



Board of Trustees Announces New Tuition Increase

UNDERGRADUATE TUITION 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR PROJECTIONS

	Projected Cost Low to High	Cost Compared to YSU
Youngstown State University	\$8,087	
Wright State University	\$8,730	+\$643
University of Toledo	\$9,242	+\$1,155
Statewide Average	\$9,708	+\$1,620
Cleveland State University	\$9,736	+\$1,649
Kent State University	\$10,004	+\$1,917
University of Akron	\$10,244	+\$2,157

*info from Board of Trustees Agenda

GRAPHIC BY STACY RUBINIC

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The Youngstown State University Board of Trustees' Finance and Facilities Committee voted Feb. 20 on a proposal to increase tuition by 2.4 percent — for in-state undergraduates — at the start of fall semester 2014, equating to a \$94-per-semester increase for a full-time student. The full board will vote on the proposal on March 12.

This brings tuition for these full-time students to \$8,088 per year.

Despite the tuition increase, Neal McNally, budget director at YSU and soon to be the interim vice president for Finance and Administration, said

the university's tuition will still remain among the lowest in the state.

"We are certainly one of the most affordable institutions in the region, certainly in the state of Ohio. What we're proposing today, in terms of tuition, would keep YSU as one of the best priced institutions with \$1600 below the state-wide average and nearly \$2000 below the state-wide median," McNally said.

Sudershan Garg, chair of the Board of Trustees, said these additional funds are needed to offset the loss of state revenue — which decreased by \$768,000 this fiscal year — and prevent the budget hole from growing wider.

"No matter which university you may be, every university is going to

raise tuition because the state funding is lower and lower," Garg said. "Even with the increase in tuition, to the maximum allowed by the state, our budget will be still \$8 million in the hole, and if we don't do that, our budget hole will be greater."

This price jump attempts to combat the 12 percent enrollment drop over the past three years and the \$8,868,000 loss in state funding from fiscal year 2012 to fiscal year 2014 by raising an additional \$2 million in revenue.

Eric Shehadi, a student trustee, said he voted for the proposal to maintain the quality of education at the university.

"At YSU, we offer an incredible value for the cost of the education, and the university is facing tough times and to keep that same level of value — to keep the same level of programs, same quality of education for our students — we have to move with the times," Shehadi said.

The tuition increase falls \$94 short of the Ohio tuition regulations that caps yearly tuition increases at \$188 for full-time, undergraduate students.

YSU President Randy Dunn said as long as the university remains economical, enrollment should not suffer.

"I think every president country-wide hates to have to go with a board and increase tuition. We are reaching a limit, not just at Youngstown State but every place in the country, where we just can't keep doing it at the rate we have every year," Dunn said. "If you look at cost difference between us and other public, short of Shawnee

[State University] and Central [State University], we are thousands of dollars cheaper in some cases. So I think students have to remember that too; we are still a very strong value for the tuition dollar. As long as we don't lose the value equation, I think we're okay."

Students inside the YSU Affordable Tuition Advantage area, including a total of 16 counties in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York, will also experience a tuition increase of \$94 per semester.

Graduate students will experience a slightly larger tuition raise, increasing \$158, or 3 percent, per semester for in-state students. Dunn said the graduate program is not impacted by the state regulations.

"It is not subject to the cap. We think we can be a little bit more aggressive in the pricing there, but we don't want to get too far out of line because that is where we have had some enrollment growth," Dunn said.

Harry Meshel, former state senator and YSU trustee, said he voted against the increase and emphasizes the importance of ways to further increase enrollment.

"It is not easy to keep up with cost and some cost increases are legitimate. I just hate them. I don't like them; I don't like to vote for them," Meshel said. "It [enrollment] is a critical, critical thing for us to do because — without a growth in students — we don't have much growth in money because we aren't getting much out of the state anymore. Enrollment means a great deal to us."

The Right Conglomeration

Student-run company develops printer

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Youngstown State University students Brian Alls and Jessie Tuscano share a common passion for technology.

With this enthusiasm in mind, Alls and Tuscano have cofounded Bravura 3-D, a manufacturing technology company that is currently developing a low-cost 3-D printer.

"We create cutting-edge technologies to help people solve problems," said Tuscano, a junior industrial engineering major. "Right now, we are focusing on 3-D printing."

Though they do not yet have a working prototype, Alls and Tuscano expect to market their 3-D printer to small businesses that are looking to save on the cost of manufacturing their goods and products.

Alls, a junior mechanical engineering major, indicated that the market for these 3-D printers is growing, and he expects their business venture to be lucrative.

"We are researching some technologies, and we are working on a few things that we think will help us get a serious, serious competitive edge," he said. "There are a lot of opportunities."

Both owners said that operating Bravura 3-D requires not just technical knowhow, but also business and people skills. "[Running a business] requires a conglomeration from a bunch of things we've learned over the years," Tuscano said.

Alls added that he believes these business skills run in his family.

"I've always been entrepreneurial. My grandfather was an entrepreneur, and my brother is a successful entrepreneur. I guess I've grown up around it, and it's something I've taken to," Alls said.

Tuscano and Alls met while studying for their engineering classes; since then, they have developed a healthy work relationship.

"We started studying together and that's how it started. ... It just sort of organically happened," Alls said.

Tuscano called the business partnership mutually beneficial.

"As a business partnership, we ... work very well together. I like to go out there and just start things, and he likes to delve in and solve all the little nitty-gritty problems," Tuscano said. "It's kind of like a yin and yang, if you will, partnership. ... We complement each other."

Alls and Tuscano have received financial support from The Oakhill Collaborative, a non-profit organization and a small business incubator. They expressed gratitude for the organization's assistance.

"I think it's something that will help this area, and it's an exciting thing to be a part of. Youngstown State and The Oakhill Collaborative ... have been very helpful," Alls said.

