

The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

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Administration gives 'last, best and final offer' to OEA

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University administration representatives offered a new offer to the Ohio Education Association.

While the proposed pay raise system remained the same, the only variant between contracts was the new health care language mirroring that of the Association of Classified Employees' tentative contract presented on Friday.

The administration proposed the new deal around 5:30 p.m. Sunday and requested a response from the union by Monday afternoon.

However, Julia Gergits, OEA president, said union officials were unable to accept the new deal as it lacked "numbers," the specifics of which are undisclosed due to ongoing negotiations.

Gergits said the union felt rushed. More time is needed to analyze the contract proposal and make a decision.

Ron Cole, director of university communications, refrained from commenting on contract details because of its pending status but said the administration is willing to meet with OEA negotiators as early as possible.

Should the union refuse to accept the "revised last, best and final offer," the board of trustees will have the option to unilaterally implement the contract at their meeting on Tuesday.

"That is one option, but the board will be fully aware of its range of options," said Shearle Furnish, chief negotiator for the administration.

Cole said the board has all options at its disposal.

Stan Guzell, chief negotiator for YSU-OEA, refused to comment on the union's potential recourse.

"Our focus is to get a tentative agreement like we have with ACE," Cole said. "We are moving forward with negotiations."

Gergits said she understood that the administration is under a lot of pressure with two ongoing contract disputes but said that the union "needs serious answers."

"Nobody wants to keep doing this," she said.

ACE, administration reach tentative agreement Employees' union expected to ratify Friday

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

A tentative agreement between the Association of Classified Employees at Youngstown State University and the university's administration was reached on Friday evening.

With the new agreement unknown to the majority of ACE members, both sides anticipate a ratification of the agreement in the near future.

"The administration is

happy that we've been able to reach this type of agreement. It's a significant step forward," said Ron Cole, director of university communications.

Specifics of the new contract have yet to be released. With health care being a topic of heated discussion among administrators and staff, the union was successful in achieving its goal. Cole said this was a result of ACE's effectiveness in presenting its case.

Former ACE President Brian Brennan acknowledged

health care as an issue but is satisfied with Friday's outcome.

"It's a much fairer system," Brennan said. "It's definitely something we can live with, even though we are paying a little more."

The union is planning on presenting the tentative agreement to membership on Thursday, with hopes of ratification on Friday.

"I feel very confident," Brennan said about the likelihood of the union's acceptance.

Brennan credited chief negotiator Frank Betsa's management of the situation throughout the process.

"It was handled brilliantly," Brennan said. "He established a great rapport from the start."

Unlike the highly publicized feud between the Ohio Education Association and administration, ACE negotiations were more amicable.

"For the most part, very cordial," Brennan said. "We had disagreements, but it wasn't anything we couldn't iron out."

M-2 deck loses its patchwork

Marissa McIntyre
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR



A chunk of concrete (pictured above) fell from the M-2 parking deck on Friday. This damage comes after extensive renovations over the summer. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

As a fist-sized chunk of concrete fell from the ceiling, the past has come back to haunt the M-2 parking deck on Lincoln Avenue, which has undergone the first phase of renovations.

On Friday, the piece shattered within 4 feet of cars parked on level 3C facing Cushman Hall.

One year ago, a 5-pound piece of debris fell from the ceiling of the parking deck. This and other similar instances sparked the refurbishing that the parking deck underwent over the summer.

Nick Hargate, a freshman, parked his car across from where the rubble was found. He said if his car had been hit, he would have complained.

Hargate relies on deck parking to get to his classes on time and said he will be parking on the deck's open roof from now on.

"[The fallen debris] doesn't really surprise me. There are cracks all over the ceiling," he said.

Hargate also pointed out that the parking deck is shaky.

"You can feel it now while cars are driving by," Hargate said. "That shouldn't happen unless a semi is passing through."

Danny O'Connell, director of support services, said that the debris that fell was all new surface patchwork that had been added to the deck during the summer renovations. He said that the damage was "cosmetic" and "not a structural problem."

"Any time we have problems like this, it is upsetting. ... These type of things shouldn't happen," O'Connell said. "There is a lot of testing that goes through, but that doesn't mean that things can't go wrong."

The fallen debris resulted from un-

DECK PAGE 3

Ohio introduces plan to reduce regulation of state universities

Kevin Alquist
NEWS REPORTER

Youngstown State University is among 14 universities that could become self-governing.

In August, Jim Petro, chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, announced a tentative plan — known as the Enterprise University Plan — that allows Ohio's 14 public universities to be free from mandates and regulations that they argue stifle efficiency and innovation.

The plan is part of a state-operating budget passed this summer by Gov. John Kasich and the Ohio General Assembly to give universities the freedom to innovate while helping keep tuition costs manageable. In addition, it will eliminate enrollment caps for five universities, including YSU.

According to the news release sent out by Petro, it will allow universities to discount tuition costs to maximize the use of campus facilities.

The discount will lower tu-

ition costs for classes that are in session during non-peak hours, such as evenings and weekends, to result in better facility efficiency and cost savings. Universities are currently bound by law to not reduce prices for such reasons.

Ikram Khawaja, provost and vice president for academic affairs at YSU, said that at this point in the negotiations, it is difficult to put a specific dollar amount on the resource relief that will be granted to YSU.

Khawaja said any relief

given to schools would benefit the student body. The administration will be able to enhance productivity in its agenda to focus on what is best for the students at that particular university.

In exchange for greater freedom to be self-governing by reduction of mandates, the schools will agree to strive for benchmarks in academic stability.

A university that agrees to do so will become an Enterprise University. Schools that go above and beyond the

standard will advance to International Enterprise University status.

Both agreements will require the universities to maintain an academic standard.

The plan also eliminates the rule that requires the state board to approve funds for the purchase of property.

"Ohio's universities are a driver of economic development in the state," Petro said. "By allowing our universities to be free from mandates and

PLAN PAGE 4

Shipka speaker tackles religiosity

Patrick Donovan
REPORTER

David E. Campbell addressed a packed St. John's Episcopal Church on Thursday for the 29th annual Shipka Speaker Series.

Faculty, students and community members listened as Campbell lectured on his book

"American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us."

The lecture series, sponsored by the philosophy and religious studies department at Youngstown State University, is focused on the role of religion and public life in the U.S.

Campbell is an associate professor of political science at the University of Notre

Dame and founding director of the Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy.

Campbell's book is empirically driven and based on two comprehensive surveys. Through his research, Campbell explores the complex relationship of religion and politics and how the personal

relationships we develop affect our religious beliefs.

"The fact that we can find religious harmony in the United States in spite of our religious divisions is all the more amazing. Somehow America has managed to combine three things that have historically not fit well together," Campbell said. "America is a nation that is religiously devout. It is also a nation that is religiously diverse, and, yet in spite of that devotion and diversity, America is a nation that is for the most part religiously tolerant."

Campbell's lecture focused on how religion unites and divides American society and culture. Throughout his presentation, he discussed facts regarding the religiosity of Americans.

"Over 25 percent of young people say they have no religion, but it's important to note one of the more interesting things to know about the 'nones' is that overwhelmingly they say they believe in God," Campbell said.

Although the first half of Campbell's lecture focused on how religion divides the U.S., the second half was geared toward ways in which religion brings people together.

"The divide part is probably not surprising. Religion has driven a big wedge through American society especially in our politics, but my message today is [that] the story of religion in America is not that it only divides us. Religion can also serve to unite us," Campbell said. "As it turns out, religious and secular Americans

"The fact that we can find religious harmony in the United States in spite of our religious divisions is all the more amazing."

- David E. Campbell

do not differ very much on most political issues."

