

The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

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Financial fallout spurns hiring freeze

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University's administration is expected to announce a hiring freeze, which is being implemented due to the dire financial circumstances the university is facing, on Thursday.

Excluding faculty, all open

positions, including vacancies from buyouts created by the early retirement incentive program, will be subject to the freeze.

Ikram Khawaja, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said he feels it is necessary.

"Without it, not much can be accomplished," he said.

Ron Cole, director of university communications, said all

non-faculty positions afforded through the general fund are subject to the freeze. This includes all other union and administrative positions.

Cole said a memo will be released Thursday formally announcing the freeze.

Exceptions can be made, as long as the hiring is critical and consistent with the strategic plan. However, Cole said they

would be "rare and few in numbers."

Khawaja said it's too early to determine the ramifications it may have.

"It's too premature to tell who would be affected the most," he said. "We need to do some backroom work. We are in that process."

While officials feel it is

too early to judge the impact of a hiring freeze, they are not dismissing issues that may arise from a diminished workforce.

"It's going to cause some challenges. We have to look at the work that needs to be done and come up with a plan," Khawaja said.

YSU breaks into alternative energy with solar panels

Kevin Alquist
NEWS REPORTER

The roof of Moser Hall will generate nearly 64,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity annually after 41,000 square feet of solar panels were installed.

"With a cost increase in energy, this is a way to substitute the energy we are using with a renewable energy source," said Ralph Morrone, the facilities engineer at Youngstown State University. "Though the panels that are in place generate a fraction of a percent of the overall campus energy consumption, it is the size of the idea that counts."

The panels, which point toward the south for increased sun exposure, are mounted on a Solar FlexRack system developed by Northern States Metals, a Youngstown-based metal fabricating company and alternative energy firm.

Carbon Vision LLC of Shaker Heights installed the system with money from state and federal grants that focus on alternative energy. It is estimated that the system will save the university around \$160,000 over its 25-year lifespan.

Carbon Vision owns, operates and maintains the solar array under a six-year contract that requires YSU to purchase the energy from the company at the rate equal to that of power otherwise generated from fossil fuels.

When the contract is up, YSU will own and operate the system, generating energy free of charge.

"This project is not going to make YSU energy independent," Morrone said. "It is just



YSU President Cynthia Anderson, STEM Dean Martin Abraham and U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan gather on the roof of Moser Hall during the solar panel reveal. Photo courtesy of Bruce Palmer.

a step in the right direction and shows that YSU is committed to going green."

Martin Abraham, founding dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, has been involved with the project since its summer 2010 launch.

"The project took longer than expected to get completely installed," Abraham said. "Once the project came

together though, everything has been completed exactly as anticipated."

At the unveiling on Sept. 6, Abraham said the panels are not only a good thing financially for the university, but also pointed out that they would provide a real-world laboratory for students to learn about new and upcoming alternative energy technology.

STEM has provided classes

in energy production, transmission and storage as part of regular curriculum for years, but the addition of the solar panels provides new opportunities for research and hands-on classroom techniques.

There are plans and ongoing discussions regarding additional forms of alternative energy coming to YSU in the near future. The most visible are wind turbines that are

PANELS PAGE 4

Ad hoc union committee criticizes administration

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

The negotiating arm of the Ohio Education Association at Youngstown State University has a watchdog counterpart, the crisis committee, which has been disseminating information along with claims of injustice.

Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez and John Russo volunteered to head the committee, which has released reports, responded to claims by YSU administrators and enumerated grievances about local media outlets.

Neither was willing to comment, opting to abide by union protocol in regards to media communication.

Sherry Linkon, OEA spokeswoman, said the committee's purpose is to help union membership evaluate the situation and "help people think about what's going on."

"They handle internal organizing," OEA President Julia Gergits said. "They get people ready in case of strike."

The relationship between YSU President Cynthia Anderson and board of trustees member Scott Schulick, decisions made by the board and the administration, and conduct during negotiations have all been subjects of recent crisis committee reports.

In "Use Your Own Sense of Justice and Fairness," the committee reported the "Anderson-Schulick nexus is considering to unilaterally implement their last best offer" without reaching a formal agreement.

"I don't know where they're getting that," Schulick responded. "It's definitely speculation on their part."

With hundreds of faculty members, sentiments vary.

"Not everyone stands with them," Linkon said.

"In a group of 400, there are always people that disagree," Gergits said.

Administration representatives, although not being privy to all the reports, were aware of them.

"It doesn't represent the entire union," said Ron Cole, director of university communications.

In the report, the committee encouraged faculty to decide

CRISIS PAGE 3

Possible revival for faded Neon

Marissa McIntyre
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Once a thriving publication of remembrance, The Neon has drifted into the past. After years out of print, Youngstown State University instructors are contemplating its revival, even if it's only in cyberspace.

The yearbook was abandoned in 1992 due to a lack of interest and has remained dormant because of funding issues. There are still no concrete plans to revive the yearbook, which can be found collecting dust on bookshelves of alumni or peddled as a relic on eBay.

The university cut funding for The Neon, previously

supported by student affairs. In 2005, the yearbook made a temporary comeback as an extended publication of The Jambar.

English instructor Robert Beohm said he thinks The Neon should be brought back and noted that its graphics were a standout feature.

"It's so well graphically illustrated," Beohm said. "Overall, it gives you a pretty good synopsis of what's going on at the university."

The 2005 special edition of The Neon was a 150-page book showcasing snapshots of the academic year in full color, highlighting outstanding events at YSU and around the world.

Journalism instructor Alys-

sa Lenhoff took the reins in 2005, leading a group of student journalists who made the temporary comeback a reality.

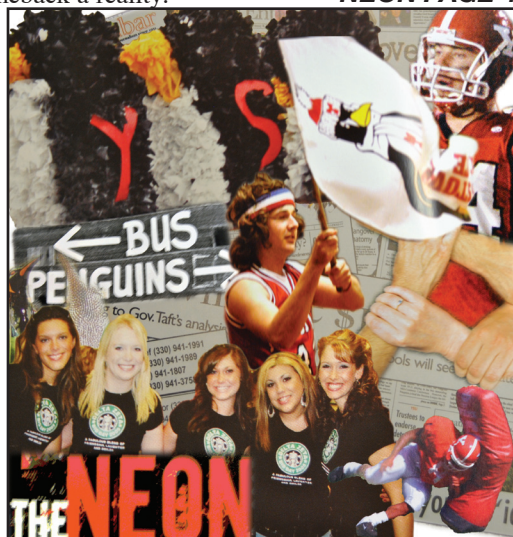
Lenhoff said that the "incredible success" of the 2005 edition was short-lived.