Bravura 3-D expects to have a working prototype printer developed by early next year. The prototype will then go through a beta study before a final product is developed.

AGB Honors Presidential Search Contract



PHOTO BY DUSTIN LIVESAY/THE JAMBAR

Sudershan Garg, chairperson of YSU's Board of Trustees, presides over a board meeting. As the board prepares to search for a new university president, AGB Search firm has honored its contract with YSU and will conduct the upcoming presidential search for no additional fee.

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AGB Search, LLC. — a firm that assists institutions of higher education in the search for qualified presidents, provosts, vice presidents and deans — will honor its contract with Youngstown State University and conduct the university's presidential search for no additional fee.

Due to YSU President Randy Dunn's early departure from the university, AGB Search is contractually obligated to perform the upcoming presidential search for free.

"Should a candidate that the IC [AGB Search] places at the university leave within twelve months of the start date, the IC will reinitiate — for out-of-pocket expenses only and no additional professional fee — a search for the same position as the original placement," the contract states.

Jamie Ferrare, managing principal of AGB Search, said AGB will uphold this contract and expressed confidence in his company's ability to find a quality president for YSU.

"In this case, the president's departure does fall within the one year period, and we will honor the contract and

return to assist with the search for no additional fee," Ferrare said. "I am confident that we will find an outstanding president for YSU and — with the support of the faculty, students and staff — make the experience a positive one."

The professional fee for last year's search was \$65,000.

Though YSU will not pay for a professional fee this year, hiring a new president will still cost the university because it must pay for search-related advertisements and travel arrangements for presidential candidates.

Chaney's Creative Start With Youngstown State



PHOTO COURTESY OF CICILIA YUDHA

Youngstown State University professor Cilia Yudha teaches high school students piano at Chaney High School as a part of the collaboration between Chaney and YSU.

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Chaney High School is working in collaboration with the College of Creative Arts and Communication to operate Creative Start — a program that gives high school students an opportunity to experience the college lifestyle.

The partnership between Chaney's Visual and Performing Arts program and Youngstown State University began during the 2013-2014 academic school year. Creative Start's goal is to introduce high school students who are seriously considering a career in the arts to a higher education setting.

Tracy Schuler-Vivo serves as the VPA coordinator for Chaney and is a member of YSU's CCAC Community

Advisory Board.

"The Creative Start workshops align perfectly with the mission of the VPA program as together we work to prepare students for college, conservatories and the professional arts world. Therefore, we are thrilled to be partnering with YSU in this endeavor," Schuler-Vivo said.

Schuler-Vivo said she expects Chaney students to walk away with a clear understanding of what it will be like to pursue a degree in the creative arts and communication field.

"I hope that this partnership will expand the horizons of our VPA students and continue to cultivate the wonderful relationship that YSU has with YSU," she said. "We look forward to working closely with YSU's Creative Start and participating in the workshops twice each school year."

Bryan DePoy, dean of the CCAC,

added that the partnership takes a proactive step to aid in college preparedness by connecting emerging artists with skilled faculty.

"I am very pleased and excited to see faculty in the College of Creative Arts & Communication work so closely with faculty and students at Chaney High School," DePoy said. "We are fortunate to have teachers and a director at the high school who understand that we can partner to better serve the unique instruction and pedagogical needs of those studying the arts."

Cicilia Yudha, assistant professor and coordinator of keyboard musicianship, said she hopes YSU can offer collaborations such as this with other schools in the Mahoning Valley.

"I believe this program prepares students to be musically literate and introduces them to the fundamental discipline of learning music," Yudha

said. "My hope is that after two to three years of taking class piano (and theory), Chaney students will be able to enter a music school with better understanding of the field."

Yudha also said the ability to read music and the capability to play an instrument adds another channel for students to express themselves and it will benefit their development as musicians.

"We are contributing to the health of our community and our university by paying closer attention to the younger generation," she said. "If our high school students are more engaged in their studies and disciplines, our incoming freshmen students will be even stronger candidates."

Chaney students participated in their first workshop in February; the next Creative Start workshop will begin fall 2014.

Greek Life: A Work in Progress

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A common misconception at Youngstown State University is that Greek life isn't very active.

"The status of Greek Life at this time, I feel, is on a steady increase," said Carrie Anderson, assistant director of student activities. "It's going well; our chapters are growing. It may not be at the rate that others perceive it, as we should be growing by leaps and bounds, by any means."

Greek Life chapters are growing in the form of baby steps.

"A rough number [of students] for this semester would be 320," Anderson said.

This number works out to be 2.39 percent of students at YSU who are involved in Greek life.

Since YSU is a commuter school, there is the notion that it can be a challenge to get students involved in on-campus

organizations and activities that require a decent amount of time — such as Greek Life.

"Getting information out to the commuter students is a little more difficult," said Vaughn Gobel, co-chair of Greek Campus Life.

However, according to Anderson, a number of recent members of Greek Life are commuters. She said the barrier to overcome is finding the students that meet the minimum criteria and who can make the commitment to Greek Life.

Although each chapter has its own values, bylaws and set of rules that members must follow, there is also a minimum 2.5 GPA required to join a fraternity and a 2.7 GPA for sororities.

"I think GPA is what gets you in the door, just to be eligible to do it," said Jessica Maslach, also a co-chair for Greek Campus Life.

Each sorority and fraternity also has its own philanthropy in which brothers and sisters

fundraise for a specific cause. Some examples of this are: fraternity Sigma Alpha Epsilon whose philanthropy is the Children's Miracle Network, and they have raised money for the Akron's Children's Hospital; and sorority Alpha Xi Delta whose philanthropy is Autism Speaks.

The fundraising efforts and interactions of different "families" of Greek Life members can develop leadership and social skills. Gobel said that he has learned how to deal with his own siblings by being in Greek Life.

