

THE JAMBAR

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THE SIDEBAR



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WEATHER

Today	☀️	25° 23°
Wednesday	☁️	26° 15°
Thursday	☁️	25° 21°
Friday	☁️	24° 13°
Saturday	☀️	23° 22°
Sunday	☀️	35° 25°
Monday	☁️	31° 22°

Remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar.



International students give Obama chance

Kelli Phillips
REPORTER

As Barack Obama, the newly inaugurated president of the United States of America, took office last week, the whole world was watching. "Obama is bringing people together in a whole new way," said Youngstown State University senior Suredha Sethi. "People are optimistic and ready to give him a chance." Sethi, who is from New Delhi, India, has lived in the U.S. for a year and a half. "[The environment in India] is just like here [in America]. People are re-

ally looking forward to what he has to say," she said. Even though she was in the U.S. for the presidential inauguration, Sethi spoke with her father in India. He told her, "Every news channel was flooded with Obama. There were very few channels that didn't show the event." According to several YSU international students, similar feelings of optimism resonated throughout the world. "We know that he will enforce [a change in] the economy and politics in Europe," said Ates Gumes, a native of Ismir, Turkey. "He is a real

"We have a young prime minister who is a new hope for our country just as Obama is to America."

Aksarakoon Kummasook

OBAMA page 2

YSU, OU crime rates higher than KSU rates

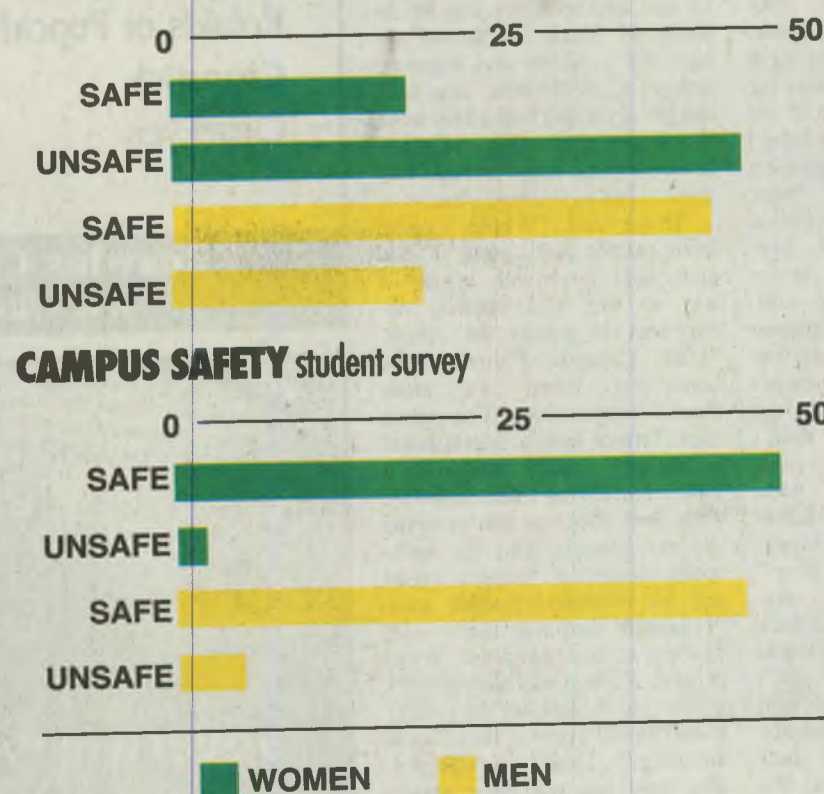
Diane Platten
REPORTER

When Richard L. Jones brought his daughter for a tour of Youngstown State University, he noticed a vagrant wandering the campus and he was uneasy. "I really didn't want my daughter where these people were just roaming around," he explained. Despite his worries and the vagrant he saw, Jones did allow his daughter, Ashley, to enroll and she is

now a sophomore majoring in special education. But they established a strict routine: she was not to be alone after dark and she had to promise to be alert about anything suspicious. Though Richard Jones was apprehensive when his daughter decided to attend YSU as a residential student, he said, "We've tried to make [Ashley] realize there are bad people. Not everyone is good. It was an anxious feeling for us, but the cause she's taking up is noble so we

