

The JAMBAR

TUESDAY
November 25, 2003

Mostly Sunny
HIGH: 40 LOW: 32

Vol. 73

www.thejambar.com

Issue 25

Web site helps Penguins find love

BY MICHAEL J. BALALE
The Jambar

Staring straight ahead at the camera, wearing a dark suit, white shirt and tie, a man who calls himself "jgera5" is looking for love.

Jgera5 says he has "sparkling brown eyes," black

or dark brown hair and a desire to meet a woman.

His posting, carrying the headline "Just lonely, I guess" is one of 350 recently added to www.penguinsingles.com

White Buffalo Ventures, a Texas-based company, is trying to play matchmaker for Penguin faithful and alumni with the launching of its new

penguinsingles.com.

The site was opened Nov. 11 and is being marketed to current and former YSU students through the university's central e-mail system, CUE-mail.

University officials say that White Buffalo Ventures is doing this without their consent.



ULBRICHT

Walt Ulbricht, executive director of Marketing and Communications, said he had heard about penguinsingles.com but had no idea who authorized the use of YSU e-mail accounts.

The founder of White Buffalo Ventures, however,

said no one gave him permission and that he did not need permission.

In a telephone interview Wednesday, Brad Armstrong, CEO of White Buffalo, said, "Federal law gave me permission."

Using a list he obtained

See SINGLES, page 2

Officials awaiting bookstore decision

BY LA'EL HUGHES
The Jambar

The bookstore committee members say they believe the final stretch regarding the proposal to outsource the YSU Bookstore is between Follett and YSU's current operation.

Committee chair Don Cagigas said he hopes to hand in the group's final comments to University President David Sweet by the end of the week. Cagigas said the group is not responsible for making a final decision, only providing the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal.

Monday, Cagigas said the committee members were going through a revision process addressing some of the statements in the draft report. He mentioned that he was glad the process is coming to an end.

"It feels like it's been three years and it's only been eight months," Cagigas said.

As the dust from the bookstore controversy slowly settles, Gary Carlile, Ohio Education Association representative, said the current YSU bookstore operation is still standing. Carlile said all the bookstore committee members were in agreement that the YSU bookstore provided the most money to the university.

"That's just a fact," Carlile said.

In the committee's draft report regarding the pros and cons of the submitted bids, the operation of the current bookstore is stated as providing the lowest book prices to the students.

Carlile said students would end up paying added expenditures under different management, such as "freight costs" for shipping and handling. The shipping and handling will be included in the price of the books — a process that is currently not included in the YSU Bookstore's textbook prices.

Carlile also said the competitors do not buy as many used books for students to purchase.

The net cash promised by the Follett would be made on the "backs of students" with hiked prices and freight costs.

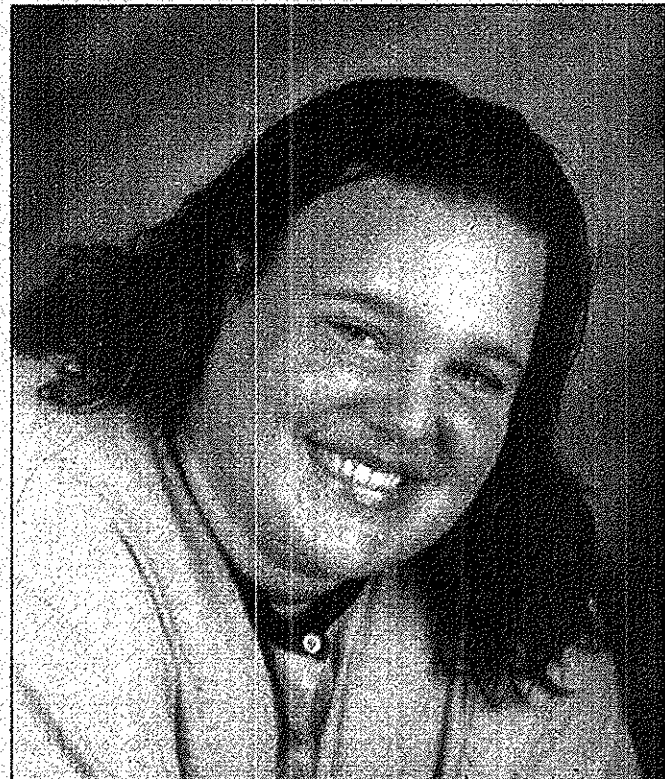
Though the draft report cited the YSU Bookstore as giving students more "bang" for their dollars, outsourcing the current bookstore was said to have positive points.

Some of the benefits included providing a source of non-university funding for current and future bookstore capital projects such as new construction, renovation and technology upgrades. Further

See BOOKS, page 2

The story of Gina Goontz — before and after

BY MARK STEVENS
The Jambar



BEFORE: In 1999 student Gina Goontz began quest, now well into it's second year to change her body.

When she walks into a room, there's nothing spectacular that you'd notice on first glance. You see a young woman — hair styled, worn down flitting in her face; jeans; and a white, buttoned shirt — plainly, yet neatly dressed.

Sure, the smile she constantly wears could be described as transcidental, and there is an aura of good feeling about her, but really, standing before you is just a young, confident woman — one that blends into rather than standing out in a crowd.

She is a senior in college — wants to teach the second grade.

She has friends. She likes to go out, and you better believe she likes to shop for clothes.

Of course, just seeing her now for the first time provides

See STORY, page 4



Photo courtesy of Gina Goontz

AFTER: More than 200 pounds later, Gina said she still has more weight to lose.

MLK breakfast fuels YSU diversity debate

BY ELIZABETH TABAK
The Jambar

The question of whether to allow employees to attend the annual Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast has become an issue for the second year in a row.

Some staff members in the office of Financial Affairs are hoping to take an hour and a half on the morning of Jan. 15 to attend the breakfast.

A few employees said they have not yet received permission — a situation that has sparked some to question Youngstown State University's commitment to diversity. Others, however, said the matter could just be office politics.

Hugh Chatman, director of human resources, told a financial affairs employee that she and others could attend. But that did not end the con-

trovery.

Elaine Beatty, director of accounts payable, said she must have the OK from Vice President of Financial Affairs Terry Ondreyka before she allows workers to go.

"They don't treat all the sponsored programs the same. They refuse to put a set policy down."

— IVAN MALDONADO
Administrative assistant, payroll

But Ondreyka said it is not his call and instead said Beatty can make the decision.

The problem, said Ivan Maldonado, an administrative assistance in the payroll department, is the university picks and chooses what employees can attend.

"They don't treat all sponsored programs the same," he said. "They refuse to put a set policy down."

Maldonado said the main problem is in the accounts payable department where several African-American employees work.

Donna James, a staffer in

See DIVERSITY, page 4

Faculty, students debate Iraq

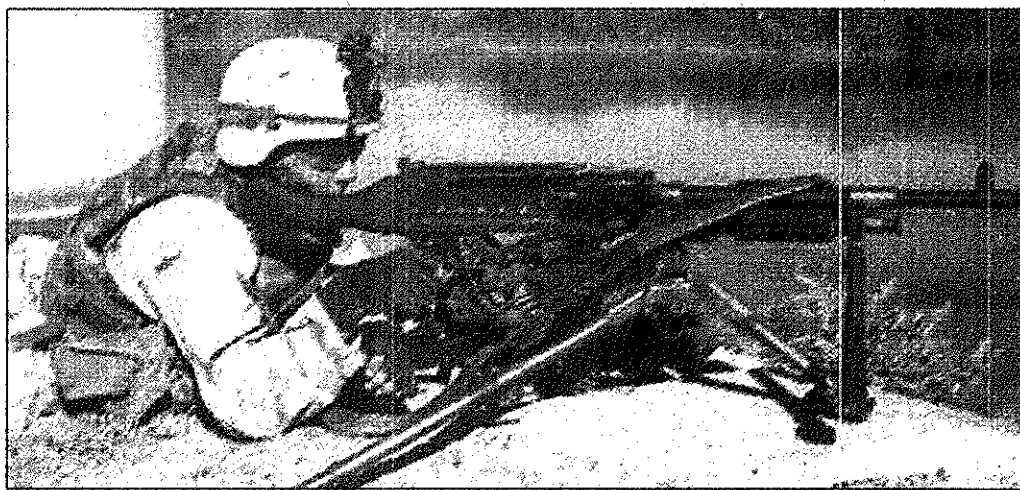


Photo courtesy of the Department of Defense

Soldiers of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 508th Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade conduct a weapons cache search near Kirkuk, Iraq to seize weapons used by terrorists against coalition forces and Iraqi citizens on November 22.