Junior Daniel McGarvey said he enjoyed the presentation and was left with a feeling of curiosity regarding Campbell's theories and suggestions concerning religious trends and patterns.

"I am definitely curious about the role religion has in our society. The lecture sparked my interest. I would like to look into his work further," McGarvey said.

Nathan Offerdahl, a graduate student, said the presentation carried a hopeful message for people of all beliefs.

"I thought it was very well done. I would definitely like to read the book. A lot of the statistics he cited give me hope for the future. It's important to remember those who have been disenfranchised from organized religion actually share a lot of common values with folks who practice regularly," Offerdahl said.

Although the numbers, percentages and pages of data may not appeal to some readers, Campbell said there is one main point people should take away from his book and research.

"The overall message is you should connect with people of other religions to make America a better place," Campbell said.



As part of the 29th annual Shipka Speaker Series, David E. Campbell, associate professor of political science at the University of Notre Dame, lectures on the divisive nature of religion. Campbell was the featured speaker at St. John's Episcopal Church on Thursday. Photo by Patrick Donovan/The Jambar.

Students from afar

International student population flourishes

Rachel Lundberg
REPORTER

More and more students from around the world are calling Youngstown State University their home, with their assimilation into campus life aided by the Center for International Studies and Programs.

The department helps foreign students find housing and social events that ease the international transition. It also addresses issues or questions that international students have during their time at YSU.

Jef Davis, director of the CISP, said international student enrollment has risen 2.5 percent since 2005, just 0.5 percent away from the 3 percent goal outlined in YSU's strategic plan for the international studies program.

Reasons why the 264 international students are attending YSU this fall are as varied as their passport entries.

Jay Devkota, a civil engineering graduate student from Nepal, said a friend encouraged him to come to YSU. He likes that Youngstown is similar in size to his hometown.

Devkota said he is satisfied with the engineering program and the YSU International Student Association.

Other students agreed that ISA has given them opportunities to meet others from around the world.

ISA isn't just for students from abroad, though.

Neil Meloro, a senior vocal performance major, has been involved with ISA for more than three years and said he has seen a number of foreign students come through the CISP.

"Most people I've met have really enjoyed it," Meloro said.

He added that most students initially feel out of place and out of their comfort zone, but it almost always pays off for them in the end.

To help students feel more at home, ISA

holds coffee hours, welcome dinners, picnics at Mill Creek Park, bowling outings and other activities that integrate international students into the community.

Yiqing Xu, a junior pre-nursing major from Nanjing, China, said she feels YSU offers a better education than Chinese schools. Xu chose YSU after a friend suggested that it was a good university to attend.

Not knowing what to expect when preparing to come to the U.S., Xu said she was surprised to find that Americans did not all live in the lap of luxury like the characters on "Gossip Girl," one of the American shows she watches. However, she said she likes what she's found here, and the modest community size and comparable weather have left her with few complaints.

Not all students come from entirely across the globe. Davion Cuff comes from Kingston, Jamaica.

Cuff said the U.S. is not much different from Jamaica, and Kingston is just a short boat ride away from the Florida Keys. He chose YSU after being offered a full track scholarship.

Nearly one-fifth of international students come to YSU with athletic scholarships.

Cuff obtained his associate degree in St. Louis before coming to YSU. Although he was hoping to attend a Big 10 school, he said the education at YSU matches up. His only complaint is that Youngstown has less variety than St. Louis does.

Historically, most international students come to YSU from India and the Republic of Ghana, but the CISP has seen a recent influx of Saudi Arabian students.

Little recruiting is done abroad due to its expense, but YSU has partnerships with a few institutions overseas to make it easier for students to study abroad.

Davis stressed the benefits of American students meeting international students.

"The world is getting smaller," Davis said.

Software links students with employers

Alyssa Italiano
REPORTER

One piece of software connects hundreds of students with thousands of potential employers.

The software, Penguin Link, has been used at Youngstown State University since 2008.

"[A student's] best bet is to be in Penguin Link because we get a lot of job postings," said Susan George, administrative assistant for the Office of Career & Counseling Services. "If a job is posted that's recruiting for a student's major, the system will automatically email them, letting them know the job is available. They can log in, look at the job and apply if they want to."

Nearly 4,000 students and graduates use the system. Additionally, the 2011 Fall Job Expo, which takes place on Wednesday in the Chestnut Room from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., gives students the opportunity to meet and find out more about potential employers.

The expo brings 60 local, regional and national compa-

nies to YSU. Employers will be available to supply organizational information and collect resumes.

However, George said registering with Penguin Link is more beneficial than attending the expo.

To register, students must visit the Career & Counseling Services website. Once the student is registered, a list of employers, along with descriptions and contact information, will appear.

More than 3,000 employers are registered, including 206 local and 11 national companies that are actively recruiting. George encourages students to take advantage of this feature.

"We need a lot more students to register because I'm constantly getting employers saying they need a resume book," she said.

A resume book categorizes registered students by major. It consists of a resume and cover letter. Employers searching for a particular major will get that major to potentially call for an interview.

"I run resume books for employers who contact me saying they want a certain major," George said. "If a student and their resume is in here, there's a good chance that the employer is going to get it."

"[A student's] best bet is to be in Penguin Link."

- Susan George

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'A Streetcar Named Desire' star reflects on journey

Jessica Johnson
REPORTER

Since her freshman year, Kelly Sullivan has appeared in nearly all of Youngstown State University's theater productions.

Now a 21-year-old musical theater major, Sullivan can ramble off an impressive list of characters, including an ugly stepsister in "Cinderella," Rebecca in "The Crucible" and Aunt Kate in "The Cripple of Inishmaan."

Even when she wasn't performing on stage, she was creating props backstage.

Sullivan's next role will be Blanche DuBois in Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire," which marks her first lead role in a production.

The show and her part "came as quite a surprise," she said, adding that her nerves have been running on high since she found out.

"I've never been in a position where everyone's focus is in me," Sullivan said. "It's a scary role to play especially because of how iconic the play is."

Sullivan described Blanche

as "the quintessential Southern belle trapped in this old way of living that she almost creates in her head."

The play's focus is on the clashing worlds that Blanche and her sister, Stella Kowalski, live in. And Sullivan can relate. She said she sees a lot of similarities between the relationship between Blanche and Stella and her relationship with her sister.

For instance, when Blanche notices that her sister's husband is not behaving like a complete gentleman, especially toward her, she disapproves of him. This leads to what Sullivan described as "the struggle between old South and new South and between men and women."

The culture clash between Blanche and Stanley Kowalski, Stella's husband, who represents the "new South" and the industrial, urban working class, is what makes up the entirety of the play.

Sullivan described how the play is based around desires.

"Everyone has their own desires, and everyone has their own way of expressing or holding in what they desire. Stella desires Stanley, and Blanche desires a perfect

world," Sullivan said.

Throughout the play, Blanche "takes the world and twists it in her favor," Sullivan said.

"It's to a fascinating extent," Sullivan said.

Although Blanche's character is unique, Sullivan said the journey has helped her relate to characters.

"It's interesting and fun to watch her go through these emotional changes that are 100 percent internal. People have to understand that even in our own lives reality is our own perception of it," she said.

Sullivan said her favorite Blanche quote is, "I don't tell the truth, I tell what ought to be the truth ... and if that's sinful, then let me be damned for it." This quote defines Blanche's outlook on life, she said.

Anthony Genovese plays Stanley, Blanche's antagonist throughout the story. Genovese said the show is powerful because of how it relates to such a large group of people.

"It's important to bring our own interpretation of the characters. The audience will have preconceived notions about the play, and our job is to go beyond those ideas," Genovese said.

