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SAME-SEX CASES HEAD TO SCOTUS

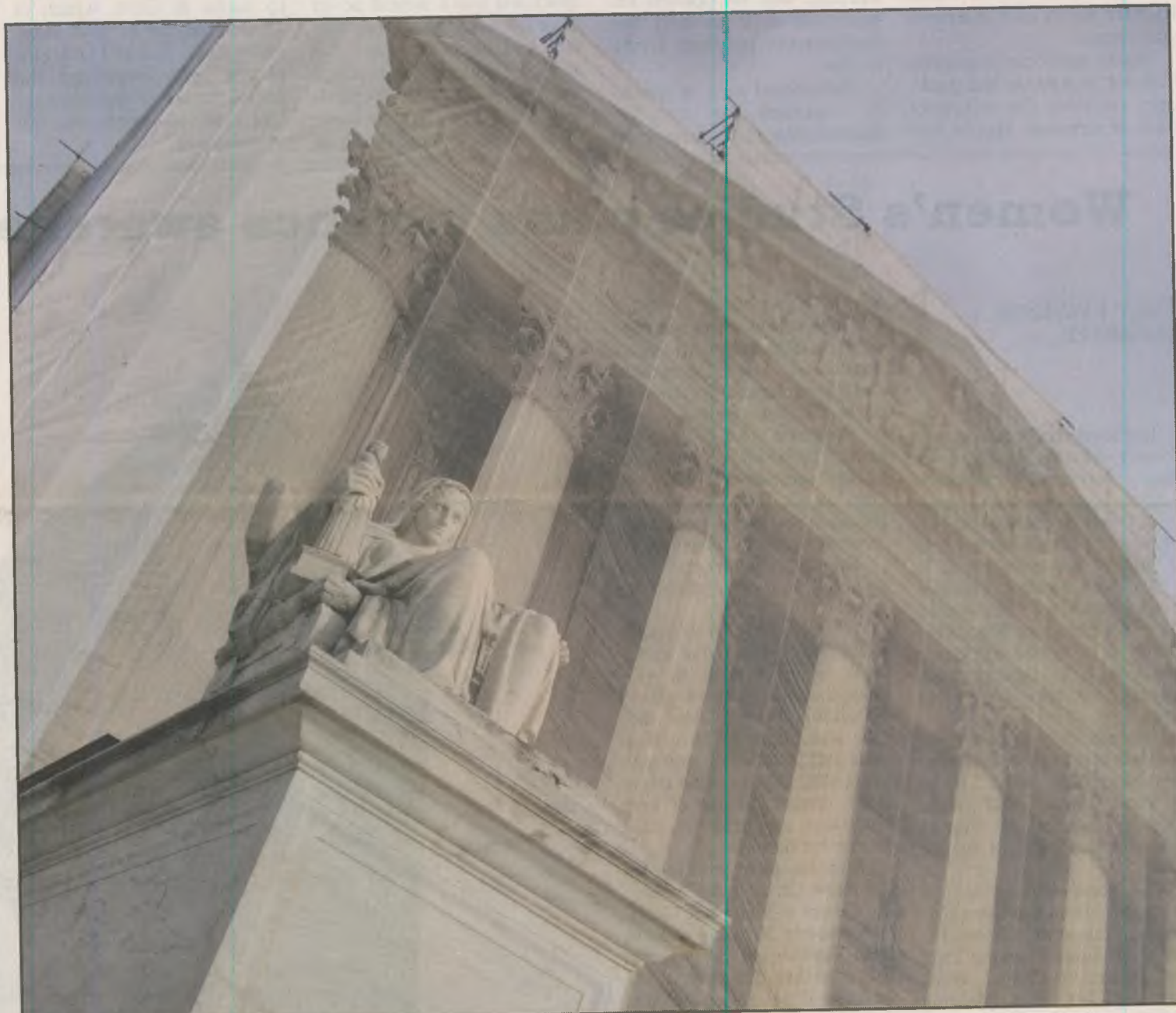
Jordan D. Uhl
MANAGING EDITOR

Next week, the United States Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in two landmark cases that will ultimately decide the fate of civil rights for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning community.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the high court will begin its initial assessment of California's Proposition 8 and the Federal Government's Defense of Marriage Act in *Hollingsworth v. Perry* and *United States v. Windsor*, respectively.

In *Hollingsworth*, the court will determine whether the 14th Amendment precludes states from defining marriage as between one man and one woman. In *Windsor*, attorneys will argue whether DOMA violates a same-sex couple's marriage under the 5th Amendment's equal protection clause.

Public approval of gay marriage has done a complete 180 since 2003, when only 37 percent of individuals supported it. Now, 58 percent of Americans polled by the Washington Post and ABC News support same-



SCOTUS PAGE 2

The U.S. Supreme Court will soon hear oral arguments in two landmark cases on the constitutionality of same-sex marriage. On Tuesday, the court will hear arguments regarding California's Proposition 8, while on Wednesday it will assess the Defense of Marriage Act. Photo by Jordan D. Uhl/The Jambar.

When the arts and business collide

Frank George
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

On April 12, Youngstown State University's chapter of the American Advertising Federation will join forces with graphic design students to compete in the 40th annual National Student Advertising Competition.

Working together for the first time, graphic design students and the Alpha Delta Sigma Advertising Club will propose an advertising campaign endorsing the competition's sponsor, Glidden Paint, and its availability at Walmart.

"What's exciting is that the infusion of the graphic design students will enhance the visual presentation of the advertising campaign," said Richard Helfrich, an assistant professor of graphic design.

