

The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

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Campus gardening shows lack of growth



From left to right, Justin Mullane, Mike Bernard, Mike Perry and Pat Maple, members of the Youngstown Environmental Sustainability Society, work on the garden located outside of the Student Health Center last spring. Photo courtesy of Felicia Armstrong.

Sarah Perrine
NEWS REPORTER

Student leaders, environmental advocates and campus food services say campus gardens could provide locally grown, fresh foods. However, campus officials haven't been approached about creating new gardens, and some groups are finding it difficult to maintain the two that exist on campus.

Junior Elizabeth Widomski is a member of YSU's Food and Nutrition Students. She applauds the benefits of locally

grown food, but, like many others, said school, work and other volunteer activities would prevent her from helping out.

Staffing is an issue that has hindered gardens across campus.

Jenny Jacobs first started the garden across from the Student Health Clinic in Kilcawley House as a project in 2009 for a sustainable living course.

The garden, about 20 feet long and 8 feet wide, was taken over by members of the Youngstown Environmental Sustainability Society. Derek Scott, president of the YESS, and Felicia Armstrong, assistant professor of geological and environ-

mental sciences, worked in the garden.

"I think we're very lucky at Youngstown State University because we have such a beautiful campus," said Elyse Gessler, president of the Student Government Association. "But allowing students to have a space where they can plant flowers, herbs, vegetables would even further connect them to their campus landscape, and, in return, would even create a further sense of pride in their university."

Edward Krol, executive chef of dining services, agreed.

GARDEN PAGE 4

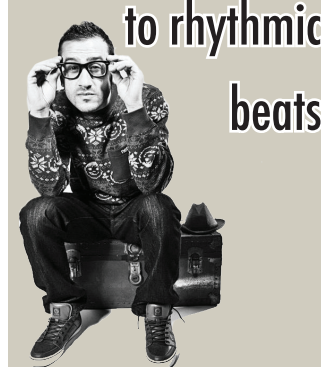
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'You see physics every day'



NEWS 2

From best friends to rhythmic beats



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'Jack Up The Rev'

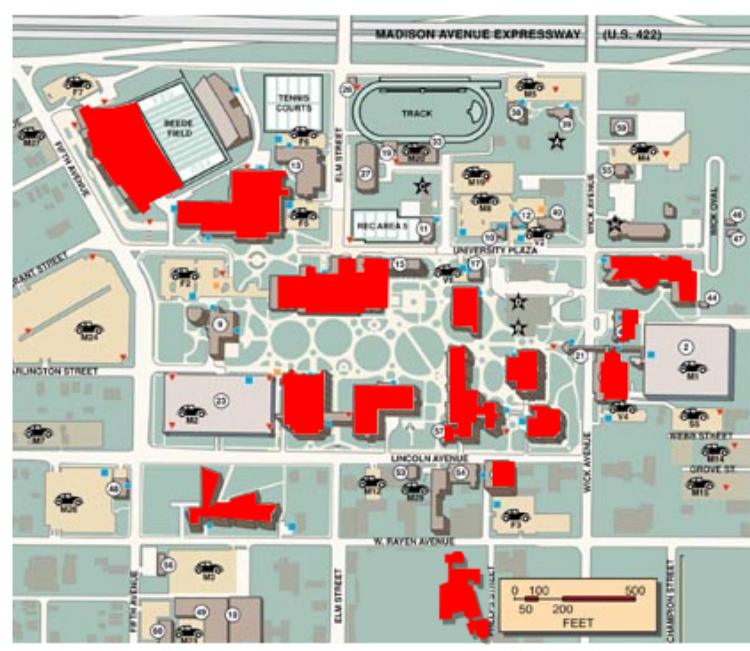


ONLINE

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Campus Buildings in Air Conditioning Loop



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GRAPHIC DESIGNED BY KEVIN BUCK/THE JAMBAR.

Campus caught off guard by unseasonable heat wave

Kevin Alquist
NEWS REPORTER

Last week, near record-breaking temperatures caused Youngstown State University students and faculty to sweat through the middle of the semester.

According to the National Weather Service, temperatures averaged 78 degrees between Monday and Friday. Thursday was the hottest day with a high of 81 degrees, just 1 degree short of Youngstown's record temperature for March.

John Hyden, executive director of facilities at YSU,

said that, in 19 years at the position, he's never seen such consistently warm weather in early spring.

"The weather last week was unprecedented," Hyden said.

Because YSU's contract says not to turn on the air conditioning until April 15, room temperatures have been stifling.

Helene Sinnreich, director of Judaic and Holocaust studies, reported that classrooms in DeBartolo Hall were more than 80 degrees.

"Ultimately, there is a long-term problem that the temperature of the buildings cannot

be adjusted to coincide with the weather outside," Sinnreich said.

Sinnreich added that the windows couldn't be opened to alleviate the situation.

Javad Alam, an engineering professor, also said room temperature has been a problem for years.

"This year, due to unusual weather we are having, the rooms got hotter earlier," Alam said.

Both professors reported that students have been having trouble sitting through class periods since the temperatures

BUILDINGS PAGE 4

Heat hinders learning

Josh Medore
REPORTER

As temperatures hit the 80-degree mark last week, students and teachers alike dealt with sweltering rooms and fading focus.

"It was pretty much unbearable," said Jim Schramer, an English professor. "It's difficult for [students] to sit there and pay attention."

Schramer said the stu-

dents' physical conditions affect "how you illicit responses" from them.

English major Ralph Rich said that last week's unseasonably high temperatures affected "a lot of people."

"I was in DeBartolo a lot; it was a sauna in there," Rich said. "I looked at the clock a lot more, just counting down the time until we could leave for some fresh air."

REACTION PAGE 4

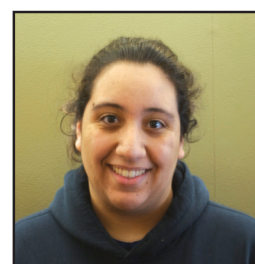
Campus Connection

How did you feel about the overly warm buildings on campus last week?



"I was in DeBartolo a lot; it was a sauna in there. I looked at the clock a lot more, just counting down the time until we could leave for some fresh air."

- Ralph Rich
senior



"My lab was really bad. People kept leaving for water and goggles. Everyone's wearing kept fogging up."

- Gabrielle BenDaali,
sophomore

New website to market university

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Marissa McIntyre
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The university is overhauling its website in an attempt to highlight the positive activities that officials say are often buried by negativity.

Officials say the revamped website will encourage enrollment and trump negative results when prospective students and parents search "YSU" in online search engines, such as Google.

"Recently, I searched YSU, and I saw a headline that said, 'Woman ODs in bathroom at Taco Bell by YSU.' I don't see why YSU was in the headline since the university had nothing to do with it," said Mark Van Tilburg, executive director of marketing and communica-

tions. "If you're just reading headlines, how is that going to look for someone searching the university?"

Van Tilburg said that by reworking keywords, YSU's home Web page would appear above other search results.

"If Google starts indexing our homepage, it'll start pushing down some of the negative stuff," said Ross Morrone, university Web developer. "Like when the Huffington Post wrote about the shooting tragedy a year ago, it became one of the search results. By re-indexing the website, we'll be able to push stuff like that down on the search results."