The problem was that it was incredibly expensive. We were unable to secure a permanent source of funding for the project,"

Lenhoff said.

The temporary comeback

NEON PAGE 4





(LEFT) Freshmen Andy Morales, Steve Grove and Mark Pratt play guitar on campus. Photos by Pat Donovan/The Jambar. (RIGHT) Music performance majors junior Lance Gerak, senior Todd Margo and sophomores Chris Mrofchak and Anthony Kunovic perform as the YSU guitar quartet.

Gibson guitar raid concerns musicians

Pat Donovan
NEWS REPORTER

As members of the Youngstown State University Guitar Quartet get ready for practice, pulling acoustic guitars out of their leather carrying cases, the Gibson Guitar Corp. is preparing to fight for the right to continue importing the wood vital to the instrument that the group dedicates so much of its time and effort to.

On Aug. 24, federal agents from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service carried out several raids on Gibson guitar facilities in Tennessee, confiscating pallets of wood, electronic files and guitars.

The U.S. Department of Justice has alleged that the wood, shipped from India and not finished by Indian workers, violates the Lacey Act, which bans the import of protected species of plants and animals.

"I'm against it not just because I am a musician, [but] I just don't see how they had the right to do what they did the way they did it," said Todd Margo, senior and member of the YSU Guitar Quartet. "It seems like a big bureaucratic mess. It's like a shakedown just to make a quick buck and collect some fines."

During the raid, more than 20 armed agents appeared at multiple Gibson facilities, closed them for the day, moved employees to the parking lots and began searching the facilities.

Gibson CEO Henry E. Juskiewicz estimated that

\$3 million in inventory was seized.

"Gibson employs some of the best luthiers and guitar builders in the world, and the company is known for supporting environmentally friendly logging practices," Margo said. "It just doesn't make any sense why they would be blindsided like that."

The implications of the raid, which is still shrouded in mystery, have left the music, furniture and timber industries in a state of confusion and uncertainty.

"First it's Gibson, but who's next?" asked junior Lance Gerak, another member of the YSU Guitar Quartet. "If they can do this to guitars, they will be able to apply the same rules to violins or cellos. There is a whole industry that uses these woods. They can't just shut it all down."

Some musicians said they fear that the government will seize instruments made from woods now labeled illegal while they travel or when their equipment is shipped abroad.

"I have a Gibson from the '50s," said Anthony Kunovic, sophomore and YSU Guitar Quartet member. "And even though it's insured because it's worth a lot of money, is the government just going to be able to come take it from me because they say there is a problem with the wood it's made of?"

The August incident marks the second time wood and other property has been confiscated from Gibson. In 2009, agents armed with automatic weapons raided the Gibson factory in Nashville, Tenn., and seized materials.

One year and nine months later, the government is still holding Gibson's property, although criminal charges have not been filed.

Even though many have expressed dissatisfaction with the way the government handled the Gibson situation, attorney Ron Slipski of the YSU Department of Political Science and Pre-Law Center said the government followed all the proper procedures and has not overstepped its boundaries.

"I have no evidence to suggest the government has gone too far. Indeed, if it has secured a search warrant from the judicial branch, it has followed due process and has convinced a neutral party, a judge, that there was reason for the search," Slipski said.

Junior Andy Morales, who paused in the middle of playing a song on his guitar with friends outside Kilcawley Center, disagreed with Slipski's assessment of the situation.

"This is bigger than the government and a guitar company; this is music. This is what we do. If someone told me I had to turn over my guitar, they would have to pry it from my fingers and lock me up," Morales said.

Gibson, which has been manufacturing guitars for more than 100 years, is preparing to fight the Lacey Act in court, although no official charges have been filed in the case.

Federal officials have not commented about the raid or the pending charges against Gibson.

Governor appoints student trustee

Marissa McIntyre
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

After weeks of Ryan Meditz serving as the lone student on the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees, Josh Prest has been appointed to fill the second position.

Meditz is looking forward to having Prest working alongside him.

"I've been waiting for the appointment of the new student trustee since Lyndsie Hall's term expired. It's great to have another student to talk to about the campus community," Meditz said.

Gov. John Kasich and his staff appoint the student trustees. By law, universities must have at least two students serving on the board of trustees.

According to a press release from Kasich, Prest's term began Tuesday and will continue until April 30, 2013.

Prest applied in May and received no response until recently. He filled out his application and also submitted a letter of recommendation, which wasn't required.

His letter of recommendation was from Mark Luke, who works with Prest in the Relay for Life, the Kiwanas Club of Youngstown and the Rotary Club of Boardman.

Meditz said he believes having two students on the board of trustees will have a greater impact because there will be more of a student voice.

"I know one student's great, two is better," Prest said.

Meditz is confident that Prest will do a great job as a student trustee.

"I know he's been a campus leader and very active in the YSU community before being appointed," Meditz said.

"I do a lot with the American Cancer Society, especially with the Relay

for Life," Prest said. "I'm a committee member on there, specifically with the accounting department in the Boardman relay. I do some with the Lions Club with my dad. That's what I love doing."

Prest said the opportunity means a lot to him because he can better serve the students.

"You never hear a lot from the students' point of view. It's good to have two people on the board that makes all the decisions and have student input on there," Prest said.

Meditz said having more than one student perspective will allow the board to make "more informed and strategic decisions."

"Josh may have a very different perspective on our student body's needs than I," Meditz said.

Scott Schulick, former board of trustees chairman, said he is looking



PHOTO BY JORDAN D. UHL/THEJAMBAR.

Josh Prest has been selected to be the second student trustee alongside of Ryan Meditz.

forward to working with Prest.

"[It] is a valuable experience to the board and the students to have the student perspective," Schulick said. "Students ultimately are who the board are serving."

Additional reporting by Jordan D. Uhl

Students experience drunk driving



Junior Luis Quinones tries to drive with a blood alcohol concentration of .081 in a DUI simulator on campus Wednesday. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

Youngstown State University students were given the opportunity to "drive drunk" on Wednesday outside Kilcawley Center. UNITE International hosted the Arrive Alive Tour.

"The simulator allows students to experience in a controlled environment the potential consequences of drunken driving," said Patrick DeGrasse, CEO of UNITE.

The Arrive Alive Tour will visit more than 700 college campuses and military bases around the country.

"Our goal is to visit every campus to keep students from ruining their lives by drinking and driving," he said.

Sal Salvino, a graduate student in economics, did not go through the simulator but he watched as other students did.

"[The DUI simulator] really makes people think about what you're doing when you get behind the wheel," Salvino said.

