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The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

## Dana adds scholarship in honor of band director

**Kevin Alquist**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

This semester, the Dana School of Music will establish a scholarship to honor the memory of Robert E. Fleming, Youngstown State University's band director from 1968 to 1984. He died on Christmas Eve in 2011.

The Robert E. Fleming Memorial Scholarship will be available to students from the Dana School of Music once

\$10,000 is raised and invested. A \$500 scholarship will be given out to one student per year.

All proceeds from the wind ensemble and concert band's Nov. 19 show at Stambaugh Auditorium went toward the scholarship. The event featured the Dana All Star Band, which is made up of alumni band members.

Tickets to the scholarship dinner and the concert cost \$60 for individuals and \$100 for couples.

Catherine Cala, director of university development, said while ticket sales produced \$2,000 for the scholarship, it is unknown how long it will take to meet the goal.

"We hope it will happen in a one-year period, but it could take two to three years," Cala said. "The beauty of an endowed scholarship is that individuals can continue to contribute to it. It's something that grows, and you don't have to stop once you hit your goal."

Cala said the event was a good way to remember Fleming.

"The scholarship dinner leading into the concert itself [was] the kick-off event for our fundraising efforts for the Fleming scholarship," Cala said. "Friends, alumni, students and the public will be able to donate to the scholarship."

Stephen Gage, director of bands, said he considers Fleming to be a

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Dan Thompson, a freshman engineering student, is adding the finishing touch to a golf course castle in the lobby of Moser Hall on Tuesday as part of a project for first-year engineering students. The students designed and built mini-golf courses, using the skills learned in their classes. Photo by Caitlin Sheridan/The Jambar.

## Bitonte to pilot intro course

**Rachel Lundberg**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Bitonte College of Health and Human Services will pilot a course this spring to help incoming freshmen better transition into life at Youngstown State University.

The one-credit course, Introduction to the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services, will be required for undecided majors and students in need of developmental coursework.

Tammy King, associate dean of Bitonte, said 75 percent of colleges offer similar courses, and the one she and five other Bitonte advisers developed is similar to those at Slippery Rock University and Kent State University.

Cathy Brinjak, head of the first-year experience pro-

gram at Slippery Rock, said orientation courses help students acclimate to campus life.

"We've had students say it's been one of the most helpful things for them, because it's helped them meet other students and become integrated into the college campus," Brinjak said.

King said she and her staff plan to work with the Internal Review Board at Youngstown State University, which reviews research projects on human subjects, to evaluate the success of the course. They intend to track the course completion and success rates at YSU of 100 students who took the course versus 100 students who did not.

"We want to make sure that this is truly having an

**BITONTE PAGE 2**



Sarah Ellis keeps a record dish filled with candy at her office in Smith Hall. Ellis encourages students and staff to reuse items for new purposes as much as they can. Photo by Kacy Standohar/The Jambar.

## Green Team reuses records

**Kacy Standohar**  
NEWS EDITOR

Members of the Mahoning Valley Green Team are turning music into art by selling candy and potato chip dishes made from vinyl records and eight-track tapes.

Kristine Shoemaker, a Mahoning County Solid Waste Management policy committee member, warmed the records in the oven at 200 degrees and then dropped them in a four-inch flowerpot to form the bowl shape.

Shoemaker said the records were scratched and weren't usable or recyclable.

"I just decided it would be a good idea because we like to prevent things from being

thrown away," she said.

Shoemaker said she found the idea online and was excited to find a use for the albums. After making about 300 record bowls, Shoemaker sold some and gave them away as gifts.

"They were really cute and not hard to make," she said.

Shoemaker added that sites like Pinterest are ways to find great ideas to turn your trash into treasure.

"The whole idea is to use, reuse and again until you can't anymore," Shoemaker said.

Re:CREATE is a free program of reuse initiatives where students, faculty, staff,

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## Raising awareness

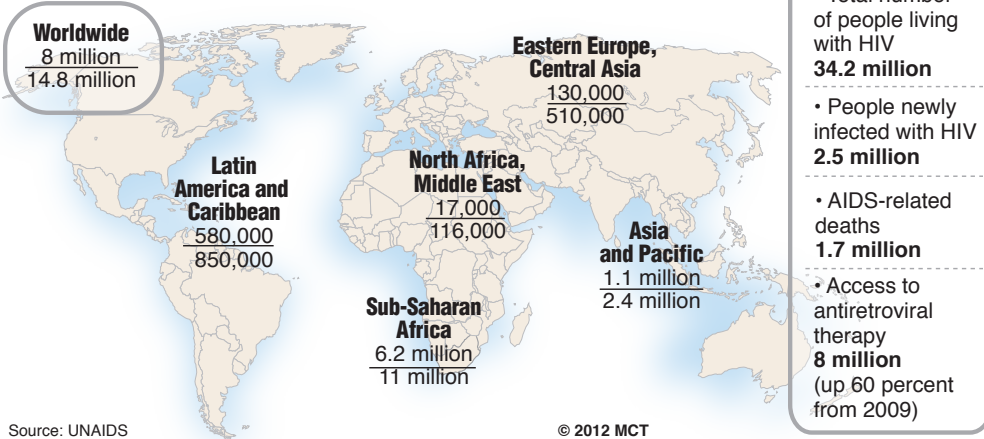
### AIDS update

According to the UNAIDS 2012 Global Report, there were more than 700,000 fewer new HIV infections in 2011 than in 2001, and Africa has cut AIDS-related deaths by one third since 2006. But treatment has still yet to reach many in need.

