

The JAMBAR

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October 28, 2003

PM Showers
HIGH: 50, LOW: 40

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Issue 19

Steady attendance decides graduation

BY ELIZABETH TABAK
The Jambar

If statistics hold true, it will be the year 2010 before a current, "average" Youngstown State University freshman graduates.

Statistics from YSU's Institutional Research Department show that 70 percent of freshmen enrolled at YSU in 1995 allowed 6.81 years to elapse before they graduated.

Academic advisers say

that graduating in four years is possible if students carry a minimum of 15 or 16 hours a semester. However, students and advisers say that YSU's status as a commuter school and the rising cost of tuition make it nearly impossible to

carry that many classes every semester.

Jody Patrick, senior academic adviser of the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services, said he urges all students that he advises to take a minimum of 16 hours a semester

in order to meet their four-year goal. However, he said that he realizes it is impossible for many YSU students.

"A majority of our student population is employed, and it is difficult to carry 16 hours," Patrick said. "Also, we are an

open-access school, and many students just can't handle all of their classes."

YSU students agreed that because of work, social lives and limited income, they cannot successfully carry more

See FRESHMEN, page 2

Professor Profile

Unorthodox teaching methods highlight YSU's best

BY LA'EL HUGHES
The Jambar

Keith Lepak's European Politics class Friday:

"Allons enfants de la patrie, Le jour de gloire est arrivé! Contre nous, de la tyrannie, L'étendard sanglant est levé."

Just after noon, Lepak braced himself with a wooden podium, puffed out his chest and sang the words to the French national anthem.

After eight full weeks of Lepak and his techniques to engage students, Friday's performance came as little surprise to most.

Lepak and other campus professors, including Stephen Sniderman, say their teaching involves some theater, some comedy and some stunts.

As Lepak belted out the



LEPAK

French words, some students laughed. Others just stared at the political science professor.

Lepak pressed on. "You Americans have no, how do you say, 'culture,'" Lepak exclaimed to the class in a haughty French accent as he raised one eyebrow in mock disgust.

Lepak said he does whatever it takes to make sure his students are engaged and absorbing material.

He said most students pay more attention if their professors are lively.

"It's an entertainment device," Lepak said. "Most students are more likely to watch if they are being entertained."

Sophomore Jessica Spohn, a current student in European Politics, said she has never been bored in the class.

"Just as you start to zone

off, he comes off with some crazy tangent and brings you back," Spohn said.

Lepak said addressing his students as a French citizen allows him to convey a more accurate picture of that country's political culture.

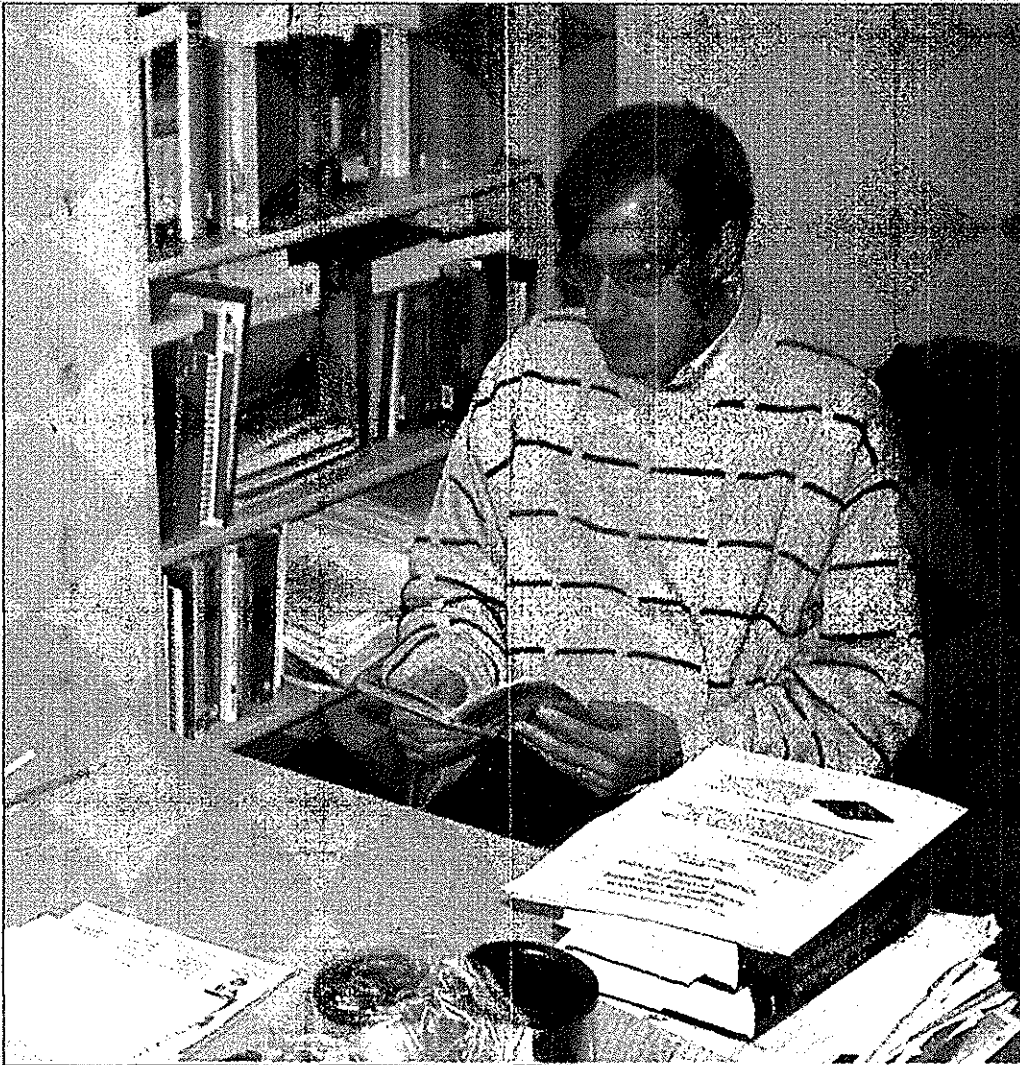
"The accents and anthems help me illustrate the attitudes and positions these citizens have in relation to their government," Lepak said.

Across campus, another professor holds his students' attention with sheer performance.

Today's profile of English Professor Sniderman is the first in an occasional series of profiles about unique professors.

The Jambar is seeking suggestions from students for professors whose students never sleep.

E-mail nominations to Angela Olin, editor-in-chief of



BJ Lisko / The Jambar

A MOMENT OF PEACE: English professor Stephen Sniderman is known by his students as an expressive, vivid instructor. Sniderman says he enjoys being vocal and keeping the attention of his students.