Van Tilburg said he and his department believe in transparency, and that these search results should come up, but don't see why they should be first.

He said the new Web page would reflect positively on the university and the community.

"You can't market the university without the city," Van Tilburg said. "By co-branding with the city, we can share the plethora of positive aspects the Valley has to offer."

"We're always trying to figure out ways to incorporate downtown. Especially as we move towards this 'Youngstown city and the university are one and the same,'" Morrone said.

He said he hopes that by promoting downtown, businesses will want to offer initiatives and benefits to students.

Senior Matt Sprankle has been working with YSU's

WEBSITE PAGE 3



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Technology department fills four-year vacancy

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

Ken Schindler, the newly hired associate vice president and chief technology officer, takes office in May, bringing solidarity to Youngstown State University's technology department after a four-year position vacancy.

Despite his lengthy list of credentials, he has yet to upgrade to a smartphone.

"You don't want me driving down the highway on a smartphone," Schindler said. "I'm not that clever, and I don't want to hurt anybody."

Despite his lack of an in-

creasingly common electronic device, he keeps his pointer finger on the pulse of technological developments.

"It's a field that turns over every three to five years," he said. "That's part of the appeal to me is the challenges."

Gene Grilli, vice president for finance and administration, explained that the David Sweet administration opted against filling the position after Donna Esterly's retirement.

Mike Hrishenko, interim executive director of technology services; Rick Marsico, director of computer services; and Jason Rakers, director of network telecommunications, ran their respective departments in lieu of a single

leader.

Schindler's hiring brings long overdue unification, Grilli said.

"We'll have one single fabric over the whole department, so it's unified," Grilli said.

A reduction in redundancy, coordinated work efforts and maximum effort from employees are some of the dividends Grilli said the addition of Schindler would bring.

Schindler studied mathematics during his time as an undergrad at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. He found writing computer programs to solve equations intriguing and soon realized he could make a career from it.

"[Information Technology] was in its infancy then," Schindler said.

He continued his educa-

tion at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he earned his Master of Business Administration, with an emphasis in quantitative analysis and information systems.

Since 1973, Schindler has held nine different jobs, his latest as the executive director of information technology at Saginaw Valley State University, a position he's held since 1999. This familiarized him with the Blackboard system, which YSU has implemented.

Grilli said it wasn't that strong of a selling point. Instead, Schindler was the "complete package."

"Schindler brings a comprehensive skill set with him," Grilli said.

Gary Sexton, director of WYSU, led the search committee that whittled down a field of 40 candidates to 11.

Only five remained for Grilli after a round of Skype interviews. Schindler impressed the committee with his knowledge, ability and style.

"He had strong experience in strategic planning and budget planning, and significant high-level management experience," Sexton said. "His experience was broad, both in higher education and government."

"We are pleased to have Ken on staff as he brings with him deep technical knowledge and experience that will help guide our institution in years to come," Grilli said in a campus memo.

Schindler's contract has already been negotiated, with a starting salary of \$141,000.

And as for the lack of a smartphone, Schindler said he prefers tablets.

Andy Grammer set to take stage at May Day

Cory Bartek
REPORTER

Penguin Productions, which organizes events for the Youngstown State University community, recently announced that Andy Grammer will perform during this year's May Day concert on May 3.

The student-only concert will take place in the Rec 5 Area on campus, and doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free, but students must present a valid student ID.

Grammer, who is new to the music scene, has emerged over the past year and is best known for "Keep Your Head Up" and "Fine by Me."

Junior Sarah Gordon has heard of his songs but said she doesn't know much about Grammer.

"I guess that's cool though that YSU is trying to bring artists you hear on YouTube," Gordon said.

"We are very excited to have Andy performing for us," said Breanne Romeo, a Penguin Productions committee member.

When it came time to select the artist who would perform, the committee initially looked

back at the Wiz Khalifa show put on at the Covelli Centre earlier this year.

Committee members then decided they would mix up the genres. Grammer plays mainly acoustic rock, while Khalifa's genre is rap/hip-hop.

The committee narrowed it down to three choices and decided on Grammer.

"Andy fit into the budget, he's an up-and-coming artist and he's going to provide a good show," Romeo said.

Other events will take place throughout the day, including tailgating outside of Kilcawley Center from 1 to 3 p.m. Free food and beverages will be provided.

Freshman Danielle Good said she was unaware of the show. She doesn't usually attend concerts.

"But I suppose it will be a feel-good event for the summer," Good said.

Penguin Productions will also host a pre-concert party to promote the show and encourage students to attend.

After the show, various student organizations will be permitted to set up and decorate tables to show off their respective groups.

'You see physics every day'

High school students, alumni attend Physics Olympics



Lordstown High School seniors Luke Plyes and Marcus Short heated water to 33.4 degrees in two minutes and eight seconds during the water heater event at the Physics Olympics on Saturday. Photo by Kacy Standohar/The Jambar.

Kacy Standohar
FEATURES EDITOR

Youngstown State University alumni and current engineers Mike Scott, Joe Bachani and Harry Slaven remembered the wooden bridge drop competition at the annual Physics Olympics. When they attended the event as high school students in 1991, their record-breaking bridge held 199 gallons of water before breaking.

Now employees of V&M Star, Panelmatic Inc. and Swagelok Company, the alumni

come back each year to assist high school students in the competition.

"It's been 25 years, at least," Scott said. "We really enjoy coming here and seeing the students do what we did a while back."

More than 300 students and 18 teams attended the Physics Olympics in Beeghly Center on Saturday, and participated in events including the Egg Drop, Mouse Trap Racer and Flying Machine.

Hickory High School junior Alexis Blevins attended her first Physics Olympics this

year. Little did she know, her school would win first place overall.

"It is really cool," Blevins said. "You see physics every day, and it is part of everyday life."

Blevins said she plans to go to YSU to pursue an engineering degree.

Blevins and students built bridges out of balsa wood that had to hold as much water as possible. Blevins said her project took a week and a half to build.

PHYSICS PAGE 3

WEBSITE PAGE 2

Web and marketing teams for the past six months to build the new look for the YSU homepage, and agrees that showcasing all aspects of the community is beneficial.

"I kept coming up with different ideas. Originally, the website was cluttered, and we wanted to clean it up, but the more I talked, the more they listened," Sprinkle said.

Morrone said it was time to update the website. The last time it was updated was 2009.

Van Tilburg said he agrees that the upkeep of the website is important.

"The website is at the center of all of our marketing work," Van Tilburg said.

Morrone said the changes would improve user friendliness, incorporate social media into the website, post calendar events and improve the reputa-

tion of the community.

Bob Tupaj, YSU website manager and portal administrator, said the website would incorporate academic opportunities downtown, such as internships and business opportunities.

Morrone also wants the new website to showcase more student accomplishments.

"We do have a lot of great students, and they do a lot of incredible things," Morrone said.

He said that incorporating social media such as Twitter, Pinterest and Facebook would improve the new layout and showcase university events and positive feedback.

"If someone tags YSU on Twitter, we'll check it, and, if it's positive, we'll retweet it, and then it'll appear on the website," Morrone said.

He said positive feedback outweighs the negative and hopes this will appeal to parents and prospective college students.

Pinterest is another social media site they would use as a tool to showcase the university.

