

THE JAMBAR

The student voice of
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THE SIDEBAR



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WEATHER

Today	☁	31° 7°
Friday	☁	8° 0°
Saturday	☁	20° 16°
Sunday	☁	25° 16°
Monday	☁	20° 16°
Tuesday	☁	25° 23°
Wednesday	☁	29° 19°

Remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar.

Courtyard death stuns students

Michael Bury
REPORTER

Early Wednesday morning a student was found deceased by his roommate, according to a message Youngstown State University President David Sweet sent out to students that afternoon.

"It is with much sadness

that I report to you that a YSU student was found deceased this morning (Wednesday, Jan. 14) in his room in University Courtyard Apartments," stated Sweet in the announcement.

According to the message, foul play is not suspected.

YSU police and the Mahoning County Coroner's office are conducting an investigation into the death. At the

time of press, neither the name of the student nor the circumstances surrounding the death were known.

A representative from the YSU police department said the police report will probably be released sometime Thursday.

Senior Belinda Trott said a flurry of text messages and phone calls went through-

out the University Courtyard Apartments about the death.

"No one knows who it was or what happened. I feel horrible. I don't know who died. What if it was one of my friends?" Trott said.

Chase Johnson also echoed the sentiments of other students.

"I feel terrible. All I heard was someone died," he said.

Youngstown crime stats improve from 2007

Emmalee C. Torisk
NEWS EDITOR

According to 2008 Youngstown Police Department statistics, nearly all types of reported crimes within the city decreased from the year prior.

Overall, the amount of crime decreased 9 percent, from 4977 to 4539 offenses. This encompasses murder, rape, robbery, felonious assault, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson. Additionally, when divided into violent and property crimes, the number of violent crimes — which includes murder, rape, robbery and felonious assault — declined 14 percent, from 763 to 657 incidents. Property crimes, including burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson, decreased 8 percent, from 4,214 to 3,882 offenses.

In 2008, the murder rate also declined 28 percent from the year before. Robbery decreased 5 percent, felonious assault decreased 15 percent, burglary decreased 6 percent, theft decreased 13 percent and arson decreased 7 percent. The most significant decline is the rape rate, which declined 36 percent, from 73 to 47 incidents. The sole increase is motor vehicle theft, which jumped 7 percent, from 378 to 404 offenses.

Chief John Gocala of the Youngstown State University police department ascribes these statistics to the hard work and effort of the YPD, especially the various task forces and special units. However, Gocala also noted the significance of collaboration and cooperation between the city and campus police departments, and said that the positive statistics were almost expected. Even so, Gocala referred to the statistics as "a step in the right direction," but said time is vital to completely change Youngstown's stereotype.

"The city is beat up for all kinds of things," Gocala said. "Some parts of the city are tough, but everything we're doing is on the right track. It's not over, though. Perceptions are difficult to change."

However, freshman Katie Douglas said the 2008 crime statistics were "pretty amazing," and added that she now feels safer walking around campus and even through the city in general. Douglas also thinks the decreased crime numbers could eventually change peoples' sometimes negative perceptions of the city.

Likewise, freshman Megan Oaks said the recent statistics surprised her, mainly because a lot of people "make the city out to be so bad." Oaks agreed with Douglas in regards to an evolving view of Youngstown, but said it would definitely take some time for the city's image to fully change.

Junior Conrad Sander also said it would take a while.

"It's not going to change overnight," Sander said.

Sander accredited the statistics primarily to Mayor Jay Williams,

CRIME page 2



Palestinians inspect the site of an Israeli air strike in the southern town of Rafah on Saturday, Dec. 27, 2008.

A world away

Campus international students hope for peace

Kelli Phillips
REPORTER

Sitting at his computer, Ahmed, an international student at Youngstown State University, stares at pictures of graphic warfare his friends from Jordan e-mailed him.

"What did this baby do? Nothing," he says, pointing to an image of a dying infant.

Ahmed, who asked that his last name not be published, described the conflict in Gaza and Israel as unfair, as a war crime.

After 19 days of rocket fire and bombings, more than 1,000 Palestinians have been killed and more than 4,600 have been injured in the conflict in Gaza and Israel. The conflict began on Dec. 27, 2008, when the cease-fire agreement between Hamas and Israel ended.

Under the United Nation's International Law, the solution to the conflict would be for Israel to return to the borders it held in 1967 and for the West Bank and Gaza to become a Palestinian state, explained David Porter, co-director of the Peace and Conflict Resolution Program at YSU.

"However, it is becoming more and more doubtful that this is going to happen," Porter said.

Despite this, other students still wait for peace in the region. Like Ahmed, they requested that only their first names be used.

YSU international student Naser, who is from the West Bank, still has family in the area and speaks to them daily.

"There is a big support for Gazans," he said. Naser also has a relative in Gaza who he contacted before the conflict; however, due to the fact that Israel

now monitors all communications, he lost connection.

"It is a big disaster. The people are surrounded by everything. There is no water, no food, no electricity, no shelter," said Naser. Gaza's borders with Israel, Egypt, and the Mediterranean Sea, coupled with Israel's control over the Palestinian territory, prevent supplies from entering the country.

"Life there is completely destroyed," he said.

Naser watches the news, sometimes for twelve hours a day, and it hurts

PEACE page 2

Look for continuing coverage next week, when The Jambar features the counterperspective on the conflict in Gaza.

State denies Youngstown funding to alleviate foreclosures

Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher said he will attempt to secure additional funding for the city

Sarah Sole
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Though the state didn't allocate any of the \$116 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to Youngstown, Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher said he will attempt to secure additional funding for Youngstown and will visit the city in February.

The Mahoning Valley received \$2.9 million from the state. Though Youngstown was qualified to receive \$2.7 million from state discretionary funding, according to a formula that the HUD developed to allocate money, the state didn't give any money to the city, said Phil Kidd, community organizer for the Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative.