English prof bends the rules

BY MARY BLOOMBERG
The Jambar

His style is far from traditional. "He would get excited and yell all of the time," junior Michael Stredni said. "It was one of those classes that you can't possibly sleep in."

During class, English professor Stephen

Sniderman rarely stands still. His eyes squint together and his face is constantly contorting itself to express confusion, agreement or amazement.

His hands seem to be trying to squeeze some imaginary shape in the air, gripping then loosening. He throws chalk, alters his voice to fit character and jumps up and down to grab

See PROF, page 4

Penguin followers crowd campus

BY JOSH BOGGS
The Jambar

Screaming Penguin fans filled the sidewalks on Lincoln Avenue Saturday waiting to see floats in this year's annual Homecoming parade.

The Homecoming procession began with the Youngstown State University marching band and majorettes lining the street with music and dancing. Alongside the band were clowns tossing candy to children waiting on the streets.

See KING, page 2

Sneak Peek

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Despite its antique housing, The Beat goes on

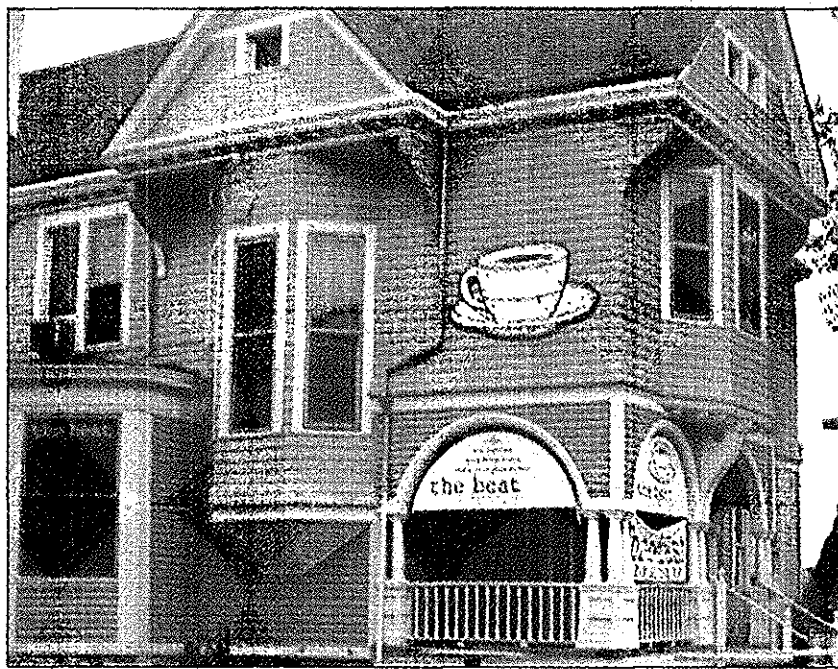


Photo by Mark Stevens / The Jambar

BEAT DOWN: The Beat has survived a flurry of business changes on Lincoln Ave.

BY SUSIE TIETZ
The Jambar

Use it or lose it, architectural preservationists preach.

A rusty screech and the slam of the wooden screen door welcomes customers to the shop. The casual atmosphere and availability of study rooms are appealing, especially to students away from home.

The business may be the aging house's saving grace.

Five years ago, Sherry Mancini and Karen Bosworth partnered up and became owners of The Beat Coffeehouse, dashing any chance of the house's demolition. Though location most influenced their decision to rent on Lincoln Avenue, they say they wouldn't trade the comfortable 103-year-old house for a new place.

Vacancy is often fatal to old structures, says history professor Tom Leary.

Converting an old house into a coffee shop is an example of what preservationists call adaptive reuse. Being able to

use historic buildings for practical purposes is often vital, said Leary.

Mancini said, "The building adds to the character of the business. The students love it. They feel comfortable and at home."

Leary said saving a building for the sole purpose of keeping it alive, as in the case of the deserted red Sacherman house next door to The Beat, often is not enough.

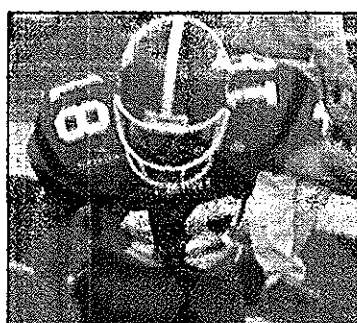
In 1997, YSU bought the Sacherman house, which occupied the spot the Beeghly Education building now claims. The university paid \$147,250 for the house and planned to tear it down. But its previous owner, Dr. Robert Sacherman, contributed \$43,000 to prevent its demolition and move it next to The Beat.

In return, the university agreed to maintain it for three years. But six years later, the red house has fallen into disrepair, and YSU is not in a position to invest money in its restoration.

See BEAT, page 6

Inside today's issue:

Penguins drop homecoming contest.
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thejambar.com poll question:

THE JAMBAR

The Collegiate Voice Of Youngstown State University

Are you going to take more than four years to graduate?
Vote @ www.thejambar.com

Chinese artist on display at McDonough museum. Page 6



KING, continued from page 1



Photo courtesy of

ROYAL PENGUINS: Junior Krista Kovach and senior Johnathan Zacharias were named the 2003 Homecoming king and queen at halftime of Saturday's game.

"It was nice. All those people, food and floats and the weather was just beautiful," said sophomore Danielle Ruboksy.

About eight floats, designed by sororities, fraternities and organizations, followed the band. Taking home the annual "best overall award" was the Alpha Xi Delta float. Designed as a castle with a dragon breathing smoke with moving eyes, members of the sorority said they were happy to take home the top award.

"We are honored to have this award," said sorority member Autumn McDonald, a freshman.

The sorority members said they were dedicated and determined to produce a float that would showcase their talent.

"We worked so damn hard on this thing," said junior Alisha Faust, one of the organizers for the float.

Another float that caught attention was one designed by Housing Services. The float mimicked an ancient castle and included a cardinal surrounded by a cage of sticks.

One new addition to the parade was the 30 fiberglass penguins that were about five feet tall and faced the crowd of spectators.

The 30 fiberglass penguins are a part of the "Penguin Parade" project, a collaboration of YSU and the Community Foundation of Mahoning Valley.

"You are witnessing the launching of a new project this year," said Catherine Cala, associate director of YSU's Internal Operations.

Cala said area artists are being invited to create designs for the penguins and from January through June, artists will be able to apply their creativity to the five-foot penguins.

In July, the penguins will make their debut at the YSU Summer Festival of Arts on campus. From July until the end of October, the penguins will be scattered throughout Youngstown for viewing and then, will be auctioned off at the end of October.

Other organizations participating in the parade were

the Shining Stars Dance and Baton squad, Northern Strut Twirling Teams and the Mohawk High School marching band and cheerleaders.

Bringing up the end of the parade were last year's Homecoming king and queen followed by this year's court.