Morrone said that through student and community surveys, they have been able to use feedback to improve user-friendliness.

To accomplish this, Sprinkle looked to other universities' homepages, such as the University of Texas and the University of Arizona. He also spoke with students to hear what they would want on the website.

Faculty profiles will also be a new element of the YSU website.

Tupaj worked to bring this element after hearing a need existed for it.

"We were hearing from different departments and deans that there was a need for their faculty to have a homepage," Tupaj said.

He said the template is user-friendly for faculty to update their office hours, research ideas and general information for students and parents.

"Parents go to the websites when looking for colleges for their kids, so for faculty to show their research interests, it becomes a marketing tool at that point," Tupaj said.

Morrone said the new website will go live during the summer semester.

Sprinkle said he is excited to have what he has worked on go live for him to leave behind as he graduates.

"It's awesome to be a part of the university and its representation," Sprinkle said.

PHYSICS PAGE 2

Other events included Physics Phloater, Fermi Question and Hot Water Making. The hot water heater event required teams to be able to heat water by 5 degrees and then to 10 degrees in a 15-minute period.

Students from the Mahoning County Career and Technical Center did not attend this year because of the untimely death of their teacher, Stacey Sutera. The event was in honor of Sutera, because she was involved with the program at YSU.

Trumbull Career and Technical Center students attended the Physics Olympics and received

extra credit in their physics class.

TCTC physics teacher Elaine Frankland said the event proves that vocational schools are academic.

"These are the types of students that love to build hands-on things with practical and technical education," she said. "They really don't know what to expect when they get here, but they end up having a fun day."

Jason Wemma, YSU post-graduate senior and middle childhood education major, volunteered at the Physics Olympics and said the experience would benefit him. He plans to become a science teacher.

"I think it is cool to see so many kids excited about something," he said. "I think anytime you're doing a demonstration — using physics and see it in action — it helps you understand it better."

Kevin Crowley, creator of the Physics Olympics and adjunct professor of physics, said the event started in 1979 with seven schools.

He and a committee of teachers meet each year to modify events and discuss plans.

"The Physics Olympics keeps the students focused and invested in physics," Crowley said. "I

really wish YSU admissions were here today. It would have been a great recruiting opportunity. They really are the best of the best students in surrounding areas."

Sue Davis, director of undergraduate admissions, said she didn't receive any message about the Physics Olympics. Davis said her staff of four recruiters often attends the English Festival and science fairs, but cannot make it to every event.

"I, myself, was working Saturday and doing tours on campus," she said. "We have a lot of events to go to, but it's just a matter of getting to all of them."



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NEWS BRIEFS

YSU hosts 34th year of English Festival

In the past three decades, nearly 100,000 students from more than 300 area schools have read approximately 300 books for the YSU English Festival. In addition to being nationally recognized, the festival has been replicated all over the country and in other parts of the world. This year is the first time that a YSU faculty member has written a book — “The Coming of the Dragon” by Rebecca Barnhouse, an English professor — used for the festival’s activities. One of the creators of the festival, Gary Salvner, will retire in the summer as chairman of the YSU English Department after 35 years of employment. He will continue to co-chair the event.

Student exhibit opens Friday at McDonough

The 76th Annual Juried Student Exhibition opens Friday and will run until April 13 at the McDonough Museum of Art. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Students with work in the exhibition will be honored at a reception ceremony from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, and they will receive awards sponsored by local businesses and individuals who support the arts. The reception is open to the public. Sean P. Morrisey, an artist from Pittsburgh, is this year’s juror. He utilizes traditional and nontraditional styles of printmaking and creates large-scale works on walls. His work has been displayed in national and international exhibits, and it is included in several private collections.

Medical museum launches YouTube channel

The Rose Melnick Medical Museum recently launched a YouTube channel with videos highlighting museum exhibits. Dan McCormick, of YSU’s department of media and academic computing, filmed the videos, while Cassie Nespore, the museum’s curator, narrated and explained the history of various items. Youngstown radiologist John C. Melnick founded the museum in 1985. It is located in Melnick Hall, and some popular items in the museum’s collection include an iron lung, amputation kits and a wooden X-ray machine. The museum also has thousands of medical items including equipment, research materials, instruments and documents on the history of medicine.

POLICE BRIEFS

Man asks about coffee machine, receives trespass warning

On Friday, YSU Police received notice that a man in an army coat had entered Beeghly Hall and asked where a coffee machine was. After being told that one wasn’t there, the man left the building. YSU Police stopped him at the intersection of Fifth and Rayen avenues and issued him a written trespass warning.

Woman panics in pool

On Thursday, YSU Police responded to an “active drowning” in the Beeghly Center pool. The woman — who was alert and conscious — told YSU Police that, after she attempted to jump into the deep end of the pool, she panicked and flailed her arms, which caused her nose and eyes to fill up with water. She added that she isn’t a good swimmer. The lifeguard on duty helped the woman to safety, and she refused treatment from paramedics. The woman was told to stay in the shallow area of the pool.

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REACTION PAGE 1

Sophomore Bridgette Lewis also encountered problems.

“The computer lab on the third floor of Cushwa was pretty hot,” Lewis said. “My fiction class in DeBartolo was kind of warm, but we kept the lights off.”

Schramer offered one reason as to why DeBartolo Hall gets so hot: the era in which it was built.

“I believe that DeBartolo was built in the 1970s,” Schramer said. “The building is kind of held hostage to the past.”

Freshman Brad Dubos said Beeghly Hall was also warm.

“I noticed a lot of people were uncomfortable, including professors,” Dubos said.

“If [facilities] could have adapted, it would’ve helped, but it was just a weird week,” Dubos said.

GARDEN PAGE 1

“We’re always looking for ways to be more sustainable, and we’re always looking to work with a campus garden to promote locally grown food within our dining halls,” Krol said.

But the gardens, Krol and others say, have seen better days.

“We are working to renew this effort and get back to using locally grown food on campus,” Krol said.

Scott and Armstrong have reached out to members of the biology department to help maintain the gardens.

Scott said he hopes the garden will grow and gain the attention of many YSU students.

“I hope people notice it on campus when walking behind Kilcawley or to the Kilcawley dorms, and that people realize

we need not depend on large scale department stores and grocery stores for our food — which we don’t even know where it comes from or what chemicals have or have not been put on it,” Scott said. “It saves a lot of money if we all grew our own greens and vegetables, and it would be much healthier.”

The Rich Center for Autism has the second garden on the YSU campus — a healing garden; while it does not provide a harvest in autumn, its purpose is to make people feel better or at ease.

Savannah O’Brien, a student who works at the Rich Center, said new flowers are planted each spring and that many of their plants are annuals.

Recently, the Campus Beautification Working Group was asked to recommend landscaping ideas for the land where the

Thompson-Sacherman House stood.

The CBWG asked Carol Sacherman, owner of the Thompson-Sacherman House, to attend a meeting and to give ideas about what to do with the land between the Beat Coffee House and Inner Circle Pizza.

Sacherman said she initially wanted to plant a garden filled with species native to the Youngstown area.

“Once native species are established, they thrive,” Sacherman said.

Sacherman was upset with the land and lack of garden possibilities.

“It’s a little desert,” Sacherman said.

Dave Ewing, associate director of grounds, added that, along with irrigation, animal infestation could also be an issue in a shaded area.