Helfrich indicated that the marketing and the graphic design programs have already formed a healthy relationship. He expects that this new coalition will lead to success.

"I am fully confident that [the ADS Club] will place. They have a really well rounded program in marketing and advertising — same thing with [the graphic design program]. It's just a nice confluence of the two programs," Helfrich said. "I feel good about their chances."

Michael Pontikos, a marketing and advertising professor at YSU and adviser of the ADS Club, has worked in the advertising industry for over 16 years. Pontikos also has an interest in graphic design and has won national awards for

his creativity.

"The business and graphic design students need to do this more often. It's great to see the collaboration between these two fields that go hand in hand," Pontikos said. "With the addition of the graphic design students adding their talents to the mix, it only makes us stronger."

The team will present a notebook of research and surveys that explore Glidden Paint's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats in front of a panel of judges. The first-place team will move on to the national conference in June.

Melanie Arnold, a third-year student majoring in graphic and interactive design, describes graphic design as "art with a purpose." She looks forward to competing at NSAC and is striving to make the team's notebook aesthetically pleasing.

"I am more excited than nervous because it will be something that I can put on a resume. It's giving me experience with business people, like the business majors, that will be the professionals in two or three years," she said.

Victoria Baughman, a senior advertising and public relations major, serves as president of the ADS Club. Baughman said the collaboration will make the presentation stronger and that is a good way for the club to connect with another department.

"I think we will be successful. We have a great team, and we have worked really hard," she said.

Bowl a strike against cancer

Kacy Standohar
REPORTER

On Saturday, students from Youngstown State University's Biology Club will gather together to strike out cancer.

Bowl a Strike Against Cancer began in the mid 2000s and has been carried out ever since. Biology Club members said they hope they are able to raise enough money to benefit the American Cancer Society.

David Asch, Biology Club adviser, said students have run the entire event since Robert Leipheimer's lab group years ago.

Amanda Sacco, Biology Club president, said she and her peers have been planning the event since early January. "But it's on everyone's minds from the time the fall semester begins," Sacco said.

This academic year, the Biology Club raised \$500 for

the ACS through fundraising before the fall semester ended.

"I hope that after the event, we have raised at least \$1,500 to give to the ACS and hopefully to spread the word more about the event for next year," Sacco said.

Bowl a Strike Against Cancer will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at Camelot Lanes in Boardman. The cost is \$20 per person, or \$100 per team of six players.

Sacco said pizza and pop will be provided at each lane, and shoe rental is provided as well.

Sacco said eight teams have registered so far. In addition, a raffle will be held in Kilcawley Center on Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The raffle will continue on Saturday at the event.

Sacco said it wasn't created for any specific person.

"We don't do this to really honor a single person, but it's held in honor of anyone who has been affected by cancer," she said.

New details show Florida student was likely planning campus massacre

Orlando Sentinel
(MCT)

James Oliver Seevakumaran had about 1,000 rounds of ammunition, an assault rifle, a semi-automatic pistol and four homemade bombs when he threatened his roommate and killed himself in a dorm room Monday morning at the University of Central Florida.

He also had a check list of things to do that ended with these words: 'good luck + give them hell.'

As UCF police on Tuesday unveiled more details of Seevakumaran's behavior, it became clear that he was capable, and likely planning, a massacre on campus.

Seevakumaran had received two packages on March 12 that contained gun-related items and a training video on how to use a laser sight, UCF Police Chief Richard Beary said at a news conference.

Beary said Seevakumaran had not picked up the packages yet from the university mail department. But he had

apparently accomplished some of the items on his check list, including the pulling of a fire alarm.

Seevakumaran, 30, pulled the alarm in the Tower 1 student housing complex at about 12:20 a.m. — an action that prompted an evacuation of the buildings' 500 residents. Police think pulling the alarm was intended to draw students into the open, where they would be vulnerable to an attack.

But that was thwarted after one of his roommates called 911.

In an interview with the Orlando Sentinel, Arabo Babakhani, Seevakumaran's roommate since fall 2012, described a frightening scene in his third-floor dorm room that morning.

Babakhani, a 24-year-old engineering major, said he was in his bedroom in Apartment 308 when he heard the fire alarm go off. He assumed one of his roommates had burned something in the kitchen. But he opened his bedroom door to find Seevakumaran pointing a rifle at him.

Babakhani said he quickly slammed the door in Seevakumaran's face and

dialled 911. All the while, Babakhani said, Seevakumaran "didn't say a single word."

Then, Babakhani said, he heard "pops," which he assumes were gunshots. Police said Tuesday that only one shot was fired — when Seevakumaran put a bullet in his head.

Babakhani described Seevakumaran as "extremely solitary," avoiding human contact, particularly eye contact.

Seevakumaran's family released a statement Tuesday describing him as "a loner" who did not have a history of violence. The family did not want to comment further.

A former resident assistant who worked in Tower 1 and knew Seevakumaran expressed shock at what happened.

"James was a good person; I know that in my heart," Quan-Bao Blake Tran, who now lives in Pennsylvania, told the Sentinel.

"He was a bit socially awkward but I would never have guessed something like this and he never gave me any indication or reached out to me for help. Regardless, I'm sorry I wasn't there to do more, James, that you

were in so much pain that you thought hurting others or yourself would fill that hole in your heart. Rest in peace."

Beary said UCF is still trying to figure out a motive for Seevakumaran's planned attack. Investigators will be analyzing his computer for clues.

"Thus far, we have not uncovered anything that would give us the motive or a rationale," Beary said. "There is no manifesto, no documentation."

At the late afternoon news conference, Beary displayed the items found in the two packages that a university mail room had received for Seevakumaran. The packages contained two magazine clips, a gun sling and the training DVD.