The courts, both old and new, were surrounded by classic cars, including a 1966 Ford Mustang, a 1960 Starliner and a 1930 Cabriolet.

Starting at 4 p.m., just as the temperature began to fall, the Penguins took on Illinois State for the Homecoming game.

"Even though it was really cold out during the game, the fans were still extremely supportive of the team throughout the entire game," said sophomore Ashley Pastier.

Despite the Penguins trailing 18-3 at half-time, students eagerly anticipated the 2003 Homecoming court announcements.

Student Government Association leaders were scheduled to come to the field during the crowning, but SGA President Emily Eckman said she did not feel well and fell asleep.

Eckman, who had been at tailgate parties prior to the game, said she did not think it "was a big deal" to skip the crowning.

Junior Krista Kovach and senior Johnathan Zacharias were named this year's king and queen.

The game continued, and as temperatures plunged even lower, students' support grew stronger. After an attempted comeback, the Penguins suffered another loss, 35-25. But Penguin fans still relished in the lingering activities of Homecoming weekend.

"Everyone was looking forward to the court and the parties after the game," said junior Missy Rose.

"We all love the team. They played a good game. Everyone was so excited just because it was Homecoming weekend that you would have never guessed we lost the game," said Rose.

Call Josh Boggs at (330) 941-1913.

African profs discuss misperceptions

By TRINA QUARLES
The Jambar

Friday afternoon, a panel of YSU African professors and community leaders led a discussion about the misperceptions and constant struggles in Africa.

The forum entitled "Images of Africa: Myths or Reality?" was co-sponsored by the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, The YSU African Studies Program and the Partners for Workplace Diversity.

Leon Stennis, coordinator of Diversity Initiatives, addressed the audience of nearly 100 people and explained the importance of the event.

"There is a need for balances between the images coming out of Africa," Stennis said.

The afternoon's conversation began with a showing of a film entitled, "Africa: A New Look."

The panel discussed several issues that saturate the western media portrayal of Africa, ranging from the economical status to politics.

Associate professor of Foreign Language and Literature Ndinzi Masagara, who came from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, said he is concerned with the way his homeland is portrayed in the western media.

"The United States media only shows the problems in Africa because good news doesn't sell," Masagara said.

Assistant professor of art Samuel Adu-Poku, originally from Ghana, said that although Africa has its share of prob-

lems, there is still good to be found.

"Africa has big cities where people live good lives, just like here," Adu-Poku said.

Masagara chimed in, adding that Africa has a sense of humanity that has been lost in America.

"You don't find the materialistic ways of the U.S. in Africa," Masagara said.

Panelists also discussed the dilemmas still facing Africa.

Adu-Poku said a major problem facing the people of Africa is that they are not able to develop their own resources.

"Africa is full of natural resources such as oil, diamonds and gold; yet the citizens do not benefit from these resources because they are not allowed to develop and manage them," Adu-Poku said. "The leaders of Africa should stop allowing other countries to exploit the people of Africa."

Victor Wan-Tatah, director of Africana Studies, who moderated the discussion, asked panelists how these dilemmas could be addressed.

Tom Oder, assistant professor of Physics and Astronomy, said that if Africa's leaders are going to allow for the resources to be taken, they should force other countries to invest in Africa's scientific research.

"Many of the problems facing Africa, such as AIDS, are only going to be solved by scientific research," Oder said. "Foreign countries should be forced to contribute to the research."

Guest panelist Frank Akpadock, originally from Nigeria, is the senior YSU

research economist and regional scientist for Urban and Regional Studies. Akpadock said that the people of Africa must take power and begin building up from the "grass roots."

Panelist Bongfen Forba, who hails from a non-governmental organization community development program in Cameroon, said she feels Africans are too trusting of foreigners.

"People from other countries come over and gain the peoples' trust," Forba said. "They take our resources and leave us in a worse circumstance than before they came."

Forba said that politicians may want to help their citizens but have their hands tied.

"The politicians are torn between the wishes of their people and between the wishes of the people that put them in power," Forba said.

At the end of the panel discussion, Stennis said a few closing words.

"There is a need for greater education," he said. "There is a need for a balance of the images coming out of Africa. There is a need to understand Africa in all of its complexity."

Wan-Tatah agreed, adding that the solution is for each person to have an individual incentive.

"This is a good start — a wonderful opportunity to learn about Africa," he said.

Call Trina Quarles at (330) 941-1913.

FRESHMEN, continued from page 1

than 12 to 15 hours a semester.

Freshman April Griffing said that it is her second year as a freshman because she took a semester off and can only attend classes part time.

Griffing said that it is impossible to graduate in four years because she must work full time to pay her tuition. She added that additional lab fees, and inadequate financial aid make it nearly impossible to pay full-time tuition and graduate in four years.

"I think that's crap if you're obligated to take 16 or 17 hours a semester to graduate and you have to pay extra in fees," Griffing said. "That's ridiculous."

Freshman Megan Wysenski offered a similar story.

Wysenski said she only takes 12 or 13 hours every

"I think that's crap in you're obligated to take 16 hours to graduate and you have to pay extra fees. That's ridiculous."

— APRIL GRIFFING
Freshman

semester because of financial reasons and a social life.

"I won't pay extra money just to get out in four years," she said.

Others disagree, however, saying that students do not graduate in four years because they switch majors, or are uninformed of class requirements.

Maria Lame, academic adviser for the college of Arts and Sciences, said that she sees

this as a problem for a number of students she advises.

Lame said that many students remain undetermined in their major for too long, or will wait until their last few semesters to see an academic adviser. She said that this often causes "grumbings" from students, but maintains that it is the responsibility of the student to seek out an adviser to keep on a four-year track.

"The bottom line is that in order to avoid these pitfalls, it is necessary to see an academic adviser," Lame said.

Senior Paul Robinette disagrees with Lame. Robinette, who is in his fifth year and plans on graduating in the spring, said that he took a light course load in order to keep his grades up and run track. He said that he was still unaware of certain requirements even though as an athlete he is required to see an academic

advisor.

"I think the departments can be a little more informative," Robinette said. "I just found out that I need a Spanish requirement to graduate because it wasn't required when I started here."

Marge Collins, academic adviser for the Williamson College of Business Administration, said that she recognizes all of these factors in the students she advises, and said they must be taken into consideration when looking at the time it takes to earn a degree.

"You can't just look at the bottom line, you must look at the variables," Collins said. "There are many students who opt to take fewer hours because of other things in life."

Call Elizabeth Tabak at (330) 941-3758.

A drunk driver ruined something precious. Amber Apodaca.

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The Jambar
(University Newspaper)

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• News Reporter

Applications go to Lynn Haug, Student Services, 2nd Floor, Kilcawley

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

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Today's Editorial

Football team not highlight of Penguin athletics

The YSU football team fell 5-4 with a loss to Illinois State this past weekend — marking the first time in more than a decade that the team dropped the annual Homecoming contest. With a tough remaining schedule, the Penguins will need to be both lucky and very good to finish above .500. A trip to the playoffs is now out of reach.