BUILDINGS PAGE 1

have peaked.

“I had students sweating, and one nearly passed out,” Sinnreich said. “It is difficult to learn in extreme heat or cold.”

The large number of complaints by faculty led Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez, director of the James Dale Ethics Center, to entertain the idea of grievance.

Though he questioned the legitimacy of aggregated complaints, he called for mass action by way of letters to various campus officials in an email.

Palmer-Fernandez was unable to be reached for comment.

Gene Grilli, vice president for finance and administration, said the university chooses to keep the air conditioning off until mid-April to avoid damaging the system.

“Prior to that date, we run a huge risk to doing major damage to the coils in the cooling system,” Grilli said.

Most of YSU’s buildings are connected to a campuswide loop, with each building dependent on others.

Cool water runs through the coils that make up the air conditioning system.

Hyden said that March temperatures, usually averaging in the 20s, are too low to risk using the air-conditioning unit.

“The coils could freeze in a matter of seconds,” Grilli said, as temperatures were expected to dip back into the low 20s on Wednesday night.

In spring 2010, facilities removed antifreeze from the campus loop, filled the system with water and fired up the air conditioning about a week ahead of April 15.

“People think you flip the switch and the AC clicks on,” Hyden said. “That’s not how it works here. To fill the system would have been too great a risk.”

Hyden said the complaints were coming from people in buildings in the loop.

Alam said a slight drop typically occurs in attendance when the weather gets nice in the spring, but it’s the temperatures in the classrooms that have drawn complaints from his students.

For his evening classes, Alam has been able to move the students into one of the university computer labs, which Hyden said are cooled independently from the campus loop system.

High temperatures caused Sinnreich to dismiss classes early.

“The heat was just too overwhelming,” Sinnreich said. “The students have been very good-natured about the situation.”

Hyden said the facilities team did everything practical to cool down the buildings.

“We changed fan schedules and sequences,” Hyden said. “We would have run the chillers last week if we could have.”

Even after verdict, details unfold in Rutgers suicide case

The Record (MCT)

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. — A week after Dharun Ravi was found guilty in a webcam spying case that captivated the nation, revelations as surprising and insightful as the trial’s outcome continue to surface.

Earlier this week, Ravi told interviewers that he doesn’t blame himself for the suicide 1 { years ago of his Rutgers University roommate Tyler Clementi.

On Thursday, a man known at the trial only as M.B., Clementi’s companion in the dorm liaison, said through his lawyer that he wants Ravi to serve jail time.

And on Friday, the Clementi family, who live in Ridgewood, N.J., released a statement that included no reaction to Ravi’s recent statements but said they believed the jury had reached the correct conclusion and that the verdict confirmed their faith in the justice system.

“They reached their decision based on the facts shown by the evidence,” Clementi’s father, Joseph, said. “At the conclusion of the trial, the defense’s explanation of what happened was simply not believable.”

The prepared release offered no hint as to whether the family will ask Superior Court Judge Glenn Berman for leniency at Ravi’s sentencing May 21. First Assistant Middlesex County Prosecutor Julia McClure has said she would seek input from the Clementis and M.B. before sentencing. Ravi faces between five and 10 years in prison on the bias intimidation counts and could be deported to his native India.

Instead, the Clementis delivered a message that young adults need to be taught about the effects of anti-gay bullying.

“We have learned that (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) teens, especially, suffer pain, embarrassment and ridicule which is made worse by improper use of electronic media,” Clementi’s mother, Jane, said in the statement. “In this digital world, we need to teach our youngsters that their actions have consequences, that their words have real power to hurt or to help. They must be encouraged to choose

to build people up and not tear them down.”

The parents also reiterated that they launched the Tyler Clementi Foundation, which promotes awareness about bullying and teenage suicide, in honor of their son.

This week Ravi has given two high-profile interviews saying he didn’t hate Clementi because he was gay and that he had acted immaturely and stupidly. He activated a webcam on Sept. 19, 2010, to watch his roommate and the man identified only as M.B.

Clementi killed himself days later by jumping from the George Washington Bridge.

Ravi, who was not charged with Clementi’s death, made his case with The Newark Star-Ledger and again with the news magazine program “20/20,” which aired Friday night on ABC. In that interview, he disavowed direct responsibility for his roommate’s death while acknowledging that he “wasn’t

thinking.” Several excerpts were released prior to the broadcast.

He said, “even though I wasn’t the one who caused him to jump off the bridge, I did do things wrong, and I was stupid about a lot of stuff.”

He also added: “So much worse happens. Kids actually get bullied and actually go through stuff much worse than this. I understand why people feel the need to punish me. Bad stuff happens and they need to set an example, but it’s unfortunate this has to be the case where this happens.”

While the Clementi family’s thoughts on punishment are still unknown, that’s not the case for M.B., who served as a key witness for the prosecution when he testified at Ravi’s trial that he visited Clementi three times in the Busch campus dorm and had sex with him on Sept. 19 and 21.

M.B., who was relieved by the verdict, said through his

attorney Thursday that Ravi should be incarcerated and that he will draft an impact statement to be read at the sentencing.

As for his feelings about Ravi, M.B. does not hold any malice toward him, his lawyer, Richard Pompelio said. He has always viewed Ravi’s actions as those of an immature college student, but he gained more perspective during the trial, Pompelio said.

“I think what he has learned is that it was more than just an act of someone doing something foolish — that in addition to that, there was an effort that displayed meanness,” Pompelio said.

Steven Altman, Ravi’s attorney, could not be reached for comment Friday to respond to the Clementi family statement.

Ravi was convicted of 15 counts of invasion of privacy, bias intimidation, witness and evidence tampering and hindering prosecution.

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False advertising

The Jambar
EDITORIAL BOARD

WEBSITE
PAGE 2

The office of marketing and communications at YSU is working to “clean up” the institution’s digital reputation.

“Recently, I searched YSU, and I saw a headline that said, ‘Woman ODs in bathroom at Taco Bell by YSU.’ I don’t see why YSU was in the headline since the university had nothing to do with it,” said Mark Van Tilburg, executive director of marketing and communications. “If you’re just reading headlines, how is that going to look for someone searching the university?”

Whether the public relations people like it or not, the proximity and subject matter of YSU’s unnerving moments unavoidably blemish the pristine portrait the marketing campaign is trying to paint.

“You can’t market the university without the city,” Van Tilburg said.

But they tell only half of the story.

Youngstown carries with it plenty of negative and unappealing traits, which aren’t adequately mentioned to prospective students.

Instead, potential Penguins are sold a skewed image of a concrete heaven smack-dab in the middle of a vibrant, reemerging metropolitan area.

Pay no mind to the allegations of hazing or frat party shooting; those weren’t on YSU’s campus anyway.

Marketing efforts are, understandably, intended to highlight the best aspects of the good being sold. In YSU’s case, there’s plenty.

Yet, at the same time, actively trying to boost public perception through distortion and false advertising is one step short of propaganda.

Students shouldn’t be fed an illusion, then suffer a major letdown when arriving to a rusty old steel town with one of the nation’s highest poverty levels and the constant threat of violent crime.

Praise is in order for the effort, but the methods are dubious.