CRIME page 3

YOUNGSTOWN SAFETY student survey



Life after crime: victims share their stories

Diane Platten
REPORTER

It was a night out on the town for 20-year-old special education major Kristina Angelo. She felt carefree and was enjoying her night away from schoolwork. It was dark; the air was brisk as she and her friends left Shenanigan's nightclub. But Angelo would soon be a victim of a crime that would change her outlook on life. "I was with three of my friends at the bar. We were leaving around 1:30 a.m. and I thought I heard firecrackers and then I felt something hit me really hard in the chest. Someone started yelling 'Get down!' and people started diving behind cars," said Angelo. The hard object that hit Angelo in the chest was a bullet intended for another who had been at the bar. "I guess I just got grazed in the crossfire," Angelo said of the scar on her collarbone. "If I was just turned a little to the left, it would have gone through me," she said. Angelo said her experience with the police was effective. "[The Youngstown Police] came right away, within four or five minutes. They were angrier that

VICTIMS page 2

YSU staff member accused of sexual assault

J. Breen Mitchell
and Sarah Sole
THE JAMBAR

A Youngstown State University staff member was accused of sexually assaulting two women at University Courtyard Apartments.

The suspect allegedly raped the women at one of their residences, according to police reports filed Wednesday. After meeting with the suspect at Boardman's Buffalo Wild Wings, the women returned to the apartment with him to watch movies. Both women then found themselves in bed with the suspect without knowing how they had gotten there, and they reported that upon regaining consciousness they found the suspect having intercourse with them without their consent.

According to the report, the women said they had known the suspect previously and had watched movies, eaten dinner and worked out with him in the past. One of the women said she had known the suspect for approximately five years.

Sgt. Marsco of Youngstown State University Police Department said the report is under investigation.

Charges haven't been filed against the suspect and the staff member isn't on leave, said Ron Cole, manager of news and information services. The suspect could be placed on leave.

"If charges are filed, his employment status would be reviewed at that time," Cole said.

Community college to offer classes fall '09

Sam Pysher
REPORTER

The first program in a new joint community college between Trumbull, Mahoning, Jefferson and Columbiana counties will be available fall 2009.

The proposed name of the community college is Eastern Gateway Community College, said Nathan Ritchey, chair of the mathematics department and the community college chair.

Ritchey said the hope is to have at least one program up and running by fall 2009. The first program will most likely be a two-year program that will allow licensed practical nurses to become registered nurses. Chancellor Eric Fingerhut is working with the Gov. Ted Strickland to come up with a bill for Ohio legislature to consider the establishment of the community college, Ritchey said.

"The idea is that the community college will be headquartered in Mahoning County, but the programs will be offered throughout the four counties," said Ritchey. Although it is too early to know how much attending Eastern Gateway Community College will cost, the prices would reflect that of other community colleges, which is usually around \$100 a credit.

The community college would be a pipeline for students. In theory, students would begin at the community college level, work their way up to the university level and hopefully continue on to get a doctorate degree.

Ritchey said another goal is that students will be dual-enrolled, attending a community college while attending a university.

"We have initiatives to grow," Ritchey said.

Although an actual building will not be built for the community college, the idea is to have students attend classes at technical centers and even local businesses, he said. The community college of Jefferson County will also be used.

President David Sweet said the community college would be a major step forward

COLLEGE page 2

News Briefs

WYSU teams up with Kent State University

WYSU is partnering up with Kent State's WKSU to better serve the community. WKSU will be giving hourly newscast to WYSU. WKSU broadcasts at 89.7 FM as well as on several local stations. WYSU is broadcasted on 88.5 FM.