"It shows you how to be a really good role model, because as you become an older chapter member, sometimes you don't realize how much the younger chapter members look up to you, and how you really set the standard for them," Maslach said.

More information on Greek Life and the recruitment process can be found through YSU's Student Activities Office in Kilcawley Center.

Oscar Producers Suit Up For the Big Game

REBECCA KEEGAN
 Los Angeles Times
 (MCT)

For some it's the Super Bowl, for others Olympic ice hockey — but for many, Oscar producer Neil Meron believes, the season's big game takes place in black-tie.

"The Oscars is a sport," Meron said in an interview Thursday from a small office backstage at Hollywood's Dolby Theatre, where a skeleton crew had assembled to start preparing for the Academy Awards on March 2. "There's the excitement of watching something live, as it happens."

Meron and his partner, Craig Zadan, are returning to produce the Oscars for a second year, this time bringing on Ellen DeGeneres as host for a second time and focusing the show on the theme of movie heroes, from Atticus Finch to Batman. DeGeneres' affable

style is a stark contrast to last year's host, Seth MacFarlane, enlisted for his barbed, off-color humor and fan base among younger viewers.

"We want to have something for everybody in the audience to identify with," Meron said of this year's show. "We want to provide the broadest possible entertainment we possibly can."

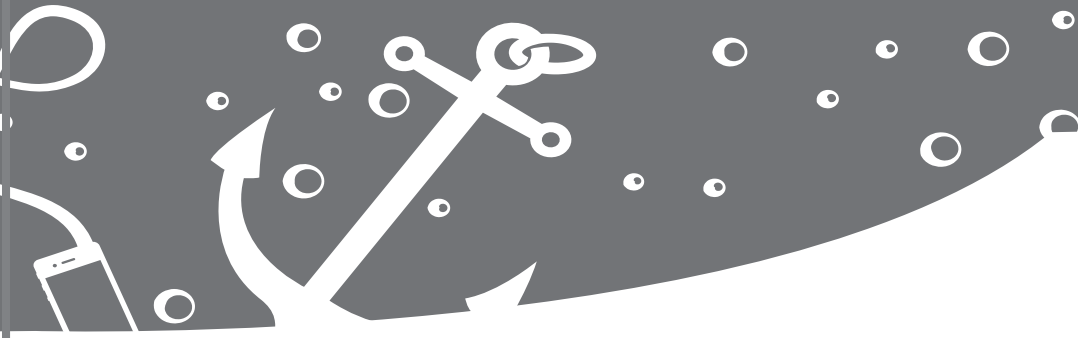
The duo are counting on DeGeneres' wide appeal and a demographically generous smattering of performers to help lure a TV audience from all quadrants. Second only to the Super Bowl among live TV events, last year's Oscars, which 40.3 million viewers tuned into on ABC, were the highest rated since 2010, and ratings were up 11 percent among those ages 18 to 49.

"The tone is Ellen," Meron said. "Ellen is a brilliant comedian, she is warm, she takes jabs but in a very supportive sort of way. This show will be reflective of how Ellen is."

OSCAR PAGE 4

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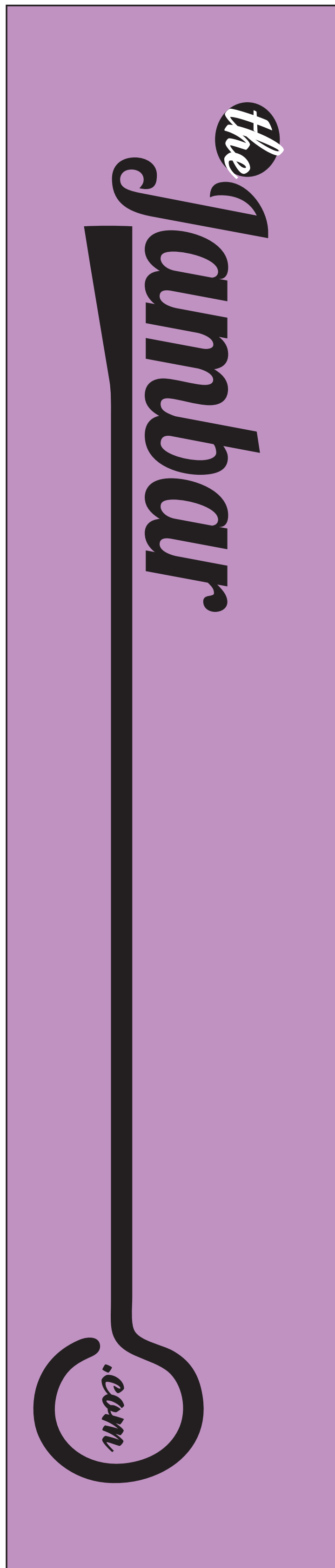
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NEWS BRIEFS

Shakespeare Play Gets a New Twist

In Youngstown State University's Bliss Hall, there will be a production of the play "Twelfth Night in 2014." The production is a re-imagining of Shakespeare's comedy "Twelfth Night" that is set in today's world, complete with updated language and references.

The new version will take place on a Caribbean island, where shipwrecked Viola hides her gender to join the entourage of a hip-hop music mogul.

The production will run on select dates from Friday – March 9. On Friday and Saturday, the show will begin at 7:30 p.m., while the Sunday performance will begin at 2:00 p.m.

Award-Winning Director Previews Documentary

On Thursday, the award-winning documentary director, Mari-Lynn Evans, will be holding a preview of her third documentary "Blood on the Mountain," at 7 p.m. at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor.

Evans' documentary will show how corrupt politicians and under-regulated corporations have hurt the West Virginia land. Some of the more recent events are featured in this documentary such as the pollution in the Elk River, which contaminated more than 300,000 residents in West Virginia.

Evans will proceed to answer questions and talk about her documentary after the preview. The event is free and open to the public.