BY MIKE VLAIKU
The Jambar

A political science professor said Americans were naive if they thought the war in Iraq would not result in a massive death toll.

Keith Lepak, professor of political science, said every skirmish this country has entered has always resulted in many deaths and a drawn out occupation.

"People were murky in their thinking when they thought that starting a war with Iraq would not equal up to lives being lost on either side," Lepak said. "I don't think that the majority of Americans are really paying attention to hundreds of thousands of Iraqi graves and the death total on both sides. Then, they may not be

so concerned about Saddam's regime rising again."

As the death toll from the Iraq war continues to rise, Youngstown State University students, faculty and staff have reignited a lingering debate about the proper role for the U.S. military.

Senior Joseph Sherick said there is no gray area. The U.S. military's involvement in Iraq, he said, is wrong.

Sherick said that all of the lives lost over the past year have done nothing toward stopping terrorism or destroying the supposed "weapons of mass destruction."

"The war in Iraq has been nothing more

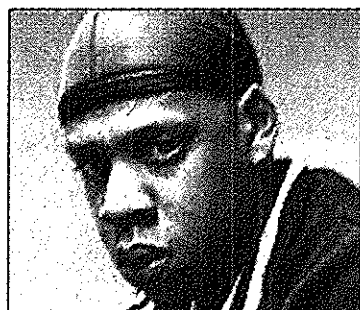
See IRAQ, page 2

Sneak Peek
News 1, 2, 4
Classifieds 5
Opinion 3
Entertainment 4
Sports 6

Email us @
TheJambar@
hotmail.com

Inside today's issue:

Review of Jay-Z's latest release, "The Black Album" Page 4



thejambar.com poll question:



Would you register or have you registered for penguinsingles.com?
Vote @ www.thejambar.com

Fat Head ups Playboy's offer to Britney Spears, Fat Head Says Page 6



SINGLES, continued from page 1

through open records laws, Armstrong's company sent e-mails to hundreds of YSU students last week pushing the site.

"Singles with a connection to Youngstown State University have a new way to get a date or meet their mate, depending on how well a preliminary exchange of e-mail goes," reads an e-mail sent to current and former YSU students from White Buffalo Ventures.

In the e-mail, Armstrong described why he believes the site will be successful for those seeking relationships.

"The great thing about penguinsingles.com is that it focuses on a particular market segment that already has something in common," he said in the written statement. "With most online dating services, you're dealing with a

national base of people who have very disparate interests and experiences. penguinsingles.com, on the other hand, starts off with a common denominator, either an association or an interest in Youngstown State University."

Some of the 350 people who have already registered stress their YSU connection. A 20 year-old from Cortland, who has named himself "MetGrn03GAGT," said he is a computer science major at YSU.

"I'm an adrenaline junkie, always up for a thrill, or a challenge. There's a ton more to know, and I have a peculiar piercing that sparks some convos, but ya gotta ask!" wrote MetGrn03GAGT in his profile. MetGrn03GAGT said he doesn't smoke, but drinks socially, and is interested in having children one day.

Posed with her faced rested on her folded hands, "Justyn890" said she is single and fun. The 18 year-old said she has "sexy hazel eyes," attended some college and has children living at home.

Others who have posted their descriptions played up their physical appearance.

"YSUHorn512" said he is a freshman music performance major at the Dana School of Music. He said he has "wild green eyes" and is "voluptuous/portly."

He continued talking about his physical appearance and strength, "I'm a larger guy. I have a lot of muscle but I have a stomach and am a bit chubby. I am very strong. I can bench over 250 pounds and can leg press over 900 pounds and I can run averagely."

After hearing descriptions of some of the single candi-

dates, one YSU student said she might consider registering for the service if she didn't already have a boyfriend.

"As pathetic as it sounds, if I didn't have a boyfriend, I'd register," said sophomore Sarah Melone, who's never used the service but thinks it's a good way to meet people online.

Armstrong said White Buffalo Ventures plans to make more than 80 advancements to the site by the first quarter of next year, making the site more appealing to YSU students and alumni.

Sophomore Stefanie Cleghorn said she might try the site. "I'd be leery at first, but I'd try it. What the hell?"

Although she said she is curious about the site, Cleghorn said she has had problems with stalkers on campus in the past.

Freshman Josh Arnal agreed with Cleghorn's caution of the new site but agreed that he would try it out, just to see what it was like.

"I'd probably be nervous about getting responses from weirdos because we do live in Youngstown," Arnal said.

Armstrong said he has built sites for 74 universities and he plans to have 100 up and running by the end of the year. "We are doing for online dating what cable did for television," Armstrong said.

He said that his company attributes its most successful sites to universities that are isolated from major metropolitan areas.

"YSU meets a very good criteria."

With the growing popularity of match making sites on the Internet, White Buffalo Ventures is one of the many

companies that make up a \$500 million industry.

Although there is no cost to register or search on penguinsingles.com, if a person finds a potential mate based on a profile and wants to contact that person, there is a monthly charge of \$19.95.

"If you go to a bar one night, you'll spend more than \$20 and may not meet anybody," Armstrong said.

Jgera5 with his sparkling brown eyes may be waiting a long time for women to contact him. There are published profiles for four times as many men than women on the Web site.

Jgera5 offered some extra enticement for someone to contact him.

"I would pay for the date."

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

BOOKS, continued from page 1

advantages were monies saved from having to invest in inventory for the bookstore.

Though Follett is proving to be a strong contender, some national and local universities gave reasons for why they discontinued their relationship

with Follett — another university recently hired Barnes and Noble after dealing with Follett.

Dick Devine, CFO and business manager for Cincinnati Bible College, said the school ended their relation-

ship with Follett in 1995. Devine said the university decided to go under self-operation. He said more auxiliary was able to go back to the university.

"Instead of money leaving the university and going into

[Follett's] pocket, we were able to keep the money, instead of paying one flat fee for them to run the bookstore."

Loyola University New Orleans terminated their contract with Follett in May of this year. In an online report, Loyola stated, "Given recent changes in Follett corporate leadership, unreasonable directives to store managers,

and the decline in financial returns to both parties a change in vendors was warranted."

John Krajnak, buyer of books at Point Park College in Pittsburgh, said his university hired Barnes and Noble just this year after dealing with Follett. He added that since the change, he is not aware of any complaints regarding the uni-

versity's bookstore.

KJ Satrum, executive director Student Services, who assisted in the initial presentation of the advantages of the current bookstore, said, "I just hope the university does what's in the best interest of the students."

Call La'el Hughes at (330) 941-1989.

The Hair Academy is evolving...

CASAL AVEDA INSTITUTE

Sit Back, Relax, Get Beautiful and...

BRING A FRIEND FOR FREE

Buy ONE Service for yourself and your Friend gets their service for FREE!!!

Haircuts \$10 Manicures \$6

330.792.6504

Austintown Plaza 6000 Mahoning Ave Austintown, OH

Call for your Appointment Today!

ALL SERVICES PERFORMED BY SUPERIOR STUDENTS

*Offer good Monday-Saturday - November 1, 2003 - December 23, 2003. Offer good on one service per person, appointments must be together on the same day, lesser service is free, offer not good on products

IRAQ, continued from page 1

than a waste of money and human life," Sherick said. "There is no real reason that we should have even gone over in the first place. There were no weapons of mass destruction, nor were there any real justifications for any of the events except the very lame 'we have to stop terrorism' speech that was constantly jammed down America's throats."

