.

"It really is a thrill to come back," said Tressel, former YSU football coach and athletic director.

"We've been kind of gone for two years now, but I will never really be gone from here."



—JIM TRESSEL
Ohio State University football

Both the Tressels and Watsons donated \$125,000 to the recreation center, which is expected to open in fall 2005.

YSU honored the families by naming a room in Kilcawley Center the Watson-Tressel Reading Lounge.

"This really is a team effort," University President David Sweet said. "We've got a lot of teams that are moving this university forward."

With the recent contributions, the campaign to raise funds for the new recreation center has now surpassed the \$9 million mark. The new 65,000-square-foot facility will include a fitness center, climbing wall, weight room, jogging track, racquetball courts and a spiritual meditation room.

Along with the Tressel and Watson donations, others have made large contributions

See TRESSEL, page 6

Graduates struggle in tough job market

By TINA THOMPSON
The Jambar

Unemployment rates have reached nine percent. In Youngstown, companies continue to lay off workers, and the job market is growing tighter by the day.

According to U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, for the first six months of 2003, Youngstown's unemployment rate was lower than the national average; however, traditionally Youngstown has had a higher than average unemployment rate.

Graduating students at YSU face a daunting task as they begin to search for jobs in their chosen profession.

Bernie Cummins, director of YSU's Career Service center, said YSU students need to evaluate their priorities.

"Students need to have flexibility, either geographically, or in their career choice," Cummins said.

While the overall job market is in decline, the bureau estimates that job opportunities for computer software engineers will more than double over the next seven years.

Eight out of the top ten fastest growing occupations are in the field of computers and computer information, and all ten occupations require at least an associate degree.

Other areas of growth are personal and home care aides as well as medical assistants.

"Many health care areas are strong because of the aging population," said Tod Porter, chair of the economics department.

In a down market and tight economy, these statistics can be important when evaluating the choice of a major or how to apply a major to current market trends.

"Employment conditions are significantly worse than five years ago," Porter said.

Cummins recommends that students approach a job search in a straightforward manner. He said students should prepare a resume and expand their job search by networking with other students, as well as considering relocation.

"We encourage all students to expand their job search to include Cleveland and Pittsburgh, as well as other geographical areas," Cummins said.

Cummins recommends students remain flexible. If a student wants to remain in the area, they may need to rework their ideas of how to use their major. Someone who majors in political science may have appeal to local unions if they cannot find a job in government.

The Career Services Centers

See MARKET, page 3

Med students swallow big pill

By JOSH MAYS
The Jambar

Kim Gutman sits on a wooden bench in front of Cafaro House, squinting in the bright sunlight. She smiles as she speaks, and talks embarrassingly of her lack of a sun tan. Surrounding Gutman is a plethora of students who spend their summers sunbathing on beach towels, nose deep in medical textbooks. They are cramming for first semester finals.

Gutman, along with the other students, are participating in the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine BSMD program, seeking a combined bachelor's degree in science from YSU and then a full medical

degree elsewhere.

Jennifer Board, Coordinator of the BSMD program, says that it is an accelerated program where students do the full course load in two to three years, including G.E.R.'s. Most students even attend classes during summer with upwards of 20 credit hours. Board says that the program is every bit as intense as its reputation.

"They are not given any breaks," she said.

On the average, Gutman says she studies every night from 5 to 8 p.m., takes a dinner break, then studies again from 10 to 1 a.m.

"Some friends don't understand when it

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Sneak Peek

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50 Cent, Snoop Dogg highlight Cleveland concert. Page 4



thejambar.com poll question:

THE JAMBAR

The Collegiate Voice Of Youngstown State University

Does YSU pay too much for long distance? Vote @ www.thejambar.com

Staffer discusses the medias role in shaping sports legends. Sports Commentary. Page 4



YSU pays 80s rates for long distance

By REBECCA MARQUIS
The Jambar

In the last 19 years long distance rates have dropped 400 percent, while YSU continues to pay the 36 cents per minute it was quoted in 1984.

Some faculty members said a change in the long distance phone rates would certainly be welcome.

Joe Scarnecchia, director of support services, said he hopes to change the way that the university handles its long-distance calls within the next year.

