



ONLINE BLOG

This one time at band camp ...



ONLINE VIDEO

Sights and sounds of same-sex marriage

THE JAMBAR

THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1931

Thursday, April 4, 2013

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Football, prison and everything in between

Maurice Clarett motivates with the truth

Steve Wilaj
SPORTS EDITOR

On April 7, 2010, eight years after Maurice Clarett was on top of the college football world, the former Ohio State University star running back received a dose of freedom.

He was released from the Toledo Correctional Institution after serving three and a half years of his seven-and-a-half-year sentence.

Three years later, Clarett continues to obtain freedom, only in a different way. By telling his sensational life story to audiences all around the country, Clarett is freed by the truth.

"There are a lot of different problems that I had growing up. And when I was in prison, I was able to experience some rough stuff," Clarett said. "So, when I speak, I speak from a truthful place. I just try to be open and honest about things that happened in my life and tell it to the best of my ability."

Coming out of Warren G. Harding High School in 2001 and leading the Buckeyes to a 2002 Bowl Championship Series National Championship victory, it was supposed to be Clarett's football abilities that he talked about a decade later.

However, as Clarett admitted, his unstable background led him off the right track and into trouble.

"As a young guy coming up, I beat a young girl. I beat a cop, and I beat adults," he said. "You talk about how someone screwed you a few times

when you were young and didn't have the father figure around."

It's experiences like this — as well as many others, like a robbery conviction, an OSU scandal, money troubles and a well-publicized 2006 arrest — from which Clarett finds his motivation to help others.

"People come up and say, 'Hey, I was going through the same thing, and now I think I can get through it,' and things like that," he said. "I did a sharing of my story, and a woman came up to me bawling her eyes out. She's a hostess, 30 years old and addicted to drugs. The story of me not giving up on myself, I encouraged her to want to reach out and fix her problem."

It was during Clarett's time in prison when he realized he wanted to make a change. While imprisoned, he would write sporadically and post his thoughts to a blog through his girlfriend.

Shortly after he was released, he took these thoughts and applied them to motivational speaking.

"I went around and talked about my lack of character and lack of discipline and all the characteristics that people said about me," Clarett said. "You know, I don't speak in perfect sentences all the time. My grammar can be out of place. But I kind of just get in a room with people, take a breather and speak."

Nowadays, Clarett's idea has



Maurice Clarett gives a motivational lecture to youth at Victory Christian Center in Coitsville last spring. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

CLARETT PAGE 3

Behind the bars: a death row convict's side of the story

Taylor Phillips
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

On Wednesday, Youngstown State University students got to hear what life is like behind bars by a death row inmate.

For the past 20 years, Keith Lamar has been serving on death row at the Ohio State Penitentiary for a crime he says he did not commit.

In 1993, at the Southern Ohio Correctional facility in Lucasville, Lamar, also known as Bomani Shakur, had been serving a sentence for a 1989 murder conviction involving a robbery until a series of five riots broke out within the prison between April 11 and April 21. During these riots, nine prisoners and one guard were killed. The Lucasville riots were one of the largest in U.S. history.

Amy LaGorda, a YSU graduate student, said Lamar was accused of masterminding the riot with his group of prison inmates called "the death squad."

With Lamar's federal appeal approaching, LaGorda said it's important for his story to be told.

At the event, Lamar called in live from the state penitentiary to talk to YSU students about his side of the story relating to the prison riots.



Staughton Lynd, author of "Lucasville: The Untold Story of a Prison Uprising," presented his evidence that death row convict Keith Lamar is innocent. Photo by Taylor Phillips/The Jambar.

"We were asleep when it all happened, and we wanted to mind our own business," Lamar said. "For 7,330 days, I've been sitting in this cell for a crime I didn't commit."

Lamar also talked about how he originally was charged for murder when he was a drug dealer and was involved in a shootout.

"I came to the realization I lost my life, and I lost my way," Lamar said. "I was 19 years old when I went to prison, and I've been here since then."

Books and transcripts have also been published to help prove Lamar's innocence, one

being "Lucasville: The Untold Story of a Prison Uprising" by Staughton Lynd.

Staughton Lynd and his wife Alice, who are both lawyers, attended the event to testify about their conclusion that Lamar is innocent.

"Let the men tell their stories," Staughton Lynd said. "But when they tell their stories, members of the media need to be in attendance to hear the proof."

"There is no evidence linking any defendant to the murders," Alice Lynd said.

Lamar's oral argument will be this fall in Cincinnati.

Spreading Penguin joy at area high schools

Justin Carissimo
NEWS EDITOR

The Student Government Association at Youngstown State University has been visiting local high schools in an effort to promote the university.

SGA's University Affairs Committee decided to take on the project to show prospective students what YSU has to offer.

Sarah Perrine, vice president for university affairs, said members of SGA would visit high school classrooms or hang out with students during lunch periods to promote the university.

"The first school we went to was very brief. We didn't know what to expect," she said. "We asked where they applied and if YSU was on the list. We told them why YSU was the right choice for us."

University students have already paid visits to Austintown Fitch, Canfield, Lakeview, Lowellville and Boardman high schools. SGA members gave presentations that contained images of the YSU campus, ranging from campus buildings to the different food options.

Alyssa Olmi, SGA representative, said most high school students don't know what campus looks like and aren't aware what clubs and organizations are available to students. "We didn't go to shoot off numbers. We were there to show them YSU from a student's perspective," Olmi said.

Olmi said they focused on speaking to high school juniors because most seniors have already decided on their choice of college.

PENGUIN JOY PAGE 2

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Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The written exam will be on Saturday, April 13, 2013 at Choffin Career and Technical Center starting at 10:00 a.m.

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The YO* Magazine

The Yo* Magazine, a subdivision of The Jambar, welcomes your involvement — and involvement from all YSU students, faculty and staff.

A meeting to discuss this semester's issue of The Yo* Magazine will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, April 5, in the basement computer lab of Fedor Hall.

For more information, email yomagazineysu@gmail.com, or call 330-941-1991.

CLARETT PAGE 1

blossomed into a full-time practice. He speaks six or seven times a month and has talked to high school students, college students and professional sports teams.

In February, he made a return to his hometown and spoke at his former high school. Dante Capers, the principal of Warren G. Harding High School, said he felt Clarett "had a message about life choices and decision-making that was really relevant and necessary for our students to hear."

The 45-minute speech, which Capers described as "informal and conversational," started with a brief Q-and-A session between Capers and Clarett. Following that, Clarett delved into his life story and personal troubles. Finally, students had the chance to ask Clarett questions of their own.