Students, staff receive flu shots

Stephanie Vogel
REPORTER

Monica Walters graduated from Youngstown State University in December with a bachelor's degree in social work. Now she is administering flu shots at the Student Health Clinic in Kilcawley House.

The campus flu shot clinic took place Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. as Walters and other employees from the City of Youngstown Health Department prepared and managed the clinic.

By 10 a.m., 44 people had received shots. "People were actually waiting in line for us this morning," Walters said.

YSU staff members also took advantage of the flu shot clinic.

"There have been older adults, a lot of professors, but few students," said Leah Richards, a senior majoring in public health at YSU.

Richards was in charge of passing out informational pamphlets outside of the clinic.

Walters and Richards agreed that this year's student attendance has been low compared to years past.

"I had three or four students walk up to me, and they were asking what this was all about," Richards said. "They didn't know."

Monica said she thought the location might have had something to do with it.

"Last year, the clinic was held in the [Andrews Student Recreation and] Wellness Center. We had a bigger turnout there. I think it's because the health clinic is out of students' way," Walters said.

Kim Sheward, an administration assistant at the YSU police department, said she thought this year's location was ideal.

"I've been getting the flu shot here for the last three years. Its convenient," she said after she received her shot.

Susan Ferrier, the nurse supervisor at the Student Health Clinic, said she thought there were different reasons why this year's attendance was minimal.

"Flu shots are available everywhere. The staff found out that their insurance covers their bill, and students' response has always been low," she said.

The next flu shot clinic will be held in the same location on Nov. 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

got an opinion?

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thejambar@gmail.com

JAMBAR STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:

Josh Stipanovich330-941-1991

MANAGING EDITOR:

Doug Livingston.....330-941-1807

NEWS EDITOR:

Jordan D. Uhl.....330-941-1989

SENIOR COPY EDITOR:

Emmalee C. Torisk330-941-3758

COPY EDITOR:

Amanda Bowlby.....330-941-3758

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR:

Chelsea Telega.....330-941-1913

FEATURES EDITOR:

Kacy Standohar330-941-1913

SPORTS EDITOR:

Joe Catullo Jr.....330-941-1913

ONLINE EDITOR:

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RECEPTIONIST:

Alyssa Italiano.....330-941-3095

BUSINESS MANAGER:

Jane Kestner.....330-941-3094

ADVISER:

Mary Beth Earnhardt330-941-3095

CONTACT THE JAMBAR

E-MAIL..... editor@thejambar.com

FAX330-941-2322

CRISIS PAGE 1

for themselves whether they want to do “unpaid, addition work” than which is required of them.

“[Sudershan Garg, Scott Schulick, Carole Weimer] and the other members of the board do not know or care about the important work and services we do almost daily on behalf of the university that go unrecognized in the collective bargaining agreement, and without which the university cannot function properly,” the report stated.

Anderson’s salary, her career accomplishments and Schulick’s application for president of the YSU Foundation were also under scrutiny.

While refuting any alleged or speculated favoritism between he and Anderson, Schulick pointed out how her salary was already decided.

“All the candidates were going to have to accept the same package,” he said. Schulick argued that Anderson’s salary is \$7,000 more than former YSU President David Sweet’s

salary of \$318,000, which includes housing and car allowance.

He added that Anderson has made donations and pledges to the university totaling \$125,000.

“[As for her qualifications], the faculty can surmise favoritism. [Anderson] spent 15 years as a [vice president]; [Sweet] was a dean,” he added.

In another crisis report, Palmer-Fernandez and Russo criticized the university for

underestimating YSU’s fall enrollment.

“Everyone on the [committee for student success] understood that enrollment would go down,” the report stated.

YSU administrators sees the reports as a hurdle in the negotiation process.

“I think it’s important to maintain our focus at the bargaining table and not to let these types of things distract us from getting an agreement in hand,” Cole said.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Valley women featured in photo exhibit

The Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor will host "Women of the World: A Photographic Journey of New Americans in the Mahoning Valley" for one month, beginning with a reception from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday. The exhibit — which is co-sponsored by YSU's Center for Working Class Studies and the department of sociology, anthropology and gerontology — is part of a larger project to profile "new" immigrants who live in the Mahoning Valley. The center, located at 151 Wood St., is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and noon to 4 p.m. on Saturdays.

Job expo brings more than 60 employers to campus

The 2011 Fall Job Expo will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room. More than 60 employers from local, regional and national companies will be available to discuss professional positions and internships, provide information and accept resumes. Those interested can register at the door on the day of the event. For more information, contact Susan George in the Office of Career & Counseling Services at 330-941-3299.

POLICE BRIEFS

Students break exit gate arm during hide-and-seek game

On Friday, students running through the F-1 parking lot during a game of hide-and-seek broke the exit gate control arm. Parking services replaced the gate.

Memorial plaque missing from Cushwa

On Tuesday, a university administrator reported a memorial plaque outside of Cushwa Hall missing. A YSU police officer found that the plaque had been removed from its ground-mounted aluminum stake, which had been discarded nearby. The theft likely occurred late last week, according to the report. The plaque reads "In Loving Memory of Capt. Kenneth Centorame."

Masturbator spotted outside of Lyden

On Wednesday, a Lyden House front desk attendant reported a man masturbating in front of the residence hall. According to the report, she noticed the man with his pants down between the two outside doors on the west side of the building. She immediately turned around to call YSU Police, and the man fled. YSU Police did not find the suspect.

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PANELS PAGE 1

planned for the roof of Stambaugh Stadium.

"The wind turbines are research devices," Abraham said. "Each one will only generate one kilowatt of power, so they won't really have a significant impact on YSU's energy production."

There are other projects already in place that most on campus will never see. For example, there is a system in place with FirstEnergy that monitors energy consumption and provides substantial benefit to YSU's energy cost, Abraham said.

Abraham added that the energy monitoring system proved its worth during the peak energy months of summer.

There is discussion about future plans to use steam as heat.

These projects are all part of a step plan that would allow YSU to improve energy efficiency on campus. It is estimated that in a year, YSU will have saved enough electricity to power 2,000 single-family homes, according to the initial press release in June 2010.

The alternative energy projects at YSU are part of an ever-growing commitment to an environmentally friendly campus and making the greater Youngstown area a center for emerging energy technologies.

Representatives from Carbon Vision and Northern States Metals were unavailable for comment.

NEON PAGE 1

was considered just that: temporary.

"The president's office found funding to start up The Neon again, but that was always known to be a temporary arrangement," said Gary Salvner, chairman of the English department.