Beary also showed a video of police searching Apartment 308 and finding Seevakumaran dead in his bedroom.

Seevakumaran had worked as a cashier at Kyoto Sushi & Grill, which is located at UCF, just steps away from Tower 1. An employee who answered the phone there said the manager had directed employees not to comment.

A business major, Seevakumaran had transferred to UCF in 2010 after attending Seminole State College for six years.

At the time of his death, Seevakumaran was in the process of being evicted from his dorm for non-payment.

Seevakumaran had had a few minor brushes with the law in recent years, including two traffic violations.

He also was cited for selling alcohol to a minor in 2004. He was working for a convenience store in Lake Mary when he sold a six-pack of Smirnoff Ice to a police decoy.

A Facebook page for "James Seeva" offers a peek into his personality. He liked a mix of musical artists — from Ke\$ha and Beethoven to Pink Floyd and Taio Cruz — and enjoyed movies such as "The Godfather" and "Avatar."

Among his favorite activities: finding inner peace.

He wrote that he wanted to be a millionaire by the time he was 30 and that he had discovered he was half Sri Lankan. He also included a quotation from Michelangelo: "Genius is eternal patience."

Women's Studies plans violence awareness event

Tyler Williams
REPORTER

In recognition of Women's History Month, Youngstown State University's women's studies department will present a panel discussion on Friday to raise campus awareness of violence toward women.

"Women Against Violence Everywhere" will be held in the Jones Room of Kilcawley Center at noon and will cover issues such as rape, trauma, domestic violence and verbal abuse.

"It's our duty to find ways to reach out to [women] who are struggling with some of these issues," said Diana Palardy, director of women studies and facilitator of the event.

The panel will be led by Lynn Bilal from the Rape Crisis and Counseling Center, Johanna Slivinske from the YSU Department of Social Work and PsyCare, and Malinda Gavins, program director of the Sojourner House Domestic Violence Services of Mahoning County.

During the panel, Gavins will discuss the warning signs of domestic violence, the resources available to those in abusive relationships and the options that women can take — such as making a "safety plan."

Palardy said that certain behaviors could create a culture in which verbal abuse and degradation of the opposite sex is considered more acceptable and that violence is a symptom of these cultural traits.

"You see a lot of misogynistic behavior," she said. "Like sometimes, you see clips on the Internet and people are acting very derogatory [toward women] in general."

Palardy encourages both men and women to attend the event.

"I think it's problematic when people think that to address issues related to violence that only women should be talking about it," she said.

"We should really have both men and [women] coming to events like this. ... Men might not be aware if some of their behaviors are kind of, like, borderline behaviors."

Bilal has been working for the Rape Crisis and Counseling Center in Mahoning County for nearly 20 years and has been director of the program for more than three years. She said she hopes this panel discussion will encourage rape victims to speak out and report that they've been sexually assaulted.

"It's still one of the most under-reported violent crimes, and I'm hoping that events like this that brings about awareness to let people know that you don't have to go through this process by yourself," she said.



ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF MCT.

YSU's chapter working to maintain success

Tyler Williams
REPORTER

Youngstown State University's chapter of Beta Alpha Psi is preparing for the Midwest Regional Meeting after being named a superior chapter for the ninth consecutive time last year.

The conference will take place April 5 and 6 in Chicago. It is one of eight regional conferences in the United States that will present a Best Practices competition during which chapters can showcase their ideas in front of BAP members and a panel of judges.

"The Midwest region is the largest region of Beta Alpha Psi in the world," said Raymond Shaffer, co-faculty adviser of Kappa Xi. "Usually only 15 to 20 schools present."

This year, the three categorical topics for 2013 region-

al meetings are inspiration, innovation and imagination. For its topic, innovation, Kappa Xi's presentation will focus on developing character strengths of individual BAP members to benefit the strength of the organization as a whole.

Jordan Moy, president of Kappa Xi, said that the honors society, an organization composed of 300 chapters, is a successful chapter for accounting and finance majors.

"We have a lot of opportunities for accounting and finance majors, and we're trying to get a lot of underclassmen more involved so that we can continue to be successful," she said.

Moy said it will be her first time participating at the conference, but there is a definite standard that they must uphold.

The Kappa Xi chapter of BAP has been awarded a superior rank since 2004. In 2011 and 2012, they were selected as one of 144 chapters deemed superior, along with Kent

State University, the University of Akron and Ohio State University.

"I look at the past nine years, and I think that it creates value for students that education alone is unable to provide, and it allows a student to establish a good solid foundation among the world's leading accountants," said Chad Mighell, vice president of Kappa Xi.

Hadassah Baum, BAP executive director, said Shaffer's leadership is essential to the group's success. Wayne Counts, co-faculty adviser of Kappa Xi, agreed.

"When you look at this, you have to give a lot of credit to Dr. Shaffer and his leadership, to making sure the students are aware ... when deadlines are coming up and things that need to be done," Counts said.

If Kappa Xi wins first place in the best practices competition at the Midwest Regional Meeting, the chapter will present its work at the national meeting.

sex marriage while 36 oppose it.

In Washington, D.C., the issues have split primarily on partisan lines, and throughout the past several months, elected leaders from the top down have been vocal over both sides of the issue. In May 2012, President Barack Obama — after years of "evolving" views — finally clearly articulated support for gay marriage.

The House of Representatives has a unified front of DOMA support, but Republican Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio caught nearly everyone off guard when he announced he supported same-sex marriage after learning his son was gay.