Several other students side with Sherick, including Claudia Buccilli.

Buccilli, an Italian and education major, said that the United States too often imposes its will on other nations. She said that the U.S. should allow Iraq and its people to decide on what type of government they would like.

"I think the United States is a big bully," she said. "We try to change others and it is not working."

Craig Smith, who says that he lost a friend from high school in the Iraqi conflict, said that there are other reasons why the U.S. should not be involved in the war.

"We have enough problems in our own country," he said. "We should take care of our own problems."

But there is another side to the debate and former YSU student, Tim Anderson, who is now

a U.S. Marine, said he has trouble understanding why people are questioning the war and what he called the defense of freedom.

Anderson said the many lives that have been lost in this war have gone to the greatest cause of all, defending freedom.

"Many people on both sides have lost their lives in this war," he said, "but, their deaths are not for a useless cause. They fought and died in order to defend and protect this country and they have done a very good job. The main reason that I decided to dedicate my life to being a Marine is that I would like to defend our country as well."

Senior Radames Santiago said that despite the lack of weapons of mass destruction being uncovered, the terrorist training facilities found in Iraq are enough to justify war.

"The people we're going after don't play by the rules," he said. "We're playing by the rules. We're too nice."

Chuck Rogers contributed to this article.

Call Mike Vliuku at (330) 941-1913.

KILCAWLEY CENTER

'Tis The Season SPECIALS

FREE ARBY'S HOLIDAY GLASS w/ purchase Details and coupon only available on the KILCAWLEY WEB SITE	GIANT SNOW CAPS CANDY SALE Save 10¢ OFF a 1/4 lb Coupon only available on the KILCAWLEY WEB SITE	Kilcawley Holiday Breakfast Details available on the KILCAWLEY WEB SITE
Peaberry's \$1 OFF HOT CARMEL TEMPTATION Our Famous Espresso! \$1 OFF Coupon only available on the KILCAWLEY WEB SITE	!! WIN !! FINALS WEEK SURVIVAL GIFT BASKET Packed Full of Sugar-jolting Cookies, Late-night Snacks, Brain-intensifying Beverages & More to Get You Through Your Finals! You can only register on the KILCAWLEY WEB SITE. Priz. sponsored by University Dining	FREE BIG COOKIE When you buy one at THE BAGEL STOP Coupon is only available on the KILCAWLEY WEB SITE
FREE MAD RIVER BOTTLE BEVERAGE when you purchase any SOBA BOWL at the MARKET PLACE CAFÉ Coupon only available on the KILCAWLEY WEB SITE	YSU BOOKSTORE HOLIDAY SALE Coming Finals Week Look for Sale details to be posted December 1st only on the KILCAWLEY WEB SITE	
STRESS HEADACHE? Advil, Tylenol, Bayer, Excedrin & Motrin Individual doses available at the KILCAWLEY CANDY COUNTER	FAST & CHEAP ON CAMPUS TYPING Check out our affordable prices on the KILCAWLEY WEB SITE or visit Bytes 'n Pieces for an estimate.	FREE REFILLS FINALS WEEK of Hot Brewed Coffee with your PEABERRY'S MUG Details & dates available on the KILCAWLEY WEB SITE

www.kc.ysu.edu

Job Opportunities in Student Publications

Student Publications Committee is seeking interested students for positions with *The Jambar*.

The Jambar (University Newspaper)

Academic Year Positions

- Sales Manager • Salary \$4508.80
- News Reporter • Salary \$2451.40

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

GET MENTALLY PREPARED FOR FINALS!

Do you have Test Anxiety?
Have fear when presenting a project?
Are so stressed that you can't think straight?

Then call: 330-759-8115

Lost Gone!

All items FOUND this semester, that are not claimed by the end of finals week, will be donated to area charities.

FOUND: Keys, cell phones, hats, gloves, books, bags, etc. The campus LOST AND FOUND is located at Bytes 'n Pieces on the upper level of Kilcawley Center.

Kilcawley Center
www.kc.ysu.edu

EDITORIAL & OPINION

www.thejambar.com

73 years
of campus
coverage

Angela Olin
editor in chief

La'el Hughes
news editor

B.J. Lisko
design editor

Mark Stevens
copy editor

Call the editor in chief
at 330-941-1991

Today's Editorial

Other states should follow same-sex ruling

In breakthrough decision last week, the Massachusetts Supreme Court gave same-sex couples the right to marry. The 4-3 ruling came as a result of a lawsuit by seven same-sex couples denied marriage licenses in 2001.

Massachusetts is now the first state to grant same-sex couples the right to marry, but hopefully will not be the last.

The state has set precedent that all 50 states in the United States should follow, beginning with Ohio.

Thomas Copeland, co-director of YSU's gay-straight alliance, said in a Jambar article last week the court decision is a benefit to society.

We agree. Giving this right to same-sex couples further establishes this country's commitment to freedom.

The Ohio Christian Coalition last week denounced the court's decision in a press release, stating that it is a "further destruction of the bedrock of our society."

We are ashamed that this landmark case could be viewed as destructive. Whether black, white, Christian, Jewish or Muslim, all people should realize the importance of allowing all two people to commit their love to one another.

The coalition further stated, "It is unconscionable that these four demigods of the judiciary would turn their backs on the timeless ideal of marriage in order to recklessly fulfill the agenda of a radical few who desire to have their lifestyle affirmed."

This "timeless ideal of marriage" mentioned by the coalition seems to be skewed greatly by fundamentalist religious views. Very few things are timeless. Our society, our free, democratic society itself has evolved so much that to propose anything as tenuous as the "ideal of marriage" as timeless reeks horribly of separatism.

This "agenda," we believe, supports far more than a "radical few." It is difficult to put an amount on the number of Americans who are "gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, or trans-sexual," however, it is obvious that these seven same-sex couples in Massachusetts are not alone in their fight.

The coalition's statement displays ignorance to a long-time fight that many have dedicated their lives to argue.

A visit to the GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, Web site reveals sections upon sections of the site devoted to the Massachusetts ruling.

If this was the agenda of a radical few, there would not be books, Web sites and groups fully arguing this right day in and day out.

The Massachusetts ruling stated: "Whether and whom to marry, how to express sexual intimacy, and whether and how to establish a family — these are among the most basic of every individual's liberty and due process rights ... And central to personal freedom and security is the assurance that the laws will apply equally to persons in similar situations."

We applaud the court for recognizing a fight that long-awaited victory. We hope that other courts in the nation will soon follow this precedent and we encourage every American, gay or straight, to continue to landmark freedom.

CHANGING TRENDS



Letters to the Editor

Director puzzled by campus alcohol ban

Editor:

I am bit confused about YSU's sudden ban on alcohol during tailgating. First off, if YSU was in violation of the state of Ohio's open container law, then how many other universities throughout this state have also been in violation? The alcohol flows like the Olentangy down in Columbus during football games which was evident when drunken people rioted after the Michigan game in 2002.

The solution to this issue is simple—YSU must find out what policy Ohio State has in place in order for the taps to keep flowing in Columbus, and then adopt the same policy. Let's be honest, there is NO WAY there will be a ban on alcohol during tailgating in Columbus.

Tailgating has been a great tradition here at YSU and it is a shame The Jambar had to open a can of worms and possibly put an end to this great social activity. I've been to college football games in Columbus, Ann Arbor, South Bend, Happy Valley, etc. and alcohol is part of the tailgating tradition in these great football towns. The Jambar should have done more investigative reporting and find out how other Ohio universities are able to get around the law? Thumbs down to The Jambar.

Anyway, the YSU tailgaters are there to socialize and have some fun. The only incident that I can recall did not involve alcohol at the tailgate lot. Who can forget when a former board of

trustee member got "slightly loaded" in the loges and then attempted to cross the street, not at the corner, and got smacked by a YSU vehicle?