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THE JAMBAR

Sudershan Garg, chairperson of YSU's Board of Trustees, said he is happy that AGB Search has honored its agreement with the university.

"We had this understanding even before. We are happy that they have come up to us, and they will do it

for free for us. Obviously, we are happy. We will be saving some money, and plus, this time I requested the president of AGB to lead the search. He has much more clout," Garg said. "All of us have to work hard to find a good guy, and that's it."

Eric Shehadi, a student trustee, agreed with Garg.

"I think AGB is living up to their side of the contract. They made a commitment," Shehadi said. "We're in a situation where we have to find a new president, and that's what we're going to do."

AGB
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DeGeneres, who emceed the Oscars once before in 2007, will be responsible not only for setting the show's mood, Meron said, but also for the delicate task of balancing the home audience's attention spans and the Dolby audience's egos.

"Never neglecting the audience in the theater, you want to put on a good show for the people at home," Meron said. "The people in the Dolby are nervous, and as the evening goes on there are more and more losers, and you want to give them a good time and keep things well paced. But you also have to hand out 24 awards."

Not since Gil Cates — who produced the telecast a record 14 times between 1980 and 2008 — has a producing team returned to the Oscars.

According to Meron, the academy would like to return to stability in the Oscar telecast.

"(The academy) felt one of the things the Oscars have been missing has been some sort of continuity," Meron said. "Every year they hire new producers it's a learning curve all over again."

Meron said he and Zadan looked at last year's telecast and thought about what they should tweak. But they stand by what was perhaps the show's most controversial facet, MacFarlane.

Though ratings for last year's Oscars were up a dramatic 19 percent over 2012, MacFarlane's ribald humor, including a song called "We Saw Your Boobs," drew mixed reviews from critics, some of whom found it edgy while others saw it as vulgar.

"We love Seth," Meron said. "It's a very tough job to host a show and a very tough job to produce a show and you're in a no-win position. We can walk away happy, happy that we chose Seth, happy with the show. ... Going into the job before we even took it last year we asked ourselves if we were prepared to be attacked. And we said, 'Yeah, sure.'"

Meron and Zadan have produced the movie musicals "Chicago" (the 2002 best picture winner) and "Hairspray" and the NBC telecast of "The Sound of Music Live!," which attracted an

impressive 18.6 million viewers. They will next turn to a film adaptation of the 1970s' pop musical, "Pippin."

Their musical-producing DNA surfaced in last year's show theme — movie musicals — and will get considerable air time this year with live performances of all four nominated original songs, with Pharrell Williams performing "Happy" from "Despicable Me 2," Idina Menzel singing "Let It Go" from "Frozen," Karen O performing "The Moon Song" from "Her" and U2 playing "Ordinary Love" from "Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom."

It's the producers' prerogative whether to include performances of the original songs in the telecast, and Meron said he and Zadan considered this year's lineup a no-brainer, both in terms of talent and scope.

"Each song kind of hits a different tone for the audience," Meron said. "It's something for everyone."

"Alone Yet Not Alone," the original song that had its nomination revoked by the academy, will not be addressed in the telecast, Meron said.

"We get handed the nominees and then we do what we do with them," he said. "The show deals with the nominees."

Bette Midler will also perform for the first time at the Oscars — Meron declined to reveal the song she'll sing, but given the show's theme of movie heroes, "Wind Beneath My Wings" seems like a reasonable bet.

Reflecting on favorite moments from Oscars past, Meron cited ones over which producers largely had no control — Louise Fletcher accepting her Oscar for "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" by thanking her deaf parents in sign language and the streaker who ran across the stage of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in 1974.

"And last year we had Jennifer Lawrence tripping up the steps," Meron said with a sigh. "You can't plan on that."

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Supreme Court Hears States' Objections to Greenhouse Gas Rules

Michael Doyle
 McClatchy Washington Bureau
 (MCT)

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court seemed split down the middle Monday, and occasionally lost in the fog, as the justices confronted a challenge to the Obama administration's greenhouse gas regulations.

Conservatives, including the court's frequent swing vote, Justice Anthony Kennedy, periodically shared the skepticism of Texas Solicitor General Jonathan Mitchell, one of two attorneys arguing against the Environmental Protection Agency's greenhouse gas rules.

"I couldn't find a single precedent that strongly supports your position," Kennedy bluntly told U.S. Solicitor General Donald Verrilli Jr., who was representing the EPA regulators.

Coming at the end of an unusually long oral argument of nearly 100 minutes, Kennedy's flat-out declaration, combined with justices' earlier questions and remarks, suggested an eventual ruling against the EPA, perhaps along familiar 5-4 lines. Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. and, more emphatically, Justices Antonin Scalia and Samuel Alito also sounded skeptical about the agency's greenhouse gas actions that are being challenged.

The court's four Democratic appointees were more sympathetic to the EPA rules, which included revising

specific emission standards spelled out by Congress.

"Why shouldn't we defer to the agency?" Justice Sonia Sotomayor asked.

Sotomayor's question reached the heart of the legal matter argued Monday, and hinted at the potential political fallout. Those challenging the EPA's regulations argue, in part, that executive branch officials overstepped their bounds in interpreting a law passed by Congress. An eventual ruling against the EPA might fuel Republican critics who already contend that the Obama administration too often acts unilaterally.

"The optics of this case are as equally important as the law," William J. Snape III, a fellow and practitioner in residence at American University's Washington College of Law, said after the argument.

The frequently technical argument Monday, though, also made clear that the EPA will retain the ability to regulate greenhouse gases from stationary and mobile emission sources even if the court strikes down the regulations in question. Justices showed little interest in reversing a 2007 high court ruling that first declared the EPA had the authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gas emissions.

Mitchell, in a legal brief filed on behalf of Texas and other states, had initially floated the possibility that the Supreme Court might overturn the earlier decision. The idea was essentially ignored Monday.

day. "I was in the dissent in that case," Roberts noted, "but we still can't do that."