#### Treatment gap

For low- and middle-income nations

People receiving HIV treatment  
People eligible for HIV treatment



**In 2011**

- Total number of people living with HIV: **34.2 million**
- People newly infected with HIV: **2.5 million**
- AIDS-related deaths: **1.7 million**
- Access to antiretroviral therapy: **8 million** (up 60 percent from 2009)

Source: UNAIDS

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**Lee Murray**  
REPORTER

Saturday is World AIDS Day. The World Health Organization first established World AIDS Day in 1988 to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS.

The Youngstown City Health District will offer free walk-in HIV testing at the Youngstown State University Student Health Clinic. The 20-minute test is done by oral swab, and no appointment is necessary. Testing is available from 9 a.m. until noon on Thursday, as well as from 9 a.m. until noon and then from 12:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 9.

Tim Bortner, vice president of YSUnity — a student-run organization that promotes awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues — said that HIV testing, along with testing for other sexually transmitted diseases, is essential for all students.

"Even if you're not sexually active, it's important to know your status," Bortner said. "It's important for all STDs, actually, espe-

cially if you are sexually active."

HIV can be transmitted through bodily fluids. If you are sexually active, the best way to protect yourself against the virus is to take the necessary precautions and use a condom.

According to a report conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one in five people infected with HIV are unaware of their status. More than 1 million Americans are currently living with HIV.

YSUnity will work with the Ohio Lady Advocates to run an HIV awareness table in the lobby area of Kilcawley Center on Thursday. The organizations will be providing information for HIV testing on campus and off campus, giving out free condoms and answering questions.

Lisa Ronquillo, YSUnity president, said that YSUnity will also be present at the Tunnel of Oppression in Kilcawley Center's President Suites this week.

You can find more information online, along with information on local test centers and contact details for local clinics, at <http://www.aids.gov>.



## In this class, the final exam could be The Final Exam

Susan Snyder  
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER  
(MCT)

PHILADELPHIA — When religion professor Stuart Charme decided to teach a course on the end of the world this semester, he knew he had a compelling hook: the Dec. 21 conclusion of the “Long Count” Mayan calendar that doomsday believers have latched on to as proof that time will end.

But Charme had no idea what the next few months would bring: the cataclysmic Hurricane Sandy, a fiscal cliff some have dubbed “debtageddon” and an intensifying conflict involving Israel, the place where Christian end-time theorists believe the apocalypse will commence.

“I didn’t realize this was going to be the most apocalyptic semester that has ever been,” Charme told students at Rutgers-Camden University last week. “If you look at what’s been going on in the world today as we’re down to 30 days and counting, this has been a really good time. And remember that bad is good for the apocalyptically minded.”

And he’s not the only professor offering “end of the world” courses this semester, theoretically the last semester ever.

At Temple, associate professor Barry Vacker is teaching “Media, Culture, and the End of the World.” Each week, students explore apocalyptic themes, such as nuclear war, zombies, viruses and germs, and global warming.

“We looked at why these ideas proliferate over time,” he said, and how they provide “what if” scenarios to help guide human behavior. If

nuclear material falls into the hands of terrorists, for example, a war could start.

This month, students analyzed apocalyptic movies and explored how they measure up against real-world examples.

“I’ve been trying to inform the students on what’s possible, probable, likely and impossible,” Vacker said.

At Pennsylvania State University’s main campus, Latin American history professor Matthew Restall and his colleague Amara Solari, an art history and anthropology assistant professor, have teamed up on a course, titled simply “The End of the World.”

“We didn’t put 2012 so that we always have the option of teaching the class again,” Restall said, “in case the world doesn’t end.”

Despite the impending doom, students must study, produce projects and take finals.

At Penn State, the final will be given on apocalypse eve, leaving students no choice but to work “right up to the very night the world is supposed to end,” Restall said.

The courses proved wildly popular.

“It filled in two hours,” Restall said of his honors course, which was capped at 35 students. “We had emails for weeks and weeks into the summer from people asking if there was space.”

Students said the course was among their most interesting.

“I find it fascinating to see what people do to comfort themselves,” said Bridgid Robinson, 23, of Hadonfield, N.J., a religion and sociology major at Rutgers-Camden, “because apocalyptic thinking, secular or religious, is all about comfort, or

lack thereof.”

