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the jambarpoll question

Last question

On a scale of 1 to 10, how upset are you by the circumstances of the strikes?

Average Answer: 7.3

Today's question: Will the YSU football team return to the playoffs this season?

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VOLUME 88, ISSUE 11

The student voice of Youngstown State University

Contracts still pending

By: Bill Rodgers
NEWS EDITOR

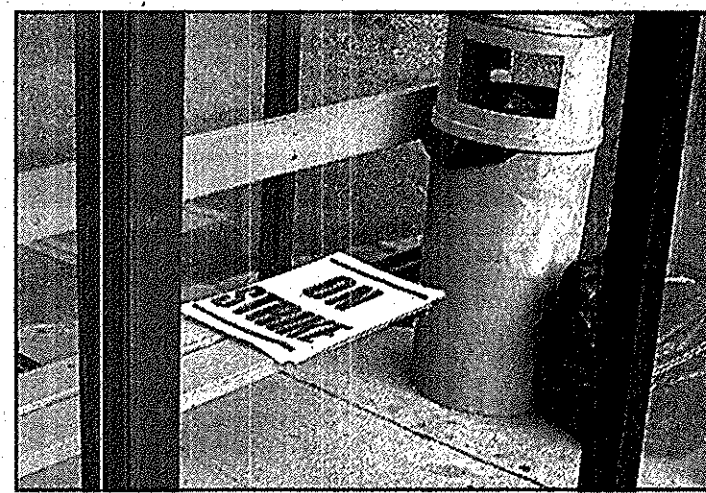
The Youngstown State University Board of Trustees will meet this morning at 8 a.m. to review the contract agreement with the YSU chapter of the Ohio Education Association. The trustees are expected to vote whether to ratify the contract the OEA union approved Sunday night.

Meanwhile, the 400 employees of the Association of Classified Employees union, though back to work Monday morning, still wait for a finalized contract. Union negotiators and the administration reached a tentative agreement at 5 a.m. Monday morning.

ACE president Christine Domhoff said she would distribute copies of the tentative agreement to her bargaining unit for review. She said she anticipates the union holding an informational meeting on Tuesday followed by a vote on Wednesday.

Domhoff said the union negotiating team will recommend the union vote in favor of the agreement.

"The tentative agreement please see **CONTRACTS**, Page 6



Jambar / Leonard Glenn Crist

Both YSU-ACE and YSU-OEA still await concrete contracts following the recent strikes. The YSU Board of Trustees will meet this morning to discuss the ratification of the OEA pact.

Partners to get benefits

Some faculty welcome the change

By: Eric Grosso
FEATURES REPORTER

Youngstown State University union workers will receive the domestic partner health care benefits they have lobbied for since 2002.

In the new contracts accepted by the Ohio Education Association union's contract and Association of Classified Employees, new contract language was created to allow domestic partners the same health benefits as married couples, according to Tom Maraffa, director of faculty and labor relations. Union members will pay 1.5 percent for family coverage and 0.75 percent for single coverage.

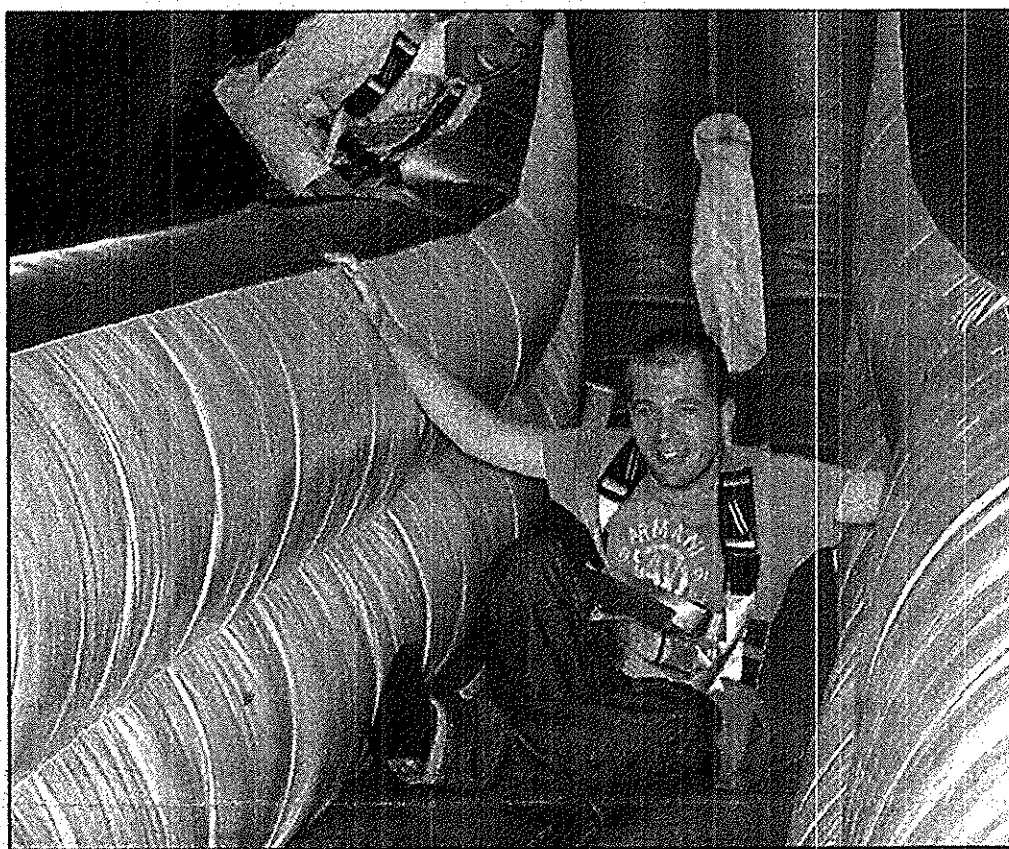
In the contract talks last fall, OEA accepted a benefits package that called for a 10 percent co-pay for domestic partners. The co-pay was not required for opposite sex married couples. Even with the difference, some faculty members welcomed the change.