"I thought it was pretty strong," Capers said. "Probably the best gauge of that are the students. We had some students that had some really powerful takeaways — just about consequences, actions and opportunity."

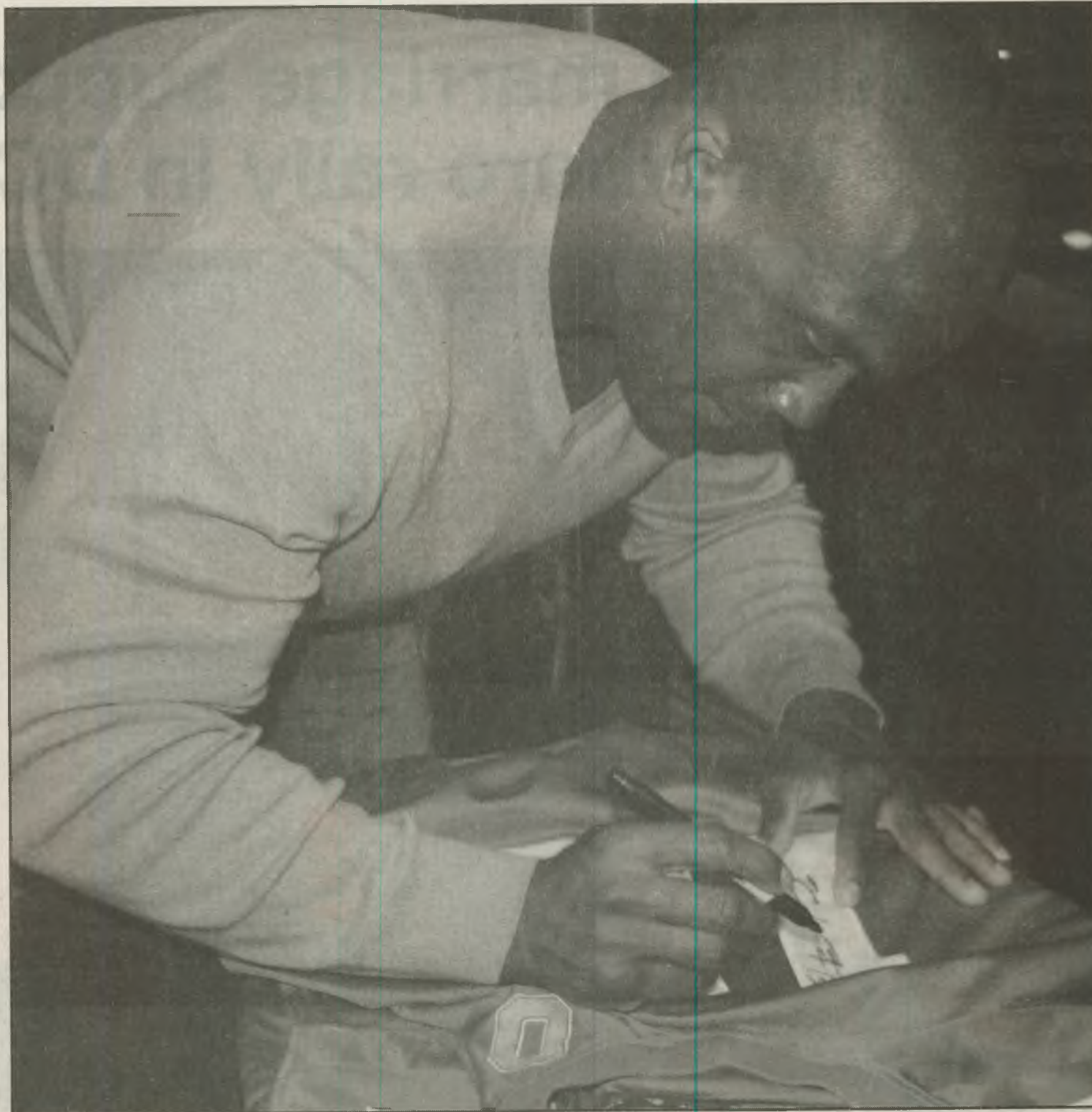
Speaking in the Youngstown-Warren area is something Clarett values. Knowing of the area's struggles, he makes it his obligation to help as many troubled youths as he can.

"You can't save everybody, but those kids that want to do something with themselves are special, and you have to make yourself available," he said. "When I was younger, I wish people had come back and helped show me some way to get out."

In association with the Comeback Project, Clarett will speak in the area on April 27. With a group that includes Jim Tressel, former Youngstown State University and OSU head football coach, and eight other former area football stars, the Comeback Project will stop at the Struthers Fieldhouse at Struthers High School at 1 p.m.

The Comeback Project's main goal is to positively influence the area's youths and raise money for local charities.

"Operating in the real world outside of the city limits, I real-



Maurice Clarett signs a jersey for a fan after giving a motivational lecture to youth at Victory Christian Center in Coitsville last spring. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

ize a lot of these kids don't get these things taught at home," Clarett said. "So, you create things like this to first of all connect with them; two, to build a relationship; and three, bring them over to better environments and safer campuses in the area. ... My way out was football, but a lot of these kids don't see ways of anything else. You have to have the heart to do it."

Recently, Clarett's efforts have received national recognition. ESPN is in the process of making a documentary for its critically acclaimed "30 for 30" series that will focus on his comeback. In fact, ESPN will shoot footage for the film during the Comeback Project presentation at the Struthers Fieldhouse.

Also, Clarett released his

personal memoir earlier in the year. He said "My Life, My Story, My Redemption" is a project he is "very proud of," adding that it "shows the educated side" of him.

"It just goes back to how I lived growing up, and it's interesting to see where I'm at now," Clarett said. "The material that's written, it's kind of cool to see the path it takes to

get your life on track."

Indeed, Clarett's life is on track. It's something he can finally say with sincerity and confidence.

"Speaking from my experiences, I think it's a testament to say that going through what I went through and going to prison and abusing my body, it's worth it," he said. "My life is worth it now."

Lending a helping hand

Drew Zuhosky
REPORTER

Laura Neff, a Youngstown State University student, was diagnosed with attention deficit disorder in the second grade and with hereditary spastic paraplegia just after high school.

Neff's disorders combine a learning disability with a degenerative muscle condition.

"Walking around on campus is definitely a workout for me," she said. "With leg braces, I still need to take my time and go at a pace that is comfortable for me."

An American FactFinder report in 2010 indicated that 16.6 percent of Americans aged 21 to 64 live with a disability. That's up 0.1 percent from a 2005 FactFinder report.