He denied party politics, but the passage votes for DOMA in 1996 illustrated how different public perception was then. For example, Rep. Jim Traficant of Ohio,

Rep. Chuck Schumer of New York and Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware all voted in favor of the legislation most, if not all, Democrats would vehemently oppose.

It passed easily in the House, 342-67 and eased its way through the Senate, passing 85-14.

There are many factors at play and certainly many outcomes, both inside the hallowed courtroom and along its marble facade.

Activists, such as the Human Rights Campaign, have coordinated events and nation-wide endeavors to express unified support over the issues.

And the Kansas-based religious group notorious for its homophobic and attention-grabbing protests, Westboro Baptist Church, has already posted a protest schedule on its website for next week's hearings.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Domestic violence discussion held in Kilcawley Center

On Friday, YSU's department of social work will participate in a discussion panel, "Women Against Violence Everywhere," from noon to 2 p.m. in the Jones Room of Kilcawley Center. Domestic violence professionals will hold the informative session as a part of Women's History Month. Topics will include domestic violence, rape, verbal abuse and recovering from trauma. Light refreshments will also be available for participants.

Williamson Hall wins gold certification

On Tuesday, Youngstown State University's Williamson Hall became the first YSU building to be awarded a gold certification in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design by the U.S. Green Building Council. A panel discussion, "Innovative Practices in Building and Furnishing a Green Building," followed the news conference. The building was designed by Strollo Architects in Youngstown in collaboration with Perkins & Will, an international architecture firm.

Art exhibition to be held at McDonough

Youngstown State University's McDonough Museum of Art will host its 77th Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition from March 29 to April 12. Opening night will include a free public reception and presentations starting at 6 p.m. The McDonough is located at 525 Wick Ave. in Youngstown. Museum hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 330-941-1400.

POLICE BRIEFS

Injured player taken to hospital

On Saturday, a YSU police officer was dispatched to the Watson and Tressel Training Site after being notified of an injured player. The player was found unconscious in the facility and was surrounded by fellow players. An ambulance arrived on the scene and took the player to St. Elizabeth Health Center.

Abandoned house broken into

On March 14, new damage to an abandoned house on Grant Street was discovered. An officer made contact with the station over the radio to report findings that indicated a possible intrusion. Damage of the property was photographed and documented.

Stop ... don't go

On March 14, a YSU police officer spotted a car as it went through a stop sign near Wick Avenue. The car made no attempt to stop and turned left onto Wick Avenue where it was stopped by the officer. An additional officer arrived on the scene, and the driver was issued a ticket.

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In split-second, roommate of armed loner dodged barrel of a gun

Stephen Hudak
ORLANDO SENTINEL
(MCT)

ORLANDO, Fla. — University of Central Florida sophomore Arabo Babakhani was playing guitar in his room when he heard the fire alarm.

Someone must have left something burning on the stove, thought Babakhani, known as "BK" to his friends.

But it wasn't smoke that BK saw at 12:20 a.m. Monday when he opened his bedroom door to look.

"I just see him standing in front of me with a gun," BK said of James Oliver Seevakumaran, the odd, quiet man who had been one of his three roommates since classes began in the fall.

"He instantly raised it on me."

Babakhani, 24, slammed the door of his room and called 911.

He wasn't certain if the long black gun was real or a toy.

"I'm not going to take any chances, I'm not going to wait to find out," said Babakhani, 24, who began studying aerospace engineering at UCF this year after 4 years in the U.S. Air Force, including a stint in Afghanistan.

Moments later, Seevakumaran was dead after shooting himself, and university police officers were on the scene unraveling what appears to be a heavily armed loner's plot to slaughter students in the Tower 1 apartments.

Babakhani, who spoke from a study room at the Kappa Sigma fraternity house where he is now staying, knew nothing of Seevakumaran before they began sharing university housing with two other men in August.

BK said he did not learn much more about Seevakumaran after seven months as his roommate.

"We all thought he was weird," BK said, referring to his two other roommates, one who was not home at the time of the incident and another who fled

the apartment. "He never said, 'Hello.' He'd only speak if he really has to."

Babakhani said Seevakumaran did not share his dreams or grievances, if he had any. He did not discuss firearms or recent mass killings at a theater in Colorado or Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut. He never had any visitors.

The 30-year-old Seevakumaran told BK he was 25.

"I don't even know if he owns a cellphone," Babakhani said. "I've never even heard him speak to anyone on a phone ... He never had any friends." He recalled that Seevakumaran stayed in the university apartment for Thanksgiving and cooked a turkey with dressing and trimmings just for himself.

They had no arguments or discussions.

"I would've preferred that he was more sociable but he was not (a problem)," Babakhani said. "I didn't have to tell him to shower. He took the trash out. He didn't give me a lot of problems. The worst thing he might do is not clean up the dishes."

Babakhani said Seevakumaran did not share with the roommates that the university was attempting to evict him for not paying room fees. But they suspected there was a problem. Seevakumaran's electronic key card did not open the door anymore.

Babakhani said his roommate never made eye contact — until he pointed the tactical rifle.

"It's not that he can't look you in the eye," he said, dismissing a suggestion that Seevakumaran may have had a medical condition. "It's that he won't look you in the eye. He looks away. He doesn't like engaging with people."

He thinks Seevakumaran did not carry out his plan because he had "a change of heart." Babakhani said he hasn't given much thought to what could have happened.

"You can 'What if' all day," he said. "I'm a college student. I don't have time for that." He then ended the interview and headed off to Calculus II.

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THE VAN ALLEN BELT EXPERIENCE

The Van Allen Belt will take the stage at the Lemon Grove on Friday. (From the left) Tom Altes, Tamar Kamin, Benjamin Ferris and Scott Taylor perform. Photo by Justin Carissimo/The Jambar.