"We were extremely upset

about that," Kidd said, adding that Youngstown has the highest foreclosure rate in Ohio.

In a meeting the MVOC organized on Friday, a group of city, community and faith-based leaders spoke with Fisher via telephone to discuss the possibility of additional funding.

According to Kidd, Youngstown was left out of funding because of incorrect data. The state didn't award any

money to Youngstown because state statistics showed that Youngstown had around 400 foreclosures. In actuality, Kidd said, the Youngstown court system puts that number at 1,056.

Any money granted to the city will go toward stabilizing neighborhoods like Brownlee Woods and The Garden District, which despite having foreclosures, could still be salvaged, Kidd said.

Unemployment rate proves difficult for students seeking employment opportunities

Lamar Salter
REPORTER

Graduates and prospective graduates will need to make strong decisions this year in finding a career due to the crippled state of the economy.

With the national unemployment rate at an all-time high of 7.2 percent, reported by the Current Population Survey (CPS),

finding lucrative work after graduation is becoming increasingly difficult.

Senior business management major Tim Richards expects to graduate in the fall, but said the recession has played a part in his career choices.

"I think moving down south would be the way to go," Richards said about where to find a suitable career.

Richards remained hopeful

that an economic boost this year would help him find a good job. "I think Obama is going to help us out," Richards said. "But I don't believe we will see a change for a good couple of months."

Youngstown is also feeling the nation's larger pain, with unemployment rates reaching 7.8 percent according to The Bureau of Labor Statistics. This has prompted students and alumni to look for jobs out of the area.

"My objective is not to relocate, but I probably will have to," said Arlene Rupert-Salter, who expects to graduate this summer. Salter said she hopes to get a job soon after she graduates and although she does not personally want to leave, the economical state of the city would prompt her to consider it.

Gary Boley, director of Career and Counseling Services, said students need to be prepared to

compete after graduation.

"It has become very competitive," Boley said. "You have to be a very good job seeker if you want to be successful."

Career coordinator Christina Hardy agreed with Boley, adding that strong credentials would keep students in the top running for a job. Hardy also said employers are immediately looking for internships, co-ops or any

EMPLOYMENT page 2

News Briefs

Nomination forms available for Diversity Leadership Recognition honors

Nominations are now being accepted for YSU and Key-Bank's 2009 Diversity Leadership Recognition honors. A recognition banquet for recipients will be held April 2 at Mr. Anthony's in Boardman. There are three categories for nomination: community leadership, campus leadership and leader of tomorrow. Regardless, all nominees should display a commitment to one or more aspects of diversity, including race, ethnicity, language, religion, culture, gender, social, sexual orientation and organizational membership.

Music at Noon planned for spring

Throughout the spring semester, YSU's Dana School of Music and the Butler Institute of American Art will present Music at Noon performances. The performances, held on Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. in the Butler Institute, are free and open to the public. On Jan. 21, guitarist Francois Fowler will perform, while a series of jazz combos directed by Kent Engelhardt will play Jan. 28 at Butler North.

Police Briefs

Woman slips on ice

On Monday a woman fell while walking through the F-3 parking lot. The woman advised the officer that she sustained an injury to her left hip and leg area. She was later taken to St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Offensive graffiti discovered

On Monday the YSU PD was in Moser Hall in reference to an inappropriate graffiti drawing in a classroom. YSU maintenance was contacted to paint over the drawing.

Student followed by ex-boyfriend

An ex-boyfriend of a student followed her around campus on Monday. He was not a student. The ex-boyfriend was issued a warning as he started to cry. He was admitted to Turning Point Counseling Center.

Injured student at Andrew's Wellness Center

On Monday, a student was injured while playing basketball at Andrew's Wellness Center. The student received first aid from Andrew's Wellness Center staff and signed a refusal of treatment.

Smoke in DeBartolo

A frozen heater motor caused smoke to fill the air in DeBartolo on Monday. Both police and fire departments were present. A classroom in the basement of DeBartolo was instructed by their inspector to not evacuate the building because he thought the alarm was just a test.

Unauthorized charges

On Tuesday a student received word from the YSU PD of unauthorized charges made on her credit card. She later filed a report.

Supervalu stores to add color-coded nutrition labels to products

Mike Hughlett
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Supervalu Inc. on Wednesday unveiled a labeling system aimed at giving shoppers at its several grocery store brands a simpler way to decipher nutrition levels in food.

The tags are aimed at helping shoppers identify healthier options, and are expected to ultimately cover about 10 percent of the items in the company's stores.

It's the latest example of the food industry trying to give consumers easy-to-use nutrition information. Federal law requires detailed data on food packages, but it's complicated and in small print.

Supervalu's system involves putting color-coded tags on grocery shelves, initially for about 4,200 items. For instance, foods that are considered excellent or good sources of fiber will be denoted by orange tags, while low-calorie foods will be represented by a purple tag.

Color-coded tags also will be used on foods that are low in saturated fat and salt; that are excellent or good sources of protein and calcium; or, that have a certain amount of whole

"We thought this way was the simplest way for consumers to understand."

Jeff Noddle,
Supervalu's chief executive

grains.

"We want to be a conduit of nutritional information," said Jeff Noddle, Supervalu's chief executive. "We thought this way was the simplest way for consumers to understand."

Supervalu's brands include Acme, Albertsons, bigg's, Cub Foods, Fann Fresh, Hom-bacher's, Jewel-Osco, Lucky, Shaw's/Star Market, Shop 'n Save, and Shoppers Food & Pharmacy.

"I think it will be a useful program," said Michael Jacob-

son, head of the food labeling watchdog Center for Science in the Public Interest. "But it's competing with a bunch of other programs."

Packaged food manufacturers routinely affix their own "better-for-you" labels on products they deem healthy. In fact, to cut through the clutter, a group of the nation's largest food companies said last fall they plan to unveil a standard nutrition label — called Smart Choices — on their healthier offerings.