Using Clean Air Act provisions that aren't being challenged before the Supreme Court, the EPA by some estimates will still be able to regulate 83 percent of greenhouse gas emissions. Verrilli acknowledged Monday that the regulations being challenged will increase this only to about 86 percent.

The regulations challenged Monday stem from a particular part of the Clean Air Act. The law sets 100 or 250 tons per year, depending on the source, as the pollutant emissions threshold for when "Prevention of Significant Deterioration" permits are needed. For greenhouse gas emissions, the EPA changed this to a more lenient 100,000 tons per year.

Conservatives objected, even though the less onerous standard imposed a smaller burden on industry. Regulators, the critics say, shouldn't unilaterally rewrite congressional work.

"Congress does not establish round holes for square pegs," Mitchell said Monday, adding that "in these situations (an) agency cannot make a round hole square by rewriting unambiguous statutory language."

While an activist dressed in a polar bear outfit paraded on the Supreme Court steps outside, Verrilli declared inside that environmental regulators

have acted reasonably in response to a serious threat.

"It is the gravest environmental problem that we face now," Verrilli said, "and it is one that gets worse with the passage of time."

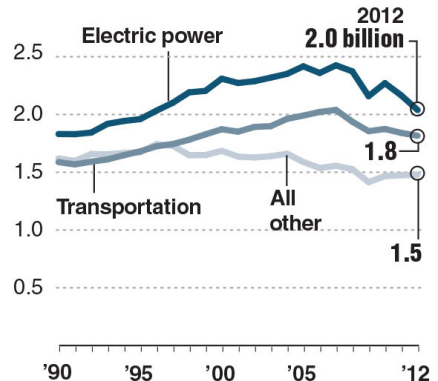
Justice Clarence Thomas, as is his habit, was the only one of the nine justices not to speak or ask questions during the oral argument. A decision in the case is expected by the end of June.

Power plants and emissions

U.S. carbon emissions are a major cause of global warming. A look at power plant emissions, the biggest source of carbon dioxide pollution:

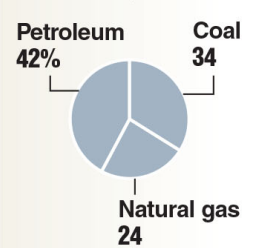
U.S. carbon emissions by sector

In billions of metric tons of carbon dioxide



Carbon emissions by major fuel

Total 5.5 billion metric tons, 2011

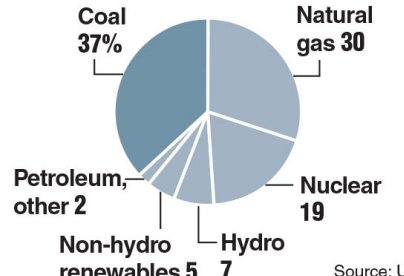


What causes global warming?

- Carbon dioxide and other air pollution trap heat from the sun; heat causes the Earth to warm
- Some impacts: weather extremes, warmer oceans, disruption of animal habitats and extinctions, rising sea levels

Coal biggest source of electricity

Energy sources used by power plants, 2012



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Natural Resources Defense Council
 Graphic: Judy Treible

Charts show U.S. carbon emissions by sector, energy sources for power plants, carbon emissions by major fuel. The Supreme Court will decide a dispute over federal authority to regulate stationary greenhouse gas emissions.



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A Musical Experience



PHOTO COURTESY OF STAMBAUGH AUDITORIUM.

Youngstown State University professor Stephen Gage conducts a wind ensemble at Stambaugh Auditorium.

ALEXIS RUFENER
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Youngstown State University's Dana School of Music is presenting its eighth annual Wind and Percussion Invitational on Friday at 7 p.m. in Stambaugh Auditorium.

The invitational will feature bands from South Range High School and Howland High School, in addition to the YSU Wind Ensemble. Also performing are Dana School of Music alumni Tim Sharek and Shawn Reynolds, instrumental teachers at Howland High School, and Kathryn Umble, YSU flute professor.

John Veneskey and Jeff DiCesare — also a Dana School of Music alumnus — conduct the South Range High School Wind Ensemble.

"I think it's an outstanding experience, opportunity for the kids to play," DiCesare said.

These annual concerts give the students a chance to interact with the college performers and get an insight on what the Dana School of Music is about.

Before the concert, both groups of high school students will arrive at YSU and be given the chance to either receive lessons or attend master classes from various professors for an hour. A rehearsal at Stambaugh will follow, where the students will also be treated to food. After all the preparation, they get ready to set the stage.

For Krista Murray, senior flute player at South Range, this will be her first and last invitational with YSU.

"I think it will be a great experience, and I'm excited to be able to play there as a senior," Murray said. "Since I am not attending there, it will be cool to play at a place where I have been so many times to listen to."

With every performance, there are some performers who are completely ready, and then there are the ones who are nervous about their first performance in a hall like Stambaugh.

"I do have a bit of nerves — not only are we playing in whole as a band, the seniors are playing Stambaugh's band for one song," Murray said.

The bands will collaborate in the performance of "Stars and Stripes Forever."

The Howland High School Symphonic Band will be the middle part of the performance with their own mix of songs ranging from classical to more modern pieces. Greg Rezabek, Howland conductor, mentioned how excited he and his band are to get the opportunity to play with YSU.

"It is an extra special treat to perform at YSU since myself, Tim Sharek and Shawn Reynolds — our co-directors — are all alumni of the Dana School of Music," Rezabek said.

Rezabek said he is looking forward to his students being involved with the master classes before the performance.

"I hope that the audience has a truly enjoyable

musical experience and that events like these will continue to continue to promote band music and music education in our schools," he said.

The YSU Wind Ensemble will perform three songs of various genres and Joel Puckett's 2010 "Shadow of Sirius for Solo Flute and Wind Ensemble" with Umble as the soloist.