Justin Carissimo
NEWS EDITOR

The Van Allen Belt will make its way back to downtown Youngstown amid a kaleidoscopic prism of lights and video images for a third performance at the Lemon Grove on Friday.

Group members are celebrating their first vinyl recording, "Songs," from their label, Nonstop Everything Records. Together, the four performed 75 shows in 2012, sharing the stage with Stereolab and Atlas Sound.

"We love Youngstown. The community at the Lemon Grove is so supportive, and every time we come back, it feels great," drummer Scott Taylor said. "It's a rare moment to find such great people, and we're collectors of strange artifacts."

Lead vocalist Tamar Kamin said the band came together "like a pinball machine," citing

the chain reaction that brought the musicians together.

While living in a seven-person house on the University of Pittsburgh's campus, Kamin and Taylor met Tom Altes and Benjamin Ferris.

"Tom [Altes] worked at a corner store on campus that we visited almost every day. We threw the best parties on campus, and with so many people living in the same place together, the place was quite the hub," Kamin said.

Altes and Kamin began performing together with a blues band and as a duo. In 2001, Ferris paid a visit to Kamin and Altes' place, where he asked Kamin to begin recording with him.

"I said 'yes.' After the cops got called, we decided to continue recording at his house," Kamin said.

The two began recording together, resulting in the Van Allen Belt's debut album, "Meal Ticket to Purgatory." The band's members shifted several times before arriving at its present lineup.

Group members decided to name the band after the three radiation belts surrounding Earth.

Kamin said she loves every show the band plays, but admitted that leading the Van Allen Belt's performances can be a tall order.

The members of the four-piece band wear many different hats. The final product results in otherworldly sets with live visuals, beats and, of course, instruments.

Ferris said the band's textured pop sound is "very eclectic, yet fairly consistent" and can be appreciated after multiple listenings.

"It's a melting pot of sorts. Everything we listen to ends up in the music at some point," Ferris said.

Ferris acts as the primary songwriter, keyboardist and producer. Ferris collaborates with Taylor, who controls the electronic elements, beats, visual and sound effects.

Altes slaps both the guitar and bass.

"He makes those sandwiches," Taylor said. "Kamin creates harmonies and works closely with Ferris in shaping the lyrical structure, and, actually, I think she makes the sandwiches."

Kamin said improvising away from her course hasn't always gone too well, but added that the only way to find yourself as a performer "is to stick it out, suck it up and continue to improve, unless you've got famous parents, of course."

"Our songs require me to be very strong, consistent and reliable. Those qualities are very important as a group member, I think," Kamin said. "For me, I love all the shows we play where people are into what we do. That's what performing live is all about."

The band's long-term goal is to take talents across the Atlantic to see friends and perform in Europe.

The Van Allen Belt's album is available for presale at Bandcamp.com. The album will ship beginning on Thursday.

Student goes bald for children's cancer

Marissa McIntyre
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

For some students at Youngstown State University, spring break was spent away from campus visiting friends and family.

Although it's not uncommon for students from overseas to stay on campus during spring break, Nasser Alshaheil did something that hit close to home.

On March 9, he took part in the Locks of Love Benefit where participants shave their head to make hairpieces for children and young adults battling cancer.

This wasn't without motivation.

As a young child in Saudi Arabia, he had to hear the words no one wants to hear: "You have early stages of leukemia."

He said it was caught early enough, and he was cured.

"I didn't feel a lot of pain. I had some, but not what a lot of people have to go through," Alshaheil said.

Today, he is a full-time junior at YSU, majoring in electrical engineering.

When he first arrived at YSU, he spoke very little English. Through making friends, his English has improved.

"Nasser is a good example of a student who is learning English seriously, and by doing that, he talks



Nasser Alshaheil took a day out of his spring break to donate his hair to Locks of Love, which will make a hairpiece for a child with cancer. He wants to help in any way he can and plans to volunteer in the future. Photos by Marissa McIntyre/The Jambar.

to everyone he can," said Lynn Greene, coordinator of the YSU English Language Institute.

Before shaving his head, he said he wasn't nervous at all.

"I've felt before what these kids feel now," Alshaheil said. "It's the least thing I can do because I feel bad for what's happened."

He said his teachers were impressed.

"The teachers and I were eating lunch together, and he came in and told us what he was going to do. We were blown away that he would do that," Greene said.

Alshaheil wasn't the only person in his family who has battled cancer. In some cases, his family members didn't win.

Before he left to come to the U.S. for college, he was leaving behind his 10-year-

old niece who was dying of cancer.

"I saw her before I came here, and she couldn't walk; she had no hair; had to use a wheelchair," Alshaheil said. "The doctor told us, 'I'll be honest; she's probably going to die.'"

His aunt and grandfather have also battled cancer.

Now that his head is a pound lighter, he said the first thing he noticed was his head

was a lot colder.

While he was shaving his head, he saw girls with hair hitting the small of their backs shaving their heads as well.

"It was awesome. They were there for the same reasons as me, and they just shaved their heads," Alshaheil said.

He said he plans to donate to cancer foundations and volunteer in the future.

Where's Atticus Finch when you need him?

Defense attorneys are often depicted as sleazy, money-hungry weasels, chasing ambulances and spewing falsehoods to squeeze every last cent out of their target on the other side of the courtroom.

But at some point, we wonder, do they ever encounter an internal moral struggle?

Many need to.

At his sentencing on Tuesday, the Chardon High School shooter wore a white T-shirt emblazoned with the word "killer," which had been scrawled in permanent marker. In an effort to gain even more attention, he flipped the bird and made coarse remarks to victim's families.