"ADD is having poor concentration skills," Neff said. "This limits me because I had trouble paying attention in school."

Neff is registered with the Center for Student Progress Disability Services, which allows her to take tests in a quiet environment and with more time to do so.

Neff is in the early stages of HSP, which will ultimately leave her in need of a cane, walker or wheelchair. Neff wears leg braces to classes to help combat leg weakness, but she said she tries to look on the bright side.

"It was explained to me that I will have a normal life expectancy and that it will never affect my brain function," she said.

YSU's CSP Disability Services provides support for Neff and other students who require assistance in their college careers.

Of the 750 students registered with the CSP Disability Services, 500 are active. One such student is Jake Myers, who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and HSP as a 1-year-old.

Myers takes it all in stride, even though portions of the campus are hard for him to navigate.

"There are some physical barriers on campus, like handicap switches that don't work and the fact that there is usually only one handicap entrance, and it is always on the far side of the building," he said. "You do what you got to do."

The CSP Disability Services pays students like Carly Ondash to take notes for others needing help.

"I want to be kind to everyone and treat them the way I want to be treated," she said.

"It is the golden rule, and it is a great way to live life."

Ondash says she views the opportunity of helping a handicapped student as an educational one.

"The best part of helping someone with a handicap is that I learn a lot about myself and the world," she said. "It teaches you to be understanding and see things from a different perspective."

Should the opportunity to help someone with a handicap arise in the future, Ondash would answer the call.

"I enjoy helping others," she said. "It is very fulfilling to give your time to someone who needs help. It makes a difference in someone's life; it makes a difference in the world. I believe it is important to have compassion for others. And we should care about each other."

Gina McGranahan, CSP Disability Services staff member, said she feels gratified to help those with handicaps, especially at one time every semester.

"I get my reward when the graduation list comes out and I get to see who is registered here and who graduated, and I know that hopefully we had some hand in them becoming successful in their years at YSU," she said.

Despite their handicaps, students like Neff try to make the most of their college experiences.

Neff is a member of the Color Guard on the YSU Marching Pride and remains determined all the way.

"I may have a physical handicap, but I don't let it stop me from doing the things I love," she said. "Words can't even explain what an amazing feeling it is to be out on the field performing in front of the crowd at Stambaugh Stadium."

Neff is double-majoring in special education and early childhood and has high aspirations.

"My main goal is to become a preschool or kindergarten teacher and work with special needs children or become an intervention specialist," she said.

Neff has advice for those in similar situations.

"Even if you have a handicap, don't let it or people hold you back and stop you from succeeding and doing what you love in life," she said. "Always strive for your dreams and don't let anything get in the way of making those dreams come true."

District history competition comes to YSU

Codie Talley
REPORTER

On Saturday, Youngstown State University will host the 38th annual Ohio District 4 National History Day.

Middle school and high school students from Ashtabula, Columbiana, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage and Trumbull counties will compete for prizes and scholarships — and the chance to advance within the competition.

Diane Barnes, a history professor at YSU and the History Day program coordinator, said National History Day is "probably the most important connection the history department makes with the community."

Judges for the competition include professional historians, teachers, public librarians, community members and Mahoning Valley Historical Society representatives.

In accordance with this year's theme, students based their projects on events that changed history. Students could choose from a variety of different mediums, like acting out skits, creating a website or writing a paper.

"It's cool for students to

make their own project," Barnes said. "They can do many different things."

National History Day began in Ohio in 1974 and is headquartered in College Park, Md. President Barack Obama awarded the program the National Humanities Medal in 2011.

More than half a million U.S. students participate in National History Day each year. The contest is open to traditional students as well as those who are home-schooled.

Aubrey Brown, a history department graduate student at YSU, said it is important for home-schooled students to compete at History Day.

"It gives them an opportunity to interact and compete with other students, which they do not normally get to do," she said.

Students who advance from the district competition will move on to the state contest, which will be held at Ohio State University in Columbus on April 27. The national contest will take place from June 9 through 13 at the University of Maryland.

For more information about Saturday's contest, call 330-941-3452.

PENGUIN JOY PAGE 1

"We gave students a visual of what its on campus. We want to help change the image of YSU," Olmi said. "All the schools have been very responsive."

Perrine said they sat down with students during lunch for five minutes at a time.

"The more we talked, the more they seemed interested. People were considering YSU and we didn't expect that," she said.

Both Olmi and Perrine said they weren't sure how successful promoting YSU at the high schools would be.

"I didn't think every school

was going to welcome us, but it turned out to be a pretty big project," Perrine said.

Olmi said she hopes they changed any negative perceptions of YSU and students will consider the university an option, despite being close to home.

"A lot of kids asked how the parties were at YSU. We chose to steer away from the party aspect," Olmi said.

Members of SGA will visit Struthers High School on May 17, Mineral Ridge High School on April 16 and Howland High School on April 18.

Traditional marriage supporters, Westboro rally in DC



(Above) A member of Westboro Baptist Church, left, and Queen Amor, right, illustrate the polarized ideologies that clashed outside the U.S. Supreme Court last week when the court heard oral arguments in two same-sex marriage cases. (Below) Amor pretends to perform oral sex with a crucifix on a Westboro member in front of the U.S. Capitol. Photos by Jordan D. Uhl/The Jambar.

Jordan D. Uhl
MANAGING EDITOR

The notion of separation of church and state ensures piety doesn't influence policy, yet the arguments against same-sex marriage outside the U.S. Supreme Court last week often ended up flush with religious overtones.

Several members of the Kansas-based Westboro Baptist Church arrived outside the court around 9:15 a.m. on March 26. They immediately began playing remakes of popular songs with their messages being used instead of the traditional lyrics.

The group has gained notoriety for its multicolored signs that read "God Hates Fags" and other anti-gay messages.

Rebecca Phelps-Davis said it was absolutely necessary they were there while the court heard oral arguments in *Hollingsworth v. Perry* and *United States v. Windsor*, California's Proposition 8 and the Defense of Marriage Act cases, respectively.

"If the Supreme Court does what it most definitely will do, ... the destruction of this nation is imminent," Phelps-Davis said. "It will be destroyed, as it was in the days of Noah."

She said that this time, God would use a different technique.

"Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed by fire as a foretaste of what is coming to this nation when it's destroyed by fire," Phelps-Davis said.

Throughout the hour and a half that Westboro was in front of the court, some pro-same-sex marriage supporters hurled insults at them, usually geared toward their signs, although one yelled, "Jesus was a f---t."

Phelps-Davis said she was used to the treatment and wasn't worried.