Stephen Gage, conductor for the YSU Wind Ensemble, has been involved with the invitationals since the beginning. He said he is very proud of all of his students that get to perform and is excited for the students from the high schools to be involved with the Dana School of Music.

"I don't think there's a better ambassador activity than for students to come here and spend the day, especially around our students in a gorgeous hall like Stambaugh Auditorium," Gage said. "I can't fathom a more appealing experience for them."



PHOTO COURTESY OF STAMBAUGH AUDITORIUM.

This year's Wind and Percussion Invitational will be held at the 88-year-old Stambaugh Auditorium on Friday.

From the Dim Lights of Youngstown to the Bright Lights of California

JESS HALL
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As the youngest of three kids, Gerry Mogg spent most of his time by himself with his imagination. His interest in acting emerged from both the loneliness and chaos of his childhood and the environments he created to cope.

Mogg attended Youngstown State University from 1974-1979 as a theater major to earn his bachelor's degree in fine arts. It was where he started his acting career before moving to San Francisco to pursue theater.

"I had an ongoing dialogue with the dean to increase the amount of theater courses available for evening classes. Not much was ever done in that regard. Hence, clawing, biting and scratching to get whatever I could," Mogg said.

The theater department was a very close-knit group of people. It was headed by William Hulsopple.

"There was always a strong

sense of quality and commitment for years in the theater department at Youngstown State University," he said.

However, internal issues started to make their way into the department.

"It became very clear that Hulsopple was being slowly forced out," Mogg said. "He was also no longer directing shows at Youngstown State University, and that was not by choice."

This led to most of the core students doing shows outside of YSU and working with Hulsopple at other theaters.

"It was a very tumultuous time for the theater department at Youngstown State University, and the quality of training and productions began to spiral downward," Mogg said.

While still in the area, Mogg appeared in an assortment of shows at the Youngstown Playhouse and the North Side Community Theater.

"I subsequently moved to the San Francisco Bay area to pursue theater and to train

at the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco, while taking on a variety of roles in theater productions," Mogg said.

Mogg then spent the next four plus years in improvisational theater in offspring companies from The Flash Family Improv Group of San Francisco.

"My desire to return to traditional theater landed me in a two-year stint working with Jean Sheldon," he said. "She was the youngest of the original Method Actors Studio group."

Mogg became more interested in producing, directing and writing. While still working in theater, he started attending workshops in Los Angeles and San Francisco over the next several years trying to hone his skills in those areas.

"In 1996, I produced my first play while also acting in the show," he said. "My theater professor and friend William Hulsopple flew out to the San Francisco Bay area to direct "Modigliani," my first

theater production."

Mogg then produced several one-act plays he had written before transitioning into filmmaking.

During this period, he began to teach acting and directing workshops after realizing through directing shows, that he had the ability to help actors and young directors more easily understand character development and balance with both acting and directing concepts along with script analysis.

"The teaching continued up until about three years ago with an increased focus on admission auditions," Mogg said. "My last three students gained admission into Juilliard [School], Carnegie Mellon [University], and Studio 46 of Vancouver."

Mogg would spend the next two years writing his first full length feature, "Silent Alarm." Within six months after the script's completion, filming began.

"My role consisted of producer, co-director, screenwriter

and principle lead actor," he said.

Filming took more than a year and postproduction took more than two years. "Silent Alarm" was submitted to the several major film festivals, including: the Sundance Film Festival, the Cannes Film Festival and the Toronto International Film Festival. However, it wasn't selected.

During the distribution phase of "Silent Alarm," Mogg went back to the theater directing and producing two more plays, "Same Time Next Year" and "Snakebit."

"I am currently writing my next feature, 'Right Turn' — a political farce — and it is to be filmed sometime in 2014-2015," he said. "I'm also considering directing another theater production as well."

Mogg still lives and works in the San Francisco Bay area. Since he still has ties with Youngstown, he comes back every summer to visit family and friends.

EDITORIAL

Money Well Wasted

As Youngstown State University begins its second search for a university president in a year, AGB Search, LLC — the firm responsible for assembling a list of candidates and assisting with the selection of a new president — will conduct the search at no additional fees, as per the contract they signed before the search that brought Randy Dunn to Youngstown.

YSU's contract with AGB states that if the selected candidate leaves within 12

months, then the firm will conduct another search. This time, the only fees YSU will pay are travel expenses for AGB consultants and whatever is spent on advertising the position. Overall, that saves the university from paying three fees totaling \$65,000 to AGB.

But there are other costs that the university will have to pay to woo candidates. The last time all of this went down, the university spent some serious cash hosting,

entertaining and evaluating the final list of eight applicants such as:

- \$291.90 on background checks for James Moran and Randy Dunn, the two finalists.
- \$7,391.03 spent reimbursing the applicants for travel expenses.
- \$16,596.63 for meals and accommodations at the Hyatt Regency in Pittsburgh on April 11 through 13.
- \$10,282.85 on food provided by Sodexo for on-

campus events involved with the presidential search — including three dessert receptions for three finalists that cost \$2,195 each.

Yes, most of the tab for this search is being picked up by AGB, but there will still be a lot of money thrown around in the upcoming search. While he was here, Dunn made budgets cuts — which included laying off faculty — and worked on increasing enrollment in attempts to rectify YSU's bud-

get problems.

Now, due to his impending departure, the university gets to pay all that money — without the consulting fees of which YSU spent just under \$44,000 last time — yet again. Sure, Dunn saved some money in his tenure, but the money we spent getting him to actually come here is money that YSU will never see again.

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Raise the Minimum Wage? No, Subsidize Wages Instead

LARRY HARRIS
Los Angeles Times
(MCT)

Livable wages and less income disparity are noble objectives that resonate with many people. President Obama has proposed that Congress raise the minimum wage as a way to meet those objectives. But there's a better way to improve wages, assist low-income workers and flatten the income distribution.