It's conceivable that products winning a healthy label from a food manufacturer may not receive the same from a supermarket such as Supervalu — and vice versa, Jacobson said. To add to the mix, other retailers are devising their own nutrition-scoring systems.

Minnesota-based Supervalu developed its system in conjunction with the Joslin Clinic, which is affiliated with Harvard University's medical school. The labels are based on federal government nutrition guidelines.

Eventually, Supervalu expects that about 10 percent of the more than 60,000 products in its stores will carry a color-coded label.

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him to see his people killed. Yet, he has also observed that "the people are very proud because they know that after the night, there is a light coming out."

Reflecting on his life in the Middle East, Naser said, "The fighting was terrible, especially in April 2004. There was a big attack on my city; all of the fighting was in my city ... the rockets went up and down."

Naser was arrested by the Israeli military when he was 17 years old.

"[The Israelis] took me to a camp outside of the city. They asked me about one of my neighbors and gave me a phone

number to call if I were to see this person. They said they would give me money in return, but I knew it was shameful and refused to do so. They let me return home, walking 10 to 15 miles in the empty streets. If any [Israeli] soldier saw me in the street, he would shoot me, I was sure," Naser said of the incident.

Ahned, who was born in the United Arab Emirates, lived in Madaba, Jordan, for the past five years. He recalled hearing the violence when the conflict was closer to the Israel-Jordan border.

"You could hear the gun-

shots and the rockets. You could see the fires," he said. "You feel bad that innocent people are being killed right behind you."

The continuing conflict creates "a ripple effect throughout the world," said Porter. While protests for peace on each side have occurred in many different countries, demonstrators have also marched in the Mahoning Valley. There was a death march in support of the Palestinians on Jan. 5 and a community gathering in support of Israelis on Jan. 9. Each demonstration stressed a need for peace in the Middle East.

CRIME page 1

and said while in office, Williams has done a good job tackling the city's crime rates.

Senior Dan Nemergut said the city's recent crime decline is "fantastic," and attributes it to increased activity within the city, such as Chevrolet Centre concerts. Nemergut, who calls himself "a big fan of less crime," is hopeful that these statistics could help transform Youngstown's crime city image.

"I'd really like it to change," Nemergut said of the city's reputation. "I hate people who say 'Yompton.' I'm looking to go to grad school and I'd like to say I'm from a place that's not bad. These statistics are definitely a positive thing."

EMPLOYMENT page 1

volunteer work that shows some experience related to the job.

In specific careers, Hardy said health-related work, accounting and engineering jobs are somewhat easier to obtain while jobs related in liberal arts would be more difficult due to the work-related experience needed.

"Regardless of the field, however, we will work with students and prepare them to become good job seekers and hopefully find a rewarding career," Hardy added.

Susan George, adminis-

trative assistant for Career and Counseling Services, urged students to attend their sponsored spring job fair in April to network with employers looking to hire.

"We hope to have about 95 employers this year who are looking for students from YSU interested in careers," George said.

Boley said knowing the right people can get a student's foot in the door.

"You know the old adage, 'It's not what you know, it's who you know,'" Boley said.

Classifieds

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Future of school textbooks written in cyberspace

Mara Rose Williams
MCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Northwest Missouri State University students started spring semester classes Monday, but many aren't lugging thick textbooks around campus.

Instead, most students are carrying a lightweight electronic device that can fit in a coat pocket and hold the textbook material for all their classes. Some students will download their text information onto their laptops.

At Northwest, textbooks — at least the bound kind — are fast becoming a thing of the past.

Besides taking a load off students' backs, going textbook-free can save them a lot of money.

The pilot electronic textbook program began in the fall with four classes and about 200 students. This spring, roughly 4,000 of the school's 6,500 students will use electronic textbooks.

"I think that it's the way the world is going," said Dean L. Hubbard, Northwest's president, who is retiring in July after 25 years at the Maryville, Mo., uni-

versity.

Textbook publishers say many colleges are moving toward using some electronic textbooks, but Northwest's plan to eventually eliminate all bound textbooks makes it a leader in the movement.

"Right now, digital products account for a small percent of our higher education business, but it is growing at a rate that is breathtaking," said Jeffrey Ho, a product manager for McGraw-Hill Education.

But Northwest can only move toward a bookless campus as fast as the availability of e-books allows, Hubbard said.

"Publishers don't have all textbooks online yet," he said. "But I would think as a realistic measure we could be totally out of the printed textbook business in three years."

That idea pleases sophomore Mike Jenkins.

"I think the whole concept is pretty cool," said Jenkins, 19, of Lee's Summit, Mo. Jenkins used e-books in his history class during the fall semester.

"I would like it if we didn't

have textbooks at all anymore," he said. "You wouldn't have the hassle of messing with books. The e-book is so convenient, and you don't have to carry all those books around."

Plus, unlike printed textbooks, e-books have pop-up interactive quizzes and the ability to search the full text within seconds for key words. New electronic reader technology also will allow students to take notes in on-screen posted notes.

Jenkins found a few "minor" problems with the e-reader gadget that he and his classmates used.

"You can't look at a whole page on one screen, and it doesn't have a backlight to light up the screen, so you have to be somewhere that is well lit," he said.

Not all students were as comfortable with the electronic textbooks.

"I always worried that something would happen, like it would crash on the night I had to study for a test," said Jennifer Martin, a 22-year-old Northwest senior from Liberty, Mo.

"It's a good concept, but I didn't like it that much. I would

rather flip pages back and forth in the textbook when I'm studying. Maybe it would be better to start this with freshmen who haven't yet gotten used to studying using a regular textbook."

Students who want a traditional textbook could still get one.

But the cost savings are hard to ignore, even at Northwest, a school that already is unique because of its textbook rental system and its history of giving every student a laptop.