"We go with our God before us and behind us," she said. "There's no reason to be scared. We are doing what the Lord, our God, has put in our hearts to do, and that's deliver this word, what he has given us from his word to this nation."

Other protesters gathered for a large rally on the National Mall. A stage was erected between Capitol Hill and the Washington Monument, and a couple of thousand people expressed support for traditional marriage.

Robert Stone drove through the night with his wife and three children, from Missouri to Washington, to participate in the rally. He held a tall sign that read,

"1M + 1W makes sense biologically, philosophically, theologically, historically, economically."

When Prop 8 was passed in 2008, Stone resided in California, which gave him extra incentive to come to Washington and picket.

"We would like to see the will of the people stand and the Supreme Court not overturn the definition of marriage," Stone said. "I don't believe that five people in the Supreme Court have the right to overturn the will of the people."

Polling data from various groups has indicated a growing level of acceptance for same-sex couples among Americans, but Stone pointed out how sometimes polls can be wrong.

"The polls before North Carolina's vote on the definition of marriage, before California's vote ... were all the other side is going to win," Stone said.

Both states have prohibited same-sex marriage through ballot initiatives.

Once the attendees were let out of the court at around noon, the crowd of roughly 1,000 began to dissipate. By 2 p.m., only a handful of supporters, several members of the media and the line-standers for the DOMA case the following day remained.



Colorful crowd supports same-sex marriage

Jordan D. Uhl
MANAGING EDITOR

Dressed in a pink fishnet top, pink high heels, purple glittery lipstick, red plastic devil horns, purple cat-eye sunglasses and a rainbow tutu, 24-year-old drag queen Qween Amor pranced around the sidewalk in front of the U.S. Supreme Court to Lady Gaga's "Born this Way" on March 26.

She carried around a portable amp, danced to popular music and, at one point, grinded on a member of the Westboro Baptist Church.

"Westboro sucks," she said with a laugh. "I feel like I have to love them ... but I don't agree with anything they're saying, and I'm going to dance on their altar one day."

Her method of protest stood out among the typical sign-holders, and it garnered the attention of many.

"I see it in people's faces, and I

see it in their eyes, and I know they get it," she said. "It's freedom, it's liberation, it's love."

Amor, along with several thousand other same-sex marriage supporters, gathered outside the Court for California's Proposition 8 and Defense of Marriage Act cases, *Hollingsworth v. Perry* and *United States v. Windsor*, respectively.

"I'm here to support marriage equality and for gays to be free," Amor said.

Most people outside the court were in favor of same-sex marriage, and frequent chants regarding equality erupted throughout the morning.

Stuart Gaffney and John Lewis, a legally married couple from California, wore matching black tuxedos with light blue bowties and held matching signs — pink hearts on paint stirrers.

"We are here because we wouldn't want to be anywhere else in the world," Gaffney said. "It seems

there's no question where history is going on this issue, and now we just need the justices to decide if they want to stand on the right side of history. These are going to be landmark cases."

Gaffney was astounded with how supportive people were that morning.

"The wonderful thing is that we have thousands of people in front of the court supporting the freedom to marry and really just a handful of protesters, and I think the reason for that is clear," Gaffney said.

Westboro Baptist Church, the anti-same-sex marriage group from Kansas, was a few hundred feet away from the couple with signs berating homophobic epithets.

"I didn't even see them, and today is about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. It's about our love, our dignity and our equality under the laws of this nation," Lewis said.

Westboro members claimed that

God will destroy the country if the court rules in favor of same-sex marriage.

Gaffney disagreed.

"We see now that we have marriage equality in nine states plus the District of Columbia. It's resulted in more love and more marriage, and the sky hasn't fallen. It doesn't take anything away from anyone else," he said. "Our wedding day was the most joyous day of our lives together, but it had absolutely no effect on anyone else."

With polling data favoring same-sex couples on an upward trajectory, Lewis and Gaffney were optimistic the court would rule in favor of same-sex couples in both cases.

"That's why you have same-sex couples and their family and friends and supporters here showing up, because they want the freedom to marry for their happily ever after. We want to be able to say, 'I do,' just like everyone else," Gaffney said.

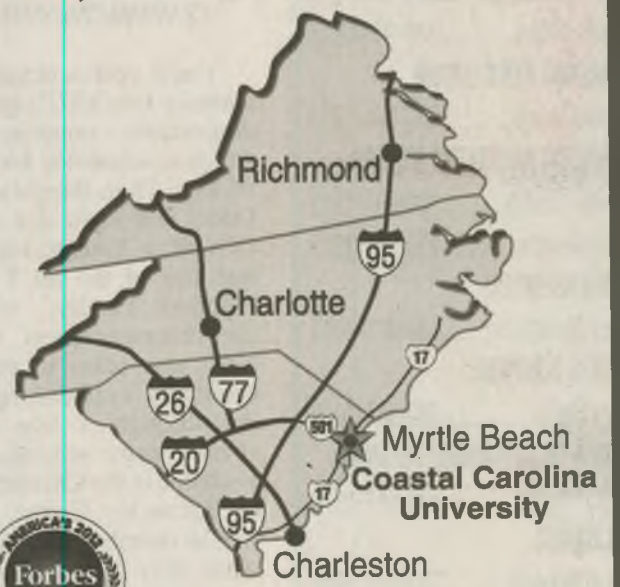


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NEWS BRIEFS

Dana to present two concerts on Monday

At 8 p.m. Monday, YSU's Dana School of Music will present its Spring Choral Concert, "Humanity and Deity in Choral Music," in St. Columba Cathedral. The concert will feature the YSU Dana Chorale, University Chorus and the Symphonic Choir, while the program will be accompanied by a select chamber orchestra, brass quartet and organ, along with several vocal soloists. In addition, the YSU Jazz Studies Program will present a concert by Jazz Ensemble 1 in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room at 8 p.m. It will be a celebration of the first recording by the Youngstown Jazz Collective, a nonprofit student organization at YSU that is dedicated to advancing jazz and new music in the greater Youngstown area. Both concerts are free and open to the public. For more information, call 330-941-3636.

Tickets required for undergrad commencement

You'll need a ticket to gain entrance into YSU's spring undergraduate commencement, which is scheduled for 10 a.m. on May 18 in Beeghly Center. Doors will open at 8 a.m. Ed O'Neill, a Youngstown native and star of the hit TV show "Modern Family," will give the commencement address. YSU also plans to make the ceremony available for viewing through a live Internet stream; extra seating will be available in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center. Tickets will be distributed to graduates when they pick up their caps and gowns on May 6, 7 and 8. Although there will be a limit of six tickets per graduate, any remaining tickets will be distributed to graduates from 2 to 5 p.m. on May 13. Tickets are no required for the graduate ceremony, which will begin at 2:30 p.m. on May 18. For more information, visit <http://web.yzu.edu/commencement>.