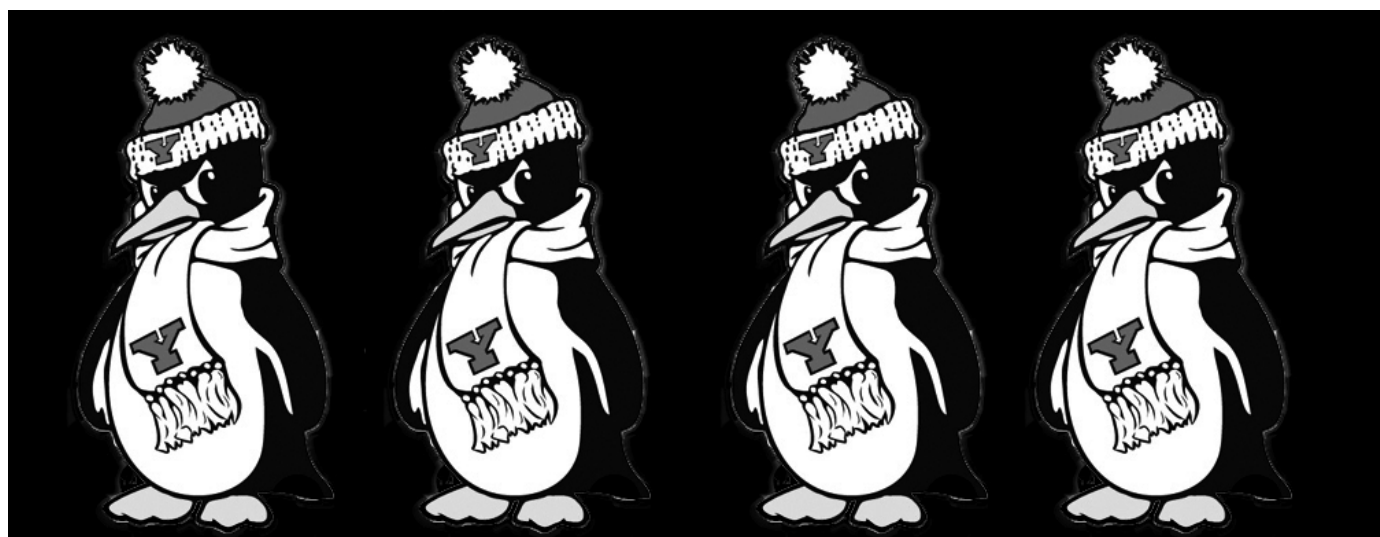
Sullivan said she credits director Matthew Mazuroski for being supportive and having amazing direction, particularly because this is his first YSU production. Mazuroski was hired as an assistant professor of theater in July.

"I couldn't have asked for better cast members," Sullivan said.

Sullivan has been involved in theatre since she was 8 years old. Additionally, her father graduated from college with a degree in theater and worked at the Cleveland Play House. He is now working toward a master's degree in directing.

Sullivan said she is a longtime fan of "A Streetcar Named Desire" and referred to it as "arguably one of Tennessee Williams' greatest plays and such a stamp in American history that it has a greater following than imaginable."

The play opens Thursday at Bliss Hall's Spotlight Arena Theater, with performances on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Performances will continue Oct. 7, 8 and 9. For more information, contact the university theater box office at 330-941-3105.



TheJambar.com

got an opinion?

Send letters to:

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Youngstown
STATE UNIVERSITY

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NEWS BRIEFS

Conference broadens understanding of Asia-Pacific/U.S. relationship

YSU will host the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, which features speakers from around the world, on Tuesday and Wednesday. The conference, titled "APEC and Youngstown: A conversation on the global economy and its impact on Main Street USA," is one of four throughout the nation and will be held in Williamson Hall. The event begins at 1 p.m. Tuesday and will continue until 1 p.m. Wednesday. Although admission is free, space is limited. Those interested in attending should contact Jennifer Mascardine at 330-744-2131, Ext. 12.

Visiting scholar advises YSU community on program assessment

Susan Hatfield, a visiting scholar and mentor for the Higher Learning Commission, will give practical advice for program assessment in Kilcawley Center's Ohio Room at 10:30 a.m. Friday. Hatfield will host a question-and-answer session immediately after her presentation, from 11:30 a.m. until noon. All YSU faculty, staff and students are welcome, but those interested must RSVP to ysuassessment@ysu.edu by Tuesday.

Music at Noon scheduled for Wednesday

The Dana School of Music's Jazz Combos will perform 12:15 p.m. Wednesday at the Butler Institute of American Art. The performance is free.

POLICE BRIEFS

YSU Police respond to student seizure

On Thursday, a female student had a seizure in a Ward Beecher Hall women's restroom. When YSU Police arrived, the student was awake and alert. According to the police report, she was sitting on the restroom floor. Paramedics checked the student's vitals, but the student declined to go to the emergency room. The student's friend said she would take her home to rest.

Student reports injury from fall in parking lot

On Thursday, a female student reported that she had fallen in the handicapped parking area of Stambaugh Stadium. The student told a university police officer that she had stepped on the uneven concrete driveway and fell on the ground, slightly straining her right ankle and cutting her left knee. She refused an ambulance and told the officer that she would get treatment from the athletic training office.

Attempt to shut dorm window results in thumb injury

On Wednesday, while attempting to close his windows in Lyden House, a male student severely cut his thumb. The student said his roommate had left the windows open and he tried to shut them because it was raining. He told YSU Police that his hand slipped and his thumb got caught underneath the windowsill. The window then slammed shut. Paramedics cleaned up the blood and told the student that he needed stitches to close the cut. He was transported to Northside Medical Center.

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PLAN PAGE 1

operate as an enterprise of the state, Ohioans gain increased efficiency, effectiveness and competitiveness that will help drive our 21st century economy."

Some of the benchmarks required to earn International Enterprise University status are a five-year graduation rate of 75 percent, a first-year to second-year retention rate of 85 percent, research expenditures of \$250 million or more and direct partnerships with community colleges.

These benchmarks are part of Petro's plan to improve the overall standard of higher education in Ohio.

State Sen. Tom Sawyer was unavailable for comment.

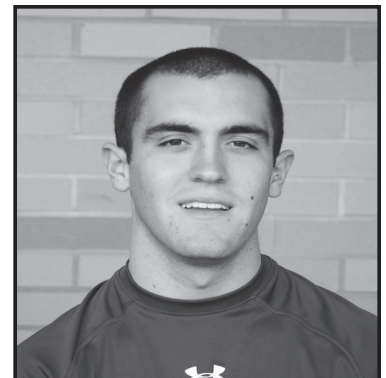
"The chancellor has provided this concept, but the plan is still under review," Khawaja said. "At this point, the plan is merely a proposal that will be reviewed, debated and ultimately modified."

Campus Connection

Would you park in the M-2 deck? How do you feel about the renovations?



"I don't feel more safe parking there. I can still see cracks. I think they should take the whole thing down and start again."
 - Kate Moran, senior



"I thought they were taking the whole thing down and repairing it completely, but they mostly just made adjustments."
 - Joel Davis, junior

DECK PAGE 1

orthodox patchwork.

"That's a very unusual thing. Most of the repairs that were done were full-depth repairs," O'Connell said.

A "full-depth" repair involves cutting a hole all the way to the surface and repairing it with fresh materials.

The surface patch that fell Friday was used to fill in a hole, without cutting out a section of the parking deck.

"There is nothing indicating why it would have come out," O'Connell said.

O'Connell compared the parking deck to a bridge.

"How many times have you gone on a long trip and seen work being done on a bridge?" O'Connell asked. "Obviously, we have people driving on top of this all day."