L.J. Tessier, professor of philosophy and religious studies, said the move in November was a good start.

"It's a move in the right direction, but it still seems to me that we are being told, 'Yes, we recognize that you have partners and you have families, but we're not pre-

please see **PARTNERS**, Page 2

Sliding into the first week



Jambar / Leonard Glenn Crist

TOP: SGA President Bob McGovern Falls down while playing in the Interactive Inflatables on the campus core. **ABOVE:** McGovern does battle in the jousting section of the inflatable playland.

Magical welcome to YSU

By: Cheryl Thompson
REPORTER

Rains from the remnants of Hurricane Katrina drove some Welcome Week events inside and postponed others, but Youngstown State University students still enjoyed the activities.

Students participated in bungee running and jousting offered by Interactive Inflatables and Mind Tripping, an audience participation magic show by the husband and wife team of Christian and Katalina, on Wednesday.

Christian and Katalina performed a variety of tricks in Peabery's, including mind reading. She said the duo has worked the magic circuit for roughly 20

years and some of their tricks have been so hard to figure out that people would start to freak out.

"I've had people even bring Bibles out for protection," Christian said.

Standing on the stage, a blindfolded Katalina tried to identify an audience member's object.

"Hands, it has something to do with the hands." After a pause she said, "I'm

please see **WELCOME**, Page 5

SGA passes 2006 budget

By: Cheryl Thompson
REPORTER

The Student Government Association unanimously passed a bill Monday afternoon for a \$77,671 office budget for the 2006 fiscal year at its first fall semester meeting in Kilcawley Center's Ohio Room.

University President David Sweet and Vice President of Student Affairs Cynthia Anderson attended the meeting and welcomed back the representatives. They commended representatives for responding well to the strike and working to make the start of the school year go well. McGovern helped to facilitate negotiations between the university administration and unions by requesting that the negotiating teams meet at the Newman Center last Thursday and Friday to continue contract talks.

"It's been a smooth start so far, similar to other starts," Sweet said.

SGA voted unanimously to adopt two resolutions commending both sides of the contract talks for allowing school to begin on time. One praised the Association of Classified Employees and the university administration negotiating teams; the other praised the Ohio Educators Association union and the university negotiating team.

Representatives unanimously passed a bill for appropriations for the 2006 fiscal year, budgeting \$77,671 for the office budget, which includes student wages, stipends, operating expenses and student outreach programs. Last year's outreach programs included a drawing for a free PRAXIS test for students in the college of education, free hot chocolate and other events.

SGA Vice President Amanda Mielke said that the purpose of student outreach programs is to expose more students to SGA.

For the upcoming school year, SGA plans to focus on these student outreach events. Ideas discussed included campus-wide wireless Internet, providing nutritional information for dining service foods and stu-

please see **SGA**, Page 9

YSU CONSTRUCTION

Campus projects nearing completion

By: Katie Libecco
COPY EDITOR

While most YSU students were home for the summer, large construction and renovation projects were completed across campus, to the tune of nearly \$19 million dollars, mostly achieved through private and state funds.

Foremost among those projects is the new Andrews Wellness and Recreation Center.

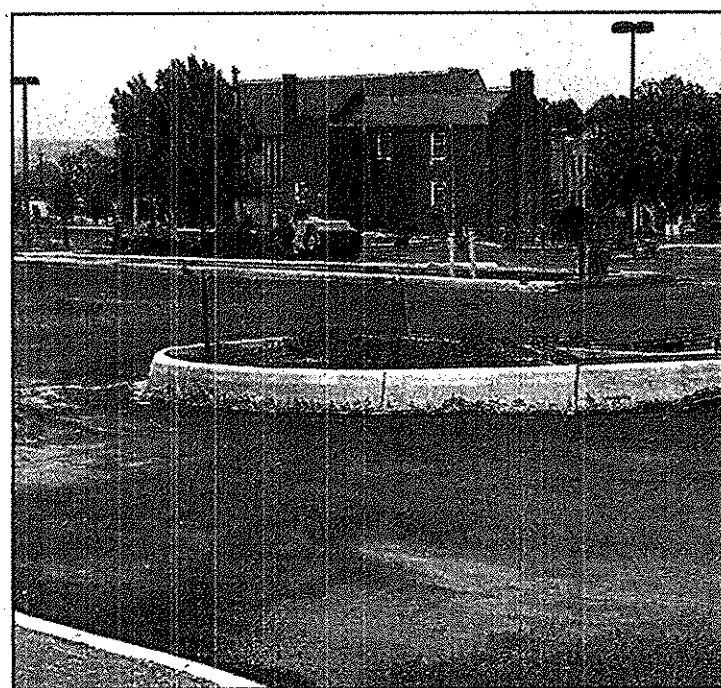
After watching the rec center's creation from a level parking lot to the newest building on campus,

Youngstown State University students will have their opportunity to experience the center for themselves in the near future.

"We're getting close to the end of the rainbow," YSU Chief Development Officer Paul McFadden said in a recent interview. According to Rich White, project manager for YSU facilities, the rec center will definitely be open by October.

Construction began on the 67,000-sq. foot rec center in April of 2004 and was

please see **PROJECTS**, Page 4



Jambar / Leonard Glenn Crist

The parking lot on University Plaza behind Coffelt Hall is just one of many major renovation projects that have been taking place on campus over the summer.

PARTNERS, continued from page 1

pared to give you equity," Tessier said last November.

Tessier was unavailable for comment on the new OEA contract.

The Association of Administrative Professionals and ACE both turned down the same offer. Because of the co-pay agreement, union representatives called the 2004 package unfair.

"How can you say it is

fair and equitable when you pick out one small segment of the population and ask them to do something that no one else has to do?" said YSU-ACE president Christine Domhoff last November.