Will Wekesa, 25, a psychology and nursing major from Sayreville, N.J., said he had seen all the apocalyptic movies.

“I never heard of a class that could teach that,” he said. “I enjoy it.”

But not one student interviewed — and certainly none of the professors — said he or she actually believed the Dec. 21 expiration date.

“Our first project was about the Mayan prophecy and so we kind of debunked it,” Temple senior Julie Zeglen, 21, of West Chester, said.

The Mayans never predicted the end of time; it’s just a turning point in the calendar, Restall said.

But there’s an apocalyptic anxiety in Western culture, going back many centuries, in which people react to the changes around them by predicting time will end, he said. The Internet has caused that speculation to boom.

“It isn’t elsewhere that people are latching on to this,” he said. “It’s mostly the English-speaking world.”

Brother Joseph Dougherty, a La Salle University religion professor teaching in the Philippines this year, promptly replied to a question about whether he knew of any “end of the world” courses there.

“The Philippines will not participate in the end of the world,” he wrote, suggesting an exception from higher authority. “We have an indult from the pope.”

Restall noted that over time, there have been hundreds of scheduled doomsdays. In 1260, a friar in Italy cited the Book of Revelation. In 1843, a farmer in Vermont predicted the second coming. Then there was Y2K. And American Christian radio broadcaster Howard Camping predicted a fiery end would begin in May 2011.

And if nothing happens on Dec. 21, “people will immediately begin to move to the next date,” Restall said, or philosophize that Dec. 21 is the beginning of a seven-year period that will bring about the end.

Students and faculty are making lighthearted plans for the fateful day. Several said they were attending “end of the world” parties.

“I’ll probably call some friends and laugh with them,” said Temple junior Samira Ford, 20, a broadcast major.

Gayle Cutler, who is auditing the Rutgers-Camden class, is booked on a flight to Israel — a ticket she bought before the semester started and she learned the significance of the date.

“If they’re flying and there’s no war, I will be going,” said Cutler, a retired English teacher.

Charme said that whether people believe is the least important issue.

“What’s more interesting to me is what are the reasons why people take on certain beliefs that may or may not be unusual,” he said.

Every day, there’s fresh material on the Internet, Charme said.

In class one day last week, he shared the latest: The “rapture index” had reached its highest level — 186. Billed as “the prophetic speedometer of end-time activity,” the index considers 45 factors, such as moral standards, unemployment, drug abuse, earthquakes and “liberalism.”

The Israeli conflict tipped up the anti-Semitism metric.

“What 186 really means we don’t really know,” Charme said, tongue-in-cheek, “other than that it’s way, way, way worse than it’s ever been before.”

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personal hero.

“Personally, Robert was not only my close friend and my mentor, but my hero,” Gage said.

Playing a benefit show for a scholarship in Fleming’s name may be especially important to some members of the Dana All Star Band.

“Many in the alumni band may have played under Fleming or came after [his time as band director],” Gage said. “His impact was profound on everyone in the school of music, from teachers to students.”

Individuals can continue

to make contributions to the scholarship online or by visiting the YSU Office of University Development in Tod Hall.

YSU’s annual Phon-A-Thon in the spring will also give alumni the opportunity to donate. During the event, students from various departments will call alumni and ask for donations to scholarships and other fundraising efforts.

“Fleming influenced so many musicians in their lives and careers, so we expect they’ll want to support this endeavor,” Cala said.

### GREEN TEAM PAGE 1

industries and companies can exchange materials when needed for new purposes.

Sarah Ellis, manager of YSU’s re:CREATE, said reusing and recreating items is important because it teaches students to start and improve recycling programs at their businesses or in their communities.

“We aren’t just recycling here at YSU; we are showing students what is possible and fostering a commitment to recycling and reusing,” Ellis said.

Ellis works closely with the Green Team to supply items in educational craft programs.

She said reusing nonrecy-

clables saves limited landfill space and natural resources. It also cuts down on the pollution level when making new material.

“It’s my belief that if we all just shared what we didn’t need instead of throwing it away, we’d have enough to go around,” Ellis said.

The Mahoning County Commissioners’ Reuse and Recycling Division and the Green Team funded YSU’s re:CREATE.

Ellis said the re:CREATE office space is open for all YSU students to use every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Habitat for Humanity ReStore at 480 Youngstown Poland Road.

## Judge says he’ll rule soon in FAMU hazing death lawsuits

Stephen Hudak  
ORLANDO SENTINEL  
(MCT)

ORLANDO, Fla. — Drum major Robert Champion, who rose from clarinetist to a leadership role in Florida A&M University’s famed marching band without hazing anyone or being hazed, did not have to submit to the ritualistic beating that took his life in Orlando last year, according to FAMU lawyers.