Hopefully Dr. Sweet, Ron Strollo and company can get a policy in place as soon as possible in order for this Valley's great tradition to resume next football season. My first call would be to Columbus and see how the Buckeyes are able to get around the open container law.

The people in this Valley work hard all week and look forward to tailgating before and after the football games. Heck, tailgating only happens six times a year.

Ricky S. George
Associate Director, Center for Human Services Development
Former Jambar Editor - 1989

*Editor's Note: The Jambar contacted Ohio State University and Kent State University in its first article that uncovered that drinking in tailgate lots at YSU is not in conformance with Ohio's State Liquor Laws.

Kent State University uses an F-Permit that allows non-profit organizations to sell alcohol to tailgaters legally. Ohio State University police Chief Ronald Michalec said OSU banned alcohol from certain lots beginning this year. If a person does not have a permit, he said, that person is "warned, summoned, issued a citation, or arrested."

**Got an opinion?
We want to hear from
you... write us @
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 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	BJ LISKO Design Editor (330) 941-1807	MARK STEVENS Copy Editor (330) 941-1811
OLGA ZIOBERT Business manager (330) 941-3094	ALYSSA LENHOFF Adviser (330) 941-1908	SARA TKAC Advertising manager (330) 941-1990	JOSH BOGGS Sports Reporter (330) 941-1913
CHRISTINA POE Features Reporter (330) 941-3223	MIKE BALALE Assistant Design (330) 941-1807	BETH TABAK Assistant News Editor (330) 941-3758	TRINA QUARLES News Reporter (330) 941-1913

ASHLEE OWENS
Assistant Copy
(330) 941-1912

E-MAIL US AT
thejambar@hotmail.com

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 Mark Lisko in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated College Press 25th Anniversary Awards.

'Throw policies that risk food safety overboard'

Editor:

Reading your article about hepatitis being contracted by those people eating the Chi Chi's food from Mexico reminded me of the day I did that demonstration on campus against the World Trade Organization correlating it to the Boston Tea Party. It reminded me of how I held up, explained and threw off my cardboard "WTO" ship a cardboard strawberry representing the incident where more than 300 Michigan school children were stricken with hepatitis after eating strawberries imported from Mexico.

WTO policies have increased food trade at the expense of food safety. Since

the 1980s, food imports have more than doubled, but inspections of fruits and vegetables have been cut from 8 percent to less than 2 percent of shipments. As a result, we face a growing number of disease outbreaks from imported food.

Under WTO rules, food safety officials can no longer take precautionary measures based on preliminary, not certain, scientific evidence to prevent an emerging risk.

Our stronger standards could now be successfully challenged in the WTO as an illegal trade barrier. To increase food trade flows, the WTO pressures importing countries to accept the safety certifications of exporters in place of their own governments' standards. So products can now be

labeled as if they meet US standards, even if they do not. The Free Trade Area of Americas met in Miami recently to expand the North American Free Trade Agreement to South America as well.

NAFTA does not require member countries to maintain minimum levels of food safety standards and treats higher standards in importing countries as illegal barriers to trade. Because our rights are being ignored, we must throw these policies that risk food safety overboard!

Karl Zehr
Environmental Studies
Graduate Student

SGA rep says Jambar 'poisons' student minds

Editor:

For almost two years now, I have watched The Jambar poison the minds of the YSU students. The biased newspaper that you distribute twice a week has influenced the minds of those in the student body that are unaware of campus issues to believe that everything in your paper is true. In fact, most of it is not.

I would like to know how The Jambar can have quotes from people they have never spoken to. However, when someone is spoken to, they are often misquoted and taken out of context to look like morons or inconsiderate, self-centered ignoramuses.

Another thing, how could you misspell the first name of our Homecoming King? J-O-N-A-T-H-A-N Z-A-C-H-A-R-I-A-S is in his fifth year here at Youngstown State. Can you not find a student directory, or how about looking at one of his campaign posters? If it was a typo, why don't you check your work twice before submitting it for print? You should all be embarrassed.

I would also like to know how The Jambar can write an article on an issue covered in the Student Government general meeting when I see your reporter leave long before gallery remarks, or even before we begin old or new business. If your reporter has a class at six, then perhaps you should find one that doesn't.

I would also like to thank your paper for destroying a YSU tradition. Also, I don't think it's proper to place a picture of someone breaking the law on the front page, it's asinine.

I thought before this semester that Henry Gomez was a horrible editor, but perhaps I should give him some respect for the way The Jambar staff conducted themselves under his command. So, in the future, I challenge you to step up and show respect for yourselves as well as the readers of your newspaper.

Timothy Sturges
SGA representative
College of Engineering and Technology

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

CD Review

Jay-Z sticks with the formula on latest CD

By MARK STEVENS
The Jambor

As the perfect example of the evolution of hip-hop's charge into the mainstream — not just musically, but culturally — Sean Carter, better known as Jay-Z, has released what he says will be his final solo album.

His business interests are more than enough to suffice him financially. His involvement ranges from clothing (RocaWear, S. Carter) to the record label he co-founded (Roc-a-Fella Records) to his interest in buying the New Jersey Nets that has recently surfaced.

(We'll just have to wait and see if P. Diddy buys the Knicks to form a NBA hip-hop rivalry. I wonder if he'll give Master P a tryout. On a serious note, the NBA would benefit greatly from accepting Carter's bid. Not only is he black, and the NBA could seriously use an intensive dose of blacks in front office positions, but he has influence on the NBA's future fan base.)

The question is whether or not he can hold his artistic drive down. He has spent his career in the spotlight. His albums are continually inventive and original. An artist like that might explode if he tries to hold himself down.

His latest and final solo release, "The Black Album," doesn't swerve from his recipe for success. Jay-Z rarely relies on guest artists; he handles the weight of the lyrical load consistently. Mostly, guest artists on Jay-Z CDs have been to

the benefit of the guest, not Jay-Z (see Ja Rule, Foxy Brown).

His name and ability draws the best producers for his songs. For this album, Jay-Z features production work by The Neptunes, Just Blaze, Eminem, DJ Quik and Timbaland.

The first track, "December 4th," has the feel of a graduation song. It features his mother talking between verses in the place of a hook, and while I'm sure it was touching for him to work with his mother, mostly it's a throwaway track. It's one redeeming quality is the way he ends it, saying "I've made the decisions I've made/this is the life I've chose or rather the life that chose me/if you can't respect that/your whole perspective is whack/maybe you'll love me when I fade to black."

The second track is one of the CD's best. "What More Can I Say?" opens with Russell Crowe's shouting of "Are you not entertained?" from the movie "Gladiator."

The hook for "What More Can I Say" is annoying, but Jigga makes up for it with the lyrics and delivery. He discusses what he's done, how he's influenced the rap game, his style and what he has and hasn't been through.

"And no I didn't get shot up a whole bunch of times/or make up s— in a whole bunch of lines/And I ain't animated like, say, a Busta Rhymes/But the real s— you get when you bust down my lines/Add that to the fact I went plat a bunch of times/Times that by my influ-

ence on pop culture/I supposed to be number one on everybody's list/We'll see what happens when I no longer exist."

The best cut on the album is "Dirt." Produced by Timbaland, the beat is probably the year's best. Jay-Z flows right along with the quick, head nod-inducing rhythm. The hook is catchy as hell: "If you're feeling like a pimp, go ahead and brush your shoulders off/Ladies is pimps, too. Go on brush your shoulders off."

"Moment of Clarity," the track produced by Eminem, sounds a lot like one of Slim Shady's songs. The beat is slow and methodical. Jay-Z's delivery fits well along side of it. In the song he addresses his relationship with his late father.