After the tentative agreement reached early Monday morning, Domhoff had a much more optimistic view.

"The university always

said they wanted to give us parity between the unions. The package finally put us in that position," Domhoff said.

She also noted administrators never used domestic partner benefits as a bargaining tool, as the new ACE agreement included them from the start of negotiations.

In 2004, then-APAS president Sherri Martz also said the domestic partner bene-

fits package offered last fall seemed discriminatory, but would wait for the next round of negotiations in the summer of 2006.

Current APAS president Sally Kenney hopes to have parity between the union contracts, something the administration and the union are working toward.

"It's still early, but we would hope to get the same benefits, as long as ACE

accepts the new contract," Kenney said.

Kenney also said there have been no talks between the administration and APAS regarding a new contract, which is set to expire next summer.

The first domestic partner benefits at YSU were introduced in 2002. The OEA agreement signed in 2002 called for members to receive sick leave for domes-

tic partners after summer-long debates between students, union members and trustees. The contract signed in 2002 expired in late August, leading to the most recent strike.

ACE is set to vote on the package later this week and OEA accepted their three-year proposal on Sunday.

Call Eric Grosso at (330) 941-1913.

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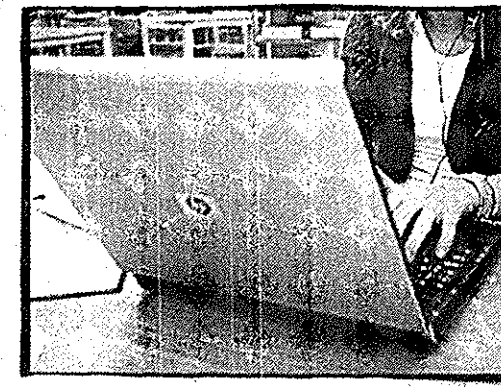
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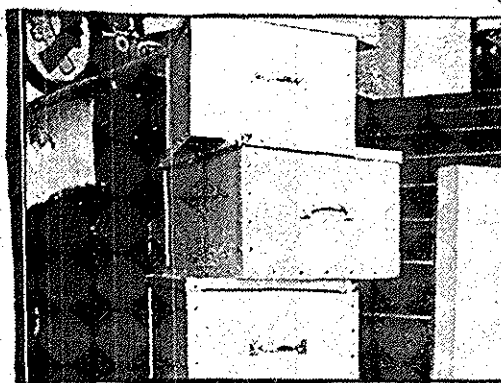
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OUR SIDE

Unions lost focus during strikes

Youngstown State University's Ohio Education Association has signed a contract and is back to work. The Association of Classified Employees is also back to work and will likely sign a contract in the next few weeks.

Looking back on the negotiations, we applaud those who worked together to make sure classes started on time. However, some aspects of the strikes were questionable.

For most of the time the unions were on strike, it seemed union members and union leaders acted as if the two strikes had merged. Two separate unions were seeking two separate contracts, yet it seemed like this was a thought lost amid the rallies, picket lines and extensive media coverage.

The OEA should not have been influenced by the ACE strike. But when OEA members went to the First Christian Church to vote on a tentative agreement, ACE members stood in a crowd around the sidewalks and stairs to the church's entrance. OEA union members did not hold signs that read "Good Luck," but rather signs that read "Support OUR Union" - "Support ACE."

ACE's insistence on solidarity was legally questionable and appeared dangerously close to attempted intimidation of OEA members.

Theoretically, a union should vote only on its contract without regard for other factors, including a sister strike. Voting on issues not related to the specifics of the contract detracts from the real issues the union faced - health care, wages and longevity benefits.

Imagine if OEA had supported ACE by rejecting a contract and ACE supported OEA by the same means. A cycle of rejections on both sides would ensue. The two unions would have done better to focus on the merits or pitfalls of their respective contracts rather than those of their "sister" union, or for that matter, on those of YSU President David Sweet's.

Perhaps those who thought the unions were fighting for the same goal were the same who spent their time on strike repeatedly bringing up Sweet's contract.

While on the picket line, soliciting their beliefs to passing cars, many union members wore buttons and badges that read, "I Want a Sweet Deal." They often spoke of the unfairness of Sweet's latest contract.

If his contract was unfair, why ask for a similar package?

Many of those who originally wore the "Sweet Deal" flair and held signs with similar banter came up with more feasible rhetoric shortly thereafter and opted for new signs that read "I Don't Want a Sweet Deal - I Want a Fair Deal."

Sweet's contract was routinely brought up, but why? Why focus on Sweet's contract, accepted in November 2004, and not the contract at hand?

The focus of any union on strike should be solely on getting a fair deal, but when it came time for OEA and ACE to talk about their contracts, it seemed as if too many union members became focused on President Sweet's contract and its unfairness instead of what was on their own bargaining tables.

In the end, school started on time for students with only a few minor effects, none worse than a bitter and lingering tension between the administration and YSU faculty.

In the next round of YSU negotiations, union members should define their beliefs clearly and remember where they stand while negotiating a contract that is fair to everyone at YSU - students, faculty and staff.



FEEDBACK

KRT Campus

GUEST COMMENTARY

By: Bob McGovern
SGA PRESIDENT

Relief.

I think that's what everybody feels now that our faculty and staff are back to work. It's nice to see a full campus, and I know that we'll have a great year.

The most difficult part of the strike was that, from all different directions, SGA was being asked or even implored to take a side. We actually did take a side from the very beginning - your side, the students' side. And at a university, I think that it's really the only one to take.

As cliché as it sounds, all of the people in the negotiations are here because of us and, indeed, for us. The fact that the last round of ACE negotiations took place on Sunday night before classes (ending at around 5 a.m.) shows that both were committed to getting us to a fully-staffed university on Aug. 29.