Athletics have always been a strong point of pride for not only the university, but for the entire Mahoning Valley. It is high time that members of the YSU community and the Youngstown area begin to recognize the accomplishments of athletes in lesser-watched sports, rather than focusing completely on a football program that is in decline.

For instance, most people in the community would have no idea who Lisa Davies is. Despite the lack of attention, she continues to excel for the university's cross country team. This year, Davies' first as a YSU student-athlete, she is making serious waves. Twice in the past month, Davies was named the Horizon League Women's Cross Country Athlete of the Week. Earlier this month, she was named the All-Ohio Freshman of the Year.

She now holds the school record in the 6.0-kilometer race in just her first year representing the YSU squad. A former All-State performer in high school, Davies is just one of a handful of freshmen women on the cross country team who is beginning to show signs of replacing the football team as YSU's dominant athletic program.

Last spring, Kelly Murphy, then a freshman, was an absolutely dominant force for a very successful women's softball team. Three players from the team who competed for the Horizon League crown played in a college all-star game. The softball team, which earned the No. 2 seed in the post-season tourney, swept the post-season awards garnering player of the year, pitcher of the year, newcomer of the year and Christy Cameron was named coach of the year.

These programs are two at YSU that are completely overlooked as successful while the football team is still crooned over. Instead of recognizing these outstanding performances, we still hear more about the football team's mediocrity, than the rising stars in less popular sports. The football team is undoubtedly headed on a downward spiral, and much of their decline goes unspoken.

Negative talk of their lack of progress is taboo on campus, as many die-hard football supporters would rather bite the inevitable bullet of another football season ending without a playoff birth, then recognizing the dominance of two young stars.

Looking for special profs

Featured in today's Jambar is a story about a professor who dances, screams and does whatever he says is necessary to keep his students learning.

Stephen Sniderman, English professor, is the first in what will be an occasional series of profiles about unique professors. We all have had them at one time, and we all want more of them.

Animated professors can make the driest of subjects come to life. They can bring in the students who never attend class and make them want to learn.

The Jambar is seeking input from students and faculty about unusual or memorable professors who make their classes come alive. Please send names to The Jambar 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 Mark Stevens. 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 Thursday 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

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WALKING THE TIGHTROPE



Letters to the Editor

Pro sports conspiracies run rampant

Editor:

Unlike my last letter to the editor that brought a slight stir with the Turnpike Rivalry, this one is a comment in response to Mark Stevens' weekly article "Fat Head Says" that was in the October 21 edition of The Jambar.

At the very end of the article, he was referring to the fact that there's no purpose to watch the World Series, since the dream World Series a lot of people wanted (Cubs vs. Red Sox) didn't happen, plus the Yankees are back in it. And that the best way for that to have happened was to fix the LCS for a Cubs-Red Sox series, which would be okay, since unlike the 1919 Black Sox scandal, it wouldn't be for gambling reasons.

Fat Head, I totally agree with you. Major League Baseball, in a way, teased fans with a possible Cubs-Red Sox series for the 100th anniversary of the modern World Series. But then again, the Yankees were also celebrating their centennial in New York (They spent their first two years in Baltimore), and having the 26-time champions in the series makes an unfortunate sense, since 99.9% of people know that it will be number 27 for the Yankees this year. (The Marlins are a good, young team. But they don't have a Shilling-Big Unit type pitching staff that beat the Yankees two years ago.)

Honestly, baseball needs a small-market-friendly salary cap

at the level of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays' payroll. (Good news for Indians fans, but it wouldn't make a difference for the Pirates for ownership-related reasons.) The Yankees have been too good for too long.

As for giving the people what they want, look at the Super Bowl two years ago. I'm not going to say that it did happen for libel-related reasons just in case it was just a coincidence, but I have a lot of friends that agree with me that the NFL might have fixed the Super Bowl when the Patriots won it because of 9/11. Yes, I do love my country, but it's pretty apparent. The Pats were 0-2 around the time 9/11 happened. Their colors are red, white, and blue; their nickname is Patriot, and they somehow edged a then tough Raiders team for a first-round bye. Then they beat the Raiders thanks to the "tuck rule." That was clearly a fumble.

Like I said, I'm not going to say that the NFL did fix that Super Bowl, and I'm proud to be an American, but what the fans want (Or in baseball's case, whatever George Steinbrenner wants) appears to have already been happening, and it has been purely by coincidence.

Joe Garard
Freshman
Mathematics Pre-Education

Comatose woman should be given chance

Editor:

What are the ethics in depriving Ms Schiavo of food and water if she is still responding to voices and smiling, as the online video shows? What if her parents are correct in their belief that Ms Schiavo's lack of oxygen, which caused this vegetative state, might have come about due to foul play? What if Ms. Schiavo cannot sign her name to a divorce decree? Is the reason why her husband wants to end life support relevant? When is it okay to starve someone not in pain to death? What if this is a botched murder attempt? What if there is a healthy body? How can a parent's rights be ignored to someone they gave birth to, raised, loved every second of her life? What if

stimulation to her brain, or giving birth, shocks her into consciousness—which HAS happened before?

Concerning abortions: my office is 2067 Moser Hall; my email is jmgarr@ysu.edu, and I promise to adopt and provide any child, born yet or not, handicapped or not, a home to the best of my ability, including a college education and participation in sports, arts & crafts, music & dance lessons, etc. Nothing would make me happier. Confidential.

Jeanette Garr
Associate Professor
Chemical Engineering

Administration needs to pay for classes

Editor:

In regards to your recent article in The Jambar about YSU taking a bold step and revoking the rights for a few students to attend class because they have not paid their tuition yet, I fully agree with this approach and wish you the best of luck with it. Now since YSU administration can make that a rule that if you do not pay your no longer welcome here, I have a few questions for Sweet and his administration.

When a professor cancels class, who is going to reimburse the students the lost money. According to The Jambar, each class skipped is worth at least \$12.00. If just one teacher canceled class for one day, let's average this out.

One teacher for Monday calls off sick, has roughly 4 classes with 25 students in each, at \$12.00 a person; that's roughly \$1,200. dollars for that day. Now in my warped thought of fairness and

justice, doesn't YSU now have an obligation to pay those students the \$1200.00 it owes them?

How many teachers on any given day cancel classes? There is a lot of money that is being paid with no service being performed. I would guess that if you would call the Better Business Bureau and ask if you should pay for a service before it is performed, they would tell you not to. So I must assume that since YSU is so damn set on kicking out those who have not yet paid their tuition, that YSU was going to reimburse those of us who do pay and haven't got all of our money worth.