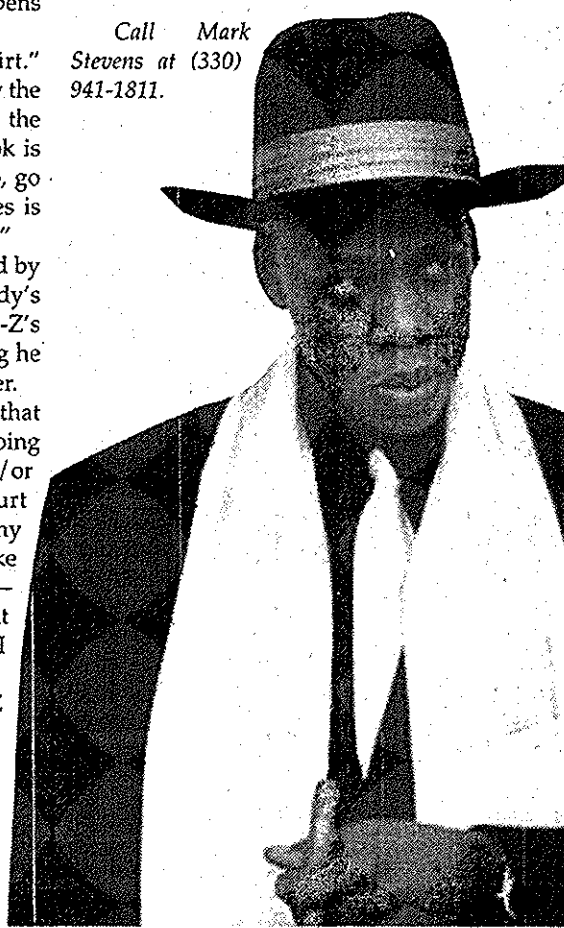
"Pop died, didn't cry/didn't know him that well/Between him doing heroin and me doing crack sales/... Standing at the tabernacle/or rather the church/Pretending to be hurt wouldn't work/So a smirk was all on my face/Like damn, that man's face is just like my face/So pop I forgive you for all the s—I've been through/It wasn't all your fault homey/You got caught into the same game I fought."

All in all, this album is a typical Jay-Z product. Most of the cuts are high quality. His lyricism never quite got to the level of Tupac, but let us be honest: there's Tupac, and then there's everyone else.

At the very least he is one of the best of this generation of rappers. Surely, this

won't be the last we hear from Sean Carter.

Call Mark Stevens at (330) 941-1811.



STORY, continued from page 1

nothing spectacular only if you have never known her, never seen her before.

Meet Gina Goontz. She is a senior at YSU, and she plans to graduate after the fall 2004 semester.

She has also lost more than 200 pounds.

But the story here is not the weight that used to be a part of her life. The story is Gina Goontz. This is about an attitude. Goontz' tale is about a person doing something for her own reasons, doing it her way and doing it all the way.

Her story is unique because she did not lose the weight to get accepted by her peers. She was accepted. She did have friends. But those factors presented a fundamental problem.

"Because I was so accepted the way I was, I didn't feel like I needed to change because I was already liked," she said. "I had good friends and I was popular and I was into stuff."

"I was so comfortable in my skin."

So what prompted the change?

"When I got into the real

world ... it was like now I have to think about me. They accepted me, and now I want to accept me."

There was also a notorious pair of jeans.

Goontz tells a story about receiving a pair of jeans from her mother for Christmas two years ago. Her mother, Regina, was sure that the jeans would fit. They didn't.

"The jeans did it," Goontz explained. "Then everything else fell into place because I realized that it wasn't just the jeans. It was me. It was my whole life that wanted to change."

So Goontz made the decision to head to Weight Watchers. She said that in the first week she lost about 15 pounds.

But Regina remembers her daughter being devastated by a significant mistake made by an employee at Weight Watchers.

On Goontz' initial visit, an employee miscalculated her weight, so when the second weigh-in came, it was reported that she had actually gained weight. She was shocked.

After the mistake was corrected, Goontz could not be stopped. Her motivation led her to work herself as hard as she could. She started riding a stationary bike for eight miles a night.

What was the result of her change in eating habits — Weight Watchers works on a points system, assigning points for every food and a total point amount per day for each person — and the new exercise regimen? She lost 100 pounds in six months.

Now, the weight loss has slowed, but Goontz does not grow edgy about it.

"I obviously didn't put it on overnight. I'm patient about it."

Do not think for one minute, however, that she has grown complacent about what she has already accomplished. She continually harps on the fact that she has more to go.

"It's not over yet."

Her mother said that she had concerns about her daughter's health at the weight she was.

"For a long time," Regina Goontz said, "I was concerned

about her health."

When Gina Goontz was 10 years old, her father died of a massive heart attack. She describes his death as a shock. He was healthy, she said, but that still weighed on her mind.

"Maybe in the back of my mind, I knew that was in my family ... and the way that I was wasn't making [my heart] any healthier."

"I knew that I would just keep getting bigger. I just knew that I felt like I was out of control."

So Weight Watchers was the choice. Gastric bypass surgery was not. But that doesn't mean she did not consider it.

"It was the next step," she said of the surgery. Thankfully, she said, it did not come to that.

It was not the potential health risks of the surgery that scared her. It was her attitude that swayed her from it.

"How weak am I?" she asked rhetorically. "A surgery did not make me overweight."

"I didn't get this way from some surgery, so why should a surgery just cure it? I knew I was weak to have become that big. I knew it was weakness. I couldn't say no."

"I'm not trying to be heroic, but I didn't want the easy way out."

But she was reluctant to seek help.

"I always thought when I'm ready to lose it, I'll lose it. I don't need help."

But it did not turn out to be that way. So at Weight Watchers she found herself, and found herself happy with the way things were done.

"They try to make you understand that to lose weight, it's a change of lifestyle."

Her mother echoed that statement.

"This is a way of life for her," Regina Goontz said.

Gina Goontz began the process of controlling herself, controlling her impulses for food.

"Obviously, if I had that much to lose, it's because I like food. It's not like I could cold-turkey quit eating the foods I like."

"It's portion control. It's controlling yourself."

At first, she said, she kept a journal of everything that she consumed. After a while, after a great amount of weight had come off, she began to allow herself days off. Special occasions, she said, are the times when she allows herself some leeway.

"There's days that I say 'screw points.' You cannot live life around a diet."

But she's determined to not let herself fall back into her old ways.

She has too much that she's gained, she said, too let herself slide back. She has too much to look forward to.

"Not only do I want to be married and be healthy, but my job is going to be very active. Second graders run around, and when you're that big, it's hard."

She said she believes she's more acceptable to men to whom she is attracted. This, she said, has boosted her confidence.

With her weight loss has come a difference not only in her attitudes, but also in the way that others perceive her.

"Guys treat me more differently than girls do. Like the guys that I knew from before — who were always wonderful to me — their perception of me has changed. I still think they see me as the same person. I look different physically, but I think they think my personality has changed."

"I'm a little more outgoing. I feel like I can talk to more people."

"The girls — I think they knew all along that was the person I wanted to be."

Kim Nemkovich, a senior at YSU and Goontz' friend since the fifth grade, said that she is proud of what Goontz has accomplished.

"She's always been a wonderful person," Nemkovich said. "I think it's an amazing thing. I don't think I could have ever done that."

Nemkovich and Goontz's mother both use the same word to describe Gina now: "glowing."

Goontz said one of the biggest rewards from having lost weight is shopping for clothes.

"Twelve sizes makes a big difference."

"I can go into a regular store," she said, "get a pair of jeans and a sweater and leave. That's fun."

She cited clothes shopping as one of the hardest things as an overweight teenager.

"What 17- or 18-year-old girl doesn't want to look cute?"

Now that she is here, having lost weight, having improved herself, making herself closer to what she wants for herself, she is not ready to sit back and rest.

Is she happy when she looks in the mirror?

"I just see me. What do I see? I see a body that still needs work. I do see that. I see that in the mirror, but I also see the progress I've made, too."

Her journey, despite how wonderful others see it, is one that she said is not complete. She is not compelled to pat herself on the back just yet.

"I'm a person that needs to get to the end before I can look back."

Meet Gina Goontz.

Call Mark Stevens at (330) 941-1811.

DIVERSITY, continued from page 1

accounts payable, said she was allowed to attend the 2003 breakfast but has not yet been told that she can attend this year's.