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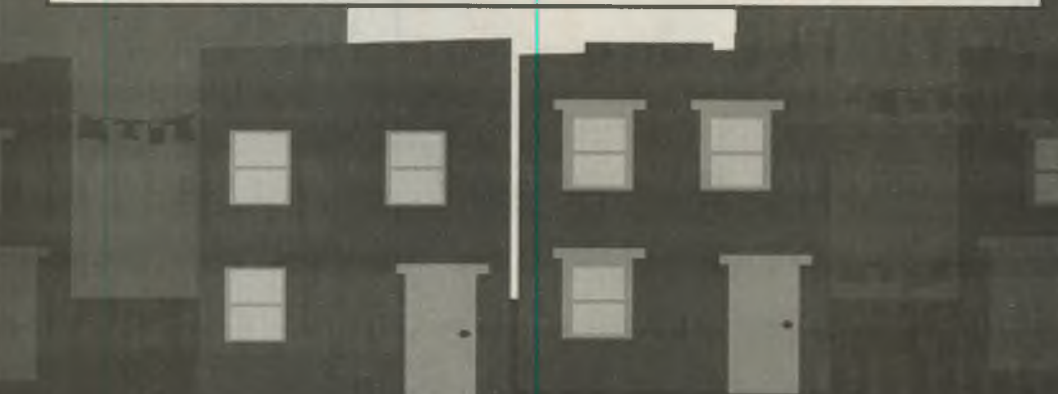
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NEWS BRIEFS

Humanities prof to lecture on Arab Spring

Tamara Sonn, a professor at the College of William and Mary, will present "Islam, Democracy and the Arab Spring" as part of the 2012-2013 Dr. Thomas and Albert Shipka Speaker Series at 12:30 p.m. Thursday. The free lecture will be held in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center, and a reception in the Ohio Room will follow the presentation. It is open to the public, and classes are welcome. For more information, call the YSU Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at 330-941-3448.

Biology Day includes keynote speaker, student work

YSU's seventh annual Biology Day on April 11 will feature a noted dentist missionary as the keynote speaker and the research of the university's biology students. Student research will be on display from 8:30 a.m. to noon on the third floor of Ward Beecher Hall, while YSU alumna Lisa Alvetro will give the Carl Sims Memorial Lecture, "YSU: Your Step Up," at 12:15 p.m. in Room 3022 of Ward Beecher Hall. Alvetro is an orthodontist and founder of Smiles of Hope, a nonprofit organization that organizes mission trips to provide dental care in Africa.

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Letter to the Editor

The map you draw is the life you lead



Hey Marseilles performed at The Hub in Kilcawley on Tuesday. Their new album, "Lines We Trace," was released this year. Photos by Marissa McIntyre/The Jambar.

Marissa McIntyre
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

Matt Bishop spent Tuesday afternoon as he usually does. He was cramped in a van for hours at a time with his friends, getting to stretch his legs only during oil changes and routine trips to gas stations.

During the oil change on Tuesday, he had one thing on his mind, and that was the show he'd be performing at Youngstown State University later that night. He wasn't sure exactly where he was; he just knew he was in the general vicinity of Pittsburgh.

"It's been going well. The last couple of weeks, we've played a lot of towns we hadn't played before," Bishop said.

Bishop is the lead singer for the orchestral rock band Hey Marseilles.

The Seattle six-piece is taking a break from a tour where crowds knew their names and music, and are playing instead for audience members who probably haven't heard of them.

"It's a different market of listeners," Bishop said. "Playing college crowds allows us to play for people who will hopefully maintain a relationship with the band."

Hey Marseilles has played college shows before, but this was the band's first visit to YSU.

"We're still a small band and unknown to a lot of people, so it's always a good opportunity to play for a new crowd," Bishop said.

As he'd hoped, The Hub in Kilcawley Center housed new fans on Tuesday.

YSU roommates Celeste Marshall and Claudia Gage hadn't known of the band before seeing promotional material for the performance around campus. Gage looked up their music on Facebook and said she wanted to check out the live performance.

"I went online and started listening to their music, and I really liked them," Gage said.

"I was like, 'Claudia, who are these hipsters you're listening to?'" Marshall said.

Gage and Marshall said they were attracted to their upbeat yet mellow sound.

They were not disappointed in the performance.

"I was really impressed with their musicianship," Marshall said.

"Yeah, I liked the different instruments they used. It's not the typical guitar, drums and bass," Gage said.

Hey Marseilles had the bases covered to produce a variety of sounds on stage. They incorporate guitar, drums, bass, accordion, keyboard, electric cello, violin, trumpet, clarinet and auxiliary percussion.

Having to balance the heavy sound of the drums with the light sound of the clarinet and other instrument mixes is one challenge the band has during sound check.

Bishop said they've gotten used to the process.

"We do have that challenge in our instrumentation," Bishop said. "We've spent a decent amount of time to make it work. We've used a variety of setups, and it really depends on the sound systems. But we've got it figured out."

Their routine worked well for them, as the balanced

sound allowed for audience members to see the different instruments being incorporated and hear them as well.

For YSU junior Jocques Spragling, this was one of his favorite parts of the show.

"When there's more people on stage, you have more to look at," Spragling said. "I had never heard of them before. I wish I had, though."

Bishop said he and the band take pride in their sound.

"The process of creating takes a decent investment in song writing," Bishop said. "When you hear our songs, it's really our product."

The band incorporates samples of jazz, waltz and lullaby-style music into their orchestral pop sound.

Violinist Jacob Anderson, cellist Sam Anderson, guitarist Nick Ward, keyboardist Philip Kobernik and drummer Colin Richey all waltz with their instruments on stage.

After the show, the band took time to sign autographs and talk to students who approached them.

Graduate student Heidi Summerlin talked to Bishop after the show, and said she thought they were great.

"It's always good to hear someone you don't know about," Summerlin said. "I liked them a lot. They're great."

After meeting fans and packing up, it's back to the van for Hey Marseilles. Their journey is taking them to Chicago to continue their tour.

They said they are also looking forward to playing Lollapalooza in the summer and hope to return to the area soon.

Igniting the creative flame

Taylor Phillips
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
REPORTER

Youngstown State University's art department and the Beecher Center for Art and Technology held a contemporary art lecture at the McDonough Museum of Art on Wednesday, with three more to follow throughout April.