A textbook-free campus would save the university about \$400,000 a year. Currently the university spends about \$800,000 a year to keep an inventory of about 50,000 to 80,000 textbooks that are rented out to students. Northwest students pay about \$80 to \$90 a semester on books, a fraction of what students at other schools pay.

Northwest will continue to charge students just a rental fee. But once the e-book program goes campuswide, Hubbard said, Northwest students' book fee will be cut in half.

E-books are less expensive than bound books, which are up-

dated every few years and then have to be repurchased by the school. E-books can be updated at no cost.

Even at schools without a rental system, students would pay far less for texts on e-books than they would for bound books.

Nationally, the cost of textbooks has soared in the last decade. The average college student spends nearly \$1,000 a year on textbooks, according to the National Association of College Stores.

Northwest will purchase the electronic readers and then load them with the e-books each student needs. The student would pick up their loaded e-reader at the university bookstore or have their electronic textbooks loaded on their laptop.

The e-book plan is being phased in, with more faculty members signing up each year to teach classes using electronic textbooks.

"We think that students who are coming to Northwest today are more comfortable with learning from electronic text because they are used to reading from

a computer screen," said Paul Klute, assistant to the president at Northwest.

"It's nothing for a student to read for two or three hours on a computer screen."

University faculty members are getting used to the idea of Northwest doing away with bound textbooks, but they hope students can choose to read the e-books on laptops, e-readers or iPods.

"We are going to have to have multiple modes of delivery," said Rod Barr, an agriculture instructor who used the e-reader gadget in one of his fall classes. "Not all students are the same and not all classes use textbooks in the same way."

Barr said the e-reader used by his students had limited use for class discussions requiring students to jump around from chapter to chapter.

"It's a good device for straight front-to-back novel reading, though," he said.

He said the more technologically savvy students in his class used the device the most, "but they also had the greatest expectations."

Cell phones allow for paperless coupons

Sue Stock
MCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

If clipping coupons with scissors just seems so passe, use your cell phone instead.

At least that's what companies are hoping you will do as more of them venture into the world of electronic coupons and discounts.

Already shoppers can print coupons from the Internet, subscribe to e-mail lists, and participate in online promotion programs.

But as more people buy Web-enabled cell phones, and as technology for browsing the Web on the go improves, coupons via cell phone may be the next big thing.

Department stores such as Sears and fast food chains such as Hardee's already send coupons

via cell phone, and now Kroger has become the first major grocery chain to hop on board.

Its new program, begun in December, lets shoppers virtually clip coupons for products such as General Mills cereal and Palmolive using their cell phones. The virtual coupons are linked to their Kroger Plus loyalty cards, and the discount is automatically deducted when the shopper buys the qualifying item and scans a Kroger card at checkout.

The program uses software from California-based Cellfire, which offers it free for mobile phone users and works with manufacturers and companies to offer the coupons and discounts.

Kroger began testing the system in some stores last summer and launched it chainwide at the end of 2008.

"Technology is moving so

"Technology is moving so fast, you've really got to be on top of it."

Carl York, spokesman for Kroger Mid-Atlantic

fast, you've really got to be on top of it," said Carl York, spokesman for Kroger Mid-Atlantic.

For shoppers, electronic coupons may be easier because they don't require handling slips of paper, and they can be clipped any time — even in line at the store if you have a cell phone that can browse the Internet.

For stores, the electronic coupons require less work to process and make it easier to track who is

redeeming each offer.

"The manufacturers are finally realizing that there's a way to do couponing better," said Dan Kihanya, vice president of consumer marketing for Cellfire. "They realize the power of digital media can be applied to the coupon promotion world."

Kihanya said Cellfire recently signed deals with two other major grocery chains, though the names haven't yet been made public.

More retailers may soon follow as online coupons draw more fans.

The number of people visiting Internet coupon sites increased by a third from October 2007 to October 2008, according to ComScore, a Virginia company that tracks Internet usage. The number of online searches that used coupon terms doubled from January to September last year.

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Financial Aid Awareness Week

Stop by one of our tables for information on financial aid for the 2009-2010 academic year. The priority deadline to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on the Web and the Institutional Aid Application is **February 15, 2009**.

The following is a list of places, dates and times when staff from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships will be available to distribute forms and answer questions:

WHERE TO GET HELP

- Monday, January 26, 2009**
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Kilcawley Center - 1st floor across from bank
5 p.m. - 6 p.m. Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships
- Tuesday, January 27, 2009**
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Kilcawley Center - 1st floor across from bank
- Wednesday, January 28, 2009**
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Kilcawley Center - 1st floor across from bank
- Thursday, January 29, 2009**
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Kilcawley Center - 1st floor across from bank

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF YOUNGSTOWN - PART-TIME CLERK TYPIST II-YOUNGSTOWN CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION - \$14.02 PER HOUR. Work hours will be Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and when needed for Saturday examinations. The employee in this position performs general office work involving all aspects of the operation of the Civil Service Office. Work requires the exercise of considerable initiative, independent judgment, and discretion in handling delegated tasks, answering and disposing of requests for information, and general public relations activities. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Office Applications. Applicants that successfully pass the written examination may be required to take a typing/performance test to demonstrate skill in the operation of a personal computer. This performance test will be considered part of the job interview process. Applicants should have experience in secretarial and general office work; knowledge of modern office practices and procedures; be skilled in the use of a personal computer including proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Office applications; excellent typing/word processing skills; be extremely trustworthy and sensitive to the confidential nature of the civil service examination process and personnel matters; and have the ability to deal courteously and effectively with the public, news media, city officials, department heads and employees. Must be a resident of Youngstown when appointed or must become a resident within 120 days following appointment to the position. Applications accepted at the Youngstown Civil Service Commission Office, 7th floor, City Hall, Youngstown, Ohio, from January 12, 2009, through January 22, 2009. City Hall will be closed Monday, January 19, 2009 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Hours: 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Examination will be given on Saturday, January 24, 2009, starting at 10:00 A.M. at the Choffin Career and Technical Center. To qualify for Veteran's Bonus, submit a copy of DD-214 when application is filed.