Currently, Scarnecchia said, administration lines are charged 36 cents per minute for long-distance. However, there are no monthly service fees. Auxiliary lines, which provide service to residence halls, are charged nine cents, in addition to a monthly service fee.

"[The rates are] a little misleading," Scarnecchia said. The change would allow all departments to use a rate nearer to the nine-cent rate, while instituting a monthly service fee, he said.

The 36-cent rate has been in place since 1984, when the university installed its own phone system.

About six years ago, Scarnecchia said, YSU upgraded its 15-year-old phone system. At that time, he said, the administration rate was not changed from 36 cents. It was left at that rate to help pay for the upgrade.

Staff and Faculty at Kent State University are charged eight cents a minute for long distance and a monthly service charge of \$19 per month, according to the KSU 2003 Network and Telephone Cost Schedule.

A representative from Qwest communications, the company YSU uses for long distance, said that 36 cents a minute did not "sound like the best rate."

"That rate sounds a little bit high," she said, citing some business plans that ranged from six to seven cents a minute.

Faculty expressed mixed views about current long-distance rates, though most said a lower rate should be implemented.

Allen Viehmeyer, chair of the department of foreign languages and literatures, said that the change would not make a significant difference in their budget.

"It would lower our costs, but we do so little long distance calling it's not going to make an impact," Viehmeyer said.

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BSMD, continued from page 1

is Friday night and you can't go out because you have to study...I am giving up the traditional scene, but I wouldn't have it any other way," says Gutman.

Now in her second year of the program, Gutman is looking forward to helping the new students that just moved into Cafaro.

"I look to help them out," says Gutman. Aside from help with their studies from the upperclassmen, the new students should also expect to be the target of pranks during the first week. For example, to 'welcome the new students to the family' they were ambushed and sprayed with shaving cream.

Rena Meadows, one of the new initiates who will start her first classes during the second eight weeks, says her impression about the program has changed for the better. "I thought there were gonna be a lot of nerds," says Meadows, "but these people are very nice."

So far, Meadows says classes are easy, but she is expecting it to "get really hard after the summer."

"There is a lot to do, but nothing I can't handle," Meadows said. "It takes a lot off a lot of stress knowing your seat is saved."

Those that apply to NEOUCOM must

pass interviews in which they are evaluated in areas such as academic achievements, leadership, interpersonal skills and drive. Students of the program have the choice of applying at Kent, Akron and YSU. Gutman says that YSU was her first choice of the three and that Youngstown is the perfect place for the BSMD program.

"The city doesn't have much of a social scene. This is the perfect location. The only thing here is the university and there are few distractions," Gutman said, adding she believes hard work takes precedent and Youngstown succeeds at not interrupting.

As the sun sets behind Cafaro House, the sunbathers abandon their posts and head inside to continue their studies. Gutman, now angelically backlit and twirling her hair around a finger, says, "It's all about the inner drive and how much you want it."

"We've earned our spot in medical school," Gutman said. "It's easy to see the light at the end of the tunnel. There are people who let this program run their life, but I am just here to take these classes and get out."

Call Josh Mays at (330) 941-3523.

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to the campaign.

The John S. and Doris M. Andrews Trust, named after the late financier and his wife, pledged \$2 million to the project. Other major contributions include \$1.5 million from John and Denise York, \$1 million from the Ward and Florence Simon Beecher Foundation, \$750,000 from Anthony and Mary Lariccia and \$500,000 from D.D. and Velma Davis.

Frank Watson, who graduated from Youngstown College with an engineering degree in 1949, led the campaign to raise \$16 million to build Stambaugh Stadium in the 1970s. Mrs. Watson has served as a member of numerous organizations including Federated Women's Clubs, chair of Mahoning County Residential Financier Cancer Campaign and president of Canfield Methodist Women.

Frank Watson said he believes the recreation center is another sign of growth for YSU.

"Youngstown State University has been a part of our lives for over 50 years," Watson said. "We have seen many changes from a college to a university to a state university. And

good universities just don't happen. Universities that function the way they are supposed to are due to the efforts of everyone in the community."