“We’re not talking about a 17-year-old freshman who was new on campus and new to the band,” FAMU’s lead counsel, Richard Mitchell, said Wednesday as he tried to persuade Circuit Judge Walter Komanski to throw out a wrongful-death lawsuit filed by Champion’s mother, Pamela. “Robert Champion knew exactly what he was doing.”

Mitchell’s arguments countered the view of the mother’s lawyers. They contend that her 26-year-old son, a student at Florida A&M University for seven-plus years, bowed to “institutionalized coercion” and the band’s entrenched tradition of hazing when he boarded Bus C, the percussion section’s bus, and submitted to a fatal gantlet of punches and kicks from fellow band members.

“But there is no evidence of forcing or coercing or deprivation of free will,” Mitchell said during a power-point presentation to the judge. “The argument that he ... had no choice as if someone put a gun to his head and said, ‘You will participate in this hazing or you will not be a member of this band, you will not be elevated (to drum major)’ is simply untrue.”

The judge, who listened to two hours of arguments from lawyers for Champion’s mother, FAMU, the bus company and the driver of Bus C, said he would rule on the motions no sooner than the end of next week.

A ruling in favor of FAMU could end the

civil case against the school. Champion’s parents, Pamela and Robert Champion of Decatur, Ga., recently rejected FAMU’s offer to settle the lawsuit for \$300,000 — the maximum allowed by state law without approval of the Florida Legislature.

The Champions did not attend Wednesday’s hearing.

FAMU lawyers insist that Champion’s willingness to participate in the hazing, an illegal act even if he were only the “hazee,” gives the university immunity from the wrongful-death lawsuit. “If Mr. Champion had not gotten on that bus, he would not have been hazed,” Mitchell said.

Lawyers for Fabulous Coach Lines, which owns the bus on which the hazing occurred, and for bus driver Wendy Mellette also want the judge to dismiss the lawsuit, arguing that FAMU alone had an obligation to supervise band members.

Christopher Chestnut, lead counsel for the Champions, said the family hopes to hold FAMU accountable for failing to stop hazing in its internationally known marching band, which was suspended in the wake of the drum major’s death.

“This case isn’t just about Robert Champion,” Chestnut said after the hearing. “It’s about protecting every student who desires to march in any band anywhere. This case is about ending a culture of hazing at an institution where it has been prevalent for decades.”

Ten former FAMU band members, charged with felony hazing in Champion’s death, face possible prison sentences if convicted. Two others have pleaded no contest and were sentenced to probation and community service.

Kenneth Bell, an attorney for the Champion family, urged the judge to deny the university’s motions and let a jury ultimately decide who is at fault for the drum major’s death — FAMU, Champion or band members who hazed him.

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impact,” King said.

King said they aren’t requiring the course for students in majors like nursing or dental hygiene because of the volume of coursework already involved for those students.

The Student Success Committee, put together as part of the 2020 strategic plan, hopes to propose a similar course to be implemented by colleges across all of YSU.

Travis Battiest, a graduate student on the committee, said the committee will propose the first-year experience course at the end of fall semester.

King said she and the Bitonte advisers met with the Academic Quality and Student Success Committee earlier this year to present their version of the course.

“Our college has already said we’ll share the materials,” King said. “Nobody will have to reinvent the wheel. Any professor is more than welcome to use the materials.”

King said they will continue tweaking the intro course to make sure it is an effective introduction to YSU. Coursework for the spring semester will include assignments like visit-

ing the Center for Student Progress, identifying personal learning styles and attending a free YSU event.

“Each college could design it and make it as specific for their disciplines as they like,” King said. “We decided to keep it a little more broad and general.”

The course, HAHS 1500, will have four sections in the spring with a maximum of 50-60 students per section.

“During orientation, they get hit with a lot of information all at once, so this way [students] have

an orientation course,” said Kellie Mills-Dobozi, an adviser for Bitonte. “They’re getting an entire semester of orientation services.”

King said that, though the course is primarily designed for Bitonte students, students from other colleges can register if seats are available.

King said she and the Bitonte advisers have been developing the course for about nine months; it was approved at the YSU Academic Senate meeting in September.



**NEWS BRIEFS**

*Workshop geared toward mental health professionals*

“Shake-UP: Enhancing the Therapist’s Role, Flexibility, Maneuverability and Effectiveness in the Therapeutic Session,” a workshop for mental health professionals, is planned for Friday on YSU’s campus. The workshop will feature Lars Brok, a psychiatrist and internally renowned family therapist; Audrey Ellenwood, director of the school psychology program at YSU; and Kenneth Miller, a professor of counseling at YSU. The workshop, which is based on a book recently published by Brok and Ellenwood and edited by Miller, is designed to enhance professional therapeutic skills of mental health providers; it costs \$75 for professionals and \$20 for students. All proceeds from the workshop will go toward graduate students in the new school psychology and counseling programs at YSU. For more information, contact Calie Makoski at ckmakowski@student.ysu.edu.