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JAMBAR POLICY

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

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

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SHENEMAN TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES



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Jared Buker
COLUMNIST

‘The Big Picture’ Stand your ground

More than half of the states in the U.S. practice a legal self-defense code called the Castle Doctrine, which gives Americans the right not to retreat if their home is attacked.

I don’t have any problem with giving a homeowner the right to protect his turf.

But some states, like Florida, stretch the law to say that their residents have the right not to retreat in any location whatsoever. These laws are often called “stand your ground” laws.

John Leombruno is an attorney for Arnold Law Firm in Jacksonville, Fla. These laws imply, he said, that someone threatened does not have to run, no matter where he is, unless he can undoubtedly do so safely.

“Florida law says you can even use deadly force if you think you are in danger of death or great bodily harm,” Leombruno said.

The Trayvon Martin incident has shone a light on laws like these, and I had no idea how ambiguous and determinant they can be in criminal homicide cases until I did some research.

Late last month, 17-year-old Trayvon Martin, an African-American, was shot by George Zimmerman, a Latino neighborhood watchman, while walking through a gated community in Sanford, Fla. Martin ventured to a nearby convenience store during halftime of the NBA All-Star Game to buy Skittles and an Arizona iced tea.

On his way back to the home of his father’s girlfriend, Martin was spotted by Zimmerman, who called Sanford Police Department’s non-emergency number to tell them he spotted a young black male he thought was “up to no good” and possibly on drugs.

Martin was unarmed and perceivably innocent, wielding only Skittles and iced tea.

On his trek through the neighborhood, Zimmerman began following him and initiated a physical altercation. One witness said Martin ended up on top of Zimmerman and was swinging his fists, but another claimed there was no brawling at all.

Zimmerman shot and killed Martin shortly after this alleged altercation.

Youngstown State University sophomore Tyterion Wright said he thinks that justice can be reached only when Zimmerman is put behind bars.

“That kid did nothing, and this man just shoots him all because

he had a hunch. He was wrong,” Wright said. “He should be in jail for murder.”

Junior Julia Colecchi said she believes there might be more to it than that.

“For better or worse, this man might have just been trying to do his job,” she said. “Did it end up being wrong? Yes. But he’d be praised as a hero if that decision had been a good one.”

The media has been covering the incident for a month now, and celebrities like LeBron James have been using Twitter to express their anger toward a Florida legal system that hasn’t charged Zimmerman with anything due to insufficient evidence.

There is no question the incident is tragic; as an outsider looking in, I see a racist man, assigned to watch a neighborhood, who disobeyed the request of the police department so he could pick a fight — a fight that he started losing and that caused him to panic enough to pull a trigger.

It is also important to note a few things about Zimmerman. In 2005, he was charged with violence and battery on an officer while attempting to prevent the arrest of a friend. Around the same time, an ex-fiancee accused him of domestic violence and filed a restraining order against him.

Zimmerman also referred to Martin in his phone call to police as a “coon.”

His past certainly does not confirm his guilt in killing Martin, but it certainly calls into question the reliability of his self-defense plea because it paints him as a possible racist with an unstable police record.

The problem with stand your ground laws, or any plea of self-defense for that matter, is that it requires a great deal of trust in the person making the plea. It is incredibly difficult for an outsider to determine what was and what wasn’t too much force in the heat of the moment.

For an attorney or a court system to even attempt to place legal blame on someone, someone basically has to decide for that person what is and what is not dangerous enough in the heat of the moment for self-defense.

With a law so heavily based on discretion and one’s own perception of danger, the only two people who know what legal action is appropriate are Zimmerman and Martin.

Many Americans are now

calling for a repeal of these stand your ground laws, but Leombruno said he feels that people must stop jumping to conclusions until all facts surface.

“The law isn’t even in play because no one has been charged yet,” he said. “It is really just a hypothetical situation at this point.”

Of course, a plea of self-defense is acceptable in situations where it truly occurred, but in the case of Trayvon Martin, it certainly seems as if Zimmerman acted proactively rather than reactively, and he was very hasty in incorporating a negative, hateful agenda into his duty to protect this gated community.

But the reason he has yet to see criminal charges is because the courts don’t see sufficient evidence against him. Technically, the actions taken by Zimmerman are legal in Florida, so without consistent witness accounts or overwhelming evidence against him, Zimmerman must remain a free man by law.

The burden of proof would be on the state, and a conviction of Zimmerman beyond a reasonable doubt is very unlikely.

My own premonitions aside, I must support Florida law officials for upholding the stand your ground laws because saying that Zimmerman probably did it simply isn’t enough.

The American legal system isn’t perfect; the hope must be that laws like these are not abused, but, instead, used only when a claim of self-defense is just and truthful.

YSU Police Chief John Beshara said he believes that, after all of the facts are clarified, Zimmerman should be judged on “the law of the land.”

“What I hear on the radio and see in the newspapers is a lot of speculation,” he said. “I think he should go through the justice system [in Florida], but you can’t guess. We don’t do that in our business.”

If the facts are still so hazy after a month of investigation, I don’t believe they will ever clear up enough to incarcerate Zimmerman.

So, as a society, our only other option is to learn from this tragedy and hope, in Martin’s memory, that misunderstandings and stereotypes like this don’t continue to spawn violence by law enforcement officials who feel protected by the terms of stand your ground laws.



From best friends to rhythmic beats

Chelsea Telega
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

Four friends from the Youngstown area had high hopes for their future in music. Individually, each man had his own creative skill set. Now, they are joining forces to find fame.

Jason Melidona, 28, works full-time as a part of the Geek Squad at Best Buy to support his 4-year-old son and pay his bills.

Melidona, also known as JayMel, is trying his hand in the hip-hop industry, and he won't stop until he makes it.

"I never really knew what I wanted to do with my life. I would have some things that I could do if I decided to give up the music, but music has taken center stage," Melidona said.

His music was broadcast on a local radio station, 101.9 WRBP JAMZ, after winning the Home Jamz contest for best new single in 2009. As a prize, he traveled to New York to work on his career.

In 2009, Melidona also signed a contract with Josh Fisher and Lamar Christian, two of the four friends, which kick-started his career.

Fisher, who lived in Los Angeles for eight years, started a managing company called MacMedia and signed Melidona to his label.

"Back then, rap was about a lot of gangster or dope game. I thought he was the only artist there that was actually genuine with me."

-Weyu Wantata

"At the time, I couldn't really do much for him 'cause I was still young, and I was trying to develop myself and my career as a young man," Fisher said. "Now is the time where things are just coming into place. I'm able to focus, and he's at an all-time high with creativity."

One of the more creative aspects of Melidona's music, he said, is the blend of different sounds. The rapper played drums for nearly 16 years, which he said gave him a rock 'n' roll edge.

This, in part, is what initially caught the eye of Melidona's public relations manager, Weyu Wantata, who was his disk jockey from 2007 to 2010.

Christian introduced Wantata to Melidona during a show at then Barley's downtown. Wantata said he was impressed with his "total package" as a rapper with his presence and his lyrics.

"He had my attention, which was a victory in itself," Wantata said. "Back then, rap was about a lot of gangster or dope game. I thought he was the only artist there that was actually genuine with me."

Wantata said he listened to Melidona's music after their meeting, when he was going through a personal conflict.

"I definitely was struggling with who I wanted to be and what career field would make me happy," Wantata said. "I was burning out at my current job."