With funding still an issue, Salvner said he worries if students would welcome the yearbook at all.

"There is also a question as to whether students are interested in a print yearbook in the present day," Salvner said.

Lenhoff and Salvner have expressed interest in reviving The Neon. However, they agree that publishing a physical version of the yearbook wouldn't be the most effective solution today.

"I believe doing a digital yearbook probably makes the most sense and would be more economical," Lenhoff said.

Salvner said he would like to poll students before moving forward.

Still, Salvner and Lenhoff are far from dismissing the

Campus Connection

Should YSU bring back its yearbook? Would you buy it?



"I suppose I would buy it if students were able to be a part of the writing and put their own content in it."
- Alanna McBride, freshman



"I would buy it, but there better be more than one page dedicated to nontraditional students."
- Warren Wilson, junior

project.

"The journalism program would be happy to discuss ways that we could assist with any renewed efforts to publish a yearbook," Lenhoff said.

Freshman Hailey Sturtz said she wasn't aware that YSU ever had a yearbook. However, she was interested

in the possibility of a yearbook to get to better know the university.

As far as the debate of print versus digital editions goes, Sturtz said, "It really wouldn't matter."

Additional reporting by Darla Conti and Alyssa Italiano

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Relentless rhetoric

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RELATED STORY
CRISIS PAGE 1

A malicious committee has been making its unfair mark on local media outlets and the YSU administration amid labor negotiations and a fiscal dilemma.

The crisis committee has released several reports urging members of the teachers' union to stop talking to certain media outlets and not to fall for the administration's antics.

With the unrelenting rhetoric spewed from both sides, it's the union's right to challenge administration, but it's the students who are again in the middle of a self-indulgent disagreement.

The crisis committee can speculate all they want, but we'll be equally unrelenting in challenging their claims.

They've made grandiose allegations, then shrugged their shoulders at their elusive arguments.

We're not saying the administration is immaculate, but don't complain about unfair coverage then clam up and hide behind "leadership structure."

That same structure has enabled two members of a union of more than 400 to speak, seemingly, on everyone's behalf. Dissidents are silenced by the same "structure."

We applaud the committee's enthusiasm and involvement in trying times, but it could have been accomplished in other ways.

Instead of urging faculty members to do the bare minimum, which ultimately would affect students, be tactful.

YSU-OEA President Julia Gergits said the crisis committee's duty is to "handle internal organizing."

That shouldn't entail publishing reports that warn faculty members to "be prepared for Dr. Anderson's charm offensive," "predictable clichés" and "alligator tears."

The union should hold its members accountable for sophomoric behavior.

We feel especially awful for the faculty members who don't agree with these childish accusations.

Yes these silent dissenters do exist, but fear within them has resulted in "no comment."

Both sides are at fault, and that's the bottom line.

These labor negotiations have unfortunately already become ugly and personal. Why make it worse?

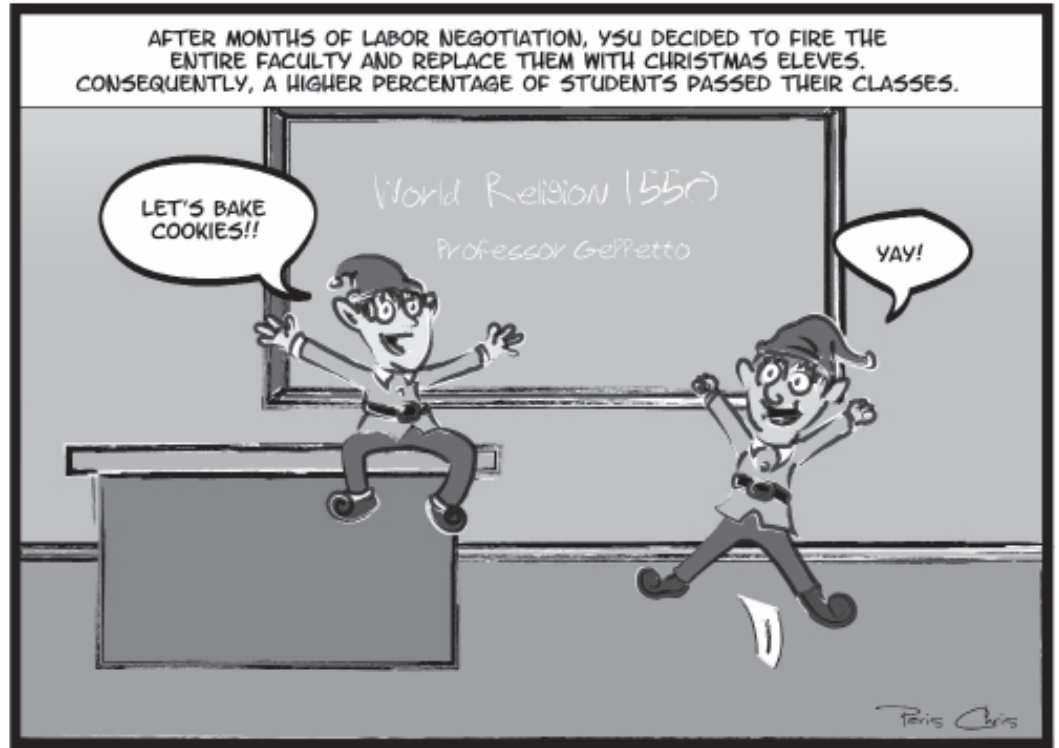


Photo illustration by Paris Chrisopoulos.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Keeping YSU's budget in perspective

As the campus journeys through this difficult financial stretch in our history, it is vital that everyone has a basic understanding of the budgetary situation as it exists. The more informed we are, the better opinions we can form and the better the decisions we will make.

The background: In general, Ohio's public universities are funded through two major sources — state funds and tuition revenue. In Ohio, state funding in support of public higher education has been on a gradual downward slope for the past decade. Ten years ago, money from the state made up about half of total revenues at YSU; today, it accounts for about one-quarter. This significant drop has created a fundamental shift in how Ohio's public universities are funded. When state funding drops, the only other revenue source — tuition — goes up. The result is that students bear a greater burden. In addition, when the state places restrictions on how much tuition can be raised, it further hinders the ability of universities to offset reductions in state funding.

FY 2012: In fiscal years 2010 and 2011, about \$600 million in federal "stimulus" funds were allocated to Ohio public universities. In theory, these funds would help to stimulate the economy and facilitate an economic recovery that would allow the state of Ohio to replace the federal dollars with state dollars. As time went on, however, it became clear that the federal dollars would be one-time funds that

the state would not replace. As a result, YSU's state allocation was cut by about \$7 million in FY 2012 — a reduction of more than 15 percent.