Jim Tressel served as head football coach at YSU from 1985 to 2001, leading the Penguins to national championships in 1991, 1993, 1994 and 1997 — a dynasty that placed the Penguins program at an elite level in college football.

Tressel left YSU to become head coach at Ohio State University in January 2001. And although his storied reign on the gridiron came to an end, Tressel said there is still a goal at YSU that he has not forgotten about.

"I can remember back in the late 80s and when you talked to some of our young people, our passion and our goal was that perhaps in the year 2025 when the name Youngstown, Ohio was talked about, that people would say 'oh that's where Youngstown State is,' 'that's a place that has an extraordinary university.'"

Call Dave Devereux at (330) 941-3523.

STRESS, continued from page 1

out by the short summer sessions.

"If I teach one (class) the stress is minimal," Sniderman said. "With two, it's almost unbearable."

Flora agreed: "Teaching for three and a half hours can be wearing on the teacher and hard for the students to endure even with the most energetic, interactive teacher and engrossing course content."

Although workload stress affects both students and professors, there are ways to overcome the stress.

Kenneth Miller, director of the counseling department, offered some suggestions to help minimize the stress that coincides with summer classes. He recommended engaging in physical activity, spending time by yourself, spending time with others or meditation.

Miller also suggests taking periodical breaks from the class workload.

"There is value in breaks," Miller said. "A student will be able to comprehend more."

Call Amanda Elias at (330) 941-3523.

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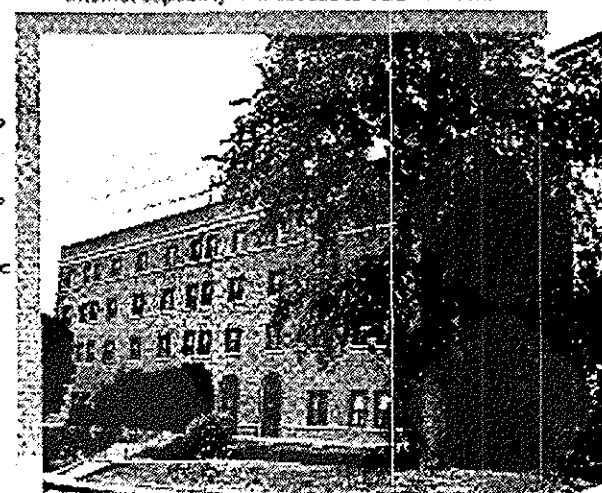
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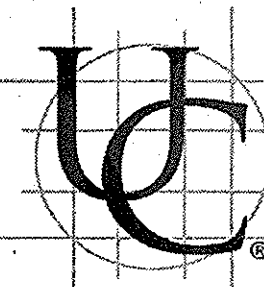
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Today's Editorials

Hey, YSU: It's 2003 calling

A lot has changed since the 80s — well, on the campus of YSU, maybe not that much.

Since 1984, YSU has paid 36 cents per minute for long distance calls. After updating its phone system six years ago, YSU still did nothing to lower the rate, saying the money was being used to pay for the upgrade.

Meanwhile, companies like MCI, Sprint, AT&T and numerous others have offered their customers rates as low as 6 cents a minute — a 400 percent difference from what YSU has been paying for the past 19 years.

When contacted by a Jambar reporter, phone service companies laughed when they heard how much we paid for long distance.

We're laughing too. Maybe, though, we should be crying. Certainly, we should be asking a lot of questions about how this went on for so many years.

Even Qwest, the company that provides YSU's phone service, bluntly said 36 cents per minute was high and "not the best rate."

This is outrageous.

Joe Scarnecchia, director of support services, said he is working on changing the rate in the next year.

Our question is why did it take so long to change?

YSU officials truly must have been blind each month as they paid their phone bills if they did not see a problem. After 19 years, someone should have spoken up and acted.

Our second question is why does it take a year to change?

There is no question that YSU is wasting money by spending countless dollars on an out-dated phone plan. So, why is it that officials must debate for an entire year about lowering the rate?

Of course, what's another year after 19 years of wasted money?

No one on the campus has a choice. You pay the 36 cents per minute or you do not make the long distance call from a campus phone.