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**POLICE BRIEFS**

*Student receives medical attention after seizure*

On Nov. 19, a YSU police officer was dispatched to the nurse’s station in Kilcawley Center after being notified of a student having a seizure. The student was coherent when the officer arrived and said she hadn’t had a seizure since she was 7 years old. She was transported to Akron Children’s Hospital.

*Man uses Maag computers to view porn*

On Nov. 20, a university police officer reported to Maag Library, where a non-student had been watching pornographic materials on one of the library’s computers. YSU Police told the man to log off the computer; he was then escorted from the premises and told to stay off university property because of his ongoing misuse of YSU computers.

*Overcooked bread activates alarm*

On Monday, a YSU police officer reported to the Flats at Wick in reference to a fire alarm activation. The student said he had bread in the oven, which overcooked and caused the smoke detector to sound. The officer told the student to open the windows to clear the room.

*Man attempts to open car doors near Lyden*

On Saturday, a student worker in Lyden House reported that a man in his 20s with dark hair and dark clothing was looking in car windows and trying to open doors. Another student witnessed the suspect trying to open her car door. However, the man said that he was “getting something out of a friend’s car,” and when the victim confronted him, he immediately fled the scene in a white car that was found to be stolen.



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## RISING FROM THE ASHES

**Marissa McIntyre**  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT  
EDITOR

There's a barn in North Jackson that sits behind a small ranch-style house in a field. Its exterior blends into the pastoral landscape, but within the barn are the tools of musicians rather than farmers.

Three days a week, Phoenix Rising, a local rock band is there practicing for a show or just hanging out.

The band's members call it "the shack."

"This is where it all

goes down," said Armand DePaul, lead singer for the band.

On Nov. 14, the band members were in the shack, putting together a set list for their showcase Friday at Sammy's Great American Bar in Youngstown.

The band members represent generations of musical influences.

"I'm a bit older than these guys, so my influences are mostly classic rock," said Billy Wright, the band's 40-year-old bass player.

DePaul said the multi-generational mix gives the band a unique style.

"Everyone associates with familiarity, but at the

end of the day, we have our own sound," he said. "Put our record in, and it's us."

Wright was introduced to the band through drummer Heather Jurina.

"Billy and I actually used to play in a metal band together, so when it came down to the wire and we needed a bass player, he was the first guy I thought of," Jurina said. "He's the best ass-saver out there."

DePaul and guitar player Kevin Merrell met through a mutual friend in 2008 and decided to start the band together.

Merrell said music has been a constant in their lives.

"Some kids go on vacation, and we all played music," Merrell said while strumming his Gibson Les Paul guitar in the shack.

For some members, their musical influences began before birth.

"My dad played the drums; my grandma played the drums. Music is in my blood," Jurina said. "The floor vibrating just feels like home to me."

Phoenix Rising recently filmed a music video for their song "Let Go," part of which was filmed on the rooftop of Stambaugh Stadium at Youngstown State University.

DePaul, a senior finance

major at YSU, said this was the first professional-level video filmed for the band.

The band released a teaser of the music video in October and is anticipating the video release, which is coming out in conjunction with their new album. They are aiming for a spring release.

Jurina said filming the music video is a memory none of them will forget.

"I think I had a tear in my eye," Jurina said.

DePaul said all four members relate to the video.

"It really speaks on behalf of all four of us, because you have to let go to grow," DePaul said.



Kevin Merrell, Heather Jurina, Armand DePaul and Billy Wright film their music video atop Stambaugh Stadium. Photo courtesy of Armand DePaul.

## Derby Days makes a comeback

**Marissa McIntyre**  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

The Sigma Chi fraternity at Youngstown State University was almost closed eight years ago, due to membership problems. As a result, the brothers were forced to put their long-standing philanthropy week, Derby Days, on hold.

Derby Days, a tradition for Sigma Chi fraternities nationwide, is a week-long series of competitions among sororities that combine civic involvement with fun and games.

This year, the brothers of Sigma Chi were excited to bring back the tradition. The Huntsman Cancer Institute

will receive 40 percent of the proceeds.

The remaining funds will be split 2-to-1 between the first- and second-place sororities.

At the time of publication, Sigma Chi was still counting the money. The brothers will announce the winning sororities next week.

From Nov. 4 to 8, the YSU chapter hosted a cook-off, an eating contest, a poker tournament, a derby dancing session and a brother auction, where students could bid on a brother to do odd jobs for them during a three-hour period.

Justin Haight, a senior brother, said he wanted to see the tradition return. He hopes they built a good platform for returning brothers to build on next year.

"I'm not disappointed at all, given

the fact that we built this from scratch," Haight said. "We didn't have other brothers to ask about it."

Senior brother Jimmy Mszanski said the cook-off was one of his favorite events.

"We gave the sororities different foods, and they had to make a dessert based off of those and were judged on look and taste," Mszanski said.