Budget: Faced with the \$7 million loss in state funds, the YSU Board of Trustees and the administration implemented a series of budget actions — including a 3.5 percent tuition increase and deep reductions in operating expenses. Even with those steps, the board of trustees approved a fiscal year 2012 operating budget that contained a deficit of nearly \$1.7 million.

Enrollment: As mentioned earlier, the other major source of revenue for public universities is tuition. Obviously, the more students enrolled, the more tuition revenue. Over the past six years, enrollment had steadily increased at YSU, which resulted in increased tuition revenue that helped soften the loss in state funding. In the fiscal year 2012 budget, the university projected that the enrollment trend would continue and budgeted for a modest 1 percent enrollment increase, or about \$1 million more in tuition revenue. But, in actuality, enrollment dropped this fall by nearly 4.5 percent. As a result, overall tuition revenue is expected to be at least \$5 million less than projected. Add that to the \$1.7 million deficit already included in the budget, and the shortfall totals nearly \$7 million.

Personnel costs: Universities are personnel-driven; thus, about 70 percent of our expenses are personnel-related. Over the past several

years, wages and fringe benefits have consistently risen at YSU. Perhaps the most alarming example of this is the cost of employee health benefits, which last year rose by more than 20 percent to \$17 million. In a nutshell, the growth in the university's expenses has outpaced and exceeded revenue. **The future:** It is, in some ways, the perfect storm — a badly ailing national, state and local economy combined with monumental cuts in state funding combined with a significant reversal in enrollment trends. The challenges are real. Substantial austerity measures across the entire scope of the university will be needed to address the situation. But, a little perspective is in order as well. YSU has been around for more than 100 years and will be here for another 100 and more. This is not the first time the university has faced fiscal challenges. All universities in Ohio are struggling with the same issues at some level. The challenges — as deep as they are — will be met. We will pull together and make the sacrifices needed to turn this around. And, above all, we will ensure that the high quality academic and other services that we provide to our students will continue.

GENE GRILLI

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Face-off at the U.N.

McClatchy-Tribune News Service (MCT)

The looming United Nations vote on Palestinian statehood is not a cause for celebration -- for Palestinians or anyone else. It is merely further evidence of the utter stalemate of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process, which once promised to deliver a two-state solution but which during the last few years has deteriorated into a depressing morass.

The U.N. vote, assuming it takes place, will be mostly symbolic. Whether it ends in a Security Council veto or a successful follow-up in the General Assembly, it will not, in fact, result in the imminent creation of an independent Palestinian state. When the vote is over, Israel will still control the territory it controls now, settlements will continue to dot the West Bank, and Hamas and the Palestinian Authority will remain suspicious rivals fighting to lead a stateless people. The Israeli occupation will not come screeching to an end.

So is the vote something that a reasonable person should support or oppose? In our view, a Palestinian nation must eventually come into being. That's what the two-state solution is all about -- two states. Sooner rather than later, Israel must relinquish the lands it has occupied for a stunning 44 years, and the Palestinians must be granted the right to self-determination that other people take for granted.

In principle, then, we would have no objection if the world chose to express its support for statehood, a move that many believe will strengthen the moral and legal case for it. What's more, we recognize that in asking for this vote, the Palestinians, once best known around the world for airplane hijackings and suicide bombings, are using nonviolent, diplomatic means to achieve their aims. Whether they stop after asking the Security Council for full U.N. membership or go on to seek an elevation of their observer status in the General Assembly, they certainly don't deserve to be punished or have their economic aid cut off for doing so.

What holds us back from an unequivocal endorsement of the U.N. vote is concern that the symbolic value of the move will not outweigh its real-life costs. The practical reality is that the only way a Palestinian state will be created (and thrive) is through good-faith, face-to-face negotiations between the two parties that result in a mutually agreeable compromise that both sides have the incentive and the will to abide by. Bypassing talks with Israel and seeking U.N. support for statehood is understandably appealing to those frustrated by the recalcitrance of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government, but there's no guarantee that it will push the

process forward rather than set it back.

Will a vote in the United Nations, for instance, be taken by the Israelis as a signal that the Palestinians have abandoned the Oslo process -- and make them even less inclined to come to the table? It shouldn't have that effect, but if it does, that's counterproductive. Will it lead the U.S. Congress to cut off aid to the West Bank, where the Palestinian Authority is already having trouble paying its bills? Again, it shouldn't, but if it does, it will only weaken moderate Palestinian leaders. Will a vote in the Security Council -- and the almost certain American veto of it -- provoke violence or make it difficult for the U.S. and the Palestinians to work together in the future? Will a vote in the General Assembly make it easier for the Palestinians to join organizations such as the International Criminal Court, as Israel fears, and therefore to bring war crimes charges against Israel? If so, that seems unlikely to warm up relations or promote cooperation. Would a resolution in the General Assembly include specific details about the borders of the new Palestinian state or about the property rights of millions of Palestinian refugees still living in camps in neighboring Arab countries -- and if so, will those details lock in future negotiators and make compromise solutions harder to achieve?

No one knows the answers to those questions. But this much is obvious: No matter what happens in the Security Council or the General Assembly, the top priority must be to bring the two sides back to the table.

It is true that negotiations have gone nowhere in recent years. Both Israel and the Palestinians deserve a portion of the blame for that. The Palestinians are divided, their leaders in Ramallah are weak and unpopular, their militants retain the ability to sabotage progress, and on the street, frustration continues to grow. What's more, even the more moderate leaders in the Palestinian Authority have done little to prepare their people for peace with Israel, whose existence and borders they must learn to accept. As for Israel, its current leaders seem only half-heartedly committed to a two-state solution, and its refusal to halt its inflammatory settlement activity (which has continued steadily since the Six-Day War in 1967) has helped ensure the failure of peace talks.

It is not a promising moment. And there are many people who have lost patience, wishing a pox on both houses. But this conflict, a central political drama of the last 100 years and a strategically critical element in the creation of a stronger, healthier Middle East, is too important to ignore. Regardless of what happens at the United Nations in the weeks ahead, the two sides must resume direct talks and get back to the difficult business of building an independent, economically viable, politically stable Palestine that can live alongside a safe and secure Israel.

OUR SIDE POLICY

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

YOUR SIDE POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Email submissions are welcome at editor@thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification and the writer's city of residence for printing. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries that are libelous or that don't defend opinion with facts from reliable sources. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitting writer based on these requirements.