Administrative departments are suffering the consequences by using their budget money to pay for a ridiculous phone bill. Departments that already operate on a shoestring budget should not have to worry about paying a phone bill that is at least five times higher than it needs to be.

Employees in departments have gone so far as using their personal cellular phones to dodge the obscene rates. No one should have to use personal materials when conducting university business. That is a hardship YSU should bear.

Yes, a lot has changed since the 80s. Hey, YSU: It's 2003 calling.

Got an opinion?? We want to hear from you. E-mail us at thejambar@hotmail.com

The Jambar editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambar and its Editorial Board members: Editor in Chief Angela Olin, News Editor La'el Hughes, Design Editor B.J. Lisko and Copy Editor Rebecca Marquis. Those wishing to schedule meetings with the Editorial Board should call the editor in chief.

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. Submissions must be received by noon Friday for Tuesday's edition and by noon Tuesday for Thursday's edition.

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. The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff or YSU faculty, staff or administration.

The Jambar

ANGELA OLIN Editor-in-Chief (330) 941-1991	LA'EL HUGHES News Editor (330) 941-1989	B.J. LISKO Design Editor (330) 941-1807	REBECCA MARQUIS Copy Editor (330) 941-1913
OLGA ZIOBERT Business manager (330) 941-3094	ALYSSA LENHOFF Advisor (330) 941-1908	SARA TKAC Advertising manager (330) 941-1990	
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The Jambar is published twice weekly during fall and spring semesters and weekly during summer sessions. The first copy of The Jambar is free; each additional copy is 5 cents. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press All-American honors.

Commentary

Looking back on the summer semester

By TINA THOMPSON
The Jambar

It is mid-term of the second six-week session of school. The mantra "only three more weeks, only three more weeks," dances through the heads of students around campus.

As the semester winds down, I reflect on a summer that seems wasted. What did I accomplish? Where did I go, what experiences did I share with the people who matter most to me?

To begin, the weather has only just introduced the idea of summer into my brain. All of last week my convertible was locked in the garage as thunderstorms rolled across the valley on a daily basis.

While it is not difficult to take the top off and on, last year I took the top off in May and didn't put it back on until mid-October. It seems easier to take it off once and leave it off.

Additionally, the trunk space is so small, if I put the top in and carry it with me, there's room for nothing else.

Last summer I drove the car everywhere and was rained on only once. This summer I have been rained on too many times to count. Now, if storms threaten, the little red car remains sequestered in the garage. I may be slow, but I can be taught.

So now it finally feels like summer, only my calendar tells me summer is more than half over. School will start back up in only five weeks. Not nearly enough time to cross off all the things on my "to do" list.

I think of my favorite line from the "Wizard of Oz" when the scarecrow turns to Dorothy and says, "And what did you learn, Dorothy?"

What did I learn this summer?

I learned that foreign languages are best left to the young to learn. As an adult I

spend entirely too much time trying to get all the components right. I think of the conjugation of the verbs, check the genders for agreement, and evaluate the tense of the sentence. Should I travel to Spain, I am afraid by the time I spit out the question, "Where is the bathroom?" it will be too late.

I learned to get things in writing. When someone presents an offer that's too good to be true, find out what the fine print is. Who knew my mother would be right about that one? Get your deal in writing and make the other people involved stick to what they promised. But, be prepared to walk away from the fight when you must. Summer is too short to quibble over the small stuff.

I learned that grades are not everything. Sometimes making a good effort and actually learning something is more important than regurgitating the expected responses. There's nothing wrong with a B

or even a C.

Finally, I learned to get my priorities straight. Will anyone really care what my GPA was 15-20 years from now? Will I remember the different Spanish words for food? Probably not, but I will remember laughing with my family as I stumbled over the odd pronunciations as I assembled dinner.

This will not be the summer of family vacations and trips. It will not be the summer of the great American novel (although I did get through Harry Potter V while laying by the pool one weekend). For my family it will be the summer of TV and video games, as I shut the house down to deadly silence in order to study.

This will be my last summer of classes and if nothing else, I will look back on it as a summer of accomplishment.

Call Tina Thompson at (330) 941-3523.