A pop-up bookstore filled with independent and underground authors was the subject of the first lecture.

Dana Sperry, coordinator and art professor at YSU, said the lectures will help students beef up their resumes and help them stand out when applying for jobs.

"We want students to think about broadening their horizons when it comes to their careers," he said. "There are so many possibilities out there, and

we want them to find what they want, even if it is of their own practice."

Wednesday's lecture and exhibition featured artist Jodi Morrison and a brief overview of her piece, "Fleeting Pages." Morrison transformed an old Borders into a pop-up bookstore, which featured books by local artists and independent authors in Pittsburgh.

Morrison said she wanted her piece to be shocking.

"I had a 'build-it-and-they-will-come' attitude when thinking of the idea, and people came in from everywhere," she said.

Morrison also said she brought many unique aspects to her store, including a life-size calendar filled with fliers from events. Once the events were over, Morrison would take pictures at the events and then replace the fliers with photos.

Along with "Fleeting Pages," Mor-

risson has also had other pop-up projects for various fashion designers in Brooklyn.

Besides Morrison's work, McDonough will also be bringing other contemporary artists such as Hrafnhildur Arnardottir (aka "Shopp") and Jason Martin whose unique work includes visuals of the different types of species that reside in his dreams.

Leslie Brothers, director of McDonough, said the lecture is a good opportunity for art students at YSU.

"It is important to bring in visiting artists and other art professionals because just as with any discipline, exposing students to ideas and new ways of thinking," Brothers said. "Ideally, these talks would attract students from all over campus in addition to those taking classes in the department of art."

Brothers added that the speakers address more than the act of art-making,

as their work often comments on economics, sociology, the environment, identity and politics.

Junior art major KJ Davis said she looks forward to the remaining lectures because she missed Wednesday's event with Jodi Morrison.

"I feel that it's an honor for aspiring artists to interact with various artists from around the globe," Davis said. "It really gives us a one-on-one chance to discuss goals and truly a chance to take a step in the mind of an artist."

Davis also said the lectures are helpful because it shows students an idea of how hard they truly have to work to become a professional.

For a complete schedule of the lectures and their brief descriptions, visit <http://mcdonoughmuseum.yosu.edu> or call 330-941-3627.

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Crushes, confessions and cowards

The anonymity of the Internet is turning our generation into cowards. Social skills experience attrition with every new gadget or technology. Now, we're bombarded with ads for eHarmony and Christian Mingle. Hell, even rednecks have their own site. Have you checked out Farmers Only yet?

Society's inability to express feelings for someone else has now corrupted Twitter.

Admittedly, we too are caught up in the YSU Crushes and YSU Confessions craze along with everyone else on campus.

But as we watch, we grow more disgusted every day.

The increasingly vile posts that pop up on those Twitter pages are fueled by a lack of accountability.

If you have feelings for someone, just tell them. While the secret admirer factor is darling, we're all adults here. We've all left high school behind.

However, the accounts have been used to denigrate others. Only enormous cowards anonymously post defamatory or intentionally vilifying comments about someone else. Garbage like this is borderline bullying.

Does it make you feel big and tough to anonymously post hurtful and degrading messages? Because it just makes you look insecure.

If you really believe those things, then get a spine and exercise your rights in the open.

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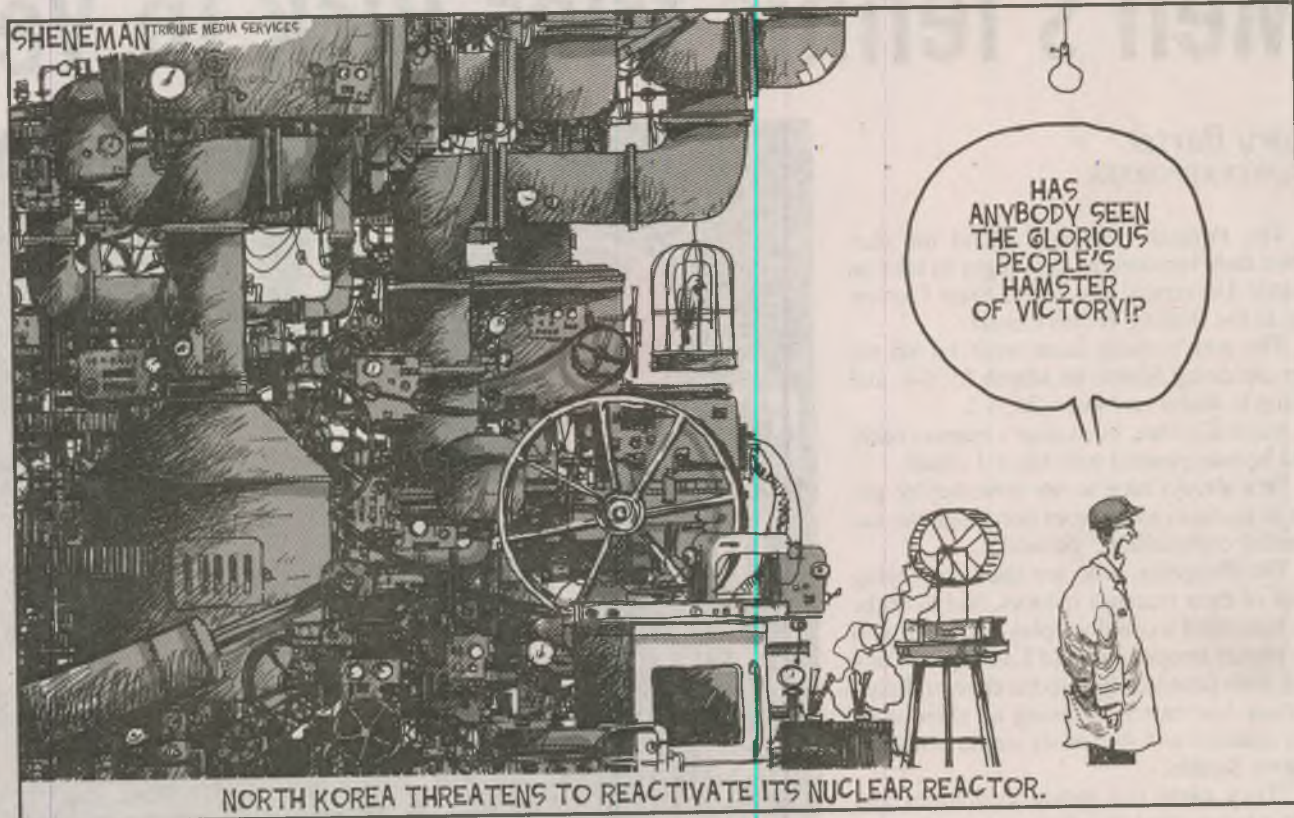
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The views of this artist do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar.