He said that a lot of the problems with the parking deck stemmed from rain leaking through cracks.

"I was just thankful that when we came over here it was pouring down rain, but there were no leaks," O'Connell said.

Carl Walker Inc., a consulting company specializing in parking deck renovation, inspected the area and took pictures on Saturday.

"They are investigating the surface material," O'Connell said.

Suburban Maintenance & Construction, Inc. made structural repairs to the deck over the summer.

The second phase — or the "cosmetic" phase to make the deck more visually appealing — will continue in the summer. The two years of renovations will cost \$4.5 million.

Youngstown State University

Law Day

September 30, 2011 from 11 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Presidential Suite, Kilcawley Center

Representatives from various law schools will be available to answer questions, distribute catalogs, applications and financial aid information. This is a unique opportunity for students who are considering a career in law to gather information about law school programs.

This event is free and open to the public.

Sponsored by the Dept. of Political Science & Rigelhaupt Pre-Law Center

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Rubble trouble

The Jambar
EDITORIAL BOARD

RELATED STORY
DECK PAGE 1

The university is spending \$4.5 million over two phases of renovations for the M-2 parking deck on the corner of Lincoln and Fifth avenues. The first phase, unlike other campus projects, finished on time before school resumed this fall.

Nearly one month later, a chunk of a mortar fell from level 3C, one of the areas repaired over the summer.

A disgruntled and shocked Danny O'Connell, director of support services, was displeased on Friday, as he should have been.

It's unknown whether the university will incur costs to fix the already repaired area where the concrete fell. One thing is for sure, though: Watch your head.

The deck has been a thorn in the university's side for longer than the past two years.

We commend support services and the university for finally addressing the dilapidated deck over the summer. But, even after repairs, the structure remains a liability for student safety and an economical disaster for the university.

The university has averaged \$300,000 to \$400,000 in maintenance annually for both the Wick and Lincoln decks.

We've advocated for a new deck before. Under what seems to be a perpetually dire budget, our wishes were cast aside for futile and temporary repairs.

Last year, the university weighed several proposals to deal with the aging structure. One proposal was a \$4.5 million demolition and flat-lot paving of the Lincoln Avenue deck.

We would have lost 900 parking spaces. But we wouldn't be dodging boulders for yet another year.



Cartoon by Paris Chrisopoulos.



Jared Buker
COLUMNIST

The big picture Battling a quarter-life crisis

I've always believed with all my heart that my life could never be defined by one event, one situation or one choice, and that I would always have time to make things right. I fell in love with the idea that the chips would always fall into place, and it left plenty of room for me to be a goof and still expect the world.

But in a week, I take a test that determines the rest of my life. Nothing I've done before and nothing I do in the near future could be more important, more defining and more terrifying.

The test is the LSAT, which decides what law schools I can attend. It's a lot like the ACT; there are no questions about law at all. It may sound strange, but the hardest part of the test is a section called logic games.

These are the kind of questions where they give you a scenario — like three people standing in a room — and then some restrictions — like person one cannot stand next to person three — and you need to come up with all of the

possible permutations.

I know it might not sound hard, but doing nine or 10 of those in 35 minutes turns the mind into mush. And I don't do terribly well on these types of tests because quite often I have the attention span of a 4-year-old.

This test is opening my eyes to the harsh realities of growing up. As much fun as college has been for me, I cannot believe that in just one year, it will be over. What's worse is that I've spent the start of my senior year losing sleep over a standardized test.

I'd love to say that the LSAT is my catalyst for moving on to the next step, but all of the memories I have and all of the people I have met make the next step seem more like a depressing plunge.

Above all, I've realized how fleeting everything in life can be.

Just like how a bad score on my test can mean losing the law school of my dreams, one bad decision can leave a black mark on a reputation, one bad night can ruin a

relationship, one bad comment can tarnish a friendship, one bad turn in a car can be the last bad turn you'll ever make, one bad column can mean losing my readers and one bad choice, no matter how small or insignificant it may seem at the time, can mean your life won't end up the way you wanted.

Alexander Graham Bell once said, "When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one which has opened for us."

I didn't think using Google to find quotes about regret would get me anywhere, but I agree that everything we lose comes with something we can gain, even if it's just a lesson about how not to lose it again.

No matter what happens when I take the LSAT, and no matter how short my time at YSU is, I can only do my best and believe I'll never run out of open doors to walk through.



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.



Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Rays of hope for baseball

A few weeks ago, the Tampa Bay Rays were eight games behind Wild Card-leading Boston Red Sox. Now, the Rays stand only one game behind the Red Sox going into Monday night.

During the offseason, the Rays lost many key players to free agency or trades. They lost Carl Crawford to the Red Sox, Matt Garza and Carlos Pena to the Chicago Cubs, and Rafael Soriano to the New York Yankees.

They replaced these players with guys like Johnny Damon and Manny Ramirez. As everybody knows, Ramirez played for one week before retiring due to a drug issue.

How were the Rays going to compete?

Tampa Bay has played well all season but fail to attract fans and media. The Red Sox and Yankees were playing so well that nobody looked for the Rays to compete, even being at least 10 games over .500 all year.

Networks such as ESPN only show one-minute highlights of them and at least five minutes each for the Sox and Yanks.

I timed them. Despite all of these factors, the Rays keep finding ways to still

have a shot with just one regular season series remaining.

When Tampa Bay first joined Major League Baseball in 1998, they were the laughing stock of the league, then known as the Devil Rays. They compiled at least 90 losses in their first 10 years of existence, three with 100 or more losses. They finished higher than last place in the division in 2004, just one time in that span.

In 2008, they became the Rays and adopted new jerseys and colors. That year, they shocked the world by making the World Series before losing to the Philadelphia Phillies.

The Rays missed the playoffs in 2009. However, they won the American League East again in 2010 before being eliminated by the Texas Rangers in the first round.

The Rays are not a high-profile franchise with tons of money like the Sox, Yanks or even the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. If the Rays find a way to reach the post-season again, this will be the best thing to happen to baseball in this decade. It already is.

The Rays are proving year in and year out that you don't need billions of dollars to put a well-or-

ganized team on the field. They are a small market company that produces. The Rays give other small-market teams hope that there is always a chance.

For example, the Cleveland Indians were in the boat all season long until the Detroit Tigers took the American League Central Division title for the first time in franchise history.

Chances of the Rays winning the Wild Card may be slim. With three games remaining, heading into Monday night, they play the Yankees at home.

Who will have more fans in the stands: Yankees or Rays? I hope it's the Rays. Fan support is crucial in any sport, and, while the Rays have proven they can win without their fans, I'm sure they would prefer the extra support.

The final three games for the Red Sox are against the last-place Orioles in Baltimore. The Yankees already clinched home-field advantage in the American League, so how much would they play their starters and utilize the bench?

It would be almost improbable for the Rays to capture first place and stay there. Go, Orioles!

Through exhibit, prof connects immigrants with Valley

Jenna Medina
FEATURES REPORTER

On Saturday, due to an outstanding attendance of almost 200 people, "Women of the World: A Photographic Journey of New Americans in the Mahoning Valley" was ranked in the top five of single event exhibits presented at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor.

Fifteen women were photographed for the exhibit that features photographs of immigrant women who now live in the Mahoning Valley. At the exhibit's opening reception, seven of the women were dressed in ethnic attire and available to share stories about their homelands.

"The women graciously talked to people attending the exhibit," said Rosemary D'Apolito, creator of the exhibit and associate professor in the department of sociology and anthropology at Youngstown State University. "The hospitality the women offered me when I interviewed them in their homes or other places was the same hospitality they offered to anyone who wanted to talk to them. The time I spent with the women has truly enriched my life."