Wantata was partially unemployed in 2009 and was suffering financially. He always felt the young rapper had a unique talent that made him feel better.

Melidona writes his own lyrics, but said he works best spontaneously, feeding off his daily routine at work and home.

"I'm more spur of the moment. I'll just write a full song on one sit down. Usually, it's

not a couple days of writing music; it's just whatever mood I'm in at the time," Melidona said.

Seeing his son after a day at work, he said, is another one of his biggest inspirations.

"My 4-year-old son is probably the most important thing in my life," Melidona said. "He's always wanted to play the drums, and he's always begging me to set him on my lap and bang away."

Melidona admits if he had been in this position several years ago, he would not have been mentally prepared for it. Working with Fisher and his other friends, he said, has been his biggest motivation.

During their 8-year friendship, Melidona said Fisher always guided him musically. He said most people think making one good song and having a friend in the industry will lead to fame, but he realized that is not how it works at all.

"It's just the business at the end of the day. It's not just one person that makes things happen, it's a whole team of people that can make it happen," JayMel said. "If one person thinks that they're good enough to make it on their own, they're very wrong."

Wantata said the experience has tested every emotion he could go through, but the inspiration created by the close-knit group is unmatched.

"Working with the group, you just feel so much energy, and it's like, 'Wow, if we continue with this, we could really do something that we never imagined we could do,'" Wantata said.

Melidona said Fisher could "most likely" get him a record deal. However, he and the rest of the group want to keep things the way they are, for now.

The men, Melidona said, enjoy working with each other,

and the last thing they want is a "big hand" pushing them around.

"I have all these guys that have been through the thick and thin of me looking like a loser out there or me looking really awesome," Melidona said. "And all of these guys have always been there regardless of the situation I've been in there, so it's like we're all best friends, and it's more of a family thing."

Throughout his work with Melidona, Wantata said he quickly learned that Melidona is one of the sharpest listeners he has ever met. He said he takes advice and sets it in

action.

Fisher agrees that Melidona's work ethic is exquisite.

"He has the ability to write amazing songs, but without the right personality and the right work ethic, that's not really enough," Fisher said. "What separates the winners from the losers is personality and dedication, and that's what Jay has."

Melidona's short-term goal is to be able to quit his day job at Best Buy and sustain his family through music. The long-term goal, he said, is to be able to live comfortably off his fortune after his music career fades.



Youngstown rapper Jason "JayMel" Melidona balances a full-time job and fatherhood with his growing hip-hop career. Photo courtesy of Sarah Bokone.

'Maybe one day I will be average'

Local musician juggles engineering, high-energy music

Chelsea Telega
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

ing they were going to quit.

"I kind of felt like I was the only one that believed in the band," Kotlar said.

One of the biggest problems, Kotlar said, was money. He said he did not care about the payment and he "just wanted to do his thing," but that was not enough for the other band members.

Canola said he was given other opportunities with better pay as a musician, and he wanted to take advantage of them.

"For me personally, I was trying to start a career as a musician, and from being associated with other people, I found that the original band idea — as great as it may seem — it's really hard to do," Canola said. "I was putting so much in to it, and I wasn't seeing the payoff."

The creative environment of an original band is something Canola said he misses; however, he said it was something he would have grown out of eventually because of his musical preferences.

Canola said his time with the band actually improved his music career in the long run.

"It was a nice little thing that happened in my life so far. The band that I was in before I absolutely hated, so being a part of this was like seeing a light at the end of the tunnel," he said.

Not long after losing half of

KOTLAR PAGE 7



Linda "Tess" Tessier teaches her Myth, Symbol and Ritual class in Cushman Hall and informs students about comparisons between mythological history and today's culture. Photo by Chad Travers/The Jambar.

Professor reflects on mythological journey

Chad Travers
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

When Linda "Tess" Tessier, professor of philosophy and religious studies at Youngstown State University, could not find a suitable introductory textbook for her classes, she decided to fill the gap herself with "Living Myth," a textbook she wrote.

"For years, I have been saying there's just no good text. I wanted a good text for my class and similar classes taught at other colleges and universities," Tessier said.

Tessier wanted something more than a bland textbook — she wanted a book that anyone could pick up and understand, while explaining ritual, myth and contemporary life.

Tessier came to YSU in 1988. She has taught the Myth, Symbol and Ritual class for 20 years, and has modeled her class after one of her mentors, Ronald Huntington from Chapman University in Orange County, Calif.

One of the foundations the late profes-

sor Huntington lent Tessier's class, and one that appears prominently in her book, is the cycle mythic stories follow.

Tessier said the hero's journey in the book represents the idea that the mythic cycle begins with creation, develops through the abundance of life and declines to death, the underworld, transformation and rebirth.

"I always tell my students ... 'This class is going to hell, but it won't leave you there,'" she said.

Tessier said she believes the hero's journey model fits the way our modern lives go through cycles. She decided to structure her class and her book the same way, beginning with stories of creation, continuing through stories of life and hardship, following with stories of death and finishing with stories of renewal and resurrection.

Tessier's book also explains that the underworld is a land of no return. Even if a hero is able to escape the nether regions, the person who comes up out of the darkness is not the same as the one who went down, she said.

TESSIER PAGE 7

KOTLAR PAGE 6

his band, Kotlar formulated a new collaboration with Lewis.

Kotlar writes lyrics and music for the two-person acoustic band, but said Lewis is much more developed in songwriting because of her singing ability.

"I play music in my head and hear what it should sound like," Kotlar said. "I'll come up with a little bit of lyrics, and then she will kind of finish them up for me."

Lewis said she was an acoustic folk artist for a portion of her music career. The band's transition was comfortable, she added. Lewis and Kotlar said they feed off each other's stage energy.

"It pays off because we both love music, and we get to share it between ourselves and other people," Lewis said.

Kotlar, 24, discovered his passion for music when he was about 15 years old. While all of his friends were play-

ing sports, he was trying to play the guitar — trying, he said, being the key word.

His attempts at the guitar continued into his freshman year of college at YSU in 2006. His roommate, Matt Browning, would spend time teaching him the basics. Kotlar said he put down the guitar, though, because he felt like he played it poorly.

This is when he started focusing on his civil engineering degree.

"My freshman year, I wasn't so sure what I wanted to do. I wanted to play music, but I thought there was no way that I could make it big," Kotlar said. "I was always better at math and science, and I felt like I would have done better in this field."

Only a year after giving up on the guitar, Kotlar missed music so much that he decided to go back. He said music was an outlet for him, and it is

something he will always take seriously.

Although his college degree and upcoming graduation in May are his primary concerns, he said music will always hold a special place in his heart, and he is open to criticism to help him improve.

"It's just like being an engineer or an architect with a design, and someone comes over and says, 'Move that column over three feet,'" Kotlar said. "It's not only what you do for yourself, but it's your job, and you're doing it for the audience, too. That's what you have to do with music."

Kotlar made copies of the band's first album to pass around campus for feedback. He said some people would tell them they hated it, but it wouldn't offend him. He used the responses as a tool to improve.

Although Kotlar's primary goal was

to formulate a high-energy punk-rock band, he has been open to the change and said the acoustic band has enough material to record another album.