The lawyer did nothing.

While we understand and appreciate everyone's right to a fair and speedy trial, along with the government's responsibility to provide counsel to economically disadvantaged defendants, it'd be hard for us, if we were in his shoes, not to reach over and strangle the little prick.

We hope he was forced to exercise a great deal of self-restraint. Even a subtle headshake would have sufficed.

Just days after being handed a guilty verdict for rape, Ma'lik Richmond, one of the two Steubenville High School football players involved in the high-profile rape case, and his lawyer, Walter Madison, announced they plan to appeal his one-year sentence on the grounds that Richmond's brain is not fully developed.

All jock stereotypes aside, the state has already deemed 16-year-olds mentally apt to operate a vehicle; knowing that rape is flat out wrong is an easier idea to digest.

Madison, who has an office in Youngstown, boasts of his high-profile clients and the media coverage their cases have generated on his website.

Defense attorneys who use grandiose and diversionary tactics when representing the accused, rather than noble and sound strategies, tarnish the noble image of attorneys we pictured when reading "To Kill a Mockingbird."

Too often, Americans acknowledge the seedy and crooked in the profession while the straight and narrow go unnoticed.

Johnny Cochran is essentially a household name for his antics in OJ Simpson's murder trial. More people are familiar with "If it doesn't fit, you must acquit," than Thurgood Marshall's civil rights work before he became a Supreme Court justice.

As Jodi Arias' murder trial drudges on, and with the same-sex marriage cases headed to the Supreme Court next week, we have little faith in Americans. When all is said and done, it's more likely that people will know the name of Arias' defense attorneys, Kirk Nurmi and Jennifer Willmott, than the names of any of the seven attorneys arguing in either same-sex marriage case.

Help us, Atticus Finch. You're our only hope.

JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the first summer session. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. The first copy of The Jambar is free. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.

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The editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, the managing editor and the senior copy editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles. They draw on the opinions of the entire writing staff and do not reflect the opinions of any individual staff member. The Jambar's business manager and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

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The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com or by following the "Submit a Letter" link on thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 500 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer's city of residence for printing. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters will not be rejected based on the views expressed in them. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries and letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinion with facts from reliable sources or if the editorial staff decides that the subject has been sufficiently aired. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitting writer based on these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of YSU.



The views of this artist do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar.

They don't want to go back

Susan Reimer
THE BALTIMORE SUN
(MCT)

March is Women's History Month, but the headlines give us little to celebrate.

Women who dare to attend protests in Egypt are routinely beaten and subjected to brutal "virginity tests." Girls in Afghanistan are beaten or disfigured for attending school. Infant girls are poisoned or abandoned to die in India and China because they are a burden to the family. Honor killings, the forced marriage of young girls to older men, the rape of virgins in Africa because they do not carry the AIDS virus — the list of horrors goes on and on.

Indeed, as much of the developing world is shaken awake by democratic movements or plain old capitalism, the lives of women, made so clear to those of us in the West because of the globalization of news, seem to be trapped in amber.

Ritu Sharma chooses this moment to be most optimistic.

An Annapolis, Md., resident and the founder of Women Thrive Worldwide, Ms. Sharma is a first-generation American whose parents left India to begin a new life.

She never forgot the struggles that she witnessed and her family endured in Punjab, and for more than 20 years she has expressed her gratitude by trying to elevate the lives of women where they are most oppressed economically, educationally and spiritually.

The reason for her optimism, even as the Arab Spring has not bloomed for women? Time. And education.

"It is slow-moving, but it is a wave — and it is building," Ms. Sharma said.

"Twenty years ago, we didn't have laws in these countries against domestic violence, against rape. We have that now. There are very few countries where rape is legal and domestic violence is legal. We have now created a legal structure in these countries that has made the abuse of women unacceptable."

The goal of the next 20 years, she said, will be to have those laws enforced.

"The fundamentalist backlash against women's rights, against human rights, is real," granted Ms. Sharma. "It is happening. These people are loud, but they are few. And there is a more open generation coming up and taking those positions of leadership."

Ms. Sharma has made it her purpose to understand the lives of women in Third World or Arab countries. She has lived on a dollar a day in the poorest countries and then written about her experiences.

She takes away from all of this the grass-roots needs of women and girls — you learn how important shoes are when you live barefoot among these women. Back in the United States, she and members of her coalition groups lobby Congress and the State Department to target a portion the millions of dollars in foreign aid and disaster relief specifically to those needs. Her job is to make sure women are not forgotten when the money starts flowing.

It isn't as simple as a micro-loan here there for beading or basket-making. Women already bend under the burden of holding their families and their societies together. The idea that they must also be the economic engine is not always welcome, especially if it means driving the men further into the weeds of irrelevance.

Education — even the littlest bit of it — will change the future, she says.

"I feel optimistic because it is about the next generation. The girls who were 10 or 12 when the Taliban was driven out in Afghanistan lived for a decade without them."

"They may have only had a primary education, but they can read and write, and they have had access to knowledge, and they don't want to go back. They are going to fight hard not to go back."

And their male classmates understand that freedom for girls and women also means freedom for them, that the women's movement can include them and open up a culture that binds them, too.

"More girls than boys are going to universities in Latin America," she said. "And that gives me hope. You can't help but internalize equality and justice when you are exposed to higher education."

This generation — men and women under the age of 30 or 35 — isn't in power now. They aren't participating in constitutional conventions, and they aren't yet serving in government.

"But they will be 20 years from now," she said. "And that's why I have hope."