During the exhibit, a video featured personal interviews with the women as they explained their cultural backgrounds.

Homelands represented were China, Ethiopia, France, India, Indonesia, Lebanon, Liberia, Malaysia, Mexico, Palestine, Peru, Russia, Syria, Ukraine and Vietnam.

"The photographs in this exhibit invite us to become acquainted with our immigrant neighbors and to welcome them



Maria Bleahu (left) shakes hands with Gloria De Los Santos (right) from Mexico. De Los Santos moved to the Mahoning Valley in 1966. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

into our community," D'Apolito said.

D'Apolito became intrigued with this idea years ago while teaching Urban Sociology, in which students use the Youngstown-Warren area as a workshop to apply urban theories and concepts.

"Students are required to familiarize themselves with the local immigration patterns of the 20th and 21st centuries and to contrast the transition from the mainly European immigration of the 20th century to the 'new' immigration which includes people from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East," D'Apolito said.

With the help of U.S. Census Bureau reports, students gained considerable knowledge regarding these cultural changes. However, D'Apolito noticed the lack of exposure the students had to the new immigrant groups.

"I decided, therefore, to accentuate our discussion of immigrants with a more interactive approach to learning the material," she said.

She then required that every student conduct a face-to-face interview with a member of a new immigrant group.

"I believe the students developed more empathy, more awareness and, very importantly, a greater appreciation

for racial, ethnic and religious diversity," D'Apolito said.

One fall semester, D'Apolito was exposed to classes held at the English Center, located at 1806 Market St., that involved non-English speakers. After many visits to these classes, D'Apolito realized the awareness she could bring to surrounding communities.

"All their stories indicated that these were women of strength, courage, determination and resilience. From the center, I sought other ways to contact immigrant women in the community," D'Apolito said.

D'Apolito has interviewed

many women from different countries, digging deep to find their personal experiences.

Anita Gomez, who emigrated from Peru in 1996, is a YSU student working toward a degree in social work.

"Now I was following a dream, and now I'm here working on that," Gomez said.

Gomez said she believes it is important to give back what was handed to her.

"I wanted to take care of the country that is giving me the chance to live again," Gomez said. "I want to help the children."

Additional reporting by Dustin Livesay.



Crookit, consisting of Jimmy Horvath and Nick Dota, performed Saturday night at the Lemon Grove Cafe. Photo by Jenna Medina/The Jambar.

Getting straight with Crookit

Local hip-hop group promotes Youngstown roots

Kacy Standohar
FEATURES EDITOR

At age 11, Jimmy Horvath would walk around freestyle rapping to beats while delivering newspapers. Today, he's teamed up with Nick Dota to create Crookit, a local hip-hop group with the aim of showcasing Youngstown in a different light.

"This is the city that raised me. I have a weird love for dilapidated buildings and the look of abandoned things. I remember growing up driving around with my parents and just seeing this not-so-beautiful world and finding the beauty in it. I wanted to capture that," Horvath said.

Growing up on Youngstown's South Side, Horvath wanted to show his city to the world. He wanted to connect and reach people through music.

"I think reppin' where you're from is very important. It gives setting to the story you tell. Everyone, in or out of hip-hop, loves their hometown, but Youngstown needs to be on the map," he said.

By creating and sharing their music, the group wants to give some form of hope to an area of hopelessness.

Horvath and Dota chose the name Crookit for their group to show that Youngstown is their birthplace.

"Everything [when we formed] was corrupt and crooked. I was quite the thief when I was young, so it just stuck. The spelling is just changed 'cause in hip-hop, anything goes," Horvath said.

Crookit's record label Da-Vision is a play on the word "division" and the "visionary" thought Horvath had after a near-death car accident on his way home from college one night.

Horvath has a passion and drive for helping people. He studied pre-med at Ohio State University, where he had

hopes of becoming a pediatrician. However, his love for music stayed in the back of his mind.

"I had no musical outlet as a child. I didn't even think it was possible to do it for a living unless you were born a star," Horvath said.

Always having a strong belief in God, Horvath said he had a casual conversation with him as he was walking to class one day.

"I asked him for a sign. I said something like, 'God, I know medicine would be a great way to help people, but maybe music would too, and I really would rather do that. What do you think?'" he said.

After seeing a rap group perform and being mesmerized by the captivated audience, Horvath was inspired.

"This was a defining moment in my life. I thought about the typical entertainer. They have so much influence over people, and what do they do with it?" he said. "I realized right then, this was an

amazing way to communicate and reach people. That is a connection that is worth more than a paycheck, and even in the right circumstance, I could still help people if my underlying message was true."

Horvath has been writing songs, the lyrics hidden in his private notebooks, since he was 16 years old.

"Maybe there was a reason that my poetic outlet felt so good," he said.

Since the end of 2001, Dota and Horvath have been planning. In early 2002, they started making their music until their producer quit on them. Crookit didn't fail there. The guys started making their own beats.

Crookit has a demo CD titled "Da-Vide & Conquer" with 20 tracks that the two composed in July 2003.

"We had only made one song prior to its release. So our demo was literally our first stab at it. That's as pure as it gets," he said.

Crookit is still creating songs and has three music videos. Charlie Staples and Kelly Pavlik are included in the video for their song "Down." The members of Crookit have financed everything they produced thus far.

"We want to build our name by performing, promoting and a fairly insane publicity stunt which is TBA," Horvath said. "The problem is until you're famous or at least popular, no one wants to give it the chance."

Horvath explained that Crookit didn't have much difficulty getting started.

"My drive is pretty strong and this is all I've wanted to do for 10 years, so I've been pursuing it every day, with every thought. Getting the music to a larger platform ... that is the difficult part. Being from a smaller city like Youngstown with no connections, it's difficult to network or get it in front of someone with pull," he said.

Crookit has a promo van, official website, Facebook and Twitter, and DJ Romeo from 95.9 FM plays their songs every week. At Crookit.com, people can preview the music, buy tickets and merchandise, and watch videos.

On Oct. 29, Crookit will perform at O'Donold's Irish Pub and Grill in Austintown for the 3AP Halloween Bash. Crookit will be playing with a live band for the first time.

"It is too deep of a project to just say, 'Oh, we rap about our swag,'" Horvath said.

He said their songs have profound meanings.

"We've dedicated a decade of our existence to making our music sound exactly as it should," Horvath said. "The only thing we know how to do is make our dreams into realities."

Additional reporting by Jenna Medina.

Pedaling for a better planet

Chad Travers

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

Local activists participated in a group bicycle ride over the weekend in conjunction with 350.org's Moving Planet initiative to promote awareness of climate change and explore alternatives to fossil fuels.

Saturday was designated "Moving Planet Day," a global campaign where 350.org encouraged individuals and grassroots organizations to examine means of transportation that do not rely on the burning of fossil fuels.

Just after noon on Saturday, roughly 25 riders departed from Crandall Park on Youngstown's North Side for a family-friendly bike ride through the city that showcased green spaces, community gardens and local food markets.

The ride covered around 7 miles, with stops at locations such as a farmers market and the Youngstown Environmental Studies Society garden.

Jenny Jacobs, a recent graduate of the environmental studies program at Youngstown State University, coordinated the event after attending a 350.org workshop in Cincinnati.

"It was a wonderful seminar with lots of leadership skills training and community building," Jacobs said. "I just had this epiphany. I said, 'I need to do this to showcase all the wonderful work people are doing.'"

Jacobs relied on the support of many local organizations including the Youngstown Neighborhood Development Corporation, which works toward strategic neighborhood reinvestment; Treez Please, which plants trees and increases green space in and around Youngstown; and Bike Youngstown, which is trying to start a bike cooperative in the city.