Look familiar?

Psoriasis often strikes between the ages of 15 and 25.

1. Guttate psoriasis on chest
2. Inverse psoriasis in armpit
3. Psoriasis of the nails

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SPRING SEMESTER JAM-PACKED WITH PARTIES, EVENTS



Singing the Blues: Members of Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity perform a melody of songs from "The Blues Brothers" for last spring's Greek Sing. Source: campus recreation and student programming.

Melissa Mary Smith
REPORTER

Though the weather outside may be frightful, gain warmth from the knowledge that your spring semester social calendar is already full, beginning with a Jan. 23 visit from ESPNU.

According to Greg Gulas, assistant director of student programming, ESPNU will come to Youngstown State University to film the YSU versus Cleveland State University men's basketball game which will be nationally televised.

"I'm very excited that ESPN thinks that Youngstown State is deserving to have the game here," Gulas said. Additionally, prior to Friday's basketball game, a "White Out Beeghly" pre-game event will take place.

Gulas also mentioned that some other event highlights of this semester are the Penguin Pre-Parties. They are scheduled for Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12 and 26 and March 19, and will take place from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. at Peaberry's in Kilcawley Center.

Greek Sing, which is scheduled for Friday, April 17 at 6 p.m., is another event Gulas said he is always excited about.

"We have our Greek Sing celebration; we moved it back on campus. Last year, we were at Austintown Fitch High School. After a one-year absence, we're bringing it back to Stambaugh



Get in the Pit: Students at last fall's Foam & Dance Party dance in the foam pit during Welcome Week. The party was planned by Student Recreation and Student Programming. Source: campus recreation and student programming.

Auditorium," Gulas said. Slightly less than two weeks later, spring semester will wrap up with the outdoor May Day celebration on April 30. Kollin Rupert, a student programming intern and YSU senior from Penguin Productions, mentioned May Day as an event highlight this spring.

"I think students will respond best to that because they've been

cooped up inside all winter," Rupert said.

Rupert also explained that since the event is outside and music and free food will be provided, the second annual event will be a success with students. It will also be a good way to enjoy the last few days of the semester.

Like Rupert, Anthony Muscatello, a programming graduate assistant at Penguin Productions,

said May Day, as well as the upcoming housing formal on Jan. 22, will be hits with students.

While their formula has not changed when compared to previous years, Muscatello said Penguin Productions tries to offer different comics, musicians and entertainment on campus to switch it up.



Photo by Ian Duran

The Zou rings in 2009 with a bang

Sam Marhulik
REPORTER

Local Youngstown band The Zou is heading out on tour this month and playing their last show in the area at Friends Roastery with bands Third Class and Chris Splain in Salem on Jan. 16. The band is returning to Youngstown in March, so they are planning on leaving the area with a bang.

Lead vocalist Khaled Tabbara said even though the show is being played at a smaller venue, he believes it's going to be big.

"This show is an acoustic show, which is something we only do two or maybe three times a year, we change the instruments we use, and it also means we're going to be playing different arrangements of our songs. Lead guitarist Rob Thorndike is going to be playing a mandolin, and drummer Dean Anshutz is bringing along some insane percussion instruments. This is going to be a very intimate show and we are excited for the fans who haven't got to experience an acoustic set from us," said Tabbara.

The Salem show is what the band want to call a "buddy show," because they have been longtime friends with the mem-

bers of Third Class and Chris Splain for several years.

"This is a great show for us because these guys are some of our best friends. These are the people we hang out with when we have nights off, we have nights where we just sit in the coffee shop and catch up. This show is a great opportunity for every band involved and we are extremely excited to play with people we consider our best friends," Tabbara said.

The band is also excited for this show because it's the last time they are going to play to their closest friends and fans for several months. While it's the band's last local show, they are also excited to get back on the road and gain new fans in different parts of the country. Last year, the band played shows in 22 different states, including places like Hollywood and Tampa, but Tabbara admits that most people didn't know how long or how far they went.

"This year is going to be a big year for us. After we play our show in Salem, we're leaving and playing some shows in southern Ohio and after we come back to Youngstown in March, we're leaving for three weeks and playing in places like Chattanooga, Tennessee and Valdosta, Georgia," said Tabbara.

TECHNOLOGY

Polaroid to debut first digital camera with built-in printer

Eric Benderoff
CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Digital photography's flexible format has been a boon to consumers.

You can print images at home, upload them to a social networking site or e-mail a cute shot from your phone to your mom. You even can take some cameras swimming.

But in the digital age, you couldn't print a photo directly from the camera a technology Polaroid developed more than 60 years ago. That's about to change.

In March, Polaroid will introduce the first digital camera with a built-in printer. Called the Polaroid PoGo Instant Digital Camera, it will sell for \$199 at major retailers.

It won't be the last instant-print digital camera from Polaroid, as the company aims to recapture the magic of another era. Nor is it the company's first cool printing product: Last year's Polaroid PoGo, a stand-alone printer that attaches with or without wires to digital cameras and camera phones created 2-by-3-inch prints.

The PoGo camera prints on the same 2-by-3-inch paper.

"The first step was to introduce a printer to connect to cameras or phones," said John Pollock, vice president of

digital imaging at Polaroid, as he discussed the struggles the company has had during the age of digital photography. (Polaroid filed for bankruptcy protection in December, the second time in seven years, saying the filing will not affect product-development plans.)

I've been testing the PoGo camera for several weeks, and I like it. So did my mother-in-law, a long-time Polaroid fan. She was impressed with the family shots we took during the holidays. Moreover, she was happy to see Polaroid back in the game because she has fond memories of instant prints. (She went home with a bunch.)