Though these were uncertain times, I was happy that SGA was able to be effective in encouraging the talks. Watching time go by after the faculty went on strike without any negotiations scheduled, we took the step of scheduling talks ourselves and inviting both sides to attend. The politics of negotiations are such that neither side should appear too eager to talk, but on the students' side, that's all we wanted. Our negotiation schedule was not used, but talks nevertheless occurred, and that was really all we needed.

There were some positives to the strike, however. We accidentally discovered that everybody loves blogs. I originally set up ours (ysusga.blogspot.com) knowing that the YSU Web site would be down most of the time. I quickly found it to be a great way to get student input, and we plan to continue blogging away.

I also got to see or meet a lot of great people I may not have otherwise, as was the case for many teachers and staff members who do not work with each other directly. May we meet again under happier circumstances, and may you meet them, too.

It really is a privilege to serve students through SGA. I think we have made some difference for all of you (12,652 according to an Aug. 29 memo from Dr. Sweet to returning OEA and ACE members). But the year is just beginning. We have more than \$35,000 to award to student organizations this year, and we will soon be implementing the USA Today Collegiate Readership Program with free daily newspapers, in conjunction with Student Affairs and Academic Affairs.

We also will be researching fees and reporting to you about how your money is used. Plus,

we want to get you an open wireless Internet network and student sections at sporting events (getting your feedback, perhaps in blog comments, would be instrumental to us getting those for you). Our work doesn't end here though, so please keep the suggestions coming. In fact, you can get involved several ways. We need to fill our elections board, get freshman representatives and fill our graduate studies seats as well.

In conclusion, many times, the question has been posed as to how the strikes have affected the University's image. It was apparent on Monday that it was a first day mostly like any other. It was a little busier and more hectic, sure, but people seemed happier than ever to be here. I think the latter point is what people will remember, and it's why I believe that we can look forward to a great year at YSU.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hopefully President Sweet learned this time

Editor:

At his State of the University Address three years ago, President Sweet remarked that he had learned many things about negotiations. I was delighted when I heard him say that, as I had been on the faculty negotiations team at the time and had first hand experience with the attitude of Sweet's negotiators toward the faculty - their detached arrogance, their disregard for facts, and their unwillingness to negotiate in good faith. Next time around, I thought, things will be different.

We all now know they were. The arrogance of the administration turned into vindictiveness. Their disregard of the facts turned into half-truths spewed by their media department, and their lack of good faith turned individuals who are otherwise decent and reasonable into ugly human beings who blindly follow orders from Tod Hall.

Now Sweet declares that the "healing must begin," as if by magic he can undo the wounds he caused, as if his words have power over us, as if the staff and faculty have any faith in what he says. Resolutions of no confidence in his administration were by almost

unanimous vote passed by staff and faculty. If all he can say about that is that they "come with the territory," then he really is not listening and consequently will continue to misunderstand this university.

Let me suggest three lessons Sweet should learn from the recent negotiations. First, change your personnel - those you put to lead the charge in negotiations are hollow men; second, negotiate as if you are bound with us whose lives and families you directly affect; finally, come down from your make-believe throne, walk around campus, and say to each and every staff and faculty you encounter, "I'm sorry for what I did. I am so regretful. I caused you and your family great pain and I betrayed your splendid spirit of loyalty and enthusiasm for this place. This time I did learn some things from negotiations. I will be kind and truthful next time around."

If you say these things, if your repentance is truthful, David, some of us might begin to believe you have the character of your namesake. But you have to earn it.

Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez, Ph.D.
Director, Dr. James Dale Ethics Center
Professor, Philosophy and Religious Studies

Through the looking glass

By: Mike Pingree
KRT CAMPUS

YOU'RE HIS WIFE?! I'M HIS WIFE! NO, ME!

Though married to three women at the same time, a middle-aged man in Kettering, England, successfully juggled them for years. He left his first wife, who he wed in 1966, without divorcing her, then married his second in 1998 and his third in 2003.

But it all came apart when he went to the hospital for a heart

bypass operation. He tried to stagger the visits of the three women, but they showed up at the same time. It wasn't pretty.

FREEDOM! I CAN ALMOST SMELL IT, BOYS

A large group of convicts worked for months digging a tunnel out of Timoteo Prison in Brazil, but their calculations were a bit off. The emerged about a foot inside the wall, still in the prison yard. The guards were waiting for them.

HI MOM? WE FORGOT

OUR GETAWAY CAR

A young man and his girlfriend broke into a house in Villa Rica, Ga., and stole jewelry and some credit cards. Then he made his fatal error: He used the telephone in the victim's home to call his mother and ask her for a ride home.

The victim found out about this, when, upon discovering the break-in, she hit the redial button on her phone. The burglar's mother answered and spilled the beans. Arrests were swift.

HE'S GAY, BUT HE'S NOT A FANATIC ABOUT IT

A man in Graz, Austria, left his wife, telling her he now realizes he is gay. He had fathered 12 children with her.

THESE YOUR PHOTOS? YES ... UH, I MEAN NO

Police in Woodland, Calif., examining the camera feature of a lost cell phone that someone had turned in, found that the owner had stored digital photos of piles of marijuana and cash. They traced the number, and went to his home, where they found - as they expected - illegal drugs and money. They arrested him.

- ▶ Football — Tonight vs. Slippery Rock, 7:30 p.m.
- ▶ Volleyball — Friday, at South Alabama, 11 a.m.
- ▶ Volleyball — Friday, vs. Murray State, 4 p.m.
- ▶ Soccer — Friday, at IUPUI, 6 p.m.

YSU Sports Briefs

Courtesy of YSU's Sports Information
Web site:
ysu.edu/sports/index.htm

Transfer joins women's basketball squad

Youngstown State University Women's Basketball Head Coach Tisha Hill announced Monday that guard Kira Mowen (pronounced MOW-in) (Waynesboro, Pa.) has transferred into the program from the University of Illinois.