The Youngstown Environmental



Participants in this year's Moving Planet initiative leave Crandall Park on their bikes to tour the city's green spaces, community gardens and local food markets. Photo by Chad Travers/The Jambar.

Studies Society at YSU also supported the bike ride. Its campus garden sits directly across from Pete's Place Restaurant, and YESS members eventually hope to supply fresh produce to the campus community.

"I love community organizing, being active in the community, effecting change and showing people we can make a difference," Jacobs said. "All these things have started with an individual having an idea and acting on it. If we can get people to ride their

bikes to work or to school, we can decrease our ecological footprint, and if the people in the community see more individuals on bikes, that will encourage them to ride as well."

"We'll show that we can use our hands, our feet and our hearts to spur real change," Bill McKibben, 350.org co-founder and global organizer, wrote in an April invitation letter. "In many places, people will ride bicycles, one of the few tools used by both affluent and poor people around

the world. Other places people will be marching, dancing, running and kayaking ... to deliver a strong set of demands that can have real political impact."

After the ride, the group had a potluck meal, and participants brought dishes that highlighted local foods from sustainable sources. Several local bands, including Tangerine Coyotes, The Knowledge Drop-out and Absolom, provided post-ride entertainment.

Distribution by donation

Donations finance students' tuition



i-contribute
funding our future

Photo courtesy of icontribute.org

Chelsea Telega

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The amount of money granted to students through financial aid is not always sufficient. However, students and graduates now have the option to receive money from family and friends for tuition and loan debt payments.

Invented by former Youngstown State University student Steven Hernandez and his wife, I-Contribute allows donors to construct a personal profile and contribute money to students in need.

The catch, however, is that donors must have a personal affiliation with the student to whom they are donating.

For \$5, students can instantaneously create an I-Contribute account. Donors must also create an account, with a minimum donation of \$5.

The website launched in June, and Hernandez said he is slowly seeing traffic increase. The site is still in its infancy, and Hernandez said he is working on attracting more attention.

"Right now, my main job is to get the word out about the organization," he said.

Hernandez graduated from the University of Akron with a degree in electrical engineering and is searching for a school from which to obtain a master's degree in computer science. He'd also like to earn an MBA, or Master of Busi-

ness Administration.

When Hernandez graduated from college, he wanted to attend graduate school. His wife was in medical school, though. Subsequently, he needed financial assistance for additional schooling, and so he set up a profile for himself.

Hernandez said he wants to be certain that the site becomes strong enough for him to continue with his plans.

"I want to make sure that what I've started won't lose its steam if I'm not there full time," he said.

After the response that Hernandez received, he decided to make the option available internationally. Since the website's launch, students from the U.S. and even Canada have created profiles for donor help. The site is self-funded and is seeking investors. Hernandez said he keeps tabs on the site by regularly checking the amount of users.

When creating the site, Hernandez devised the plan with himself in mind.

"I did this for a student like myself that got done with school [and] wanted to do something else, with the monthly payment for student loans and wanting to go somewhere with my career," he said.

Hernandez added that the site's name stemmed from the idea of the organization helping society.

"Whether you're a student or a donor, you are contributing to something," Hernandez said.

'It's not big band; it's rock band'

Jazz students embody Frank Zappa for ensemble

Chelsea Telega

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

A jazz ensemble at Youngstown State University is decoding the eclectic sounds of Frank Zappa — a man who musicians say left no transcripts of his lyrical and musical legacy.

Graduate student John Anthony has reconstructed the yearly Jazz Ensemble to perform something other than "big band." Last year, the ensemble did a rhythm and blues-themed show.

"We decided to take the Jazz Ensemble 3 and turn it into a Zappa Ensemble," Anthony said.

What separates this group from many other ensembles is the effort that went in to writing the music.

"Even though Frank Zappa is a popular artist, you can't really find sheet music for him," Anthony said.

Anthony spent the spring semester studying Zappa's songs and began transcribing them into sheet music for the ensemble. However, he and the others faced some difficulty when getting into the character of someone who already wrote the music.

"The hardest part when you're dedicating yourself to a specific artist is learning your place in the group and learning how the person would have played it before you," he said.

The group, which practices

twice a week, is comprised of 10 students. Every person involved with the ensemble is essential to its success.

"What we have, it's like every person matters. If someone misses a show, it's like you're missing a color in the music," Anthony said.

Ensemble member Rick Moose agreed that each member is important.

"The biggest difference is the music that we play, but other than that, each person's role in the group is sort of unique," he said. "Because it's more of a rock band, we have a singer. But beyond that, just about everyone in the group sings in addition to playing their instrument."

Senior Tim Wilderoder plays the electric bass for the ensemble and performs backup vocals. He is impressed with the matchless qualities that the group embodies.

"This being my final year of undergrad, I wasn't intent on playing in any school ensembles because I need to graduate," he said. "The only way I would have done a school ensemble was if I had the chance to be a part of something rare, unique and outside of the box."

Graduate student and drummer Ed Davis has also contributed his time to constructing the Zappa Ensemble and is pleased with the result.

"If Frank Zappa was touring, this is what the lineup would be like. ... It's not big band; it's rock band," Davis said. "The Zappa has sort of a cult following. It's one of those things that

people want to see because it's kind of out there."

Gianna Colella, ensemble member and keyboarder, said she thinks the music's difficulty made it more appealing.

"I have been in jazz ensembles since I came to school here, and even since I was in middle school, but Frank Zappa music is just so different because of how hard it is," Colella said. "I wasn't too familiar with the Zappa music, but I listened to his music a lot and it seemed like such a great challenge that was a little out of the ordinary."

Dave Morgan, associate professor in the Dana School of Music, was hired about eight years ago to compose a Frank Zappa concert for a 14-piece band in Cleveland. His interest led him to become faculty adviser for the Zappa Ensemble.

"When I found out some of the students had [an] interest in it, we joined forces to produce this," Morgan said.

Morgan said he is thrilled with the amount of energy that students have exhibited in the ensemble's construction.

"I'm delighted with it," he said. "The students are very engaged in the project and very dedicated. They spend a lot of time outside of class to make this great."

Anthony said he feels that the students' talent and motivation ultimately influenced Morgan's decision to collaborate with them.

"Dave noticed that this was a really good time to do this because we have some of the best musicians in Bliss," Anthony said.

Morgan said he is enthusiastic about popular music being incorporated into the curriculum. He said Zappa is one of the more important composers of the 20th century and that his music belongs in the program.

"We don't deal with American popular music in the curriculum, so to deal with our current music is what I think the future of music education should be," Morgan said.

The Frank Zappa Jazz Ensemble will premiere Nov. 22 in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room.



The Frank Zappa-inspired jazz ensemble practices every Tuesday and Thursday in Bliss Hall for their Nov. 22 premiere. Photo by Chelsea Telega/The Jambar.

New social network hits the scene

Kacy Standohar
FEATURES EDITOR

Youngstown State University graduate Kendra Thompson received her associate degree in English in 2005. Soon after, she attended the International Academy of Design and Technology in Pittsburgh. There, Thompson decided she would create her own social networking website.

"I decided to start I.M. Space because I love working with computers. I am a social network user myself, and I know what I want and like in a social networking site. The things that I wanted in a networking site weren't there, so I decided to create my own," Thompson said. "It was a year of work and testing the site, then we finally launched."

I.M. Space the Social Network Community for Friends

has just hit the scene. Unlike its bigger competitors such as Facebook, Twitter and MySpace, I.M. Space has new and improved features. Users are able to use video chat, upload MP3s, access instant TV, listen to their favorite songs or radio stations, bid and use eBay accounts, and even check out horoscopes.