But I don't love this camera as much as the PoGo printer, one of my 10 favorite gadgets from 2008. Here's why:

It's clunky. It's got a printer built in, so the size is to be expected. But the problem with the PoGo it weighs nearly a pound with paper and SD card and is much bigger than other digital cameras is that you can't easily slip it into a pocket or a purse.

It offers only 5 megapixels of resolution, fine for 2-by-3-inch prints. But as a digital camera that can plug into a computer to

transfer photos, the PoGo might not provide a high enough resolution to make larger prints or aggressively crop images.

Having said that, the ability to use the PoGo as a digital camera is its best feature, making it better than the old Polaroids in several ways:

You can edit photos on the fly fix red eye and crop shots before hitting the print button.

You can shoot videos. You don't need to print everything. With the old Polaroids, whatever you shot became a print. On the PoGo, you can scroll through the images, then print what you like.

The instant prints look OK, but they give people a reddish tint. Even with the old Polaroids, the quality was rarely amazing. That's the same here.

The camera holds 10 pieces of photo paper, and packs of 10 are sold for \$5. Packs of 30 sell for \$13. (Peel off the backing to turn them into stickers!)

The PoGo camera should sell well as a novelty it is fun and easy to use. But the better purchase remains the PoGo printer, available for about \$79. It works with any camera and you don't always need to bring it along.

The Short Dark Strangers return to Youngstown

Gary Angelo
REPORTER

Imagine the vivid sound of soul icon Otis Redding fronting pre-Henry Rollins era Black Flag. Pittsburgh's The Short Dark Strangers create this atmosphere marrying the music medley of punk and soul into one. The Short Dark Strangers will take the stage Saturday at Cedars Lounge with Cleveland punk act Dead City Dealers.

The band includes vocalist Bob Porter, Dana Parker on bass, Jimmy Rose on guitar, Jesse Whitton on guitar and Greg Mairs on drums.

Short Dark Strangers front man Bob Porter was instrumental in achieving cult status in the Youngstown underground scene since 1983 with his former R&B/punk act, Thin White Line. Thin White Line played many shows at Youngstown's legendary indie club, The Penguin Pub.

Though Thin White Line called it quits in 1998, Porter still can remember playing in Youngstown.

"When we first played in Youngstown, the town opened our hearts up to us. We've been changing hearts ever since," Porter said.

In 2005, Porter was pressed

with phone calls from bassist Dana Barker to reform the soul R&B tradition of Thin White Line and to sing in a band again. Porter was finally convinced by two of Parker's friends, Big Pete and Maryrose, The Short Dark Strangers was then formed in March 2005.

The Short Dark Strangers takes on a more '80s hardcore approach, still staying true to the R&B tradition.

"Short Dark Strangers is a continuation of everything I have done in my life, only better," Porter said.

Listening to Bob Porter's tremendous vocal quality, one can hear the influences of Peter Dinklage, David Bowie and Marvin Gaye, along with the gusto of Motorhead's Lemmy Kilmeister.

"Al Green influences my singing and David Bowie influences my writing a lot," Porter said.

Short Dark Strangers discography includes "Regret Your Science Fiction" and "The Thing On Your Doorstep." The band also has tracks on compilations such as "Logic Bomb Compilation" and the soundtrack of the independent horror film, "Edge of Midnight."

Short Dark Strangers plan on embarking on a European tour in September 2009 and a one-stop world tour on Oct. 31, 2009.

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publication of
The Jambar

★
broaden yo* horizons

Inaugural Celebration
for Obama

Tuesday, Jan. 20, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center

Music at Noon
Wednesday, Jan. 21, 12:15 p.m.

Butler Institute of American Art

plan yo* night
The Official Inauguration
Celebration Party

Sunday, Jan. 18, 9 p.m.
The B&O Station

21+



For a listen, check out:
www.myspace.com/shortdarkstrangers



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 If you like Tuesday's column, you'll love the blog.

OUR SIDE EDITORIAL

'Yompton' losing street cred

RELATED STORY

YOUNGSTOWN, page 1

THE JAMBAR EDITORIAL BOARD

It may not change overnight, but could "Yompton" as we know it become a thing of the past? According to recent statistics from the city of Youngstown Police Department, the cumulative amount of crime within the city decreased 9 percent, from 2007 to 2008. Nine percent. It may not be a lot, but it's a start.

Included within this 9 percent is a range of both violent and property crimes: murder, rapes, robbery, felonious assault, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and arson. Twenty-eight murders were reported in 2008, a 28 percent decrease from 39 in 2007. Likewise, 36 percent fewer rapes were reported in 2008; the numbers went from 73 to 47.

These are significant numbers that could perhaps one day change not only local perceptions of the city, but statewide and national opinions as well. Some students who are trying to break free from Youngstown's crime-ridden image hope the city can right itself, as do we. Labeling our city "Yompton" not only discredits Youngstown's attempts to change, but prevents or at least discourages the likelihood that people's perspectives will change.

The only increase is that of motor vehicle theft, which jumped 7 percent from 2007. In 2008, 404 thefts occurred, as compared to 378 in 2007. On a primarily commuter campus, this is a major issue, and warrants increased parking security. All parking lots should have gates and police should either guard or more frequently patrol them.

Despite the car theft increase, YSU still has a strong reputation as a safe urban campus.

For some students at YSU who commute from the suburbs, their experience on campus may be their first experience with the downtown area. Therefore, it is increasingly important that the university and the city work to make this experience a positive one.

OUR SIDE POLICY

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

YOUR SIDE POLICY

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

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

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

ABOUT THE JAMBAR

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 summer sessions. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.



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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

During my two and a half years here at YSU, I have watched the campus grow and change. Some of the major changes include the Kilawley Center renovation, the University Plaza street remodeling and the ongoing construction of the new business building.

But there is one area that YSU officials have completely forgot about: FURNITURE!