Lori Miller, senior member of Alpha Xi Delta, said her team's resources included cinnamon, sugar, asparagus, pork and tortillas.

"We had to make a dessert with really no dessert foods," Miller said. "I didn't taste the finished product, but they ate it and they loved it."

Miller was the "derby darling" for Alpha Xi Delta, meaning that she spearheaded her sorority to victory.

"It was my job to keep everyone motivated to raise money," Miller said.

She assisted her team in the cook-off and helped keep up team morale.

"I hope next year, Derby Days gets bigger and more people participate — even non-Greeks," Miller said.

Junior brother Corey Sharp said he is already anticipating next year's Derby Days. He helped organize some of this year's events.

"This was the trial-and-error run," he said. "Now that I've done it once, I think next year we will be more successful."

He said he was especially glad that the brother auction raised \$2,200 of the \$5,000 goal.

"I hope people are ready for next year because we're bringing it back, and it's going to be better," Sharp said.



## Graduation Ads

If you wish to congratulate a YSU grad, please call or email.

330.941.1990

jambarad@gmail.com



## A 9-year-old is our hero

America has a new sports star in 9-year old running back Samantha Gordon.

Nearly 2,000 yards and 35 touchdowns in her Salt Lake City peewee league have earned her a cover spot on a Wheaties box.

Gordon received the box on "Good Morning America" on Nov. 21. However, General Mills won't sell the boxes in stores.

Attempts to reach General Mills were unsuccessful.

One of the world's largest food companies is missing out on the opportunity to boost the self-images of millions of American girls, while earning a good deal of coin in the process.

And unfortunately for American society, female self-worth is still a serious issue.

Research funded by Dove, the personal care brand, found that "6 in 10 girls stop doing what they love because they feel bad about their looks," according to "The Real Truth About Beauty: Revisited."

It's crucial for the success of our nation, that girls and women separate their self-image from their self-worth.

That's where Gordon can serve as an inspiration for generations of women and young girls.

If they have someone to admire for her skills and talent, they will be more likely to base their self-worth on their own talents and abilities.

We're not just making that up.

A study undertaken by Indiana University Bloomington, determined that "girls who participate in sports in general have higher self-esteem than girls who do not. The feelings of accomplishment, sense of belonging, and acquisition of new skills that sports offer may explain this observation."

Men dominate our society, and especially the athletic arena. While progress has been made in some areas for women to break through the glass ceiling, that's not the case in football.

So, in case anyone from the General Mills' production and distribution department is reading this, please make Samantha Gordon famous. Well, more famous.



The views of this artist do not necessarily agree with those of The Jambar.

## Birth control over the counter worth exploring

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS (MCT)

Political debates over whether abortion should be legal will rage until the end of civilized time. But until recently, it seemed that public policy on birth control was a non-issue, except for a few extremists and the Catholic Church.

Amazingly, the ethics of preventing pregnancy resurfaced during the past year's political campaigns, partly because of the Obama administration ruling that insurance plans offered by all but strictly religious organizations had to cover contraception. We suspect this hint of broader challenges to women's reproductive rights even beyond the right to choose was one reason women flocked to the Obama ticket.

Now comes an interesting proposal by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists' Committee on Gynecologic Practice. The doctors recommend making birth control pills available over the counter, as they are in many

other countries.

There are medical and cost questions to resolve, but the benefits to women could be substantial. Such broad access, once given, would be all but impossible to revoke.

Most women of adequate means — including some 90 percent of Catholic women — use birth control at some time. But the rate of unwanted pregnancy in this country is about 50 percent and has been for 20 years. That brings with it huge public and personal costs: Women who unexpectedly become pregnant, even if they're married, may face diminished financial prospects. Women in their 20s are at greatest risk.

Doctors disagree on the safety of the pill without medical screening. Side effects can include blood clots and strokes, particularly if users smoke or are overweight. But proponents say these dangers are higher in an unwanted pregnancy and higher still in childbirth.

As it is, factors such as poverty and immigration status can prevent women from seeing doctors to get birth control. This is thought to be

a major factor in the higher-than-average rate of pregnancies among Latinas.

The over-the-counter cost of the pill is a concern. Women who have insurance might pay more than they do now if their plans cover only prescription drugs. But when other drugs have gone over the counter, sales dramatically increased, and the volume helps bring prices down.

The college's recommendation is a first step. Now a pharmaceutical company must apply to the FDA for permission to sell over the counter. And then the debates over safety and cost will escalate.

Let's at least base the debate on the science. If the medical risks to young women of taking the pill without a doctor's advice are greater than the possible harm of an unwanted pregnancy, then keep the current practice. But if easier access to the drug will be a net benefit to women's health, let's try it.

Reducing unwanted pregnancy surely would reduce the number of abortions. And can't everyone agree that would be a good thing?

### 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.

### OUR SIDE POLICY

The editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, the managing editor and the senior copy 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.