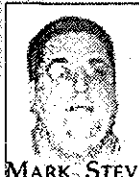
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SPORTS & RECREATION

Fat Head Says



By MARK STEVENS
The Jambar

Holy mackerel! Hey that's clever. Marlins. Mackerel. Get it? Congratulations to the Florida Marlins on winning the 2003 Yawn Series.

No one cares.

Tail wagging the dog, art imitating life: Fat Head's vote for video game of the year certainly has to go to Tiger Woods 2004. The game is vastly improved in areas that were so menial that I didn't even notice that they needed improving in last year's version.

But there is something disturbing about the game. It is way too real. But I don't mean real in the way the courses look or the way the ball flies or the way the golfers react. No, to a gamer, those things can never be too real.

I mean the detail of the game itself. I guess 'real' isn't the best word. How about 'utterly way too intensive'? There's a World Tour, a ten-season career, hordes of golfers and an absolutely ridiculous amount of golf equipment, sponsorships and rewards. Not to mention the more than 70 real time events that can only be played on specific dates of the real calendar.

Oh, I almost forgot. You can be so detailed with creating a character that you can adjust things like brow depth, eye width and muscle definition.

I can honestly say that I will never completely finish this game.

Fat Head's pretty sure that anyone that does has some serious social problems that perhaps a good night out of mom's basement might help.

Boogity Boogity: Saw "Freddy vs. Jason" about a month ago. Is Fat Head the only one who remembers when those movies were actually scary?

Truth is, they've been so over-stylized that despite the gore present, there's no real suspense.

You really feel like getting the heebie jeebies scared out of you this coming Halloween weekend?

Go see "Texas Chainsaw Massacre." It may not be the best acting you'll see this year, but it's scary as hell.

No Kobe mentions here, but it still ain't good news for the NBA: Fat Head really could care less for NBA basketball. But it isn't the sport that bothers him.

Seriously, I love college hoops. If there's a college game on, it doesn't matter to me what teams are playing. I'll watch. The greatest thing about college basketball season is the night games from out west that don't start until midnight on ESPN2.

It's always like UNLV against Utah or Wyoming against BYU, but the games are always great. The kids out there aren't looking for NBA contracts, they play to win. They play the game like it should be played.

The one professional sport that I feel has been hurt by an influx of younger so-called more athletic players is professional basketball. Without having rules for eligibility, teams find themselves flooded by players that have 44-inch vertical leaps, but couldn't throw a bounce pass on a trampoline.

Fundamentals have gone the way of highlights, yet the scoring is down regularly and so is the excitement. Let's face it. Clearing out 4 guys and having your best player go one-on-one against the other teams' best player isn't exactly high entertainment.

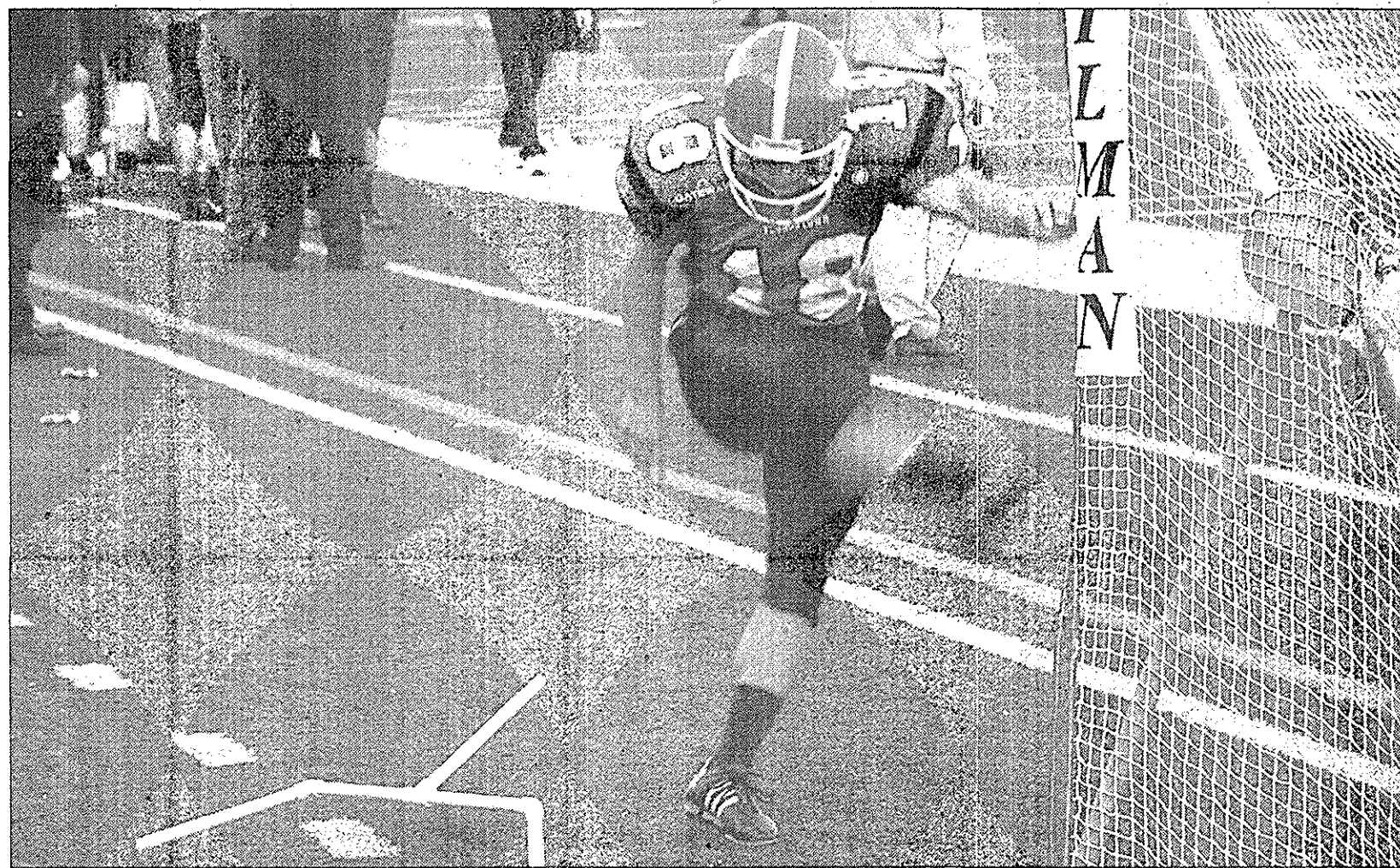
That problem has contributed mightily to the recent deluge of foreign players being drafted into the league because the foreign guys are like the small college guys out west. They play for the love of the game and they play it right.

There are no more crafty vets in the NBA, no more guys who grew up watching the art a little bit. There are just high school kids who couldn't even spell Nate Archibald, let alone mimic what he brought to the court.