Letters to the editor

Graduate says Stout situation not uncommon

Editor:

As a graduate of Youngstown State University's School of Business and a practicing CPA, I have followed the recent Vindicator and Jambar articles on YSU's hiring of Dr. David Stout with keen interest and some concern. Because I was one of two non-academic members of the Andrew's Chair search committee, I feel compelled to address the two issues that seem to have received the most attention in the public vetting of Dr. Stout's employment — his compensation and his lack of certification as a CPA.

The search committee conducted a thorough and expansive national search for almost two years. Because the requirements for the position as imposed by the creator of the endowed chair were so unique and restrictive, there were only two qualified candidates to consider for hiring. Both candidates were exposed to and evaluated by many stakeholders from within and outside of the YSU academic community, which included an exhaustive day-long series of meetings and interviews. YSU's administration did an excellent job of soliciting and considering the views of these stakeholders in making its final decision.

While I was not privy to any of the negotiations that resulted in Dr. Stout's contract, it is my understanding that Dr. Stout's salary is consistent with and may even be lower than the norm for endowed chairs in business and accounting. This conclusion is supported by quotes attributed to officials at other universities that have such endowed chairs.

In my experience, the situation that YSU is facing at this time is not that unusual. Having recruited out-of-town talent for my own firms over the years, I know how difficult it is to attract talent to our area from higher cost-of-living communities. Usually,

the people I have hired from outside of our organization had special skills that met a particular need, which justified differences in compensation levels. Addressing perceived inequities in compensation with existing staff was a natural follow-up step in the process.

With respect to the CPA certification issue, I was the one who argued that the lack of a CPA certification in this case was not a critical problem. While this may seem strange coming from a practicing CPA for over 20 years, I was comfortable with Dr. Stout's record of achievement and his unusual success in dealing with non-academic stakeholders in his current location. I had personally contacted Dr. Stout's references in the Philadelphia business and professional community, who gave him stellar reviews.

As a result of the most comprehensive recruiting process that I have ever been part of, I believe that YSU now has two of the best professors in the country when it comes to dealing effectively with the business and professional community. This improves an already excellent accounting department and business school, further enhancing the educational experience and employment qualifications of all students going through the program. The potential for adding additional endowed chairs and other sources of fund raising from the business community is also increased, which enhances YSU's financial health and helps keep YSU's tuition at affordable levels.

In closing, I believe that the new Andrews Chair at YSU is an investment that will benefit all YSU stakeholders and I look forward to adding Dr. Stout to the great working relationship that I have maintained over the years with YSU's accounting faculty.

John P. Donchess, Jr.
YSU graduate

Faculty, trustees have wrong view on health benefits

Editor:

Faculty and trustees erred in last year's health benefits brawl in believing universal schemata, such as, status of dependency, civil liberty, sexual regularity, religious piety, and so on, describe the distribution of medicine. No such schemata exist. Medicine inheres only as a byproduct of particular transactions, usually of employment, and not in any common disposition of heart and head. The single most popular employer health benefits' plan is none at all. American medicine is not a social value.

Comes Dr. Bob LeBow to wield his bloody shillelagh with the second edition of *Health Care Meltdown*, now in hardcover, with an able introduction by Dr. John P. Geyman.

LeBow on the American Medical Association: "As a physician, I'm ashamed of them. They've forgotten the primary mission of physicians as caregivers... [T]he AMA has lost touch with reality." LeBow on America's fractured health care system: "...Franz Kafka and Dr. Frankenstein were collaborators in the design of our American health care system... with grant funding from the Alfred Hitchcock Foundation." On America's world health ranking: "...the 2000 World Health Organization study gave the U. S. 37th ranking in overall health system performance."

... [although 1st place by far in spending]. On adapting ideas from other countries: "...in Swaziland [Africa] in 1989, we had a [primary care] information system that gave us better data than I get in the U. S. today."

Dr. LeBow cared for illiterate Idaho potato baggers who paid a fraction of their allotted primary care illness portfolio. That's almost like Lordstown executives, who pay a tinier fraction on the nearly limitless illness portfolio granted them by permissive corporate medical socialization, which muscled out conservative individual cash bidders for medicine decades ago. Medicine is Procrustean burlesque.