The unemployment rate in the U.S. is 6.6 percent. For the young, the old and many minority groups, it's much higher. With so many unemployed workers, the sensible economic policy would be to subsidize labor rather than raise the minimum wage. That's because raising the minimum wage is the equivalent of taxing employers for the work done by their employees and giving the proceeds to the workers. And that works against employment, not in favor of it.

Common sense supports this. The strongest principle of economics — demand theory — maintains that people buy less when an item is costly and more when it is cheap. That means employers will buy less labor when wages are high and they'll offer more employment when labor is less costly to them. The Congressional Budget Office report released Tuesday supports this view. Its nonpartisan analysts predict that the proposed increase in the minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour would cost the economy 500,000 jobs.

It's true that while some studies show the negative effect of raising the minimum wage, others show that has little or no downward impact on employment. Such contradictory results are due to the complexity of factors regarding employment. For example, employers rarely cut jobs immediately after a minimum-wage increase. They often wait for natural attrition to lower their head counts, or

they may refrain from replacing employees when they know an increase is coming.

But the absence of definitive evidence does not indicate that demand theory doesn't apply to increasing the minimum wage. It merely indicates that the effect is hard to measure.

Loss of jobs — overall and over time — isn't the only negative effect of mandating an increase in the minimum wage. When employers must pay above-market wages, the ratio of job seekers to available jobs rises, and that allows employers to pick and choose. With more workers to pick from, employers can more easily get away with basing their hiring decisions on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disabilities or age. They also are more likely to practice legal forms of discrimination: When faced with many job candidates, employers tend to hire the most experienced workers. That means those just starting out remain unemployed. Worse, they lose the opportunity to build the work experience needed to obtain better jobs.

Proponents of mandating higher minimum wages believe that higher wages can help level the lopsided income distribution in America. Obviously, it would raise the incomes of minimum-wage employees. But to some extent this benefit would be offset as other workers lose their jobs or work fewer hours. The increased labor costs that companies would pass on to consumers in the form of high product prices also would offset raised incomes. And some minimum-wage employers, whose customers can't afford to pay higher prices, would fail, again offsetting gains with lost jobs.

What's a better way? Do away with minimum wages altogether and institute wage subsidies. The government should give vouchers to unemployed workers seeking low-income jobs. Those vouchers would provide wage subsidies to employers who hire them. The

subsidies would be based on the wages that the employers offer, with the greatest subsidies going to the lowest-wage jobs.

The subsidies would lower labor costs, thereby increasing the number of jobs employers offer to low-income workers. Wages earned overall by the poor would increase, more young people would get jobs and gain valuable work experience, fewer people would be on the streets, fragile businesses could thrive and new companies would start up. More jobs also would reduce welfare grants and increase payroll taxes, which could help fund the subsidies. Everyone would be better off as the subsidies lowered product prices and increased production.

To some extent, the government already has a wage subsidy plan; it's called the earned income tax credit. It lowers the income taxes of low-income workers. For those who make so little that they don't owe income tax, the credit provides income subsidies. An increase in this credit also would flatten the income distribution.

But the earned income tax credit does not help those who are unemployed. Wage vouchers are a better policy than the earned income tax credit because they immediately and obviously lower the cost of employing workers, so the number of jobs increases and the unemployment rate drops.

Legislating an increase in the minimum wage is the quintessential example of an unfunded government mandate. It's identical to a simultaneous tax and income transfer program. It unwisely taxes employers who create jobs, and it unfairly subsidizes only low-income workers who have jobs. Subsidizing wages would be much better for the economy than raising the minimum wage.

THE
YO
MAGAZINE

The Yo Magazine, a subdivision of The Jambar, welcomes your involvement — and involvement from all YSU students, faculty and staff.

First drafts are due March 3.

For more information, email Rachael Kerr at theyomag.14@gmail.com, or call 330.941.1991.

On a Mission: Part 1

'97-'98 Penguins aimed for redemption



PHOTOS COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION.

(Above) The 1997-1998 YSU women's basketball team finished with a 28-3 overall record and captured the school's only-ever NCAA Tournament victory. (Right) Shannon Beach (42) was named the Mid-Continent Conference Player of the Year.

STEVE WILAJ

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It's a late weekday evening in mid-January and Edie DiGregorio, the wife of legendary Penguins women's basketball coach Ed DiGregorio, answers her house phone. When asked, she puts her husband — 87-years-old, yet still sharp-minded — on the line.

Throughout an eight-minute interview, the former Youngstown State University head coach of 20 years digs deep into his memories of leading the Penguins from 1983-2003.

He recalls many of his former players, taking pride in their past accomplishments. He raves about friends and basketball coaching icons Pat Summit and the recently-deceased Kay Yow.

And he also lends what he considers his most valuable advice: "Remember, always be positive. Have confidence in what you're doing and you'll be successful."

But before any of this, the man known as "Coach D" responds quickly — almost in an interrupting manner — when asked about his 1997-1998 YSU women's basketball team.

"That was a special group," DiGregorio said.

Special indeed.

The Penguins featured seven future members of the YSU Athletics Hall of Fame — Caroline McCombs, Shannon Beach, Ann Marie Martin, Colleen Cook, Leslie Majewski, Brienne Kenneally and DiGregorio — as they captured a 28-3 record.

Even more, they became the first and still-only YSU basketball team in school history to capture an NCAA Tournament victory.

"They were a phenomenal group," DiGregorio said. "You go 28-3 in a year, that's nearly impossible."

But they did just that. Coach D and the five senior starters — McCombs, Beach, Martin, Cook and Teresita Jones — took time recently to remember the historic season from start to finish.

Here's Part I of their journey.