Mowen, a 5-foot-9-inch guard, appeared in 10 games over two seasons for the Fighting Illini. In 2004-05, Mowen appeared in six games and scored 10 points on 3-of-5 shooting from the floor and played in four games during the 2003-04 campaign. Per NCAA transfer rules, Mowen will have to sit out the 2005-06 season and will have two years of eligibility remaining.

"Our staff and players are very excited to have Kira join our team," Hill said. "She will bring a wealth of experience at the shooting guard position as well as a continued strong theme of a hard work ethic from our players."

"Kira's competitiveness will be no stranger to our returning perimeter players but will truly help the youth of this team during practice her first year."

Mowen is the second all-time leading scorer at Waynesboro High School with 1,259 career points. She also grabbed 538 rebounds and totaled 300 assists during her prep career. Mowen was also the NBC 25 Pennsylvania Player of the Year and the Hagerstown Record-Herald All-Area first team and Pizza Hut Player of the Season.

Cindric named Horizon League Defensive Player of the Week

Youngstown State University junior defensive specialist Amanda Cindric (Pittsburgh) was named the Horizon League Defensive Player of the Week, the league announced on Monday.

Cindric helped the Penguins to a 2-1 record of the weekend totaling 71 digs and averaging 5.46 digs per game. She tallied a career-high 30 digs in a five-game win over Canisius and collected 28 digs in another five-game victory over Robert Morris just prior to the Golden Griffins match.

In the opening match of the Akron Early Bird Invitational, Cindric posted 13 digs in a three-game loss to the Zips.

Penguins take on 'The Rock' tonight

By: Justin Smolkovich
SPORTS REPORTER

Playing an opponent like Division II Slippery Rock is a dangerous game for the Youngstown State University football team, not because "The Rock" is returning 33 letter winners and a Parade All-American running back, but because they have nothing to lose.



HEACOCK

"They are the same all the time," Penguins head coach Jon Heacock said Tuesday at the weekly press conference concerning Thursday's game. "They are not going to beat themselves, and they are not going to come in here and lay down."

The Penguins are looking to improve upon last season's 4-7 mark, which included a 35-13 victory over Slippery Rock.

Slippery Rock, predicted to finish fourth in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference-West, is coming off an opening day loss to Bloomsburg, 40-24, despite gaining over 420 yards on offense.

Despite last year's sluggish start against Slippery Rock that saw "The Rock" lead at halftime by a score of 6-0, YSU came back strong in

the second half to start the 2004 season with a win.

This year, the Penguins are much improved across the board and boast one of the most talented teams in recent memory.

Defensively, the Penguins have made upgrades overall, adding size up front and returning a linebacker group that is arguably the best in the Gateway conference.

"Our linebacking crew I am really excited about," Heacock said. "Mike Andrews has had a phenomenal camp — as good as anyone on that side of the ball."

Senior receiver Kyle Smith said that the offense is looking crisp, and with good reason. Second-year signal caller Tom Zetts will lead the offense.

Zetts put up more than 1,800 yards last season, including 207 on 14-of-16 passing yards against Slippery Rock in his first career start.



SMITH

The only hiccup so far has been the loss of senior Josh Cayson is out with an injury. While the Penguins have a deep backfield capable of replacing Cayson, his experience will be the biggest loss.

"You lose experience when you lose that guy," Heacock said of Cayson.

Once again the size, speed and depth of the Penguins

should prove too much for "The Rock" when they stroll into the Ice Castle Thursday.

Keys to the Game

Ground game: The Penguins boast two of the Gateway's best offensive linemen in John Bartos and Tony Limongi; both started every game last season. Having an imposing line will open holes for Monquante Gibson and Demetrius Ison, who will look to bruise Slippery Rock's defense that surrendered 361 yards on the ground to Bloomsburg.

Shutting down an All-American: Slippery Rock's Josh Kniess rumbled for 145 yards on 26 carries last year against the Penguins. If Brandon Brown and company up front can limit the big time play ability of Kniess, the Penguins can force a sophomore quarterback in Nate Crookshank to make mistakes.

Patrol the skies: Last year "The Rock" threw for only 116 yards against the Penguins, however last week against Bloomsburg, they tallied 311 yards through the air on, connecting on 23-of-38 attempts. It will be up to standout James Perry and the rest of the Penguins' secondary to limit that number.

Kicking game: The Penguins lose long time starter in Nick Terracina at kicker and will be replaced this year by freshman Brian

YSU
SRU

Game time: Tonight, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Stambaugh Stadium
Forecast: 80 degrees, possible showers
Radio: AM 1390 WNIO / 106.1 FM WBBG
TV: Fox 17/62 (tape delay starts at 10:30)
Series record: YSU leads, 9-0
Coaches: YSU — Jon Heacock; SRU — Dr. George Milhalik
Notes: YSU has never lost to SRU, with the closest game being 24-10 in 2000 ... YSU coach Jon Heacock is 4-0 in season openers ... SRU was defeated, 40-24, by Bloomsburg last week.

Palmer. In the final jersey scrimmage of the fall, Palmer went four of nine including a 48 yarder. For the Penguins to be successful, Palmer must provide a consistent kicking game. In terms of field position, punter Joe Bishop returns after averaging 38.3 yards a punt last season.

Turnovers: The Penguins forced three turnovers last season against Slippery Rock while committing none, sparking a 21-point third quarter. If the Penguins can force turn-

overs, it may be a long day for "The Rock."

Zetts to Smith: Smith is arguably one of the most talented wide receivers in the Gateway. If Zetts can find Smith and help him add catches to his 22 game streak of consecutive games, with a pass caught, the Penguins offense could prove too much for Slippery Rock.

Call Justin Smolkovich at (330) 941-3758.

Looking ahead into the fall sports season

By: Justin Smolkovich
SPORTS REPORTER

Youngstown State University athletes are gearing up for fall seasons and preparing to fight for a spot in league championships this fall. Here's a run-down of what to expect in fall sports.