Quasi-"closed shop" and employer veto theory explains why American medicine never meets and never will meet aggregate demand for its labor and goods. National legislation prohibited the historical closed shop in 1947. What public interest is served by medicine's quasi-"closed shop" is unknown.

Politicians and doctors can change that. They'll have to buck the AMA though, which, as Dr. LeBow ruefully tells in this important book, has declined from a once valuable organization into archaic politics and unchecked professional egoism.

Jack Labusch
Parking Services

RATES, continued from page 1

"Many places we call have toll free numbers," he added. Karen Duda, chair of computer science and information systems, took a different point of view.

"I think they're high," Duda said. "One of our faculty lives in Pennsylvania and if I need to call her... it's prohibitively high."

Duda added she uses her personal cell phone for certain, non-confidential, long-distance calls.

"My cell phone comes out

of my pocket," she said. "It definitely would help if [the rates] were lower."

However, Scarnecchia said the change probably would not save additional money for YSU as a whole.

He said the new way would be fair for everyone.

"It will be across the table equal," he said.

Call Rebecca Marquis at (330) 941-1913.

MARKET, continued from page 1

offers students workshops on interviewing, resume preparation, as well as placement services. With the Internet widely available, students are able to complete a vast majority of the job search online.

Recent YSU graduate Nicole Giudici said the career center was a tremendous resource helping draft a resume.

Once a student finds a job, Cummins advises them to keep their resumes on file with the Center, and to update them as

necessary.

"If they do, we are able to help them in future job searches as well," he said.

Giudici found her current job through an internship during her YSU tenure. However, she will keep her resume updated through career services.

"I think they would be a good resource for later job searches," she said.

Call Tina Thompson at (330) 941-3523.

SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Concert Review

50 Cent, Snoop Dogg highlight Blossom concert



Photo courtesy of 50cent.com

BY MARK STEVENS
The Jambar

If you missed the Rock the Mic Fest at Blossom Music Center last week — and you claim to be a fan of rap — then shame on you, my friends.

Kicking off the show was Obie Trice, from Eminem's Shady Records. Obie performed cuts from the "8 Mile" soundtrack, along with some other songs in which he has been featured.

The energy level for the whole show got a tremendous boost from one of the rap game's newest stars, Bonecrusher. While the sight of this very large man and his very large stage-mate stripping down to their shorts and bouncing around on the stage was slightly disturbing, the fact of the matter is: That man loves to perform.

His energy on stage set the tone for the rest of the night and got the crowd out of their seats, ready for the headliners.

Fabulous followed Bonecrusher and his performance was nothing if not short. And thankfully so. He could not be heard over the music, and I am not sure if anyone was truly disappointed.

Snoop Dogg hit the stage next, accompanied by a guitar player and someone on the drums. He played all of his old

hits, and the crowd was more than willing to help him along.

He mocked his announcement that he had forgone taking the pleasures of the herbal variety, and he blazed up on stage, prompting a loud ovation from the audience.

After Snoop finished his set, he asked the crowd if they were ready for 50 Cent.

I cannot say I heard a clear response from the beer stand, but the roar seemed to be an approving one.

50 rocked the house. No other way to put it.

On the two large screens flanking the stage, images of 50 and Tupac Shakur were shown simultaneously. While 50 still must prove his staying power, there were undeniable similarities in the charisma that both men showed while performing.

50's popularity was evident in the fact that he barely would have had to perform at all, since the crowd sang all of his songs right along with him, not just the ones from Hot 101.

He rocked the stage with the well-known cuts, "Magic Stick", "In Da Club" and "Wanksta", and also performed "Patiently Waiting", "High All the Time" and "Many Men" among other tracks from his album "Get Rich or Die Tryin'."

The highlight of the night was the return of Snoop to the stage where he joined 50 for a

remix of "P.I.M.P."

50 had another guest on stage: Akron's own LeBron James, savior of the Cleveland Cavs.

Unfortunately, due to some ill-conceived planning, it was not 50 who closed out the show.

Jay-Z, the other headliner followed, and unfortunately, disappointed.