The band now uses folk guitar methods, along with ambient delays and volume swells, to create an acoustic sound. Kotlar said it is comparable to Bob Dylan.

Kotlar and Lewis continue to work on music and plan to record an acoustic album called "Up Close and Personal" this summer.

The musicians also hope to host try-outs for new members, but said they are enjoying their time as a smaller entity in the music business.

"I've really enjoyed playing music with the band, and I've enjoyed music with all of the musicians that came and went," Lewis said. "I look forward to whatever comes from it. It's a living, breathing entity."

The Jambar

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TESSIER PAGE 6

The other inspiration for writing a contemporary book instead of a textbook was to help stamp out the idea that the study of myth has to be focused on the ancient world.

She said she believes human beings crave meaning and that we communicate many of our truths and beliefs symbolically without even realizing we are doing it.

"There is so much focus on myth in the ancient world, as if this were something the ancient people were concerned with, and that since we have developed religion and science, it is no longer active in our lives," Tessier said. "I think that is a huge mistake that deprives us of a whole level of meaning."

Tessier's own journey has taken her from managing motels in Arizona, and supervising dance companies in Los Angeles, to teaching in the religious studies department at YSU.

"I started at Whittier College in 1967, but I just wasn't ready for college. I sort of just wandered off into the world," Tessier said.

That wandering brought her back to academia when she was 30. That was when she started part-time undergraduate work at Chapman University.

Once she found her place, under the tutelage of Huntington, she graduated as Chapman's outstanding graduate in religion in 1982.

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A dream come true Professor to umpire LLWS

Steve Wilaj
REPORTER



Chet Cooper almost gave up.

The Youngstown State University biology professor decided that seven years of applying to umpire the Little League World Series was enough.

"I told Gary Williams [of my decision]," Cooper said. "He asked me to apply just one more year."

Williams is the district administrator of Little League umpires in Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull counties.

"I figured, give it one more shot and see what happens," Williams said.

Luckily for Cooper, the seventh time was the charm.

"Lo and behold, I got a letter in early January," Cooper said.

The letter told Cooper that he was selected to umpire the 2012 LLWS.

He said he is excited for the opportunity, which he'd always considered "a dream."

"It wasn't something I set my heart on," Cooper said. "I always thought it would be icing on the cake."

Umpiring since 1994 at the local level and then at the state tournament, Cooper was selected for the 2005 Little League Central Regional tournament in Indianapolis.

"I ended up being the home plate umpire for the Midwest championship game on ESPN," Cooper said. "Once you made it to the regional, they evaluate you out there. Then you have to apply to the next level, which is the World Series."

Although it took seven years, Cooper said he is happy his skills were finally noticed.

"I'm nowhere near being the best umpire around, but I do work hard at it, and I'm pretty consistent at what I do," Cooper said. "Something about my skills are the best among those that are eligible for the LLWS."

Cooper has come a long way since umpiring his first game. Chosen from the stands as a fill-in umpire for his 11-year-old son's game, he wanted only to escape the other parents' negativity. However, once he stepped onto the field, Cooper realized his passion for umpiring.

"I went out there, got away from those parents, and I suddenly realized I liked it," he said.

Cooper will leave for Williamsport, Pa., on Aug. 15. He will umpire at least one game

each day of the LLWS, which will continue through Aug. 26. All of the games will be televised on ESPN or ABC.

"It's a big stage," Williams said. "But he'll be all right. He's one of the best 15 or 20 umpires in Little League right now."

"The big stage doesn't worry me," Cooper said. "The biggest challenge is trying to keep up the pace of the game because ESPN slows the games down."

After the LLWS, Cooper said he will continue to umpire games in northeast Ohio. In addition to Little League, he umpires high school baseball, summer baseball and old-timers leagues.

Cooper said he wants to be the same umpire in Williamsport that he is in northeast Ohio.

"I just have to be myself out there and not even think that there's cameras and everybody watching," he said.

Cooper added that he's looking forward to "having fun and stepping onto a baseball field that's hard to match anywhere else."

First, though, Cooper said he wants to make sure he is not being fooled.

"I'm still in shock," he said. "I keep reading the letter, looking for the fine print that says this is a joke."

Sports Briefs

YSU softball wins weekend series

Over the weekend, the YSU softball team played a three-game series at home against Butler University. The Penguins (15-6) lost the first game, 5-4, after the Bulldogs erased a 4-2 deficit. For YSU, Kristen Philen went 2-for-2 with two runs scored. The second game was decided in the 10th inning, when Vicky Rumph's bases-loaded single lifted YSU to a 6-5 victory. Hana Somogyi pitched the Penguins to a 4-1 win in the series finale, going six innings without allowing an earned run. Haley Thomas and Rumph both homered for YSU.

Baseball team swept by UIC

The YSU baseball team traveled to the University of Illinois at Chicago over the weekend, dropping all three games. The Penguins lost the first game, 6-5, with YSU starter Blake Aquadro allowing six runs over five innings. Dan Hurlimann logged three hits for the Penguins, a career high. Game two was decided in the 9th inning, when UIC's Nick Addison hit an RBI single to beat YSU, 4-3. Penguin outfielder Jason Shirley was 3-for-5, while Pat O'Brien pitched six innings, allowing one run. YSU was shut out in the finale, 8-0, committing three errors. The Penguins are now 2-19.

Tennis opens HL play

The YSU men's tennis team defeated the University of Detroit Mercy, 4-3, on Saturday. Tariq Ismail, Dawoud Kabli, Rodrigo Campos and Felipe Rosa all earned singles victories for the Penguins. In doubles, Ismail and Kabli picked up a win for YSU. The women's team fell, 6-1, to Detroit. The lone victory for the Penguins came when freshman Marta Burak defeated Detroit's Raina Halabi in singles.