There are still many places on campus that probably haven't seen new furniture, carpet or wall paint since the early 80s. Some of the worst offenders are the study lounges on each floor in DeBartholomeo Hall, the Maag Library, and Cushwa Hall.

I feel that some officials at YSU have become so caught up in the numbers game of budget and finance that they have forgot that it is because of us, the students, that there even exists at YSU. If YSU did not notice for six months that an extra \$26,000 was given to Mr. Maldonado, then they surely could spare the money to update the study lounges and surrounding areas.

Not only would this increase campus morale, which was one of the areas that the Higher Learning Commission said YSU needed to improve on, it would also attract more students. If YSU does get the \$26,000 back, then they strongly should consider using it for this update that is twice over due.

Ian Peshel

COMMENTARY

Bush's record: A strained defense

McClatchy-Tribune MCT

In his final news conference, President Bush on Monday took on a task that some might call an impossible mission — defending his administration.

Maybe he needed Jack Bauer. Even as Bush spoke, headlines in the Washington Post blared that he had presided over the weakest eight-year span for the U.S. economy in decades. Of course, you can't blame the recession totally on Bush. But neither can the economic policies of his administration be absolved of any responsibility for the situation.

From jobs creation to the gross domestic product, the Bush years' numbers have lagged, growing in such lackluster increments that you would have to go back to the Truman administration or before to find a similar performance.

Bush and Congress both get failing grades for leaving unsolved the funding problems of Social Security and Medicare,

entitlements that face huge deficits. The president did propose a sweeping overhaul of the federal tax code, but never pushed hard enough to get it passed.

In his news conference, Bush became visibly upset when asked whether America's moral standing in the world had suffered during the Iraq war. "Most people around the world respect America," he said, adding that maybe some elites in Europe felt that way, but not the people he had met in Africa or Asia.

The remark was hardly comforting when one considers how often human rights are trampled upon in those two continents.

Bush called the abuse of prisoners at Abu Ghraib a "disappointment," a word he also used to describe not finding weapons of mass destruction the stated reason for waging war on Iraq. It was more than a "disappointment" for the families of the thousands killed in the war.

Bush was just as defensive when asked about his administration's handling of Hurricane

Katrina. "Could things have been done better? Absolutely. But when I hear people say the federal response was slow, what are they going to say to those chopper drivers or the 30,000 that got pulled off the roof?"

We would say that we're happy those 30,000 survived. But we also would note that had Bush's disgraced director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency acted more resolutely, the death toll might have been much less than 1,836 — which is an estimate, because some bodies were never found.

Bush is trying to put his spin on all that occurred during his presidency. Nothing unusual about that. His memoir will undoubtedly be a best-seller because the public craves his perspective. What it doesn't want, however, is fiction. And his depiction of some events must be summed up as denials of the truth.

As a Bible believer, the president should know what Jesus said in John 8:32: "The truth shall make you free."

COMMENTARY

U.S. not exempt from border violence

McClatchy-Tribune MCT

Mexican President Felipe Calderon, who met with President-elect Barack Obama on Monday, has vowed to put drug gangsters in his country out of business — and he has backed up his words with actions. Calderon has no other choice if he wants to keep Mexico from turning into a narco-state, but the decision has resulted in a frightening increase in violence, particularly along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Mexican border cities from Matamoros to Tijuana have become battlegrounds for drug gangsters fighting each other and law-enforcement authorities, with the body count rising by the day. In Tijuana alone, the death toll from drug violence in 2008 reached a reported 829. The total number of slayings because of the drug wars in Mexico reached 5,300 in 2008, more than double the 2,477 reported in 2007.

Frankly, it doesn't take a lot of imagination to perceive that, as Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said last week, the United States might eventually see a "significant spillover" of violence.

That's why Chertoff decided to create a "contingency plan" to combat violence along this country's southern border. Once he has become president, Obama must ensure that his designated Homeland Security director, Gov. Janet Napolitano of Arizona, picks up where Chertoff leaves off, not

only in finalizing a plan to coordinate with the Pentagon, but also working with Congress to see that the plan is well funded.

Why, after all, should the United States be exempt from the violence when our country represents the biggest market for drug consumption in the world? For decades, the United States has been shielded from significant security threats along its borders by virtue of enjoying good relations with its neighbors. The relationship, as President Calderon and Obama noted, remains strong. Still, the threat of spillover violence is rising because of the battle to control access to the U.S. drug market.

Last month, the Justice Department's National Drug Intelligence Center reported that the same gangsters responsible for Mexico's violence are taking root here. "Mexican drug-trafficking organizations represent the greatest organized crime threat to the United States," the report said. "The influence of Mexican drug-trafficking organizations over domestic-drug trafficking is unrivaled."

If anything, the U.S. government has been slow to recognize the threat. Gov. Napolitano, fortunately, comes from a border state and is well aware of the problems caused by drug trafficking. Obama's new national-security team will have its hands full with challenges from the Middle East to South Asia. Some of these challenges may take priority, but none will be closer to home than the threat posed by drug-trafficking violence in Mexico.

THE JAMBAR ASKS

What's on your mind?



"How I would like it to be warm outside."

Steven Harvey, senior



"I was late for my class and the door was locked."

Josh Mashburn, senior



"Why is The Jambar asking me questions?"

Jeff Johnson, freshman



"I'm thinking its cold outside."

Mark Sullivan, junior

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Penguins look to depend on post players against CSU

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

With the lingering effect of a dismal second half, the Youngstown State University women's basketball team searches for a way to win a game when the Penguins entertain the Cleveland State University Vikings at Beeghly Center Saturday.

The Penguins scored just 42 points in their last game against the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Phoenix, with 25 of those points coming from senior Nikita LaFleur, who seemed like the only Penguin who came to play ball for the Penguins. The Penguins will have to erase the poor second half memory and focus on the Vikings.