That's the exact reason why the NFL should fight to the death to keep Maurice Clarett from changing the rules of eligibility. It isn't because Mo isn't a good guy or couldn't be successful, but that's a box even Pandora would be smart enough not to open.

Call Mark Stevens at (330) 941-1811.

YSU loses, playoffs out of sight



BJ Lisko / The Jambar

FADING DREAMS: The YSU football team's goal of qualifying for postseason play is now most likely out of reach following a 35-25 loss to Illinois State on Saturday. The loss was the Penguins' first homecoming loss in over a decade.

By MICHAEL J. BALALE
The Jambar

YSU lost its first homecoming game in 11 years on Saturday in front of crowd of 17,000 spectators. In losing to Illinois State, YSU dropped another conference game, this time giving up 350 yards rushing.

Aside from the crowning of this year's king and queen, there wasn't much to celebrate on Saturday. Fresh off of an exciting overtime win on the road, the Penguins played an underpowered Illinois State team that looked anything but.

Like many of the Penguins opponents this season, Illinois State exposed YSU's struggling defense as they ran for 350 yards and passed for another 271 as the Penguin defense had its worst performance of the season.

The Penguins fell behind early in the contest as Illinois State marched down the field and scored points five times before halftime and the Penguins went to the locker room facing an 18-3 deficit. Illinois State running back Sha-ron Edwards averaged 5.5 yards per carry, completing his day with 183 yards on the ground, with two touchdowns.

YSU quarterback Aaron Marshall led the Penguins back in the second half, throwing two touchdowns and rushing for one while gaining 69 yards on the ground.

Illinois State quarterback Mike Souza ripped apart the sputtering defense one last time in the fourth quarter with a 45-yard pass to Dwayne Smith, completing his day with 271 yards passing and two touchdowns as the Penguins fell 34-17. YSU's defense had a rough time stopping the

Illinois State offense, as the Red Birds didn't punt once all game.

The Penguins next face Northern Iowa, whose only blemish this season came to heavily favored Iowa State the first game of the year. Their 7-1 record puts them in second place in the Gateway Conference. They are led by sophomore tailback Terrence Freeney, whose 941 yards rushing and 11 touchdowns rank him amongst the best backs in the conference.

The Penguins will be looking to improve on both sides of the ball as they try to salvage their season. YSU's passing offense is ranked 109 in the country at 118 yards per game, and the defense is number 74 in the country, giving up 170 yards on the ground per contest.

Call Michael J. Balale at (330) 941-1807.

Be a sport: Keep gadgets under control at games

Knight Ridder Newspapers

Ringling cell phones and beeping pagers have long been a nuisance at movies and concerts, but gadgets are creating an uproar among sports fans as well.

According to a recent survey by electronics retailer Best Buy, 40 percent of the fans responding said their biggest tech gripe was a ringing cell phone in the middle of a sporting event.

ESPN analyst Joe Theismann offers these tips to keep everyone's focus on the field — and not in the stands:

— Turn off your cell phone or put it on vibrate mode. If you need to make a call, do it during a break or while you're away from your seat.

— Take flash photos during warm-ups or after the game. Think about fans behind you before you jump up to capture some moment for posterity on your camera or camcorder — particularly at high school or youth games.

— If you bring a portable television, keep the volume low but offer to share replays with your neighbors.

— Keep the volume low on your portable radio, too — or better yet, wear a headset.

— Don't get consumed with keeping track of stats and scores from other games on your personal digital assistant. It's distracting to the folks around you, and you'll probably wind up ignoring your companions at the game.

PROF, continued from page 1

attention.

"I get excited about the fact that I am able to get up in front of people and perform," Sniderman said. "That really turns me on, and if I get a response, that turns me on even more."

Sniderman said he tries to incorporate his personality into all of his classes, and while his personality changes from class to class, he says it is all him.

"In my freshman English classes, I never stand still, but in my graduate courses, I sit in on seminars," he said. "It all depends on how much stimulation the class needs from me to stay awake."

He said his ultimate goal is to be memorable. Phillip Wilson, a 2001 graduate from YSU, said he still remembers Sniderman's 1996 composition course.

"It wasn't a traditional English class," Wilson said. "He used things in the media and things we were interested in to teach. He reminded me of Stephen King."

Sniderman is now teaching four classes: Black Experience in American Literature, Huckleberry Finn, Context and Conflict, American Literature and Diversity; Slavery and its Legacy, and Introduction to Literature.

Sniderman was 26 years old when he came to YSU and is entering year 35 of his teaching career.

"I once figured out that I have taught over 10,000 students," Sniderman said. "What excites me is asking a person a question that they've never been asked before, that they will never stop asking themselves. To me that's what my job is. All the rest is just ways to do that."

Sniderman's eccentric personality may make him memorable, but students draw to his classes for other incentives.

His classes twenty years ago used to be accompanied by strict deadlines, where attendance and participation was judged solely from his point of view.

"In my freshman English classes, I never stand still, but in my graduate courses, I sit in on seminars. It all depends on how much stimulation the class needs from me to stay awake."

— STEPHEN SNIDERMAN
English Professor

Today, though, students have the luxury of controlling their grade — or at least half of it.

"I was frustrated by a number of things and the daily response was the answer," Sniderman said, firmly planted behind a mountain of random papers scattered upon his desk. "I knew that if I could get the students to read the material and come to class, then I could increase the chances of discussion."

In his class, each student is required to write a daily response from the assigned readings. The catch is that at the top of each paper, students write the number of points they deserve based on whether they read the assigned material.

The responses are not graded and the number of points the students give themselves are recorded in Sniderman's grade book, even if the student has no response.

Sniderman said the daily response is to force students to think and question the material, to give topics for future discussions and to give the students a voice.

Over the years, he said he has tried to give students more and more participation in their own grade.

He began by asking the students how many pages they read. But, he later decided that if he could trust them to tell the truth, they should be allowed to assign their own grades.

While students could easily take advantage of this system, Sniderman said he does not think he is being fooled.

Almost all of the responses, he said, are relevant to the assigned material and there are always students who give themselves less than full credit.

However, one student said he always takes full credit, even if he does not read the whole assignment.

"I do feel really guilty about it, but I almost always read everything," junior Mike Fiol said.

Sniderman said his once strict deadline policy has also changed.

"It drove me crazy," he said. "I sort of collapsed the whole thing."

While he will not change the due date of assignments, he will always grant an extension. And if a student is not happy with their grade, they can rewrite the paper as many times as they want before the end of the semester.

"You don't change people's behaviors by establishing artificial penalties," he said. "The incentive is built in."

Call Mary Bloomberg at (330) 941-1913.