Penguin Spotlight



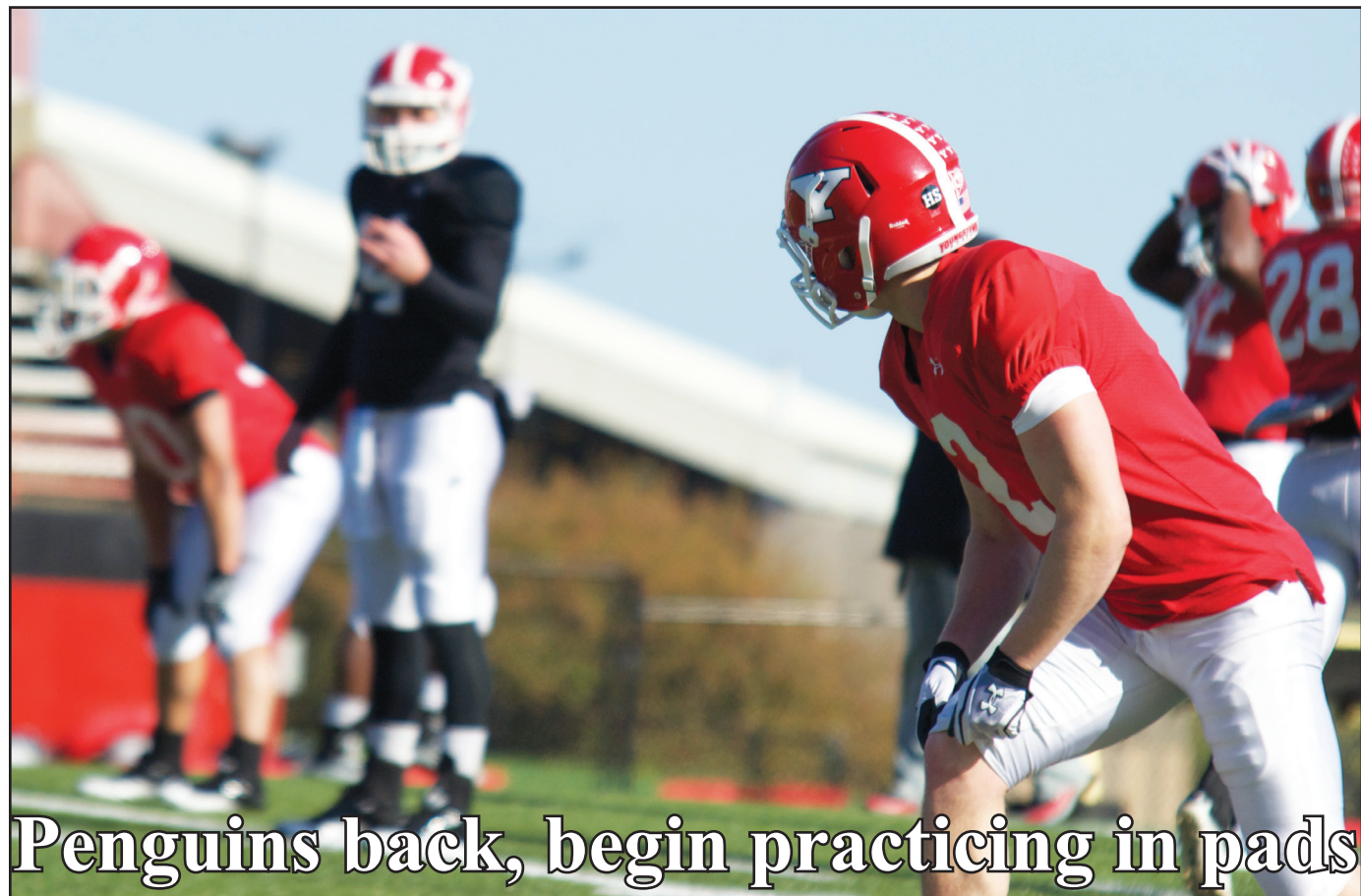
Vicky Rumph

Year: Junior
Height: 5'5"
Hometown: Mt. Forest, Ontario
High School: Norwell
Position: C/INF

Junior catcher/infielder Vicky Rumph provided a spark in the Penguins' lineup beginning on Wednesday. In the second game of a double-header against Butler University on Saturday, she singled home the tying and winning runs. In the bottom of the sixth inning, she capped a three-run inning with a bases-loaded single, and the game with the same scenario in the bottom of the 10th inning. The Penguins went 4-1 from Wednesday to Sunday, defeating Niagara University twice on Wednesday and the final two games against Butler after dropping the first game on Saturday. Rumph went 8-20 at the plate in the five games with six RBIs, three runs and one walk.

'Jack Up The Rev'

Sports Editor Joe Catullo Jr. recaps the Penguins' three-game weekend series against Butler University. The Penguins dropped the first game, but they bounced back and won the next two, including a dramatic, extra-innings victory on Saturday. Also, the Youngstown Phantoms were back at the Covelli Centre, fighting for the No. 1 seed in the Eastern Conference of the United States Hockey League.



Penguins back, begin practicing in pads

Sophomore wide receiver Christian Bryan looks over to sophomore quarterback Patrick Angle during practice on Monday. The Penguins began practicing in pads for the first time this spring on Saturday. Photo by Joe Catullo Jr./The Jambar.

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Eric Wolford is in his third season as Youngstown State University's head football coach. This year also marks junior starting quarterback Kurt Hess' third with the program.

Wolford and Hess, learning and growing with each other, have won nine games in two seasons. The Penguins were one win away from a playoff berth last year.

On Saturday, Hess said he has seen changes in Wolford that could help lead the Penguins into the playoffs for the first time since 2006.

"I see a lot of growth in him as a coach, and it's great to see and hear," Hess said. "He's just more personable with a lot of the guys, and I feel more comfortable with him. The way he's grown is just a model of how our program has grown."

During practice on Saturday, the Penguins wore pads for the first time this offseason. Hess said he's excited to wear them, even though he is not allowed to hit anybody.

"It's been a long time since Missouri State, when we were allowed to hit somebody else," Hess said. "The last two practices, we've been doing a lot of specifics, basic fundamental things, and it's nice to come out here and play football again."

Wolford said Hess and the offensive unit looked sharp.

"They looked good, but you should look good when you got everybody back," Wolford said. "There's no limit to how many points you can score, so that's what we should do."

Besides Wolford, Hess said he feels more comfortable with his linemen, receivers and running backs.

"I was talking to somebody the other day, and I was just like, 'I don't know how we do it. We just know how to practice now,'" Hess said.

The Penguins' top offensive performers have returned to play at least one more season.

Senior running back Jamaine Cook led the team's rushing attack with 1,386 yards, 5.1 yards per carry and 13 touchdowns.

Sophomore Christian Bryan led the receivers with 46 catches and 722 yards. He also caught six touchdowns.

Junior Jelani Berassa caught a team-high eight touchdowns in 37 receptions with 552 yards.

Junior Kevin Watts was third on the team with 28 receptions for 291 yards and three touchdowns.

"We're all a pretty tight-knit group," Hess said. "We know each other pretty well, and I think we can see that on the field."

One thing the Penguins are incorporating is getting their tight ends more involved.

"Already so far, you can see all of the tight ends getting involved, getting a lot of balls so far," said senior tight end Will Shaw. "We're designing a lot of plays to give us a chance to make plays."

Shaw finished last year with eight catches for 200 yards and three touchdowns.

"It's almost my second year of being a tight end, so now it's really understanding what I'm doing," Shaw said. "The coaches have a lot of confidence in me now. I'm

just making the most of my opportunities."

On defense, Wolford brought in Joe Tresey, former defensive coordinator at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"He's brought a whole new passion and obviously a new scheme," Wolford said. "These kids are grasping it pretty good."

The Penguins struggled defensively last year, allowing 25.7 points per game, 186 first downs and 3,875 total yards in 11 games.

Wolford also stressed the special teams, which allowed 1,597 returning yards in 65 tries (24.6 per kickoff and 8.8 per punt).

Wolford said both the players and coaches are responsible for those numbers.

"We've been talking about it," he said. "You got to be accountable for a lot of things you do."

While the Penguins are putting pieces of the puzzle together, they ended last year in a bizarre twist.

On Nov. 12, they defeated North Dakota State University, 27-24, in Fargo, N.D. The Bison were the No. 1 team in the Missouri Valley Conference and were undefeated. It was the first time in YSU history that the Penguins defeated a top-ranked team in the regular season.

In the following week, the Penguins fell to Missouri State University, who finished the season 2-9 at Stambaugh Stadium, 38-34, in the season finale. A victory would have pushed the Penguins into the playoffs.

"In the past two years, we were kind of getting acclimated with the coaches and vice versa," Hess said. "But this year, we have all of the pieces together. This is our year."