Sure he performed a lot of his most popular songs, and his tribute to fallen performers such as Tupac, the Notorious B.I.G. and Aaliyah was nothing if not touching, but he failed to take the spotlight while on stage.

He spent quite a bit of his performance time offstage, while members of his ROC Army performed. The loss of energy in the crowd during the final performance was palpable.

50 stole the show from his more tenured colleague, Mr. Sean Carter. And, from the look and feel of things, Ryan McCabe, The Jambar columnist who in a CD review said 50's fame would not last long, was wrong.

50 is here to stay.

Sometimes you do not need to do new things to be great. You just have to do the old things better than the people who came before you.

Call Mark Stevens at (330) 941-3758.



Photo courtesy of snoopdogg.com

Movie Review

New zombie flick, '28 Days,' good but not the next 'Exorcist'

BY JOSH MAYS
The Jambar

Despite the advertisements, "28 Days Later" is not the scariest movie since "The Exorcist." It is, however, an intensely thrilling film, which relies on a suspenseful and atmospheric formula to keep your heart racing.

The film opens as Jim (Cillian Murphy) awakens from a coma to find himself marooned in England; London is burning, and the populace has disappeared. Soon finding that the shadows of the city are inhabited by "the infected" flesh eaters, Jim seeks refuge with a small band of survivors as they set out for a sanctuary, which may or may not exist.

The visual aspect of the film, which is very well done, is a little less than incredible. Director Danny Boyle evokes dread with truly amazing, grainy, burned-out shots of an abandoned London. A grainy 16 mm edge adds incredibly to an ambience and draws the audience in. The direction of the action and make-up is also very well done — fast, visceral and ghastly. This is a film designed to visually stoke the imagination and kindle fear.

The plot is interesting, full of twists and false leads and the story and setting serve as the heart of films noir feel. While the frenzied first half of the film is the better, the second half is

not lacking, though the ending is a bit disappointing... and happy.

Another high point is the "infected" former inhabitants of England. Gone is the slow, lumbering zombie stereotype. They have been replaced with agile, red-eyed former humans that are more demonic than undead. Their speed and ferocity add to the frantic feel of the film.

The acting in "28 Days Later" is also very well done. The fear and ruthlessness that the actors evoke transpires well and lends a much-needed human aspect to the film's otherwise bleak tale of destruction. Murphy does well as Jim, the fledgling hero with an unwanted task. Selena, played by Naomie Harris, is possibly the most realistic, useful and hard character — a chemist who decapitates a friend seconds after he becomes infected. But Brendan Gleeson, as the portly father, is the character you will become attached to and root for.

While at times it attempts to be more, "28 Days Later," is at heart a zombie movie. The film is chock full of social commentary that gives you a little something to ponder between frenzied zombie attacks. The more low key aspects can be appreciated; the animal rights zealots, the militaristic rapists and a black man in chains can be a bit preachy, if not offensive, as the film doles out a lecture in humanity.

As well done as it is, the only thing the film



Photo courtesy of 28daysthemovie.com

DEATH COMES RIPPING: '28 Days Later' opened to rave reviews two weeks ago, but despite critical acclaim, fails to strike fear into the hearts of viewers.

truly lacks is actual fear. You fear nuclear holocaust, satanic children and demonic possessions, but strangely not the infectious disease around which this movie is based. You will fear for the characters time and time again, and actually be sad to see some of them die, but it will

never creep over to that fear of your own bed that "The Exorcist" inspired. However, this is not a large flaw, and the film is definitely worth your time and money.

Call Josh Mays at (330) 941-3523.

Sports Commentary

Media plays big role in shaping of sports 'greatest' athletes

BY MARK STEVENS
The Jambar

While wondering if the Devil got a warranty or anything when he purchased the soul of Ashton Kutcher...

The power that I potentially have amazes me. It is within the bounds of my essence to affect the entire course of a nation.

OK, maybe I can't do that right now, but one day I might be able to.

I'm a sports guy. Always been a sports guy. Always going to be a sports guy. Don't watch much TV that doesn't include sports.

So, it's easiest for me to show you how much power the people that present the news have in the way of sports.

Do you have any favorite athletes? Did you have any growing up? I surely did.