"I had a dream about how I wanted my site to be, what options I wanted to make available to users," Thompson said.

The free video chat instant messaging allows users to view others without ever leaving their profile, and the "GO" downloadable toolbar lets users watch instant TV right from their profile.

I.M. Space also features more than 50 games and has smartphone applications.

Thompson said she wants it to be a "one-stop, everything-in-one" site.

She said this mainstream social networking site has tons of technology and is easy to navigate.

"The time for a revolution has come. A revolution in social networking as it stands today," she said.

Thompson also said she is working on making the site voice activated.

I.M. Space's marketing specialist Tia Olsen is assisting Thompson with the voice activation.

"It's like an artificial intelligence that will speak to you," Olsen said.

This new advancement is expected to launch in February or March.

Olsen has also been calling OnStar in hopes of setting up a hands-free system for I.M. Space use in vehicles.

She said she decided to start the site alone.

However, the task was

getting too big, so she hired others to assist her. Within the first week, 200 people signed up to join. Thompson is working out of her home office right now and is looking for a larger office space.

"It is growing at a steady pace," she said. "We're gaining our presence on the Web."

In a world that is still posting comments and tweeting the celebrities, Thompson is hopeful about her work.

Thompson and her colleagues love feedback and want to provide what users really enjoy.

"Hopefully the site will not fail as long as we keep giving users what they want," she said.

Olsen said Thompson has



been working very hard and believes I.M. Space is "simple, easy and going places."

To check out this new social networking site, go to www.imspace.us.



GRAPHIC AND PHOTO COURTESY OF KENDRA THOMPSON

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Interested in contributing to an award-winning magazine? Join us Tuesday, September 27, 2011, at 4 p.m. in the basement of Fedor Hall, room 0013.

Overcoming adversity



Sophomore Terry Pitts competed at the Cardinal Classic on Saturday. He finished fifth in his division out of seven competitors. Photo by Joe Catullo Jr./The Jambar.

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Sophomore Terry Pitts felt the pressure of his first-ever competition at the 2011 Natural Buckeye Classic as he choked from dehydration and the pressure of more than 120 competitors.

The event was held in Columbus on April 16. Although Pitts did not place, he said the experience taught him a lot.

"Looking back, it might not have been the greatest idea to do the Buckeye Classic as my first show, but you live and you learn and make improvements," Pitts said.

Pitts, a Niles native and 2006 graduate of Niles McKinley High School, said that since he is a young competitor, particularly when compared to other contestants, he has a lot of room to improve.

"Because I'm so young in this sport, I'm happy with the progress I've made," Pitts said. "I may not have placed as highly as I wanted to, but considering the factors of my age and my relative inexperience in this sport, I'm happy with the progress I've made. I feel like I can make more improvements at the next show. I feel good about it."

The Cardinal Classic is a smaller competition than the Buckeye. Pitts said he felt more comfortable in his second experience.

"It was very humbling," Pitts said. "It was new and old because I have done a show before, but this one was different. It was eye-opening, and it was a struggle to get to. It took a lot of hard work, but it was an enjoyable experience."

He has a job lined up for part-time work at the Vienna Police Department as an officer. Pitts now works at the Jib Jab Hot Dog Shoppe in Girard.

Pitts, a criminal justice major, usually lifts alone because friends' schedules are crazy, and it is hard to work out with them.

When it comes to cardio routines, Pitts is accompanied by one of his best friends, Carmen Roberts, who is also a student at Youngstown State University.

Roberts is a transfer student from Westminster College where he earned a bachelor's degree in accounting. He works for an accounting firm and attends YSU with a major in business management. He also works part time at the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

Pitts and Roberts are from Niles and have known each other for the last 10 years. They met when Roberts was finishing college.

"I met him up at the basketball courts up in Niles," Roberts said. "I've been along for the whole ride, so I've

seen his progression, and it's just been incredible. It's not so much competing; it's the journey. When I first met him, he could barely play basketball, let alone run. Things have changed so much for him."

Roberts also travels with Pitts to his shows.

"I'm the guy backstage trying to help him, put the oil on him, put his tan on, stuff like that," Roberts said.

Pitts competes in the light heavy-weight division. In high school, he was an offensive lineman and also played baseball. Toward the end of his freshman year, Pitts suffered an ACL tear in his right knee.

"I was disappointed when it happened," Pitts said. "I kept getting stronger until then. I went to rehab and was limited to what I could do, but I got back in the end in time for my senior season."

Pitts said he began serious weight lifting in his senior season as a sport and for bodybuilding one year ago. He added that the two are different.

"It's just two different worlds because if you're doing bodybuilding, you're sculpting your body," Pitts said. "For football, it's mainly just about strength. I kind of had to make a transition and learn some new stuff, but I'm picking it up as I go."

Two days after the Natural Buckeye Classic, Pitts began training for the Cardinal. Roberts said Pitts is a workhorse and never takes a day off.

There is only so much Pitts is allowed to eat during training. Pitts said all he drinks is water, and he consumes three proteins and three carbohydrates. They consist of tuna fish, egg whites, grilled chicken, oatmeal, baked or sweet potatoes, and bananas.

"He'll have his cheat days, but that just means he's allowed to have sauce on his grilled chicken," Roberts said.

When Pitts eats tuna fish, he takes the skin off because it adds unnecessary salt and calories.

Pitts said the main reason he got into bodybuilding is to improve both physically and mentally.

"When I got in the gym, I just wanted to be better all around," Pitts said. "I felt like I had what it took to go into this level. Basically the motivation is trying to be the best that I can. I wanted to tie up the physical part and made it happen."

While having two competitions under his belt, Pitts is going to take time off before he trains for another event.

"You want your body to recuperate from the damage you've been doing to it," Pitts said. "My plan right now is to take a pretty decent time off to bulk up and to put on as much size as possible so that when I do cut up again it looks that much better."

Penguin volleyball re-sets

Nick Mancini
SPORTS REPORTER

Sitting at 1-14, the Youngstown State University volleyball team is entering the halfway point of the season with a chance to catch its breath.

The Penguins opened the season with three tournaments in three states. They participated in the Big Orange Tournament at Syracuse University, the Indiana University Adidas Classic and the Maddie Bingaman Memorial Tournament at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

After snapping a 28-game, 364-day losing streak in Baltimore, the Penguins have lost five straight. Head coach Krista Burrows said the team still needs work.

"Honestly, we need to work on everything," Burrows said. "We just need to get in the gym and get to work."

Burrows said the game against Cleveland State University on Friday showed the team's needs.

"We really need to work on ball control and passing," Burrows said. "Just getting in there and competing should really help."

Sophomore Missy Hundelt leads the team with 179 kills despite missing games due to a concussion. She is third in the Horizon League, averaging 3.7 kills per set.

Burrows said more pressure

has been placed on Hundelt than on any other team member.

"Missy knew in the spring that there was going to be a lot expected from her to produce," Burrows said. "Being out for two weeks with a concussion has slowed her down a bit, but getting her back on track will be good for the team. They seem to be more confident with her on the floor."

Along with Hundelt, the Penguins have three other players who rank in the top 10 of Horizon League categories.

Sophomore Casey D'Ambrose is eighth with nine assists per set. Hundelt is fifth with 4.1 aces per set, and sophomore Jenna Cavanaugh is tied for seventh with .31. Sophomore Erika West is tied for sixth with 3.6 digs per set.

Trailing CSU, the Penguins are second in the conference in aces per set with 1.49.

When the Penguins get back to action they will face the Horizon League leaders, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panthers. They are 4-0 in the



Sophomore Missy Hundelt saves a point for the Penguins on Saturday against Cleveland State University. This marked the first time in two weeks that Hundelt played, due to a concussion. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

conference and 11-4 overall.