Letters will not be rejected based on the view expressed in them. Letters may be rejected if they are not relevant to Jambar readers, seek free publicity or if the editorial staff decides the subject has been sufficiently aired. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The Jambar does not withhold the names of writers of letters or guest commentaries.

The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of Youngstown State University.

Homecoming court finalists announced

Kacy Standohar
FEATURES EDITOR

The top 10 finalists for homecoming king and queen were announced after voting concluded on Wednesday.

Last year, 983 votes were counted. This year, there were 833 votes, of which 522 were tallied on Tuesday, the first day of voting.

The top five king finalists are Mike Adamson, Justin Butt, Mark A. Jones Jr., Michael Koziorynsky and Jeremy McGhee.

Kelly Chaffee, Anjalía N. Lyons, Susan Rowe, Jenna Smaldino and Emilie Hall make up the top five queen finalists.

After sending mass emails to all Youngstown State University students, Greg Gulas, assistant director of student programming, and Carrie Anderson, coordinator of programs and marketing, said they were pleased with the candidates.

Candidates are responsible for marketing themselves, and Gulas and Anderson added that one reason for the 150 fewer votes may have been because candidates struggled with the task.

"We can't campaign for them. They campaign for themselves," Gulas said.

Anderson said she knew some of the candidates had trouble with posting fliers and keeping them up.

The winners will be announced Oct. 30 at the YSU homecoming game at Stambaugh Stadium.



Mike Adamson



Justin Butt



Michael Koziorynsky



Mark Jones



Jeremy McGhee



Jenna Smaldino



Emilie Hall



Kelly Chaffee



Susan Rowe



Anjalía Lyons

Stay jazzy, Lemon Grove



That Other Jazz Group performs at the Lemon Grove Cafe while listeners eat and enjoy the sounds of the evening. Photo by Kacy Standohar/The Jambar.

Kacy Standohar
FEATURES EDITOR

That Other Jazz Group, which consists of musically inclined Youngstown State University students, set the mood for WYSU-FM's Listener Appreciation Party on Tuesday evening at the Lemon Grove Cafe.

The group was invited to play their standard jazz arrangements and songs.

"We all started playing in a class together. Then we decided to start a group," said Jeff Feuerwerker, the group's pianist/keyboardist.

Feuerwerker said he thought the group's name "had a good ring to it" and would "be funny when someone announced us."

Feuerwerker, a piano performance major with emphasis on jazz, said the group's members practice a lot individually but sound better as a group.

"If everyone is on the same page, you don't need to practice too often," he said.

The group consists of Feuerwerker, saxophonist Mitch Lawrence and bassist Tim Wilderoder. At the event, Dustin May played drums.

"We're not really [ever nervous]. Everyone has performed in other groups enough," Feuerwerker said. "We do a lot of improvising. Sometimes it's hit or miss."

Melinda Bowen-Houch, WYSU-FM development officer, handles events at YSU. She took suggestions from Jacob Harver, owner of the Lemon Grove Cafe, and checked out That Other Jazz Group's website. After listening to a few tracks, she chose them to perform at the party.

Bowen-Houch said the Lemon Grove Cafe is a great venue to work with because of its proximity to campus.

"We want to show how much we love our listeners, give them a chance to meet our staff. And this gives us a chance to meet them," she said about the party.

Gary Sexton, WYSU-FM's director of broadcasting, said the Listener Appreciation Party is a good chance for the radio station to connect with people.

"Our purpose is to be a community service, giving back to the community through high-level news and fine arts music," Sexton said.

Sophomore Lee Beitzel attended the party and said the event is "a lovely idea."

"This is so great. My dad is a jazz musician, so I grew up with it," she said.

Bowen-Houch said WYSU-FM hopes to host this event twice a year.

That Other Jazz Group will perform at Margherita's Grille on Saturday from 7 to 10 p.m. and at the Mocha House in Warren on Oct. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Protecting your parts

Becoming 'a ground-based, multi-joint weapon system'

Jenna Medina
FEATURES REPORTER

On Wednesday evening, Safer Sex Week at Youngstown State University got physical for a self-defense class in hopes of protecting students from unwanted sexual assault.

Don Cox and David Benko, YSU police officers, demonstrated techniques for students.

They illustrated ways of staying safe in personal, vehicle, home, dorm and office environments. They also discussed how to be aware of sketchy situations and deal with confrontation.

The goal was for students to participate and engage in a potential real-life experience. To do this, demonstrators wear a "red man" suit and attack the participants.

"It really hits home for them when we wear the 'red man' suit and really attack them. It's totally awesome to see the women do things they didn't think they could do," Cox said.

The officers displayed striking and escape techniques, including ground techniques, for the students.

"All of these techniques that are taught are not strength-based, they are goal-oriented. That means if you do one, two and three, four will be the result," Cox said.

Cox said most women they deal with have never been in a fight before, so they had to start with the basics. They were taught the proper defensive stance, and "just like anything else, you have to walk before you can run," he said.

"This is very important because all of the techniques, even the ground escapes, are built off of their defensive stance. Once that is established, I tell them they are a ground-based, multi-joint weapon system," Cox said.

After each technique is thoroughly established, students are able to get down and dirty by going full contact with what they have learned.

This is the first year that YSU police officers are teaching the class for Safer Sex

Week. However, it is certainly not the first self-defense class taught and won't be the last. These officers take time to teach these classes because they care and agree upon the importance of all women learning self-defense.

Cox said they don't want to see anybody get hurt and it is better to be prepared for the unknown. He has taught girls as young as 4 years old up to 80 years old.

"Knowing that I've planted a seed in their mind on what to do in a self-defense situation makes me feel great," he said.

During self-defense classes, the officers give all of the women confidence in what they are teaching. The officers discuss experiences they have encountered, and women announce their experiences with sexual assault. Participants receive nothing but positive feedback.

Only students have attended this class so far, but it is a free class that is also offered to all faculty and staff who wish to set up a time convenient for them.

Breanne Romeo, residential education graduate assistant, helped program all Safer Sex Week events. She said that this class was targeted at women, but it is open to both genders.

"We want students who attend to be fully informed," Romeo said.

Sophomore Ben Burton, an exercise science major, took a self-defense class last semester.

"Everyone should be adequate in some self-defense," Burton said.

Cox said this class will be beneficial to participants years down the road because the responses they are taught will stick with them.

"I was so scared my life flashed before my eyes" refers to the subconscious searching for the proper response to the situation, he said.

"[While] taking this class, we plant that response in your mind," Cox said. "People are their own worst enemy. Your only limitations are those you set up in your mind, or permit others to set up for you."

"It really hits home for them when we wear the 'red man' suit and really attack them. It's totally awesome to see the women do things they didn't think they could do."