I never liked watching anyone play any sport the way I liked watching Barry Sanders carry the football on Sundays. Something about the way there were 20 other behemoths on the field beating the snot out of one another, yet no one could ever get good wood on Barry. That amazed and fascinated me.

I was watching the game where Sanders changed the course of Rod Woodson's career. He took the ball around the right side, and Woodson, one of the finest pure athletes of our generation, came up from the corner to make the hit.

I doubt Rod ever got a good look at him. He felt that knee pop, though. By the way, any baller who comes up at the corner, blows some serious ligaments in his knee, and makes himself a fine career at another position is indeed an incredible athlete.

But Sanders never reached hero status. Media did not understand him. They tried, I'm sure, but in the end, he was not inter-

ested. It showed in the way he walked away at the top of his game.

The media decides who the heroes are. They decide who the athletes are that ring in our minds when we think of the "greatest" athletes.

Perhaps you disagree, and that's fair. But if you ask my generation to name the greatest pitchers in the history of Major League Baseball, my guess is a whole big percentage of them would list Nolan Ryan.

And I am not knocking the man's fastball. And there is no way in hell I'd ever stand in the box facing him.

But truth is Ryan posted a career mark of 324-292 and he never won a Cy Young Award. Now that's barely above a .500 winning percentage, and the fact that he never won a Cy Young says enough.

Ryan's not the only one to receive the media's blue-light special hero of the millennia

treatment, either.

Joe Namath had one spectacular life — I'm willing to bet. But statistically, he's middle of the road as a quarterback — at best.

One statistic: Namath posted a career 51.1 completion percentage. Who is he, Billy Jo Tolliver? Bubby Bristler? Heath Schuler? He threw 50 more interceptions than touchdowns, and he did not throw that many touchdowns.

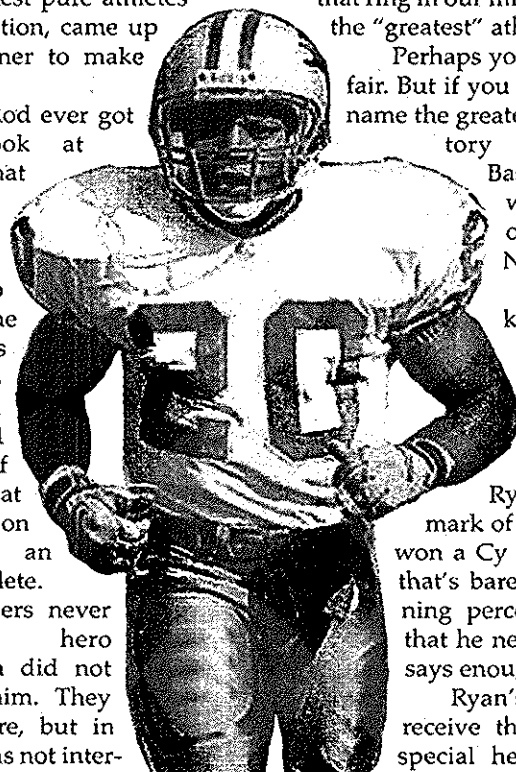
And I'm not trying to say that statistics are the only thing that should be used to judge athletes, but I'm so sick of hearing people talk about how great everything used to be.

I'm so tired of hearing all of the old, white, silver haired sportswriters and commentators talk about how they miss the golden age of sports.

Look around you. Appreciate what you are in the midst of. This is the golden age of sports!

Of course, when I'm a graying sportswriter, I'm willing to bet you that no running back will ever be better than Barry Sanders in my eyes.

Call Mark Stevens at (330) 941-3523.



Weekend Calendar

Nyabinghi, Friday - Bob's Country Bunker, Uncle Scratch's Gospel Revival. Saturday - Tub Ring, Mong Hang, Daiquiri.

Cedars, Friday - Luck 13.

The Cellar, Saturday - Fat Angus.

Plaza Cafe, Tonight - Via Sahara, Project 9, Fool Proof. Saturday - Mystic WIP Hustler, Burning River Band.

Salty Grogs, Friday - Uptown Cats. Saturday - Smack Daddy's