Volleyball

Joe Bonner's newly-assumed head coach position is the most notable change in Penguin's volleyball. Bonner replaced the Penguins' most storied volleyball coach, Joe Conroy, who left the volleyball program to help run Andrew's Wellness and Recreation Center.

Bonner will be in good company as the Penguins return a bevy of talented players.

Returning seniors include Angie Pasquinelli, who ranks among the school's best ever in assists; Jessica Fraley, a talented sophomore

coming off of a freshman campaign that saw her named to the Horizon League All-Newcomer team; junior Amanda Cindric, who led the Penguins in digs with 294; and Katie Shea, who led the team last year with an average of 1.17 blocks per game.

Tennis

Both the men and women's tennis teams begin action this fall and are looking to make huge waves in the chase for the Horizon League championships.

On the men's side, the Penguins hope to improve upon a 2004 record of 4-10 and will rely heavily on the play of Tom Barth, who earned first team all-conference last season. Assisting Barth in shouldering much of the weight will be Brian Meek.

On the women's side of the net, the Penguins look to regain the magic they captured last year with a second place finish in the Horizon

League Championships. Leading the way for the Penguins will be senior Whitney Thomas, who earned All-Horizon League honors last year, pacing the Penguins to a 9-10 regular season mark. Thomas will be the only senior on the 2005 squad.

Soccer

Second-year skipper Anthony James believes this year's Penguin soccer team is good, however, he said that he believes the team needs still has growing to do.

"This is a much better team than last year, but they are much younger," James said.

So far this season, the Penguins sit at 0-2.

"We should have won those games," James said.

With a fairly green team, James noted that mental errors would be the biggest obstacle for the Penguins this season, but understands that his team will need to

regroup and learn from early season miscues.

"At the end of the day we will be judged by wins or losses," James said.

Cross Country

Rebounding is the tall order for the Penguins cross-country teams this fall. Both the men and women's teams will look to jump back to head of the class of the Horizon League. Last year, the men's squad finished out of the top three for the first time in 12 years. They finished fourth last year.

Senior Jeremy Riehm and a host of talented underclassmen are returning.

The women, who also finished fourth last season, return three year all-conference selection junior Emily Schnitkey after a sixth place finish at the Horizon League Championships.

Leading both teams will be head coach Brian Gorby who has received coach of the year honors eleven out of

his fourteen years at YSU.

Golf

The women's golf team has a tall order of replacing departed senior Gina Abruzzino, who finished in the top 10 in last year's golf league meet. Potentially filling her shoes will be the sophomore tandem of Felicia Ciotola and Brittany Jones who finished seventh and tenth respectively. Last year, the Penguins golf team finished second overall in the Horizon League championships.

While the women will be losing their top gun, the men's team will be led Nate Komsa. Komsa finished ninth in league championships. He also finished first in the Horizon League in 2004 and was named to the all conference team. Also junior, Josh Zarlenga, who finished tied for the tenth spot in the conference match, will return to aid Komsa in a quest for league championship.

WELCOME, continued from page 1

sensing hand sanitizer." The audience laughed. Apparently, Katalina wasn't as psychic as advertised because the audience member wasn't holding hand sanitizer, but was instead holding a pack of cigarettes.

Christian urged Katalina to regroup and for the volunteer to resend her the mental message. Finally, Katalina was not only able to predict the pack of cigarettes, but also the brand, Marlboro, and the exact number left, nine.

This left Watie Alberty, the freshman volunteer stunned. Although he said he didn't know for sure how Katalina was able to figure out how many cigarettes were left, he has some theories.

"I think that there is something going on between those two, even if it isn't noticeable to us," he said.

Other students theorized Christian might just be good at reading people. The performer does have a degree in psychology and

has taken in classes in Neuron-Linguistic Programming, or NLP, which he explained is a way to get people to respond a certain way.

"All of these help with the deceptions," Christian said.

Others enjoyed sitting back and watching, without analyzing the tricks.

"I knew I was being tricked, and sometimes it's just more fun that way," freshman Crystal Keener said.

In another area of Kilcawley Center, some students participated in an event brought in by Interactive Inflatables.

"It was a lot of fun," freshman Jamie Brown said after a few attempts. "But I mostly ended up landing on my head."

Show manager Robert Tower insisted there have been no serious injuries resulting from Bungee Racing, where students wear harnesses while running an on an inflated boun-

cy thing. When students reach the end they are catapulted back toward the starting point.

Interactive Inflatables also offered jousting in the style of "American Gladiators."

Other welcome week activities included caricature drawing, body art and jewelry making, a Greek Life Cookout and carnival games.

Melanie Koontz, acting director of student activities, said event attendance dropped slightly from sun-

nier years, but was pleased with student participation.

"Student turnout was still good," she said.

A Foam Party scheduled for Tuesday, has been moved to 7 to 10 p.m. next Wednesday in the tennis courts.

Call Cheryl Thompson at (330) 941-1913.

Check us out online:
www.thejambar.com

Please Mind the Mencia

By: Bob Mackey
COLUMNIST

With Dave Chappelle's recent move to Crazytown, (not the boy band, rather, the state of mind) cable network Comedy Central is left grasping at straws, looking for the newest "edgy" persona to replace him. The bottom line was finding a new personality who could fill mouths of college students with witticisms that made complete sense, even out-of-context (Ex.: "I'm Rick James, bitch!")

Although they phoned Pauly Shore, in a desperate attempt to revive "the weasel," he didn't answer. Mistaking "racist" and "unfunny" with "edgy," Comedy Central dug to sub-Shore levels and gave "comedian" Carlos Mencia his very own show.

Before Mencia's show, "Mind of Mencia," hit the airwaves, Comedy Central aired a marketing blitz showcasing just how funny and original the show would be. These promos showed that if you enjoy middle-school observations like how Adam and Eve's children were able to make more babies, or why certain people spend more on rims than on things that are necessary for well-being, then Carlos'

show is custom tailored to your comic sensibilities. I also know of several joke-of-the-day e-mail lists that you may be interested in, and that your grandparents can subscribe to at this very moment.