-Don Cox



The Penguins look for their first road win in the Eric Wolford era on Saturday when they face off against Indiana State University. YSU has a career record of 9-0 at Memorial Stadium. Sycamore mascot photo courtesy of ISU Athletics, field and player Jambar file photo.

Penguins look to redeem again

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

The Penguins will travel to Indiana State University for their first road conference battle on Saturday.

The Penguins fell to the Sycamores, 34-24, in the final game last year. Youngstown State University leads the all-time series, 18-2, and the team has never lost at ISU in nine meetings. Last season's game was the last time the Penguins allowed more than 30 points in a game.

ISU is coming off a decisive win, 44-16, over Western Kentucky University. YSU head coach Eric Wolford said the game will be physical and competitive.

"This team is very well played, very well coached," Wolford said. "They got good football players, no question

about it. They've become more of a physical football team."

The Penguins travel for the second time this season and are looking for that elusive first road victory. Wolford said winning on the road is what makes championship-caliber teams. There's just no way around it.

"The traveling will be somewhat of an obstacle," Wolford said. "[We have to] get all the negatives and complaining out of the way [so that we] have a vision of what to expect to be happening."

Junior center Mark Pratt said the team is going in like it did last week.

"[We're] working hard, getting the fundamentals down and trying to go 1-0 again this week," Pratt said. "[We are] just trying to stay focused."

Pratt mentioned that the linemen are "goofy" at times.

"We know when we can joke

around," he said. "Most of the times we need to be serious."

Redshirt freshman linebacker Travis Williams said the biggest difference between playing at home and on the road is the fans.

"Not having your crowd behind you can make it difficult," Williams said. "We will feed off of the crowd energy. We'll be all right. We'd love to be an on-the-road team."

YSU is averaging 248.3 rushing yards per game and 207.7 passing. Pratt elaborated on the work the offensive linemen are giving day in and day out.

"We did really well in camp," Pratt said. "We unified. We're going to get better each week, and it's going to get better. I love it when we're able to just get down and get after it and go to town."

On the defensive side, the Penguins

are allowing 337.3 yards per game while the Sycamore offense is averaging 354. Williams said the Penguins play as a unit and they cannot let guys in the backfield get away; they need to make sacks.

"Hopefully we get a lot of pressure on [the quarterback] and force him to pass," Williams said.

Sophomore quarterback Kurt Hess threw a career-high four interceptions against ISU last year. Pratt said that although he was not a Penguin last year, Hess' maturity is rising.

"If they would've never told me he was a freshman last year, I would've never known," Pratt said. "He plays like he's a senior."

The last time the Penguins posted a shutout was Sept. 26, 2009, at ISU. Oct. 18, 2003, was the last time YSU played a road overtime game, and it came at ISU.

Olbrych, Conn take charge in tournaments

Nick Mancini
SPORTS REPORTER

From Saturday to Tuesday, the Youngstown State University men's golf team participated in two tournaments.

On Saturday and Sunday, the Penguins competed in the University of Kentucky Bluegrass Invitational. YSU placed ninth out of 15 teams.

Head coach Tony Joy said he was pleased with how the team played in Kentucky, although it was not with the Penguins' strongest lineup.

"We played pretty consistent throughout, even though we were playing without our senior Michael Lower," Joy said. He added that Lower was taking a break.

UK won the tournament with a three-round total of 864. YSU finished more than 30 strokes back, coming in at 897.

The Penguins started with a strong opening round of 299, which put them just seven strokes behind Marshall University. The Thundering Herd led after one round with a score of 293.

After the first round, the Penguins fell off the pace of eventual winner UK, which shot second- and third-round scores of 281 and 287. The Penguins shot 301 and 297 in the last two rounds.

Leading the Penguins were senior Anthony Conn and sophomore Mark Olbrych. Both shot three-round totals of 225 to come in tied for 33rd. Coming right behind them in 40th place with 226 was senior Joe Santisi.

Rounding out the tournament for the Penguins was sophomore Shayne Wilson who placed 55th with a total of 229. Freshman Bryan Yeo shot a 233, good for 71st place.

Joy said he was impressed with Yeo's performance.

"Being a redshirt freshman, I thought Bryan played really well," Joy said. "He played right there with some of our more experienced golf-

ers."

After concluding the tournament on Sunday, the Penguins were right back in action on Monday at the Bowling Green State University John Piper Intercollegiate.

The Penguins finished in the middle of the pack, coming in fifth out of 10 teams. They ended with a three-round total of 906. The team also placed three golfers in the top 10.

On Monday, the Penguins fired rounds of 313 and 302. Tuesday was better, as the Penguins shot 291, which put them at the third-lowest round of the day.

Joy said the round of 291 was the lowest of the year for the team.

"We have been hovering around 300 for most of the year, so it was nice to see us shoot in the low 290s," Joy said.

Conn and Olbrych led the Penguins. They both tied again, this time for sixth place with three-round scores of 221. Lower, who golfed as an individual, came in ninth with a total of 222.

Joy said he was pleased with Conn and Olbrych. Lower's performance also encouraged him.

"[Lower] really had a nice performance for us after starting on a rough note," Joy said. "Being our senior, he really stepped up and played well for the ninth-place finish."

BGSU won the tournament in a playoff with Loyola University Chicago. Both shot 892 in the event.

The Penguins will have 10 days off before their next event, something Joy said will help the team.

"It is going to be nice to have this break," Joy said. "The UK tournament was moved from the spring to the fall, but we couldn't pass up competing in [a Southeastern Conference]-hosted event."

The Penguins return to action Oct. 3 at the Telich/Sun Life Financial Cleveland State University Invitational.



Sophomore Mark Olbrych leads the Penguins in weekend tournaments. Photo courtesy of Sports Information.

YSU's Schumaker appears in Natural Bodybuilding & Fitness

Nick Mancini
SPORTS REPORTER

Growing up in New Springfield, Brandy Schumaker was always involved with sports. In high school, she excelled at basketball, volleyball and track. But her true passion was the strength and conditioning aspect of each.

When she got to Youngstown State University, she did not continue playing sports. Instead she focused on working out, doing mostly cardio.

"I knew going into college that I wasn't the type of athlete to continue playing, but I definitely wanted to stay active and working out," Schumaker said.

When Schumaker switched her major from biology to exercise science, she was able to gain knowledge in her field.

"I became a student trainer," Schumaker said. "That really helped me learn how to properly train, but I still needed to learn more."

It was not until Schumaker started to work at the Jewish Community Center that she learned the importance of weight training.