Social media and pets



David Roberts
COLUMNIST

Pets have been providing humans with entertainment for years — well before the dawn of the Internet.

I'm not sure if anyone ever thought there was a way to make pets any more adorable or funny than they already are, but the Internet has seemingly done the impossible. As if pets were not already entertaining enough, society has found a way to help these lovable critters become stars on a global level.

I have never owned a pet, but there is no denying that pets are an absolute delight to have in your life. Even if they cannot technically talk to us, we seem to communicate just fine and have many a good laugh with them, just like a good friend. I can honestly say that, in almost every case, I've never had a bad experience with one. In fact, there was a time when I visited a friend's place for the first time, and his cat figured that my lap was the perfect place to take a nap. Let me tell you: I always thought people reacted badly

to being woken up when they're not ready; well, cats don't take too kindly to wake-up calls either!

Animals have found a way to bring a whole new level of entertainment to everybody through social media. The first I really saw of this phenomenon dates back to a few years ago, when an adorable teacup pig was introduced in an episode of the sitcom "How I Met Your Mother." Beforehand, I think only a handful of people even knew what a teacup pig was, but afterward, the little cute critter was all over the Internet.

Little did I know that the phenomenon of critters getting into the Internet realm was happening at a far greater scale than I thought. After a quick look online, animals abound. In fact, YSU has its very own animal celebrity.

YSU's campus is home to dozens of cute critters including birds, squirrels and chipmunks. The place is alive with wildlife, especially when warm weather finally arrives in Youngstown. While they are technically wild animals, I almost feel like they are pets of the university.

One of those little guys decided

to take his talents to the social media world. For those of you who are not already aware, one of our resident chipmunks has established himself on Twitter as @YSUChipmunk. Let me tell you: That little guy sure has a sense of humor.

Another animal that has exploded across the Internet is the whimsical feline character known as "Grumpy Cat." I do feel inclined to say that earlier this week I had no idea this even existed until a few co-workers brought it to my attention, but since then it has seemed to capture my attention. This furry feline has dozens of images scattered across the Internet, and maybe funniest of all is its own Twitter account.

Beyond these examples, though, there appears to be a trend of Facebook pages being made by owners for their pets. Although I have yet to be friended by anyone's pet, I can only imagine the funny things they come up with throughout the day.

Social media isn't just for us anymore. Now, we can even enjoy the follies of our favorite furry critters from anywhere. If that's not love, then I don't know what is.

Peter Goldmark: Fight back against digital distraction

Peter Goldmark
NEWSDAY
(MCT)

We all understand that electronic devices have changed our lives. The impact they have on the way we live has to rank right up there with the mastery of fire and discovery of the wheel.

In talking with three women at a conference in California last month, I stumbled on a consequence of that electronic invasion that I had no idea even existed: e-nups.

What, you've never heard of e-nups? You've heard of prenups — prenuptial agreements, right? Those are agreements couples make before marriage to determine who will have what right under what circumstances to which portions of the partners' respective financial and other assets.

E-nups are agreements couples make before or during a marriage or relationship to regulate circumstances in which they will use cellphones, iPads, laptops, etc.

The need for an e-nup arises out of a couple's search for a strong interpersonal relationship and a life of shared meaning — all in the face of the heaviest and most inventive assault on cerebral machinery and sensory engagement in the 10,000 years since humans started

living in communities.

You've seen people text while driving. You've seen people steal a look at a cellphone at the movies, at a party, or — most frighteningly — while in an airplane when all devices are supposed to be shut down. I saw survey results once that indicated some people even peek at their cellphones during sex.

The three women with whom I spoke said these e-nuptial agreements establish a mutually agreed upon set of rules about when and where they would use electronic instruments, so that moments of closeness with each other and quality interactions with their children were not mindlessly squeezed out by the digital blizzard.

A couple named Zoe and Kenny gave me permission to share some passages from the agreement they have been working on. Here's a section:

"The person wanting to use phone/computer needs to use intentional communication to obtain the permission of the other people present. If our daughter is present, we need to explicitly make sure that the other parent is willing/able to serve as primary caregiver."

This section refers to situations when permission of others present is required before using a laptop or cellphone. The draft is particular about restrictions that will apply,

and joint consultation required, when their daughter is with them.

But other parts of the document propose flat restrictions on when electronic instruments can be used:

"We will not engage with our phones or work on our laptops at all in the following circumstances ...

During meals together
When spending intentional time together (e.g., taking a walk, going to an event together, cuddling in bed)

When our daughter is present
During movies, plays, etc.

In social situations (i.e., with a group of friends)

In a confined space with others, even if it's "default time" (i.e., car, public transportation, elevator, etc.)"

For Zoe and Kenny have been working on this agreement for nearly a year and are on their fourth draft. One of the other women I spoke with said she and her husband were considering making their agreement legally binding.

The agreements these couples are working on, and the commitments they entail, seek to reclaim from the digital onslaught a measure of direct, engaged communication and quality time in their lives as partners, parents and friends. I bet there are more couples working on e-nups than any of us suspect.

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Men's tennis tries luck in Vegas

Cory Bartek
SPORTS REPORTER

The Penguins recently rolled the dice when they ventured to Las Vegas to take on Seattle University and Idaho State University at the Darling Tennis Center.

The men's tennis team went 1-1 on the trip, defeating Seattle on March 25, 6-1, and losing to Idaho on March 26, 6-1.

Mark Klysner, head men's tennis coach, said he was pleased with the 1-1 result.

"It's always nice to see how they're going to perform away from home against unfamiliar competition," he said.

The Penguins, who are used to playing most of their matches indoors, had to make the transition to outdoor play and deal with the higher temperatures of Las Vegas. They took little time to adjust to the desert climate in their first match, winning all three doubles matches and five of six singles matches against Seattle.

"They came out strong in doubles and didn't let up, and it rolled over to the singles," Klysner said.

Klysner, who is familiar with the area, took his guys downtown and showed them the Las Vegas Strip.

"They had some free time away from tennis to kind of explore the city a little, and we ate at some restaurants that you usually wouldn't get to back home," he said.

In all, Klysner said he and the team had a good experience. The tournament was well run, he said, and he's open to the possibility of taking the women's tennis team to compete next year.

However, upon returning home, the men dropped their match against Cleveland State University, 4-3.