I tried not to prematurely judge the show, even after seeing the terrible previews. Then I remembered Mencia's claim to fame. Shortly after September 11th, 2001, Mencia starred in a stand-up special, the gimmick of which being, "Hey, people from the Middle East, now it's your turn!" Letting Americans know they had the right to be racist and suspicious of those who are different propelled Carlos into some kind of perverse stardom. Mencia is familiar with racism, and has every right to be racist himself, after changing his name from Ned Holness, and subsequently pretending to be Mexican.

A pretend dream deferred is a pretend dream denied!

Mencia's penchant for racism didn't stop him from ending his act with the schmaltziest of moments, telling his audience "how it could all end just like that" and silently walking off stage. You know, it really makes you think about how banal that is.

Now, I've probably spent too

much time talking about how unfunny Carlos is and not enough time talking about how this lack of humor is applied to his show, "Mind of Mencia." Apparently all of Carlos's material comes from 2001 or thereabouts, because his obsession with making fun of people from the Middle East, or "Achmeds" as he collectively calls them, is still prevalent. But it isn't this dated and trite material that makes him terrible, it's his delivery.

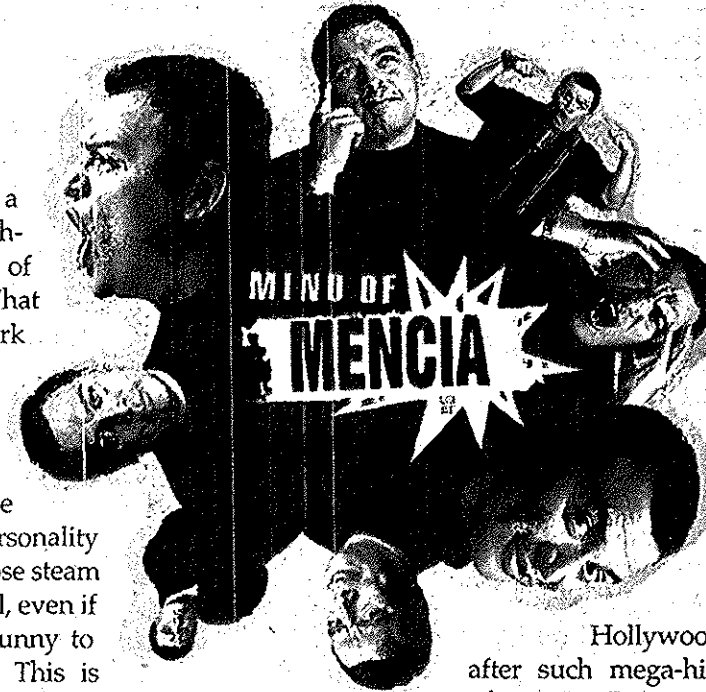
Periodically, after Carlos tells a joke, he takes the liberty of telling his audience how funny and outrageous he is, with such comments as, "WHAT?!" "DID I JUST SAY THAT?!" and "I DON'T CARE!" It's a good thing Carlos keeps reminding me of how in-my-face he is, because at times, I've had my doubts. I've even taken up his self-aggrandizing tactics by writing little comments on my tests and term papers such as, "DID I JUST MAKE THAT OBSERVATION?" and "I'M ASTUTE!"

Comedy Central is not pushing Mencia as their newest "edgy" persona, as Adam Carolla and D.L. Hughley (who gave America the phrase "Good googa mooga!" which they quickly returned) also have their own shows, making the

network a veritable ethnic rainbow of bad taste. What the network doesn't realize is that shows based on one person's personality inevitably lose steam and material, even if they were funny to begin with. This is why Dave Chappelle is on an Ohio farm instead of working on his show's third season.

Comedy Central does have some fantastic series, such as "The Daily Show," "Reno 911" and the possibly soon-to-be-cancelled "Stella" (Tuesdays at 10:30PM), but they all feature strong ensemble casts, and not just one "dude with an attitude." Since talent is spread among several people, the comedy is not entirely dependant upon a made-up personality.

And now even David Spade is hopping on the bandwagon, turning his decade-old "Hollywood Minute" SNL segment into a full-fledged show. It seems like he really shouldn't have the right to criticize



Hollywood after such mega-hits such as "Joe Dirt" and "Dickie Roberts."

Sadly, Mencia's show has been picking up steam over the summer, and it doesn't look like it'll be cancelled anytime soon. America took one look at Carlos, settled into their leather couches for a few weeks and then came to the conclusion that they didn't mind his style of "humor." What this means is that more negative stereotypes will be reinforced, and the bar for comedy will have to be lowered again. At this point, it seems that the only thing that would stop Mencia is a fatwa.

DID I JUST SAY THAT?!

Call Bob Mackey at (330) 941-1913.

New ensemble, class for Dana School of Music

The Dana School of Music will begin holding auditions for Studio Ensemble 2006 starting Wednesday Sept. 7.

The ensemble will include a horn section, a rhythm section and male and female vocalist. It will feature various styles of music including, rock, funk, blues, soul, gospel, Latin and country.

After recording songs at the Dana School of Music's digital recording studio, students get a chance to perform pieces from both classic rock artists like Steely Dan, Toto, Deep Purple, Tower of Power and Earth Wind and Fire and more contemporary artists such as Alicia Keys, Usher and Gretchen Wilson.

The group's producer, Rande Isabella, a YSU alumna with experience scoring music for NBC Sports and the USA Network, has worked with an array of recording artist such as Jon Secada and original members of the Miami Sound Machine.

Interested students must register by Tuesday Sept. 6 for Contemporary Music Ensemble (course code 6253, catalogue no. 0013) in order to audition.

The audition schedule is as follows: horn auditions Wednesday, Sept. 7; rhythm auditions, Monday Sept. 12; and vocal auditions Wednesday Sept. 14.