### YOUR SIDE POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com or by following the "Submit a Letter" link on thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 500 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer's city of residence for printing. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters will not be rejected based on the views expressed in them. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries and letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinion with facts from reliable sources or if the editorial staff decides that the subject has been sufficiently aired. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitting writer based on these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. 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 YSU.

## Could health care reverse drop in life expectancy?

THE HARTFORD COURANT (MCT)

Short of an epidemic or a war occurring, developed countries almost never experience a dramatic drop in life expectancy among a significant segment of its population. But that's happened in for women living in one-fifth of American counties between 1999 and 2009, according to a study published in the journal Health Affairs.

The trend is both alarming and — on some levels — unsurprising. It tells a terribly sad tale how uneven is the access to American health care, but also provides a visceral reminder of how important it is to implement the Affordable Care Act — aka "Obamacare" — so women can get the preventive care that could lengthen and save their lives.

The study showed that in the space of a decade between 1999-2009, many white women lacking a high school diploma saw a five-year decline in the number of years they can expect to live in certain counties, located mostly in the South, the lower Midwest, and Appalachia. These areas include areas with some of the highest percentage of the population that are uninsured. In Connecticut, a far lower proportion of the population is uninsured. Women here didn't experience the same huge drop in life expectancy.

Researchers theorize that the women in these counties are losing years off their lives because of rising rates of obesity, high blood pressure and smoking. Yet there are other factors, too. Women in this educational category have low-paying jobs that, far too often, come with no health insurance. More women in this population are also single mothers, a situation of high

stress that challenges them financially and psychologically. And the United States, unlike most other developed countries, provides few supports for child care or paid maternity leave would lower the stress of child rearing.

Obamacare will help women starting in 2014 because it will provide to millions more women medical services they need to stay healthy, particularly during their reproductive years. Needed preventive care will include interventions for smoking and obesity, and testing for high blood pressure, which frequently has no symptoms and can result in disability and death. The new law will probably not cover everyone who needs it and it remains to be seen whether states will continue to resist implementation for their citizens. But for many of the uninsured, including millions of women, it will be a step toward healthier lives, and perhaps even

## Campus Connection

What would you ask Santa to bring YSU for Christmas?

TheJambar.com



"More Mac computers and colored printing."

Jenna Hensley  
Freshman  
Criminal Justice Major



"A Chick-fil-A."

Rayshawn Clark  
Freshman  
Marketing Major



## End of an era Jamaine Cook on NFL's radar

Steve Wilaj  
SPORTS EDITOR

Standing at the lectern in front of the media following the Penguins' 27-6 victory against Indiana State University on Nov. 17, Jamaine Cook, Penguins' running back, had just rewritten the Youngstown State University record book.

Rushing for 124 yards and adding 19 receiving yards, the senior from Cleveland broke YSU's career all-purpose yard record of 5,128, which had been held by Tamron Smith since 1993. In the process, he also topped the 4,000-yard rushing mark, becoming only the second player in YSU history to achieve this feat.

In all, Cook finished his illustrious YSU career with 5,220 all-purpose yards, 4,052 rushing yards (second most in YSU history) and 20 100-yard rushing games (also second most in YSU history).

"It's a great accomplishment, but it's not something I necessarily kept track of," Cook said. "It feels great, but at the end of the day, I'm just out here trying to make plays for my team."

Throughout his four years as a Penguin, he made plenty of plays, but head football coach Eric Wolford said he valued Cook's character as well.

"He's kind of the role model for what we want from our program," Wolford said. "Guys who like to go to class, guys who like to do things the right way, say, 'Yes, sir'; 'no, sir'; 'yes, ma'am';

'no, ma'am.' [Guys] who are accountable, don't get in trouble off the field and all those kind of things."

Unfortunately for Cook, he never had a chance to compete in postseason play at YSU. Still, rather than pity the subject matter, he expressed his gratitude toward the university.

"I've had a

long journey here at Youngstown State," he said. "I've been very productive and to think that it's coming to the end of my four years here, it's kind of heartbreaking because I love this place."

er of College2Pro.com.

"In terms of a player, he has good vision, hits the hole fairly

reer.

But like Bell, Marchionte said it will be important for Cook to gain exposure in the months leading up to the NFL draft since he's from a less-recognized school.

"The key thing for Jamaine is going to be how much exposure he can get, if he can get into any all-star games," he said. "Once you get invited to one of those all-star games, you have coaches and scouts all seeing you up close, and that's just great exposure. ... If not, then a lot will depend on his pro-day."

For an early draft projection, Marchionte — who is also a member of the Pro Football Writers of America — has Cook slated as a possible seventh-round pick. But he added it is more likely for Cook to go undrafted, which is not necessarily a bad thing.

Being what Marchionte calls a "priority free-agent," Cook could choose the best option rather than get drafted into a bad situation.