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Nowhere in Africa
AUSTINTOWN MOVIES
Saturday, November 8, 2003, 7:00 pm
Adult Content
Discussion led by Dr. Saul Friedman, Clayman Professor of Jewish and Holocaust Studies at Youngstown State University



Strange Fruit
YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
DEBAROLO HALL AUDITORIUM
Sunday, November 9, 2003, 3:00 pm
Discussion led by Atty. Bonnie Deutsch Burdman, Director of Jewish Community Relations Council of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and Sarah Brown-Clark, YSU Associate Professor of English, Clerk of Youngstown Municipal Court

November 8, 9, 11 & 16, 2003

Schermer Jewish Film Festival 2003



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The Schermer Scholar-in-Residence Program

The Schermer Scholar-in-Residence Program was established at Youngstown State University in 1982 through an endowment from the Frances and Lillian Schermer Charitable Trusts administered by the Youngstown Zionist District of the Zionist Organization of America and B'nai B'rith Mahoning Lodge 339. It memorializes the Schermer family of Youngstown and seeks to advance their interest in young people, education, the Jewish community, and the community at large.

Each year, Schermer residences bring to the YSU campus notable speakers and performing artists who explore contemporary issues and interests in a series of public presentations. The Schermer Program thus serves to extend the academic resources of the University beyond its classrooms and to strengthen the link between the campus and local communities.

From Swastika to Jim Crow
YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
DEBAROLO HALL AUDITORIUM
Sunday, November 9, 2003, 3:00 pm
Discussion led by Atty. Bonnie Deutsch Burdman, Director of Jewish Community Relations Council of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation and Sarah Brown-Clark, YSU Associate Professor of English, Clerk of Youngstown Municipal Court

Gloomy Sunday
AUSTINTOWN MOVIES
Tuesday, November 11, 2003, 7:00 pm
Adult Content
Discussion led by Milan Paurich, local film expert and Vindicator film critic

Exodus - 40th Anniversary
AUSTINTOWN MOVIES
Sunday, November 16, 2003, 1:00 pm
Schermer Scholar-in-Residence: Zev Siegel, a volunteer in refugee rescue operations aboard the vessel Exodus

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Campus Calender

Every Thursday through December Circle K meets at 4:00 pm in Kilcawley Center Room 2068 to discuss volunteer work in the community. Contact Starr at ysueirclek@hotmail.com

Intent of War: Militarism and Masculinity in 16th Century Europe." The meeting is free and open to the public. Bring a brown bag lunch. Contact Dr. Donna Deblasio 3158 or 3457.

YSU Soccer Club will meet Wednesday October 29 for a game against Kent State at 7 pm. Contact Mark Moccia at (330) 509-2299 for more information.

Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship will meet on Friday October 31 for Bible Study, live praise and worship at Peaberry's in Kilcawley Center at 5:30. Contact Nick Angelis at (330) 307-5991.

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Kilcawley Center, Ohio Room
Youngstown, OH

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www.ohiolawcaravan.org

for driving directions and other details.

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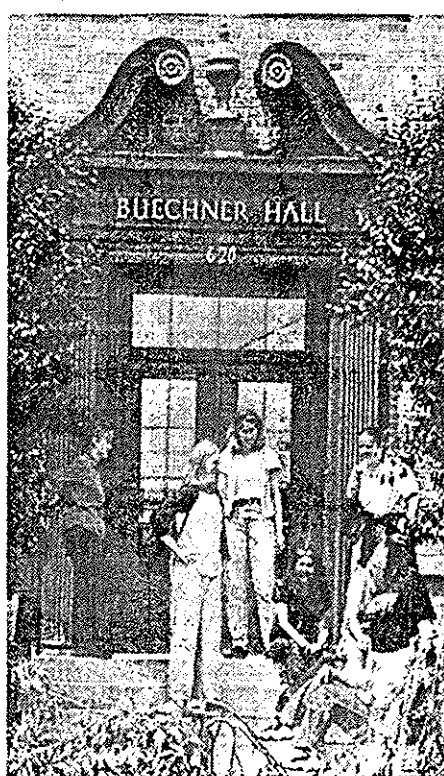
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Chinese artist brings works to McDonough

BY ELIZABETH TABAK
The Jambar

A new exhibit at the McDonough Museum of Art is opening the door to greater understanding between American and Chinese cultures.

Chinese artist Feng Jianqin is serving as the second College of Fine and Performing Arts Cliffe Visiting Artist. He was greeted Thursday with a reception and the first showing of his collection focused on the traditional Chinese symbol of the Yellow Mountain.

Feng, an artist since the early 1960's, is currently the president of the Nanjing Art Institute in China. His exhibit at the McDonough — his first major exhibit in the United States — marks the beginning of a link between YSU's College of Fine and Performing Arts and the Nanjing Institute.

George McCloud, dean of Fine and Performing Arts, said that YSU and the Nanjing Institute would begin an exchange of students, beginning with music students in May of 2004.

McCloud, a personal friend of Feng's, said that one of his goals as an educator is to improve the understanding of cultural differences, and one of the best ways of doing that is through the arts.

"Through seeing [Feng's] art, I know the world he lived through as a young artist in a

"I used western skills and oil paints to convey the meaning of Yellow Mountain so that the United States would have a greater understanding of what it is."

— FENG JIANQIN
Artist

cultural revolution," McCloud said. "It helps me understand the breadth of China."

Students viewing Feng's artwork agreed with McCloud and discussed the importance of studying another culture. One such student was junior Nicole Saeler who said that she was appreciative of the work that was being done to improve the bridging of American and Chinese culture.

"This is a great opportunity for us as students to learn of other cultures," Saeler said.

Feng, speaking through an interpreter, said that one of his hopes for the exhibit was that students would learn more about Chinese culture, but he admitted that he was unsure of the reception and understanding of his work in the United States. Primarily, he was concerned with his replication of the cultural symbol of the Yellow Mountain.

The Yellow Mountain is a symbol that represents the harmony that humans and nature should have. Feng said that although he can pick no particular favorite from his body of work he is currently most satisfied with his portrayal and discovery of the Yellow Mountain.

Traditionally, the Yellow Mountain is portrayed on ink drawings on rice paper, however, using a blend of rich oil colors, Feng created the highlight of the exhibit. Stretching across three panels of canvas, the peaks of the mountain pierce through swirling hues of deep blue and green clouds.

"I used western skills and oil paints to convey the meaning of Yellow Mountain so that the United States would have a greater understanding of what it is," Feng said.

"I hope the familiar media will communicate western and oriental cultures well."

Feng also said that he hopes that a partnership between Nanjing and YSU will foster further exchange of culture in the coming years.

Feng said, "Youngstown is a changing city full of opportunities, it is similar in China. We think there are a lot of exchange programs that we can do in the future so that we can continually work on a greater cultural understanding."