In a stinging post-mortem, GOP promises to change

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
(MCT)

After weeks of soul-searching following Mitt Romney's bitter loss to President Barack Obama in last fall's presidential election, Republicans say they are ready for change. In a surprisingly blunt document, the Republican National Committee released on Monday its post-mortem on the November election, which makes dozens of recommendations on how the party can improve its standing with voters.

The post-mortem is healthy. While the party has been successful in statehouses around the country, it has failed spectacularly in recent presidential elections — failing to win the popular vote in five of the last six. The country needs both political parties to be competitive on the national stage. That's good for American democracy.

But Republican leadership seems to believe that its recent difficulties in national politics is mostly about marketing. It's not. It's mostly about ideas. The party has been unbending on a range of issues. Is it any wonder that it has had a hard time wooing female voters with candidates such as Richard Mourdock or Todd Aiken? Or Latinos with candidates such as Romney who talk about self-deportation? It remains to be seen just how far the party is willing to move from entrenched positions.

The party report makes 219 recommendations including a \$10 million marketing campaign aimed at women, minorities and gay Ameri-

cans. The criticism is sometimes raw.

"There's no one reason we lost," GOP Chairman Reince Priebus said. "Our message was weak; our ground game was insufficient; we weren't inclusive; we were behind in both data and digital; and our primary and debate process needed improvement."

"The way we communicate our principles isn't resonating widely enough," he also said. "Focus groups described our party as 'narrow-minded,' 'out of touch' and 'stuffy old men.' The perception that we're the party of the rich continues to grow."

Those perceptions, by the way, are based on reality. After all, the party did nominate a multimillionaire who repeatedly reminded voters of his wealth and was fundamentally unable to connect with ordinary people.

In its report, the Republican National Committee formally endorsed immigration reform over the objections of some die-hards. That's the good news. "We must embrace and champion comprehensive immigration reform," the report said.

The report also calls for Republicans to go to communities "where Republicans do not normally go to listen and make our case. We need to campaign among Hispanic, black, Asian and gay Americans and demonstrate that we care about them, too."

But even such an obvious change in position as embracing immigration reform will be hard for some conservatives to accept. Priebus wouldn't say whether the party endorses a pathway to citizenship.

In a reference to immigration reform, conservative firebrand Ann Coulter told the Conservative Political Action Conference over the

weekend: "If amnesty goes through, America becomes California and no Republican will ever win another national election."

The report also calls on Republicans to "change our tone" on "certain social issues" to appeal to younger voters and gay Americans. But there are no recommendations for specific policies to do that. The continuing influence of the religious right within the party may make that a tall order, although certainly younger members of the party see the wisdom of backing away from such heavy-handed policies as the Defense of Marriage Act, which is now before the U.S. Supreme Court. And Ohio Sen. Rob Portman's announcement last week that he now supports gay marriage, a change in position that came after his son announced he was gay, may offer an opening.

The report also recommends cutting in half the number of candidate debates and shortening the primary season in 2016. Conventional wisdom holds that the long primary season left Romney wounded for the general election fight with Obama.

We have no idea if the broad majority of voters will buy what Priebus is selling, but we think the tough assessment is warranted. Republicans generally need to do more listening and be more willing to work with their opponents to find solutions.

As Priebus said: "This is an unprecedented thing, for a national party to put its cards on the table face up. Maybe a few pieces of china needed to be broken."

Maybe so. Maybe, in fact, a few more pieces need to be broken.

Renewed excitement Women's basketball hosts WNIT

Steve Wilaj
SPORTS EDITOR

When the women's basketball team officially saw its placement in the Women's National Invitational Tournament on Monday night, head coach Bob Boldon noticed a recently absent emotion in his team.

"I saw an excitement that I haven't seen in a while from them," he said.

Youngstown State University (22-9) will host Indiana State University at 7:05 p.m. Thursday at Beeghly Center. Because of their second-place regular season Horizon League finish, the Penguins were an automatic qualifier for the postseason tournament.

Still, that didn't deter the players' spirits over being selected.

"I think to actually see your name on the board and see the game is in Youngstown, Ohio, provided a little more excitement," Boldon said. "It kind of made the situation a little bit more real."

Following a 72-45 loss in the semifinals of the Horizon League Championship on Friday, it was no guarantee the automatic bid would ring true. Boldon said he needed to re-evaluate his team before accepting the invitation.

He did just that.

"It was probably the longest team meeting that we ever had," Boldon said. "We worked some things out and agreed that if we were going to play basketball, we were going to play it the way it was supposed to be played: with a lot of effort and a lot of energy."

Junior guard Liz Hornberger said the team is motivated by Friday's poor performance. She wasn't shy about discussing the team's lack of effort either at

Wednesday's press conference.

"That's the frustrating part about being on a team sometimes. ... You have to depend on others," she said. "I'm not saying I played a perfect game and I had the best attitude for that game either, but if there are two or three people that don't want to show up for that game, it goes down the tank. ... Sometimes that dependency can ruin someone else's hopes and dreams."

With that being said, Hornberger is "very happy" for a shot at redemption.

"I'm very relieved we got in, and I'm relieved for another chance," she said. "I hope that we don't take this one for granted like we did on Friday."

The Sycamores — from the Missouri Valley Conference — enter with a record of 18-12. They last played on Friday, losing to the University of Northern Iowa in the MVC quarterfinals. Anna Munn leads ISU with 14.7 points per game.

Boldon said he knows the Sycamores pose a tough challenge and are well tested from the "highly skilled" MVC.