--

YSU entered the 1997-1998 season with five senior starters, tabbed by the local media as the 'Fab Five.' The Penguins reached the 1996 NCAA Tournament as

a 15-seed and lost to Penn State in the first round. Disappointingly, YSU missed the 1997 Big Dance despite going 23-6, falling in the Mid-Continent Conference tournament championship.

Cook: When we lost in the conference tournament in '97, that's what fueled us.

Martin: That just made us work extra hard. I remember the summer of our senior year, we all stayed on campus — the five seniors — and we just worked every single day and went into the gym on our own.

McCombs: We were young in '96 when we made it there. And once you get to the NCAA Tournament, you feel like there's no turning back. It's what we were trying to accomplish from there on out.

Beach: I know as seniors, since we were called the 'Fab Five' and we lived with each other for four years, we didn't want to taste that disappointment of '97 again.

However, YSU hit a bump in its first game of the season, losing at home to Bowling Green State University, 81-72.

Martin: Coming in we thought, 'Oh we're gonna be really good this year.' But after losing that first game, it was like 'Woah, wait a second.'

Beach: Losing early on hit us pretty hard because it took us back to our last loss of the '97 season. So that stung us a little bit and knocked us down a peg. It really fueled that 16-game winning streak.

Following the loss, the Penguins won 16-straight games from Nov. 16-Jan. 19. The streak included winning the UNLV Tournament in Las Vegas, Nev. in early December, as YSU defeated Xavier University and the host Rebels.

Jones: We gelled so well together and we really just refused to lose at that point in our careers. That just made us believe it was our year.

Martin: [Vegas] was a great trip — we still talk about it when we get together. That trip really brought us together because we were away from everybody and we had that camaraderie.

McCombs: To go out there and knock off teams that we weren't supposed to beat just brings the team a little bit closer together and gets you ready for tournament play.

DiGregorio: We had two young ladies on the bench — a freshman and sophomore — that were phenomenal players: Brienne Kenneally and Leslie Majewski. We had a good bench with that team. We lost Shannon



Beach with a knee injury for a little, and Leslie and Brienne picked up the slack.

Cook: Coach D just really put it on us and said 'Come on, this is it.' We kind of got refocused at that point and we didn't want anyone to get in our way.

After Valparaiso University ended the streak on Jan. 24, YSU closed the regular season with eight-straight victories. The Penguins then ran through the Mid-Con Conference tourney, winning three more games and defeating Valpo in the championship to punch their ticket to the 1998 NCAA Tournament.

Beach: We weren't gonna lose for anything. It wasn't a part of our vocabulary at all. Any of us would have sacrificed our bodies — and some of us did — just to get back to the NCAA Tournament.

Jones: Coach had us ready and we felt like this was it for us. It wasn't what others could do to beat us, it was as long as we didn't beat ourselves. And we didn't think anyone in our conference could beat us that year.

DiGregorio: Once they crossed that line and heard the whistle, they knew exactly what the preparation was for that day. They used to always say 'Coach, do we have to keep doing this same thing?' and I'd say 'Young ladies, do we have it down perfect?' and they'd say 'No we don't.' So that's why we were doing it over and over until nobody could stop us.

Cook: We were certainly ready to go back to the NCAA Tournament and prove that we were a contender and one of the best teams in the country.

--

"On a Mission" will continue in Thursday's issue of The Jambar with part two.

Penguins Finding Offensive Groove Once Again

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As the season continues to unfold for the Youngstown State University men's basketball team, the chance for one of the three top seeds — and possibly the fourth seed — in the Horizon League is out of question.

However, a strong finish with two games remaining could land the Penguins (15-14, 6-8 Horizon League) the fifth seed when the tournament begins on March 4.

YSU's first challenge is a road trip to Cleveland State University on Tuesday. The Vikings (19-10, 10-4) rank second

in the conference, trailing the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay who already clinched the top spot.

Last time out, the Penguins defeated CSU, 67-66, on Jan. 13 at Beeghly Center.

"They really didn't give our kids credit the work ethic that it took to win that first game," coach Jerry Slocum said. "We've had some success in that building. None of that stuff is really relevant, unless you win the basketball game."

At that point, the Vikings were only 2-2 in the conference. They have won nine of their last 11 games with all but one coming against Horizon League foes. Both losses have come at home, including a 68-

54 defeat to Green Bay on Feb. 15.

"Charlie Lee [has] been their leading scorer," Slocum said. "If you average their last five games together, Charlie Lee [has] been the one that's sent them over the top. [He's] a guy that I think has been taking them to another level in terms of him shooting the basketball."

Lee is averaging 9.7 points per game, and that's only fifth-best on the roster. Bryn Forbes leads with 16 points per contest while Trey Lewis (13.4), Jon Harris (10.9) and Anton Grady (10.4) rank behind him.

"This is the kind of game where you'll need to put up somewhere between 72-77

[points] to have a chance to win in their building," Slocum said. "Our kids will be ready to go."

The Penguins head to Cleveland coming off a 68-66 defeat at Valparaiso University (17-12, 9-5), the conference's third-best team. One of the biggest keys was the Crusaders limiting Kendrick Perry who only scored 12 points.

Despite the shaky performance, Perry was honored as the Horizon League Player of the Week. He scored a career-high 35 points in YSU's 88-83 overtime victory against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

"I think any time when you play in this league right now, KP is the focal point or the No.

1 guy that everybody's scouting," Slocum said. "Valpo did a good job on him, trying to take him out physically."

After CSU, the Penguins return home for Senior Night on Saturday against Oakland University, the last regular season game. Oakland (11-18, 6-8) is also in a virtual four-way tie for fifth place. The Penguins lost at Oakland, 86-85, on Jan. 31.

YSU could finish the season anywhere from fifth to eighth place. If the Penguins are the fifth or sixth seed, they will host a game in the first round. They will not host if they finish seventh or eighth. The chance of playing last-ranked University of Illinois at Chicago (5-23, 0-14) is not a possibility.