"We didn't play at the level we are capable of against Cleveland State, who deserves all the credit for playing great," Klysner said. "We didn't play our best, and still competed and only lost 4-3."

The Penguins sit in fourth place in the Horizon League standings, boasting a league record of 1-1 and an overall record of 8-7.

Their lone league win came against the University of Detroit Mercy.

"Beating Detroit right from the get-go of league play was a great start for the team," Klysner said of the 4-3 victory. "It's a win that could help set up seeding in the tourney."

YSU's next match takes place on Sat-



Dawoud Kabli hits a backhand during a home match last season. The men's tennis team competed in Las Vegas over spring break. Photo courtesy of YSU Sports Information.

urday against the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, who is second in the league standings.

"We're excited for the weekend," Klysner said. "Green Bay is the favorite to win the Horizon League, and we need to play our best tennis against them."

Four of the Penguins' remaining five matches are against league competitors, which could have implications on their seeding in the conference tournament.

Klysner said the team's focus is on improving in doubles, which sets up success for singles. He added that he wants to make sure the team feels good and that everyone

is healthy.

"We have to peak at the right time and get all six guys to play good on the same day, which is something we've yet to do," he said.

YSU has made the postseason in the past two years, but lost in the first round both times. It's a trend that Klysner is looking to end this year.

"I want to make it to the semifinals of the conference tourney, and I think we have the players to do it," Klysner said. "Individually, I'd like to see a couple guys make the all-conference team. I think there's two or three that are deserving."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Basketball awards banquet planned for April 14

The men's and women's basketball teams will hold an end-of-the-year awards banquet at 4 p.m. on April 14 in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room. Fans can purchase tickets for \$20; to do so, contact Jason Pacanowski at 330-941-3172 or jfpacanowski@ysu.edu. The men's and women's programs have combined for 41 wins during the 2012-2013 season — the most since the 1997-1997 season, when the women's team won 28 games and the men's team won 20.

Men's golf places sixth at Wildcat Invitational

Two members of the YSU men's golf team finished in the top 10 at the Villanova Wildcat Invitational, which ended on Tuesday at the White Manor Country Club in Malvern, Pa. Overall, the Penguins finished sixth out of 13 teams. Mark Olbrych placed sixth with a three-round total of 220, while D.J. Holub placed ninth with a three-round total of 225.

Baseball falls to Buckeyes

At Bill Davis Stadium in Columbus on Tuesday evening, the Penguins lost, 3-0, to the Ohio State University Buckeyes. Five OSU pitchers combined for a two-hit shutout, and the Buckeyes broke a scoreless tie with three runs late in the game. This game was the first YSU had played at OSU since 2002.

YSU misses its opportunity



YSU first baseman Marcus Heath attempts to catch the ball to tag out the University of Akron's Joey Haverlak during Wednesday night's matchup at Eastwood Field in Niles. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

Steve Wilaj
SPORTS EDITOR

It was an opportunity for the Youngstown State University baseball team to get its home season off to a perfect start. But just like the Penguins' base runners in the final two innings, that opportunity was stranded.

The Penguins (7-20) left the tying run on third base in the eighth and ninth innings, as they fell to the University of Akron, 5-4, Wednesday afternoon at Eastwood Field in their home opener.

"It was definitely a game that we had opportunities and had we executed a little better, the score could have easily flipped in our favor," said YSU's head coach Steve Gillispie.

Trailing 5-4, Drew Dosch led off the eighth inning with a walk. He reached third base with one out after a couple of wild pitches by Akron Zips

pitcher Samuel Trecaso.

But then Trecaso settled in. He caught Phil Lipari looking at the third strike for the second out. The senior pitcher then got David Saluga to strike out swinging, ending the YSU threat.

As for the ninth inning, Josh White singled with one out. He reached third with two outs on a single by Mike Accardi. However, a groundout by Neil Schroth stranded White and ended the game.

"It's tough, especially how we fought back after the fifth inning and played really well," Accardi said. "It's just a tough break that we didn't get the hits when we needed, especially in the ninth inning."

Akron (5-21) stuck first, as Zips left fielder Jared Tuocy launched a two-run homerun to right field in the top of the second inning. Akron got to YSU starting pitcher Pat Shedlock again in the third inning when a double by Matt LaRocca scored

another run.

Shedlock exited, giving way to Russ Harless, who allowed a sacrifice fly to Tuocy for a 4-0 Zips lead. Shedlock's final line was two innings pitched, allowing four earned runs on four hits.

The YSU bullpen performance was a different story. Harless, Erik Okleson, Patrick O'Brien and Nic Manuppelli allowed only one run in seven innings of work.

"We pitched well," Gillispie said. "Last night at Ohio State, we pitched well. Maybe not as good of a job on the front end of the game today, but I've been real pleased with that."

YSU cracked the scoring column in the fifth inning. An RBI groundout by Jason Shirley brought home the Penguins' first run. They added another run when Shirley scored following a throwing error by Akron third baseman Billy Salem.

A Salem RBI single stretched the Akron lead to 5-2 in the sixth inning, before the Penguins re-

sponded in the seventh.

YSU opened the inning with consecutive singles by pinch hitters Nick DiNello and Josh White. Shirley then singled for his second RBI of the game. Another single by Accardi brought home White and cut the deficit to 5-4.

"After the fifth we turned it around," Accardi said. "We strung some hits together and our pitching staff really held us in there."

Still, Gillispie couldn't help but notice the missed opportunities throughout.

"We had a couple opportunities early on that we didn't take advantage of," he said. "But you have to tip your cap to them."

YSU will open a three game series against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee at home on Thursday at 3 p.m.

"It's always tough when you lose, no matter who you lose to," Accardi said. "But we're still all focused on what's at hand."

PENGUIN SPOTLIGHT



Mark Olbrych

Year: Junior
Hometown: Boardman
High School: Boardman

Last year, during his sophomore campaign, junior Mark Olbrych played in every tournament and in every round, becoming one of only two Penguins to have accomplished this feat. He notched a 25th place finish in the Horizon League championships, shooting 83, 79 and 74, the latter of which tied the team's lowest championship round score. Olbrych tied for sixth with an average of 76.9 strokes in the BGSU John Piper Intercollegiate and tied for ninth in the Cleveland State Invitational. During his freshman season, he competed in every event and in every round, placing 23rd in the HL championships. He shot 77 and 79 at the Dayton Invitational, along with 79, 77 and 74 at the NYX Hoosier Invitational.

Recently, Olbrych shot 77, 69 and 74 in the Wildcat Invitational, placing sixth, a team high. At YSU, he is pursuing a career in business marketing.