"They are at the top of the conference for a reason," Burrows said. "They have the player of the year returning and have been a top program in the conference for a few years. We just need to go out there and compete to the best of our abilities."

The Panthers are ranked near the top in every major statistic in the conference. They lead in assists and kills, and are second in blocks, hitting percentage and digs per set.

After playing the Panthers, the Penguins will have a packed October. They will play four straight games on the road before returning home for back-to-back games against Butler University and Wright State University. They will end the month with three games on the road.

The Penguins will play the Panthers on Saturday at Beechly Center. The match is slated to begin at 2 p.m.

Sports schedules

VOLLEYBALL

Oct. 1	MILWAUKEE
Oct. 4	@ Loyola
Oct. 5	@ Green Bay
Oct. 8	@ UIC
Oct. 9	@ Valparaiso
Oct. 14	BUTLER
Oct. 15	WRIGHT STATE
Oct. 21	@ Cleveland State
Oct. 28	@ Milwaukee
Oct. 29	@ Chicago State
Nov. 4	VALPARAISO
Nov. 5	UIC
Nov. 11	GREEN BAY
Nov. 12	LOYOLA

FOOTBALL

Oct. 8	SOUTH DAKOTA ST.
Oct. 15	@ Southern Illinois
Oct. 22	ST. FRANCIS
Oct. 29	WESTERN ILLINOIS
Nov. 5	@ UNI
Nov. 12	@ North Dakota St.
Nov. 19	MISSOURI STATE

PENGUIN PROFILE



A two-sport athlete, sophomore Jessica Parham participates in golf and track and field. As a freshman, Parham won the javelin title at the Horizon League Championship and set a conference record with a throw of 41.89. Photo courtesy of Sports Information.

YSU golfer finds stride in track and field

Caitlin Cook
REPORTER

When sophomore Jessica Parham enrolled at Youngstown State University, she figured her main sport would be the game her grandparents introduced to her at age 9: golf.

Although Parham always expected to continue playing golf in college, she couldn't forget about track and field, the sport she took on in her junior year of high school.

"There were a lot of schools saying I could do both, but YSU was my top pick, and I didn't think I'd have the time since it was Division I [golf]," Parham said.

However, once women's golf coach Roseann Schwartz learned of Parham's successful high school javelin career, she mentioned it to Brent Shelby, assistant coach of track and field at YSU.

Parham said Schwartz encouraged her to continue throwing at YSU.

"She is just really supportive of it, and it definitely helps," Parham said. "I feel like most coaches aren't like that."

She described the differences between golf and

javelin.

"They're kind of complete opposites. I feel like javelin is more physically difficult, and golf is definitely more mental," Parham said. "Golf, you have to be really calm all the time. Javelin, you have to get more pumped up."

Parham said the balancing act of taking on two sports has worked well thus far and said she hopes a successful track season will boost her golf game.

Last season, she took home the Horizon League Championship javelin title while setting a new conference record of 41.89 meters. She was also named the 2011 Horizon League Newcomer of the Year. Even though she excelled in track, Parham did not have the golf season she had hoped for.

"Now that I'm playing two sports and excelling in one, even though I wasn't doing so well in the other, it still builds your confidence," Parham said.

Her throwing coach, Shelby, attributed much of her success to being a fast learner and having a competitive spirit. He hopes that discipline, plus focusing on technique and joining the throwers for lifting, will help Parham break the

school record and qualify for an NCAA regional meet.

"With that change in her training, this year will be a big help," Shelby said. "As she focuses on javelin more, I believe that the sky is the limit."

This year, Parham's main sport will be track, a decision that Schwartz endorses. Golf and track and field overlap in the spring, and last season raised questions on where Parham's ability best served YSU.

When the two conflicted, Parham found herself in a difficult position.

"It was really hard when the track coach would be like, 'Really, you're not coming again?' Because I was doing so well, it was frustrating for them, I think," she said.

Parham said she aims to have her golf game back on par and would like to see her scores down in the 80s or 70s. She also wants to defend her track and field title and has her sights set on qualifying for the NCAA track and field regional meet.

Last year, she improved her personal best by 14 feet but was still 6 feet short of qualifying for the regional meet.

"I was pretty close, but not close enough," Parham said.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Volleyball falls to CSU Vikings at home

YSU volleyball fell to Horizon League rivals Cleveland State University in three sets on Friday evening at Beeghly Center. The Penguins dropped the first set, 25-22. The second set ended 25-11, while the third ended 25-20. The team's next match will be Saturday at 2 p.m. when the Penguins host the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panthers.

Men's tennis competes at Wright State/Dayton Invitational

Sophomore Zeeshan Ismail earned a 5-0 performance in singles action, winning the Flyer Flight at the Wright State/Dayton Shootout this weekend. Rodrigo Campos, also a sophomore, won the consolation bracket of the same flight. In doubles play, Tariq Ismail and Dawoud Kabli opened with wins in the Raider Flight before losing the second round. The team will compete Friday at the Bucknell Invitational.

Soccer loses to Penn, 3-0

In non-conference play this weekend, the Penguins fell to Pennsylvania State University, 3-0. The team is now 3-5-2 for the 2011 season. Sophomore goalkeeper Ali Viola had eight saves, and senior keeper Nicole Kline added two. The team will host Horizon League foe Butler University on Saturday at Stambaugh Stadium. Play begins at 3 p.m.

FCS Top 25

1. GEORGIA SOUTHERN
2. NORTHERN IOWA
3. APPALACHIAN STATE
4. MONTANA STATE
5. NORTH DAKOTA STATE
6. DELAWARE
7. NEW HAMPSHIRE
8. WOFFORD
9. JAMES MADISON
10. RICHMOND
11. WILLIAM AND MARY
12. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
13. LEHIGH
14. JACKSONVILLE STATE
15. CHATTANOOGA
16. SAM HOUSTON STATE
17. SOUTHERN UTAH
18. MCNEESE STATE
19. MONTANA
20. MASSACHUSETTS
21. SOUTH DAKOTA
22. SOUTH CAROLINA STATE
23. TOWSON
24. INDIANA STATE
25. SACRAMENTO STATE

Cook named Jambar Player of the Week

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Since his senior year of high school, Penguins running back Jamaine Cook has been racking up yards and accolades, and Saturday's performance was no exception.

The Penguins fell, 37-35, to Indiana State University, but Cook carried the ball 33 times for 177 yards with two touchdowns and no turnovers.

This season, Cook has 501 rushing yards and four touchdowns. He also has four catches for 45 yards.

Cook is originally from Cleveland and attended Midpark High School in Middleburg Heights. As a junior, he was named to the first-team All-Southwestern Conference. He rushed for 1,005 yards and 13 touchdowns.

In his senior season, Cook earned Division I All-Ohio special mention selection and Division I Northeast Lakes All-District first-team selection. He racked up 1,500 yards rushing and 23 touchdowns.

In his high school career, Cook set records for career rushing yards, touchdowns in a game, rushing yards in a game and touchdowns in a season. Cook also played basketball and track and field, and he was named to the honor roll.

As a freshman in 2009, Cook played 10 games for Youngstown State University, finishing with 110 rushing yards.

As a sophomore, Cook showed YSU fans the future. He was named to the second-team All-Missouri Valley Football Conference and selected as the team's John Delslerone MVP. He rushed for 1,276 rushing yards, averaging 116 per game, and scored 11 touchdowns.

Cook's best game came at Illinois State University on Nov. 6. There, he carried the ball 43 times, second in school history for a game, totaling 213 yards.

On May 10, the Sports Network rated Cook among the top 10 for Fox College Sports running backs.