"I met an ex-bodybuilder," Schumaker said. "I was always into the cardio aspect but never knew how to properly weight train."

In addition to serving as the assistant director for fitness and facility operations at the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center, Schumaker competes in bodybuilding and figure competitions. Since 2007, she has participated in 11 tournaments.

Most recently she was featured in the February issue of Natural Bodybuilding & Fitness magazine. She also placed first in a competition on Aug. 13.

Schumaker said working at the Rec Center has been a great job and a life-changing experience. It's where she met her husband.

"He is my workout partner," Schumaker said. "He knew more about the nutrition side, and I knew more about competing, so we were able to share our knowledge with each other."

They work out every morning, she said.



"A typical day for us is waking up at 4 a.m. and being at the gym by about 5:30 or so," Schumaker said. "What we do on that day really depends on the show or if it's the offseason. I always do high intense cardio, about 15-minute intervals. You will never see me on the elliptical for an hour and a half."

Each day requires different workouts, depending on what body parts the duo is working. They lift for around an hour. They have also been incorporating a new method known as metabolic acceleration training, which uses a more Olympic-style approach with items such as kettlebells, Schumaker said.

Schumaker is preparing for a competition on Saturday in Struthers. She was originally scheduled for a show on Sunday, but something got in the way.

"I enrolled in Saturday classes for the [Master of Business Administration] program and figured it would be better to not miss class," she said.

The show on Saturday is a pro-qualifier and a natural show, which means that it features only natural bodybuilding. Those are the only types of shows Schumaker competes in.

"The testing is as strict as you can imagine, with polygraphs and urine tests to make sure everyone is following the rules," she said.

Although Schumaker has competed and placed high in competitions, there is still one thing that frustrates her about competing: subjective judging.

"I could do a show one week and place, and then do a show with the exact same rules by the same organization and look exactly the same but not even place," she said. "It all depends on what the judges are looking for."

With her work at the Rec Center and involvement with competitions, Schumaker said she is trying to promote the sport.

"I just want to ... get more people interested," Schumaker said. "I always promote doing it healthy and natural. I just try to lead by example."

PHOTO BY NICK MANCINI/THE JAMBAR

Penguins fill roster, prep for pro scouts



Sophomore baseball player Neil Schroth prepares for a game with a few stretches. In 2011, Schroth led the team with nine doubles and four triples. He hit a team-best .349 and led the Penguins with 11 RBIs during Horizon League play. Photo courtesy of Sports Information.

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

The Youngstown State University baseball team is preparing for Scout Day on Wednesday at Eastwood Field.

The Penguins are coming off a tryout segment, held Sept. 12. Head coach Rich Pasquale said it was nice to see a lot of players compete for a spot.



First baseman Jeremy Banks warms up before a game. Banks was one of two Penguins to play in and start all 55 games this season. Photo courtesy of Sports Information.

"They're trying to show you what they can offer," Pasquale said. "Sometimes it's kind of tough with our position because we're the coaches that say playing time's over for school and that's tough."

The only position Pasquale said might be a gray area is catcher. Infield, outfield and pitching are full.

"To have a full 35 on the roster, it doesn't mean that we're going to take to it,"

Pasquale said. "We don't want to over-recruit. You base off need. Catching was an area we were zeroing in on at that tryout. We've been in touch with one of the catchers. I want guys on this roster that are going to contribute."

The Penguins are preparing by practicing just about every day for the MLB scouts. The Texas Rangers drafted former YSU pitcher Phil Klein in the summer, and Pasquale said he hopes that the roster contains more MLB prospects.

"I wasn't surprised at all," Pasquale said on behalf of Klein. "He had a very good career here, [and] he won games. He kept us in there, and he competed. I was very happy for Phil."

MLB scouts study and analyze college players before the season begins each year.

"They just watch our guys," Pasquale said. "We're in uniforms and hitting groups. We give the scouts food and that type of thing. It's a very good way to promote our players and the program, and they look to see what we have [before] they come back in the spring."

Pasquale said junior Jeremy Banks has a shot at the pros.

"Banks has an opportunity with his size, power and ability to hit for average," Pasquale said.

Banks led the team last season with a .300 batting average, three home runs, 64 hits, 26 RBIs, 83 total bases and a .390 slugging percentage. He also played all 55 games, only one of two players to accomplish that feat.

On the coaching staff, the Penguins added Bobby Pizzuto as an assistant coach. Last year, he helped coach at Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School, just east of Cleveland.

YSU also brought in Eddie Marko as the new recruiting coordinator and head pitching coach. Marko was previously an associate scout for the Colorado Rockies.

"[Marko has done a] tremendous job since coming here," Pasquale said. "Bobby Pizzuto does an outstanding job as well. Eddie comes from a lot of pro guys. Our guys are wide open to listen to what he has to offer."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Men's tennis finishes MSU invitational play, anticipates Dayton tournament

On Sunday, the men's tennis team concluded play at the Frank Beeman Invitational, hosted by Michigan State University. Sophomore Max Schmerin beat Duquesne University's Richard Robbie, 6-4, 4-6, 12-10, and junior Felipe Rosa lost 6-3, 6-3 to Daniel Kang of Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. Additionally, sophomore Zee-shan Ismail lost 7-5, 6-0 to the University of Detroit Mercy's Mike Basha. Rodrigo Campos lost 6-7, 7-6, 12-10 to Deon Shafer of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Sophomore Victor Theorin lost to IUPUI's Thomas Gans in the State Flight (6-2, 6-0), and freshman Dawoud Kabli lost 6-3, 6-2 to MSU's Gijs Linders and also lost 6-3, 7-5 to Detroit's Cesar Escobar. Doubles play was highlighted by Kabli and Tariq Ismail's 9-8 (5) win over Duquesne's Robbie and Max Rubin. The men's tennis team will compete next at the Wright State/Dayton Invitational, which begins Friday in Dayton. The tournament will conclude on Sunday.

Softball prepares for 2012 season with fall schedule

The softball team will continue its eight-game fall schedule at the Robert Morris Tournament on Sunday. The team will open up with the California University of Pennsylvania at 12:30 p.m. and will compete against Mercyhurst College at 2:30 p.m. The Penguins will also compete against the University of Akron and Kent State University at the Kent State Invitational on Oct. 1. They will wrap up their 2012 season preparations at the Ohio State Tournament on Oct. 9.

MISSOURI VALLEY STANDINGS

Youngstown State	2-1
North Dakota State	2-0
Indiana State	2-1
Northern Iowa	1-1
Southern Illinois	1-1
South Dakota State	1-2
Western Illinois	1-2
Missouri State	0-3
Illinois State	1-2