"They have a shooter [Munn] who shoots it very well, and we're going to have trouble containing her," he said. "Then, they have a post player [Rachel Mahan], which is always a challenge when you play a team with a good post player."

YSU — with a 13-1 home record — should be helped by its familiar surroundings.

Boldon credited the athletic administration for its support in landing a home postseason game. Hornberger expressed

her gratitude as well.

"I was really happy. The first thing I saw was 'at Youngstown State,'" she said. "I'm very happy we get to play here at home."

Boldon said he is expecting another large crowd — similar to the 1,648 fans that were in attendance for the Penguins' last home game on March 13. It may mark the last Beeghly Center contest for Horizon League Player of the Year Brandi Brown, a senior forward averaging 20.5 points and 11.3 rebounds per game.

In a win-or-go-home scenario, Hornberger is focused on sending her teammate out the appropriate way — unlike the Horizon League tournament loss.

"I did not want to end like that, not just for me personally, but more for Brandi," she said. "She's done so much for this team, so much for this program. To come out and show no heart, and that's the way her career's going to end, is not fair for her."



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SPORTS BRIEFS

Brown earns postseason honor for HL tourney play

For her efforts in YSU's two Horizon League tournament games, Penguins senior forward Brandi Brown was named to the Horizon League's All-Tournament Team. In YSU's 69-62 victory over Cleveland State University, Brown had the highest scoring game of the tournament with 31 points and 13 rebounds. In the Penguins' loss to Loyola University Maryland, she totaled 11 points and 11 rebounds. Brown is the first YSU player to earn conference all-tournament team honors since Brienne Kenneally and Jen Lyden were on the Mid-Continent Conference All-Tournament Team in 2000.

YSU baseball overpowers Ohio Bobcats

Using an 11-run third inning, the YSU baseball team defeated Ohio University, 20-15, on Tuesday at Bob Wren Stadium. Trailing 6-2 after two innings, the Penguins used 14 batters and five hits in the third inning to score 11 runs and take a commanding 13-6 lead. Nick Dinello paced YSU with four hits. Neil Schroth and Josh White had three hits apiece, with Schroth racking up four RBIs. Marcus Heath had four RBIs as well, going 2-for-6 with a homerun. The Penguins were aided by five Ohio errors. Erik Okleson picked up his first win of the season in relief, pitching two innings while allowing three earned runs. With the victory, YSU improves to 5-17 on the season and will host its home opening series beginning on Friday at 3 p.m. against Chicago State University at Eastwood Field.

Penguins football begins spring season

Cory Bartek
SPORTS REPORTER

On Tuesday, the Youngstown State University football team held its first spring practice of the season at the Watson and Tressel Training Site.

Head football coach Eric Wolford addressed the media on Monday, excited about the chance to get back to work.

"It's rejuvenating to be around your players," he said.

Wolford said the team was just as anxious as he was about the beginning of spring practices.

"They're all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed," he said.

This season, YSU has 41 returning letter winners: 20 on offense, 19 on defense and two on special teams. Of those letter winners, there will be 14 returning starters: six on offense and seven on defense, while Nick Liste will return as the only starter on special teams.

Wolford and his staff have decided that a larger emphasis needs to be put on special teams.

"We need to get more competition, even during practice settings," Wolford said.

Although the Penguins were first in the conference on third down conversions at 51.9 percent, Wolford said there's always room for improvement.

While YSU had four turnovers in the red zone last year, the defense forced only four interceptions all season — a number that Wolford said must be increased.

"We ended up finishing 11th in the country statistically," he said. "Obviously, we were stout against the run; we need to get better at our pass defense."

Wolford said he believes his team has the potential to take the next step and make the postseason.

"We have the pieces in place," he said. "We need to get the experience."

Someone with experience, senior Kurt Hess, will be the starting quarterback come the first game of the season. However, Wolford acknowledged



Quarterback Kurt Hess and the YSU football team began spring practices on Tuesday. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

the importance of having a solid backup quarterback.

"The quarterback is a key player in your team's success — we'll go as [Hess] goes," Wolford said.

Wolford said he is moving players around between positions to try and give them a fit where they will be most beneficial to the team.

"I'm trying to figure out the best way to get the best 22 starters," he said. "Then, along with them, who are the next

10-12 guys that are going to be in, playing during the game?"

This offseason, the Penguins made changes to their coaching staff: Eric Gallon (running backs), Jamie Bryant (special teams coordinator/assistant linebackers), Kurt Beathard (wide receivers) and Mark Mangino (assistant head coach, tight ends). Wolford said he applauds them for not only bringing their knowledge of the game, but also being relatable to the players.

"We've got a strong staff," he said. "They're going to make a difference."

While it is obviously early in the season, Wolford and the team have their goals in place.

"We embrace the expectation of continuing to improve around here," Wolford said. "Our goal is just to improve every day. When we do things that we're capable of and make good decisions and take care of the football, we're a pretty good football team."

PENGUIN SPOTLIGHT



Blake Allen

Year: Senior
Height: 6'1"
Hometown: Tampa, Fla.
Position: Guard

In YSU's 99-87 victory against Oakland University on Tuesday, senior guard Blake Allen topped 1,000 points for his YSU career. Knocking down seven of 13 3-point attempts, Allen scored 27 points. He entered the game needing 22 points to surpass the mark. It took Allen three seasons at YSU to reach the feat; he transferred from Redland Community College in 2010. He averaged 7.1 points per game his sophomore season, 12.8 points his junior season and is averaging 12 points this season. In praise of Allen, head men's basketball coach Jerry Slocum said after Wednesday's game, "He's what's good in this business. He's a good player and a 3.9 GPA student. He's a good kid."