Call Elizabeth Tabak at (330) 941-3758.



Mark Stevens / The Jambar

ART, ORIENTAL STYLE: "Ancient Pagoda in Autumn" is just one of the many works by Feng Jianqin currently on display in the McDonough Museum.

CD Review

Something Corporate whine through second disc

BY JOHNNY DONALDSON
Massachusetts Daily Collegian

(U-WIRE) AMHERST, Mass. — Too many young rock acts confuse lethargy with maturity, as if giving up their youthful exuberance automatically marks them as grown-up musicians.

What it does, really, is mark them as even more naive and immature. They sap their songs of the dynamism and vigor they carried before, slowing tempos and suffocating energy in an ill-gotten attempt to sound as if they are transitioning in a world of 'adult' music. All they end up doing is crafting an album that is condescending, affected and dull.

"Leaving Through the Window," the debut album from power-poppers Something Corporate, was made up of the kind of driving, hook-laden songs that gain an upstart band a young fan base. For the follow-up, "North," the quintet made the inevitable decision to show the "growth" they engaged in since "Window" sold 250,000 copies. To do this, they isolated themselves in a small recording studio, tweaking each and every song until it met the band's idea of perfection.

The result? A watery, weak album devoid of any trace of passion or excitement.

Something Corporate are struggling in the same terrain that their brethren in Brand New covered in their follow-up album from last summer. That is, both bands are former semi-punk outfits moving into a realm of emo that is darker, more musically and emotionally complex than the adolescent murmurings of most emo acts, except -- and here's the big difference -- Brand New bring a real emotional heft to their music, so that it still carries the weight of their



Photo courtesy of somethingcorporate.com

SOMETHING CRAPPY: Something Corporate perform at last summer's Warped Tour. The band's sophomore release is one album that just ends up going south.

vitality. Something Corporate are positively childish in comparison, going through the motions of maturity without investing in it.

Granted, it took a few spins to appreciate the glory and the poetry of Brand New's "Deja Entendu," but it eventually grows on the listener. "North" doesn't have that kind of staying power. With each listen, it doesn't get progressively better or more nuanced; it stays stuck in the same rut of cloying, feeble, meandering pop each time.

This calculated stab at grown-up expression actually represents a de-evolution for the band. Tinkling pianos float through a succession of sticky ballads and half-hearted rockers. Singer Andrew McMahon's whiny falsetto strains for a poignancy that isn't there.

"North" is Something Corporate's "deep" album -- the work in which they are meant to show off how resolutely intelligent, sincere and thoughtful they are, without succumbing to juvenile earnestness. But this isn't a "deep" album -- this is a concept piece for kids, playacting at the role of depth.

McMahon thinks he's being edgy and adult when he starts a song like "Me and the Moon" with a line like "It's a good year for murder / she's praying to Jesus / she's pulling the trigger." But really, he's being disingenuous. A song about a wife committing murder against an abusive husband? Fine, but this is a subject covered by many other artists to better success. Here, it sounds insincere, like a bid for credibility -- "look at how sophisticated and profound we sound!"

There are a few bright spots, like the chugging rockers "Space" and "Only Ashes" or the sleek "Down." But even those sound a bit off compared to Something Corporate's "Leaving Through the Window" or -- more damningly -- Brand New's "Deja Entendu." The rest of "North" is pretty narcotic, drifting hazily from one limp noodle of a song to another. The band can preen and pose all it wants, but that isn't exactly a quality of musical maturation.

So many other acts in and around the same genre as Something Corporate have put out new albums in the past few months, yet many of them at least sound as though they are making progress. But this band -- so promising before, so sadly derailed now -- comes off as fallow and indistinct. Too many damp lyrics, too much wormy insincerity, too little passion -- this is one album that just ends up going south.

BEAT, continued from page 1

"I don't know how to justify spending money for the roof of that building when academic buildings are in need of repair as well," said John Hyden, director of facilities.

Now, the circa-1900 structure, known as The Beat, is fast becoming a one-of-a-kind item, providing a glimpse of life 100 years ago.

A 1907 map of Lincoln Avenue shows neat rows of houses lining the street. Gradually, university buildings and businesses replaced those houses. Of the properties that line the south side of Lincoln Avenue, only three remain privately owned.

Leary explained that The Beat could give us clues about what life was like in the 1900s. He said that trends in architecture during post-Civil War decades were a reaction to the Industrial Revolution, mass production and loss of stature of skilled woodworkers and craftsmen.

Leary said that The Beat's Queen Ann style is a hybrid of this reaction, a favoring of medieval influences mixed with classical elements. The irregular, steeply pitched roof and variety of lines, shapes and materials on the house's exterior have a medieval European flavor.

The designs inside the house reflect the classic Greek period, as do the porch columns. These details shed light on period style, Leary said.

"The neat thing about The Beat is that there are enough original features remaining to look at to see what the house's lineage is, to be able to 'read' the face of the house," Leary said.

Call Susie Tietz at (330) 941-1913.

Man robs bank cause he's 'too ugly to get a job'

BY MIKE PINGREE
KRT Campus (Through the Looking Glass)

SURE, COME BACK ANY TIME

Two men stole beer at gunpoint from a gas station in Stuart, Fla., but one of them left his ID card behind. He called later and asked if he could come back and get it. Permission granted. The cops were waiting.

STOP, THIEF! ... OH, NEVER MIND

After her dog pooped all over the kitchen floor, a woman in London cleaned up the doo doo, put it in a bag and went outside to drop it in the trash.

As she crossed the sidewalk, a youthful mugger on a bike knocked her down, stole the bag and sped off.

WHO NEEDS THE COPS?

A day after a thief stole his pickup truck, which had the key stuck in the ignition, a northern California man went to buy another vehicle. As a friend drove him to a dealership, he spotted the stolen truck headed toward them on the other side of the road. They made a U-turn and followed it to the thief's home. When he went inside, the owner stole it back.

LADIES, PLEASE, I CAN EXPLAIN

An Internet Romeo in England hooked up with four women he had been sweet-talking via e-mail, calling them all "princess" or "sexy" so he wouldn't accidentally use the wrong name. He was successfully juggling them all until he inadvertently sent the same e-message to the four of them, showing all of their addresses. They contacted each other and hatched a plot: one of them arranged a date with him at a local pub, and all of them were there waiting when he showed up. An angry confrontation ensued.

HEY BABY, I'VE GOT A CRAZY IDEA ...

A middle-aged couple in Tennessee had a bit too much to drink and went out on their front lawn where they commenced making love in the middle of the afternoon. The lovebirds were arrested for indecent exposure and public intoxication.

AND TOO STUPID FOR A LIFE OF CRIME

Police arrested a man minutes after he robbed two neighboring banks in downtown Miami one right after the other. He told them he did it because, "I'm too ugly to get a job."

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