"My thing is isn't it the same as last year?" James asked. "What's the difference this year?"

In an e-mail message to Chatman, James wrote, "What kind of message is this sending to the campus community and the outside community who also attend this function about YSU's level of commitment to diversity?"

Chatman responded,

"Given the significance of this particular event, the university will allow release time for those staff members who want to attend and can be released from their offices to attend the breakfast."

Chatman said final decisions about whether employees can attend an event during office hours is up to managers of departments, and their operational requirements for the day of the event.

In her e-mail, James reminded Chatman that university employees are given time off to attend the universi-

ty's annual holiday breakfast. "So, in the spirit of diversity, can you tell me why this issue of attending the MLK event is a problem and the annual Christmas breakfast is not," she wrote.

In his response, Chatman said the university is a business with daily demands. "It's not practical from a business standpoint when there are people coming in who need services to not have enough employees," he said.

Call Elizabeth Tabak at (330) 941-3758.

FIND OUT HOW TO GIVE A 5,000 FOOT BOOST TO AN ENTRY-LEVEL JOB.

AN ARMY OF ONE

GOARMY.COM 1-800-USA-ARMY

For more information on the Army Reserve contact Sergeant Keith Rich at (330) 965-1125.

© 2001. For info on the United States Army, visit us online.

COOL JOBS

OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Sales Representative - Train in all aspects of sales and customer service. Work in an exciting and challenging industry. Must be a self-starter and possess good communication and organizational skills. Location: Youngstown, OH.

Customer Service - Handle customer issues, answer phones, and provide a high level of customer service. This position is part-time with flexible hours. Location: Boardman, OH.



CAREER SERVICES
Youngstown State University

Quality Assurance - Position is either full or part time with

20 hours minimum per week. This company is an aluminum extrusion manufacturing plant. Students majoring in engineering, math, or computer science will be accepted. This position starts at \$8.50 per hour. Location: Youngstown, OH.

Accounting Assistant - Position will be part-time to start and become full-time in March/April 2004. Will involve basic accounting responsibilities and managing Accounts Receivable with emphasis on collections. Location: Hermitage, PA.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Coordinator - Bachelor's degree and 3 years

For more information about the positions listed above, as well as hundreds of others! Contact Career Services, 1034 Jones Hall, 330-941-3515

<http://cc.yсу.edu/career-services>

related experience preferred. Exceptional candidate needed to plan, organize, and coordinate the volunteer program for a behavioral health company. Location: Kent, OH.

Clinician - Looking for people who have maintained their Master's Degree to be clinicians for behavioral specialists and mobile therapy. Location: New Castle, PA.

Regional Marketing Specialist - Must have a Bachelor's Degree in business with 2-4 years of professional experience in marketing. The primary functions of this position are to communicate marketing programs, including results to regional marketing teams. Location: Canton, OH.

Administrator for Academic Enrichment - Develops, coordinates, evaluates and administers services for pre-matriculation program, which retains medical students. Bachelor's

degree in education, counseling, social work or psychology required. Salary: \$37,000 - \$40,000 plus excellent benefits. Location: Athens, OH.

Claims Adjuster - August and December 2003 graduates need apply. You will be responsible for investigating losses and negotiating the settlement of insurance claims in a timely and efficient manner. Upon graduation from the company, you will be mentored and assisted by management to further your claims knowledge. Must be graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Business. Location: Cleveland, OH.

Classified

Stop Waiting
Morocco's Gelato! Italian Ice Cream & Caffe. Positions available. Seeking honest, dependable individuals for Counter/ Food Prep positions. Apply in person 8485 Market St. Boardman, Ohio.

Wanted
Water paid. \$475+elec. Great space & closets. (330) 759-8848

Liberty - 1 & 2 Good size Br & Livingroom's nice eat-in kitchen. A/C, carpet, gas heat & water paid \$385-\$455.00 + electric. (330)759-3871

Wanted: childcare assistant for 3 school-age boys. Hours are 2:30-6:30 pm 2-3 weekdays per week. Days will vary. Boardman area. Nonsmoker. Reliable vehicle. \$8.00 per hour to start. Call (330) 726-9355

Bar tender trainees needed - \$250 a day potential. Local positions. 1-800-293-3985 ext 228.

Bartenders wanted - all shifts. Must have outgoing personality and positive attitude. Will train. Apply at Buffalo Wild Wings in downtown Youngstown.

Spring Break

ACT NOW! Book 11 people, get 12th trip free. Group discounts for 6+. www.spring-breakdiscounts.com or 800-838-8202

Spring Break 2004 - Travel with STS, America's #1 Student Tour Operator to Jamaica, Cancun, Acapulco, Bahamas and Florida. Now hiring on-campus reps. Call for group discounts. Information/Reservations 1-800-648-4849 or www.ststravel.com

Utilities

ALL UTILITIES PAID! Very nice one-two, and three bedroom apartments on four bedroom home. Stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer, microwave and more! From \$295/person. (330)743-7368

There's only one question...Got Home? We do. Come home to University Housing. Visit Housing Services for more information. (330)941-3547

Apartment for Rent 1 block from YSU. 2 or 3 bedroom w/large kitchen. Appliances and Utilities included. Call (330) 720-0964

Very nice 1 or 2 bedroom apartments for Rent clean and quiet. \$200-\$250 plus utilities for more information call (330) 743-3887

Share a 2 BR for less than the price of a 1, Green Acres Dr., equipped kit, lg. Liv/Din. Rm's A/C, heat & water pd. \$475.00 (330) 759-8848

1 person or share in Oaktree Apts. 2 Good sizedBR & Liv Rm. equipped kit, carpet. Heat/Water paid \$445-\$455.00 + elec (330) 759-3871

Liberty 2 Bedroom 3 floor plans equipped kit, carpet, a/c 10 mins to YSU. Heat &

Cicero's Victoria's Vineyard & Spirits
4248 North River Rd
Warren Ohio
(330) 856-4144

Live Entertainment!
Free BAHAMA Vacation! WIN!

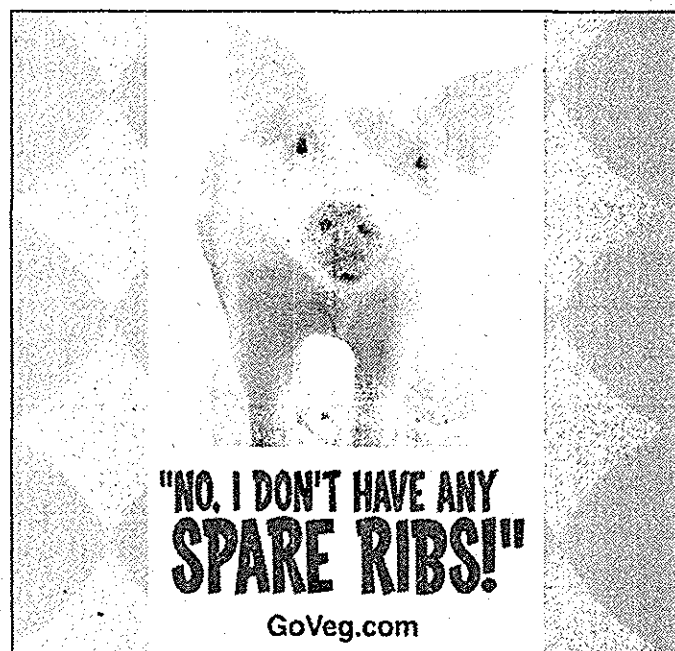
11-25 Tonight Garage-Ma-Hall Band
11-26 Wed: Gary Pirrung
Live Y103 Remote
11-28 Fri: Triple Play 6-9
Circus Dog 10-2
11/29 Sat: Karaoke 5-9
Earth Band 10-2
Rt 11 N to Rt 82 W to Rt 46 N Right turn 3 miles to N River Rd. Turn left. 1 Mile on left.