"Teams aren't stupid," Marchionte said. "If they know they don't have to waste a draft pick on him and can get him as a priority free-agent, then they're better off that route."

Considering Cook's record-breaking skills displayed at YSU — coupled with his high character — Marchionte said he's got a good shot.

"He does have the skill set to do it," Marchionte said. "He's going to go off, work out — all that good stuff. Plus, he has a good head on his shoulders. He's an intelligent kid."

quick," said Marchionte, whose website scouts and analyzes numerous NFL prospects. "He's not known as a burner, but one thing I like about him, he's always leaning forward."

While Marchionte compared Cook to Baltimore Ravens star running back Ray Rice, he added a comparison to Detroit Lions rookie running back Joique Bell. Bell came out of Division II Wayne State University and has found success in his brief NFL ca-

How-

ever, Cook may have a chance at playing on the national stage.

Recognized by various websites — including CBSsports.com — as a "top small-school prospect," Cook is a "good prospect," said Bo Marchionte, owner and found-



## Rugby improves, finishes season 3-3



The Youngstown Steel Valley Rugby Club concluded its season after hosting and winning the "Best of the Rest" tournament. File photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

Lee Murray  
REPORTER

The Youngstown Steel Valley Rugby Club, formerly the Youngstown State University Rugby Club, concluded this season on a high note, hosting and winning a tournament dubbed "The Best of the Rest," which featured teams that did not make the playoffs in their division. The club is in Division III of the Midwest Rugby Union.

The club had a much-improved regular season, too, finishing 3-3; it marked significant progress from last year's 1-8 run.

"Our season was a lot better this year," said Matt Ruse,

who was voted in as president of the club on Nov. 10. "We had a rough start, but we showed a great improvement this year."

The club picked up five new players this season, and Ruse said the new blood has helped the team, despite a lack of experience.

"[They] have made a good impact on the team. We're always looking for new guys," he said.

Ruse said that more than half of the players on the team had never played rugby before their first practice. Many of the incoming players don't know all the rules, but Ruse and teammate Brett Grabman were happy to mentor new players and bring them up to speed.

"Basically, Youngstown has never heard of rugby," Grabman said. "If someone

comes to us and doesn't know how to play, we teach them."

Grabman used to be president of the club, but he now concentrates his efforts on coaching.

Youngstown Steel Valley became a men's club in 2011. The players practice at Harrison Field, with their regular season running between March and November. Training begins in the spring.

"We hope to carry this momentum into spring and then into fall," Ruse said.

The team's winter meeting finished the season on a positive note, Ruse said.

"We have plans for a youth rugby clinic. We only just brought it up [at the weekend], so it's in the works," he said.

The team threw a fundraiser tournament for the Michael T. Hartzell Memorial Scholar-

ship fund, raising more than \$2,500. Ruse said the players have plans to repeat that fundraiser event next season and are planning other charity events.

Ruse said the social aspect of the sport was appealing.

"[The team members are] best friends after the game," Ruse said. "There's a brotherhood between the players. Even if you see a guy from another team, there's a respect because you know what they go through."

Ruse said several different forward positions, and cited the challenge of the sport as the reason he fell in love with it.

"It's got a reputation as a rough sport. It has the physicality of football with the endurance of soccer or lacrosse," Ruse said.

### SPORTS BRIEFS

*YSU loses to NKU in last seconds of game*

On Tuesday, the YSU women's basketball team lost to Northern Kentucky University, 64-66, at the Bank of Kentucky Center. YSU had been in the lead until NKU stole the win by scoring four points during the last two seconds of the game. YSU's Brandi Brown finished with 21 points and was named Horizon League Player of the Week for the week of Nov. 19.

### Football firsts

For the first time since 2007, the YSU football team won seven games in a season. The Penguins opened the season 4-0, the best start to a campaign since 2000. The 31-17 win over the University of Pittsburgh was the first victory over a Bowl Championship Series program in school history and marked the 20th win over a Football Bowl Subdivision school since 1982.

### CALENDAR

**Women's Basketball**  
Thursday, 7:05 p.m.  
Beeghly Center

**Men's Basketball**  
Saturday, 2 p.m.  
Bowling Green University

**Women's Basketball**  
Monday, 7 p.m.  
Indiana University  
Purdue University  
Indianapolis

**Women's Basketball**  
Wednesday, 7 p.m.  
University of Cincinnati

### PENGUIN SPOTLIGHT



**Chris Elkins**

Year: Junior  
Height: 6'4"  
Hometown:  
Beaver Falls, Pa.  
Position: Guard

As a result of his performance during the 2012 football season, YSU left guard Chris Elkins earned first-team All-Missouri Valley Football Conference honors. The junior started all 11 games for the Penguins and was named the team's offensive lineman of the game for a team-best four occasions. Throughout his career at YSU, Elkins has started 26 consecutive games at left guard. Elkins is a general studies major and is the recipient of the 2012-2013 Richard R. Peterson Scholarship.