A sign up sheet for auditions will be posted on the door of room 2222 in Bliss Hall.

For more information about Studio Ensemble 2006, please call (330) 941-3636.

YSU students to get sneak peeks of movies for no charge

Youngstown State University students will get sneak peeks of upcoming movies this fall through a partnership between YSU and Alloy Marketing and Promotions.

Marketing agency AMP specializes in creating early buzzes film studios through word of mouth advertising. They are planning on bringing one or two films to campus before they hit theaters

nationwide this fall, according to Greg Gulas, YSU's student activities assistant director.

"If there's a new movie coming out and they think its particular to an area, like what if they shot something in Pennsylvania and they kind of want to get it out into this area, then they're going to contact me. And I'll have a showing for it," Gulas said.

Neither Gulas nor AMP's spokesperson Jessica Gao knew exactly when or what films would be coming to YSU. However, Gao said her company was dealing with such upcoming films as "Into the Blue" (featuring Paul Walker and Jessica Alba), "The Corpse Bride" (Tim Burton's latest foray into "Nightmare Before Christmas" style animation), "Domino" (a Kiera

Knighly flick about a bounty hunter) and "Kiss Kiss Bang Bang" (a Val Kilmer, Robert Downey Jr. action/comedy).

The showings will be free for students and come at no charge to the university, Gao said. AMP usually gets a product sponsor to pay for the screening costs, she said.

Gulas said the screenings will be held in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut room.

Upcoming Music in the area

Today: Dale Galgozy, guitarist, 11 a.m., Peaberry's Cafe
The Zou and the Zach Rock Band, 4 p.m., Christman Campus Greens (Rain: Peaberry's Cafe)
Friday: Tall, 11 p.m., Cedars Lounge
Saturday: Cookie Pesce Tribute, Cedars Lounge
Ultimate Donny DJ Spectacular, 11 p.m., Nyabinghi
Tuesday: Easily Amused, Peaberry's Cafe

Do you have an event coming up? Email the Jambar with the details at thejambar@gmail.com.

CONTRACTS, continued from page 1

is not perfect, but it's a compromise that allows us to continue working without losing ground," Domhoff said.

She said mistakes in the proposal draft prevented her from presenting the tentative agreement to the union earlier.

"There was some different language in the proposal that we had not agreed to," Domhoff said.

She said she didn't believe the mistakes were intentional and spoke with university negotiators yesterday morning to correct the mistakes.

Attorney Jim Wilkins, who is handling the ACE negotiations from the administration's side, said yesterday that the teams were making revisions and corrections to the tentative agreement. Wilkins said the main point of the corrections was to make sure both teams were working with the same draft.

"We didn't review all of the language in detail when we finished negotiating at 5 a.m. on Monday. Some of the cor-

rections were as simple as typographical errors and spacing. I wouldn't characterize any of the mistakes as terribly substantive," Wilkins said.

Miscommunication and Animosity

State Sen. Marc Dann (D-Liberty) mediated Sunday's negotiations between the two teams. Dann said he contacted both teams Sunday night after the OEA approved their agreement. When he asked if the teams planned to meet to negotiate, Dann learned that each side thought the other had rejected an offer to meet.

He said the misunderstanding was an example of misinformation that went both ways during the course of the negotiations.

"The communication has been terrible," Dann said.

Dann said his goals for Sunday's meeting were twofold. He said he wanted to help the teams reach a tentative agreement, but also wanted to help repair what he

called a "long history of animosity" between the university management and the staff. He said he hoped that the two groups could have a better relationship in the future.

Dann said they succeeded in the first goal, but said there wasn't enough time in the negotiations to accomplish the second.

Wilkins said that the negotiations were "difficult" for both sides. He said the university was in a tough financial situation and it was understandably difficult for ACE to accept limits on what the university could offer financially.

"It's a characteristic of most negotiations that both sides finish a little unhappy. Hopefully, that's a sign of a good compromise," Wilkins said.

Domhoff spoke of the mood of the negotiations. She said the university took a condescending attitude to the union.

"There were some statements made during negotia-

tions that were totally inappropriate. I don't think they ever prepared before the negotiating sessions," Domhoff said.

Student Government Association President Bob McGovern said that better communication between the university and its workers could help prevent a strike in the future.

"We were going to recommend that the faculty have regular meetings with the board of trustees and the other administration members. We want them to open up lines of communication. I feel that this would help and make it more likely a strike won't happen in the future," McGovern said.

Proposal Terms

The tentative agreement includes a revised pay schedule, co-pays for health insurance, an early-retirement incentive plan and a sick leave reserve.

Under the revised pay schedule, ACE employees

are eligible for pay increases every three years. ACE employees are eligible for four increases, a decrease of the five and six increases current ACE employees are eligible for, Domhoff said.

Domhoff said the new plan would offer less to long-term employees. "There's less longevity, there's no reason for employees to stay at YSU longer," Domhoff said.

The contract would require co-pays for health insurance. Wilkins said there was parity between the ACE health care plan and the faculty's. ACE employees will pay 1.5 percent of their base pay for family coverage and 0.75 percent for single coverage. The co-pays are also factored off of an employee's longevity pay.

Wilkins and Domhoff talked about an emergency sick leave reserve. The union proposed a plan where members could donate sick days to members with lingering illnesses who had run

out of sick days.

The union's plan was dropped in favor of a university counter-proposal in which employees can volunteer to donate sick days into a bank. All employees who have donated sick days and who meet certain health criteria are eligible to draw from the sick leave bank.

The proposal includes a framework for an early retirement incentive plan, which Wilkins called a "win-win" situation for both the union and the university. Under the plan, an ACE employee with significant years of service to the university can accept an incentive to retire from the university early, receiving payment for additional years that the employee would have worked.

Wilkins said the university could then replace the retired employee with a new employee who would receive entry-level pay, saving the university money.

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.