Advertise in
The Jambar!
Call
(330) 941-1990

Campus Calendar

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 ysucirclek@hotmail.com

YSUnity meets every Wednesday at 4 pm in Kilcawley. Contact Joel Masters omegaportent12@aol.com



FOURTH ANNUAL JABALI AFRICAN CULTURAL CELEBRATION

FRIDAY DECEMBER 12TH 2003
7:00 P.M. THE CHESTNUT ROOM, KILCAWLEY CENTER



Featuring

- Keynote Speaker: Dr. Debora Johnson-Ross Professor of Political Science and International Studies, McDaniel College, MD-"African Popular Culture in America"
- Special Guests: Top Kenyan Marathon Athletes
- African Dance and Musical Entertainment by the YSU African Students Association
- African Dinner and African Traditional and Popular Music

Dinner:

- Δ \$25.00 Adults /\$175 table of 8
- Δ \$10.00 Children and Students

Attire: Formal or Traditional African

Co-sponsored by WKBN TV-27 and Fox 17/62
For Reservations contact the Africana Studies Program at (330) 941-3097

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAIL EDITION



NOW MORE USEFUL THAN MILK CRATES!

www.thejambar.com

SPORTS & RECREATION

Sorting out the BCS, Britney and the Browns

Fat Head Says
 BY MARK STEVENS
 The Jambor

Thanks for coming. See you next year: This year's President's Cup — the annual golf match-play tournament between the United States and "the rest of the world" — ended in a 17-17 tie.

So basically what you're saying is that you played all of these matches, spent all of this money in travel fees, charged sponsors ridiculous amounts of money and spent a weekend on an exhibition with no winner?

Hundreds of years worth of advancements in technology, and we can't come up with something so that a sudden-death golf match doesn't have to end in a tie?

Oh, wait! I've got it!

Lights! On the course! Big ones! Shiny ones! Woo hoo!

I'm going to be a millionaire.

So you're saying I've had enough? If you can't taste the shot of Crown Royal at all, it's probably about high time you called it a night.

I guess all you've got to do is play long enough: Bruce Smith, who started playing defensive end for the Buffalo Bills right around the time Jesus was doing that whole fishes and loaves thing, tied the all-time sack record Sunday night.

I thought he was dead. I guess he's still got a hell of a bull rush for a cadaver.

I've got a gun. Hey. There's my foot: No team in any sport self-destructs the way the Cleveland Browns do. If the Browns played themselves, the game would end in a 0-0 tie.

Five turnovers? The absolute nothingness that was the Browns' redzone offense?

And yet fans will still gripe that Dennis Northcutt got into the endzone on the

fourth down play.

Pretty please. Cherry. On top: Word around the campfire is that Britney Spears turned down a seven-figure offer from Playboy to pose for the magazine.

Not enough money? In the words of the incomparable Luniz, "I got five on it."

Speaking of the sheer pointlessness of a tie: Bet you didn't know that the San Jose Earthquakes were lead to the Major League Soccer Championship over the Chicago Fire by Landon Donovan.

But you still don't care.

BCS math by Fat Head: Going into the last couple of weeks, it seems that USC and LSU are going to be the two main teams fighting to play Oklahoma in the national title game. Some experts are saying that LSU might slip by USC based on computer points and strength of schedule.

I think it's more random than that.

See, here's how it works. USC lost to Cal. Cal lost to

Oregon State. Oregon State lost to Fresno State. Fresno State lost to Hawaii. Hawaii lost to Tulsa. Tulsa lost to Arkansas. Arkansas lost to Florida.

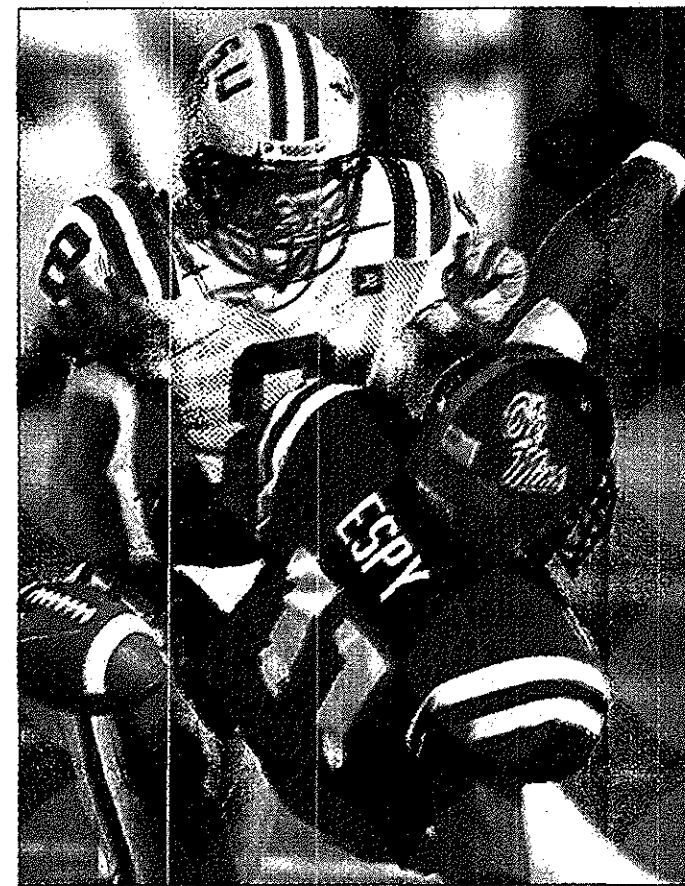
Florida lost to Miami. Miami lost to Virginia Tech. Virginia Tech lost to West Virginia. West Virginia lost to Cincinnati. Cincinnati lost to UAB. UAB lost to Troy State (What up B.J.?).

Troy State lost to North Texas. North Texas lost to Air Force. Air Force lost to San Diego State. San Diego State lost to BYU. BYU lost to Wyoming. Wyoming lost to Kansas. Kansas lost to Northwestern. Northwestern lost to Miami of Ohio. Miami of Ohio lost to Iowa. Iowa lost to Michigan State. Michigan State lost to Louisiana Tech.

And finally, Louisiana Tech lost to LSU. LSU's lone loss was to Florida, so that's cancelled out by Florida already being in the mix. So the Tigers end up on top.

See? It all makes sense.

Call Mark Stevens at (330) 941-1811.



KRTCampus.com

ROAR OF THE LION: Fat Head uses some tricky, tricky explanations to show why LSU will play for the national title.