Head coach Cindy Martin likes the matchup her post players have against the Vikings, but is a little worried about them guarding the perimeter.

"For us offensively, I like to think they [Cleveland State] are going to have a difficult time matching up with our post players and so on the defensive end, it creates some problems for us because our posts are going out on the perimeter, moving their feet like a guard. So we are going to

have to work on some things this week so we are ready to match up with them," Martin said.

Cleveland State invades Beeghly Center with an overall record at .500 at 8-8 with a conference record of 2-2. They have Horizon League victories over Valparaiso on the road and a victory in their last game played against the University of Milwaukee at home. The Penguins have played both Valparaiso and Milwaukee with limited success as they lost both games.

The Vikings are going to have to contend with senior forward Nikita LaFleur. LaFleur averages almost a double-double per game; she scores 10.4 points and pulls down eight rebounds per contest. LaFleur also averages almost 15 points per Horizon League game.

On the defensive side of the equation for the Penguins, they are going to have to contend with the sharp shooting of Cleveland State's junior guard Kailey Klein. Klein scorches the nets with 17.4 points per game and 5.4 rebounds. Klein is a moderate threat for 3-pointers, as she averages slightly below 30 percent from downtown. For the Penguins to pull off a victory at home, they will need to know where Klein is at all times.



Junior guard Jaquetta Westley drives against a University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee defender at Beeghly Center. Courtesy of Sports Information.

Penguins head to Wisconsin for two-game road trip

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

A trip to the state of Wisconsin awaits the Youngstown State University men's basketball team as they begin a double dip of road games this week.

What looms ahead of the Penguins is a venture across the state of Wisconsin to face off against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panthers and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Phoenix.

The Penguins are coming off a home loss at the hands of the Loyola University Ramblers. In the contest, the Penguins were unable to register any kind of range from behind the 3-point line as they allowed the Ramblers to make 10 long bombs while the Penguins scored none. If the Penguins want to win in Wisconsin, this is a problem they will have to address if they want to come back to Youngstown with two points in the win column.

Head coach Jerry Slocum was not pleased after the performance against the Ramblers.

"We did not play well in any facet of the game ... offensively, defensively ... we didn't box out, we cut the lead, we couldn't box out," Slocum said after the Loyola game.

Moving forward to the games this week, the Penguins encounter two teams who have winning records outside of the conference and inside of the Horizon League.

The Panthers comes into the contest against YSU with a record of 10-6 overall and 5-1 in the Horizon League. In the Panthers' last Horizon League game against the Penguins' opponent this Saturday, the Phoenix, the Panthers lost in an overtime thriller that ended in a score of 77-75. The Panthers would avenge their loss to Phoenix two days later as they beat their non-conference foe Southern Illinois University Edwardsville 70-59.

The key players the Penguins have to contend with are Panthers guards junior Tone Boyle and senior Avery Smith. Both Boyle and Smith averaged double-digit points, with Boyle averaging 14.8 points per game and Smith putting in 14.4. Both guards are 3-point threats, so the Penguins have to limit their 3-point attempts as the key to a victory.

The Phoenix have a slightly better record than the Panthers at



Senior Jack Liles pulls up for a baseline jumper as he battles in the low post against the UIC Flames. Photo courtesy of Sports Information.

11-5 overall and 4-1 within the Horizon League. The Penguins have their hands full with guard Ryan Tillema. Tillema averages almost 16 points per game the Horizon League contests.

Other players for the Phoenix

who could pose problems for the Penguins are guards Troy Collins and Terry Evans. Both players are averaging double-digit points in Horizon League games this season. If the Penguins want to come out of the state of Wisconsin

with two wins, they have to start knocking down 3-point baskets and grabbing rebounds on the offensive and defensive ends of the court.

Track squads prepare for new season

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Youngstown State University women's track and field pulled off the feat of winning both the Horizon League indoor track and field championship and the outdoor title for an unforgettable 2008 season.

Top athletes for the women's squad include newcomer of the year sophomore Breanne Romeo and senior sprinter Katie Betts, who was newcomer of the year her freshman season. Senior Kari Krutzfeld, who had been number one in the 400-meter until Romeo's arrival, was also instrumental in the Penguins' successes this season.

In the Penguins' field events, redshirt sophomore Alisha Anthony ruled the long jump and the triple jump. To go along with Anthony on field events was sophomore Danielle Curry, who does shot put and the weight throw. Next season, the women's team will have to have to replace senior Bethany Anderson. Anderson is one of only three student-athletes ever in the Horizon League to win two events three times in a row: the shot put and weight throw.

The men's track and field team had an excellent season as well, but came up short in the Horizon League indoor and outdoor championships. In both the indoor and outdoor championships, the Penguins finished second place to their archrival, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panthers. The Panthers would eventually win both the indoor and outdoor track and field titles in 2008.

The men's team includes shot putter redshirt junior Aaron Mer-



"Health is important this season for us when you run track."

Brian Gorby,
Track and Field Coach

rill. Merrill, who is included in the country's top 25, performed well for the Penguins last season. He won the shot put competition for the indoor season, as well as the outdoor season. Senior Shayne York was big for the Penguins as he placed high in the triple jump and the long jump. Senior Harold Jones was huge for the Penguins in the middle distance, since he led the Penguins attack at 800-meter. Redemption reigns supreme for this Penguin class, as they want to bring home the gold medal and not have to settle for the silver.

Coach Gorby preaches health as a main concern for the Penguins' success.

"Health is important this season for us when you run track," Gorby said.

The Penguins take part in their first big meet of the 2009 indoor season when they compete in the Doug Raymond Invitational on Saturday.

Key Athletes for 2008-2009

Women

Sophomore, Breanne Romeo
Sprints

Sophomore, Alisha Anthony
Long jump, triple jump

Men

Senior, Harold Jones
Middle Distance

Senior, Aaron Merrill
Shot put