Pardon "The Jambor" Interruption

GAME	MARK STEVENS "FAT HEAD" RECORD STRAIGHT UP: 39-28 AGAINST THE SPREAD: 28-29	B.J. LISKO "THE COMMISH" RECORD STRAIGHT UP: 45-22 AGAINST THE SPREAD: 30-27	MICHAEL BALALE "THE NOMAD" RECORD STRAIGHT UP: 39-28 AGAINST THE SPREAD: 21-36
MIAMI (-4) VS. PITTSBURGH	Neither of these teams is as good as they think they are. Miami lost to Tennessee and Pitt lost to Toledo. Any year that Miami falls to the Vols the way they did, you know something is wrong with them. Sure, the final score in that game was close, but at no time did it really seem that Miami was going to pull it out. So, since it seems like we're headed for a Pitt victory in this game, I guess I'll take Miami. Why not? It sounds like fun. Miami rolls in a blowout, 45-17.	Ever since Kellen Winslow lost his cool, Miami has looked awful. They only led Rutgers 6-3 in the third quarter this past Saturday and have had problems with almost every aspect of their game. Pittsburgh is pretty hard to predict in their own right considering they beat Virginia Tech, and then in turn lost to West Virginia. The Panthers nearly pulled off the major upset of Miami last year and I look for them to avenge the sour defeat this weekend. Panthers and Fitzgerald (who should get the Heisman but probably won't) beat up on the Hurricanes, 28-20.	Miami has to make some kind of statement this week, as the balance of their season rests on this last regular season game. Pitt is a quality school, with the best receiver in the country on their side. Unfortunately for the Panthers, the Canes possess too much firepower for them to handle and Miami will beat up on the sub-par Pitt defense. After all, Kellen Winslow is a soldier. Miami wins big 42-20.
ALABAMA (-3) VS. HAWAII	Timmy Chang made me quite the happy guy late Saturday night, so I'm going to roll with the Rainbows, um, I mean the Rainbow Warriors, or is it just the Warriors now? Hawaii has more names than John Cougar Mellencamp but they're tough to play on the islands. They always cover at home, and Alabama is bad. No, I mean they're really bad. Hawaii wins and wins big, 70-42.	Last year Hawaii turned the ball over about 600 times in a game they still almost won against the Crimson Tide. Alabama has been horrible and have had extreme trouble getting anything going offensively. While I think they will be able to score against the Rainbow Warrior defense, they won't be able to keep up with the high-powered passing attack of Timmy Chang. Hawaii wins at home like they always do, 35-21.	Alabama is overrated, Shula may lose his job at the end of the year, but the Rainbow Warriors aren't good. Fun to watch, absolutely, but for God's sake their defense is as disciplined as the ones in Nintendo's "Ten Yard Fight" game. Timmy Chang will light up the Hawaiian sky for 300 yards and a couple scores but 'Bama won't lose this one, they just don't have the defensive talent to stop even an average Crimson Tide team that has looked anything but impressive all season long. Alabama slams the door on Hawaii, beats them, and the spread. Alabama 46-35.
FLORIDA STATE (-1) VS. FLORIDA	If Craphonso Thorpe hadn't broke his leg, this game would be a walk for the Seminoles. As it is, Chris Rix will be without one of his favorite and most capable targets, and anyone who follows FSU football can tell you that the last thing Chris Rix needs is to be handicapped in a big game. Sometimes he plays like the second coming of Thad Busby, other times, he's actually good. Florida has been steadily improving all year, and they're tough to play in The Swamp. So, once again, since all signs are pointing to the Gators in this one, I'll pick FSU to blow them out. Noles roll, 48-24.	You know what's sick? Chris Rix will be back next year. It seems like he's been at Florida State for the last decade and it baffles me how one week he can look like a championship quarterback, and the next look like the third stringer at ITT Tech. Chris Leak has got things going down in The Swamp, and the Gators have looked pretty good. The outcome here all depends on which Chris Rix shows up. Sorry but I don't think ITT Tech can hang with Florida. Gators keep up their pace and win, 30-27.	Freshman sensation Chris Leak and his lately unstoppable Florida Gator offense play a pivotal home game against inner-state rival FSU. Chris Rix and the Seminole offense have looked good this season, but the late resurgence of Florida has me believing in the swamp this Saturday, and proving that youth doesn't mean inexperienced. The Gators have to win this one to prove they have what it takes to make it to the big bowl games. Gators all the way, but it will be close. Florida 24-21 OT.
PACKERS (-7.5) VS. LIONS	I don't get this whole "Detroit always plays good on Thanksgiving Day" reasoning that says this game will be close. Green Bay has a first-ballot Hall of Fame quarterback in Brett Favre, but he isn't even the biggest threat to the Lions in this one. Ahman Green, Najeh Davenport and Tony Fisher give the Packers the best running game in the NFL. Last week they rolled up 245 yards on San Fran. Just imagine what they're going to do against Detroit. Joey Harrington is still two years and a hell of a lot of surrounding talent away from pulling this one off. The Pack will roll, 35-10.	On turkey day in the NFL the Detroit Lions will be in competition as always, this year with the Green Bay Packers. Brett Favre hasn't been good on turf in his career but did pull off an impressive win at the Metrodome earlier this season so maybe he's shaken that stigma. Detroit has had its share of problems all year, but for whatever reason they always make it a game on turkey day. I think the Packers will prevail, but the Lions will cover. Green Bay by a field goal, 20-17.	Paying homage to a great American holiday, we here at PTJI thought it would be in good taste to give the Thanksgiving Day games a little attention. While Green Bay and Detroit solidify what a smash mouth old-school NFL game should be, Brett Favre shines in the limelight and can lead the Pack to victory without his right arm. Joey Harrington will one day be a great QB in the NFL, but on Thursday he'll be outshined by the "don't know when to call it quit" arm of Brett Favre and the God-like season Ahman Green is having won't hurt either. Green Bay wins this one but Detroit will make you stay glued to the TV. Green Bay 31-28.
COWBOYS (-3) VS. DOLPHINS	It just doesn't make sense to pick against the Cowboys. Their defense will stifle Ricky Williams, who is coming off of a short week of rest having just played a tough Sunday night game. Miami is going to start Jay Fiedler at quarterback in all probability, but not even the fact that he looks disturbingly like the bad guy from T2 will be able to help him pass against a staunch Dallas D. Dallas wins the antithesis of a shootout, 17-10.	Weeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee. What a craptacular crap fest we have here as the Dolphins play the Cowboys. La dee freakin' da. Both of these teams are nauseating and quite bipolar so I'll make this short. Expect lots of punts, very few touchdowns, and watch Dave Wannstedt get incredibly angry on the sideline. Cowboys win 13-9.	The Dallas Cowboys continue to win games nobody gives them a chance to win week after week, proving they do belong, as Parcells proves he is the best modern day coach in. They may win 10 games without a single great athlete, which further proves the Tuna's greatness. Oops, I forgot about Miami, well no I didn't, they're just not that good. Brian Griese is playing with no confidence and if you combine his skills with Fiedler's, you still don't have a great QB. They used to have a running back named Ricky, but he disappeared after week four. Miami's got no chance in this one, bet the car and the house on the Tuna and America's Team. Dallas 17-7.
A RIVALRY SO HEATED IT'S ALMOST NOT FIT FOR PRINT	Spent a little time over the Commish's pad this past weekend. Couple of surprising things were to be found in the home of the baldest antichrist. One, there is a cross hanging over his bathroom. A freakin' cross?!?! That's kind of like the Nomad not carrying moisturizer in his backpack. The second surprise was found in his CD collection. Forget the fact that he has every Motorhead album ever released. He has Kid Rock. Mr. NonConformity, I hate every single person who has anything to do with pop culture has the CD of the least talented "rock" star ever. Talk about staying true to your roots. Oh wait, that's right, he doesn't have roots left. Not on his head anyways. The Nomad won't be doing picks next week. He's got a court date. Something about legal age of consent or something.	On The Commish's expert advice, Fat Head doubled his winnings this past weekend by taking the Rainbow Warriors who spanked Army. He was in no shape to pick his own games after the 200 or so shots he did the night before. This weekend I impressed him with my expertise, as well as my Billy Ocean cassette. Unfortunately the sight of the cassette's red cover reminded him of his pizza and Crown Royal vomit puddle from the night before and he went into remission. He's been AWOL ever since. The Nomad's sense of picking games has been AWOL since the start of the year. He's an astounding 17-34 against the spread, which explains why he's taken a new job as head PR man for Old Navy. I saw him dancing around in some fancy boot cuts with that old decrepit lady in the glasses. You know the one I'm talking about, she's in all the Old Navy ads. Her and The Nomad have a thing I hear. I hope she's into boyfriends who spend more money on skin exfoliation products than their dates. Old ladies from Old Navy, mmm mmm goooooooooooooood.	I thought the funniest thing I'd see last Friday was Tracy Morgan live, but Fat Head's projectile vomiting made Reggie Reg play second fiddle to the impressive distance of my festively plump sidekick. When he told me he couldn't feel his lips, I didn't know if it was the Crown Royal, or the fact that The Commish bestowed upon him for roasting against the Buckeyes last weekend. The Commish has since forgiven the big guy and myself who bleeds Maize and Blue, although judging by his recent betting behavior, he should be more careful when he gambles because his record over the last two weeks is 2-63. He's losing more games than hair follicles and at this rate he'll be itching for a mullet by season's end. His Rainbow Warriors finally made it back to PTJI for one last time, and soon he'll have to shave his 3-foot long side burns to make up for the Mohawk that grows out like an unstoppable rebel force.