Tim Ryan to speak at STEM College awards

Tim Ryan will be a guest speaker at the awards dinner for The College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. In honor of engineer week this will be the first Annual Stem Awards Dinner. The dinner will be at 6 p.m. on Feb. 19. Tickets cost \$10 and will be limited to the first 150 people. Call 330-941-2512 for more information.

YSU Alum featured at Poetry Reading

YSU alum Nancy Krygowski is scheduled to appear at the Youngstown Reading Series. The event will take place at Dorian Books on Feb. 2 from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Krygowski is the winner of many writing awards including the 2006 Agnes Starrett Poetry prize.

Police Briefs

YSU employee injured by equipment

A YSU grounds employee was injured Friday while putting away equipment in the parking bay. Upon arrival at the scene, an officer found the employee's right leg in need of stitches. He was then transported to St. Elizabeth's Hospital for medical attention.

Student fights with cashier at Christman

On Jan. 21, a male got into an altercation with the cashier at Christman Dining Commons. Police tried to find the man, who was reported as wearing a green army jacket and gray sweatpants, at Lyden House, but were unsuccessful.

Student reports harassment

On Jan. 20, a female student filed a report against a male student, in regards to harassment. The female claims to now feel uncomfortable on campus; her professors and parents are aware of the situation, and they have told the male student to stay away from her.

Fire Alarm activated

Two YSU police officers responded to a fire alarm activation at the Courtyard Apartments. Upon investigation, the officers determined that the alarm was activated from a different room. Officers spoke to the room's residents, and the act was disregarded.

VICTIMS page 3

it happened to me than anything," she said of their reactions. Angelo opted not to go to the hospital, but she recalled what one of the police officers told her before she left for home. "He said he didn't know why we kids go out in Youngstown that late. It's dangerous." Despite the prompt response time Angelo said, "There really wasn't much they could do. I never found out who did it. I don't even think [the police] looked into it, but I think they did the best they could with what they were given." Angelo remains cautious while out-and-about but said, "I can't just stop my life. I was just in the wrong place at the wrong time." Like Angelo, other students have found themselves victims of crimes committed both on and off campus. Despite this, the Youngstown State University and city police are responsible for very different populations plagued by very different crimes. There are 82,026 residents in the City of Youngstown according

Snow recedes as temperatures rise

Darlene Wagner
REPORTER

Extremely frigid temperatures greeted students the first two weeks of spring semester. Frequently, temperatures dipped well below the freezing point, making area streets and sidewalks snow-covered, slick and slushy.

Crews from the Mahoning County Engineer's office, the city of Youngstown and Youngstown State University grounds and motor pool cleared snow from streets connected to the university, but commuters and pedestrians had a hard time negotiating walkways on and around campus. Many were forced to walk in the street.

Amy Brown, freshman, described the previous week's driving conditions as dangerous. Her experience walking around on campus was similar.

"People are walking and slipping all around here," Brown said, adding that the walkways by Fedor Hall were especially bad. "I saw a lady bringing her kids in and she was slipping everywhere."

Marilyn Kenner, chief deputy at the Mahoning County Engineer's office explained

"People are walking and slipping all around here. I saw a lady bringing her kids in and she was slipping everywhere."

Amy Brown, freshman

that the county is responsible for 22 snow routes, which totals 483 miles of roads. Kenner explained the roads are treated with salt and liquid calcium that is activated on sunny days during sub-zero temperatures.

"Traditionally, this time of year, roads and sidewalks are particularly hazardous. We recommend that travelers be aware of the weather conditions and adjust drive time schedules," Kenner said. Kenner also said drivers need to slow down.

David Joyce, foreman for the

Youngstown street department, said his department clears the streets as soon as possible.

"When we salt the roads and they refreeze, our plows just scrape the roads, making it difficult to clear," Joyce said. "We are only responsible for clearing sidewalks adjacent to city property."

Joyce also said snow and ice removal on other walkways are the responsibility of business and residential tenants.

Dave Ewing, associate director of grounds and motor pool at YSU, said it is virtually impossible to eliminate slushy conditions in the type of weather that occurred during the past two weeks.

"Everything refreezes in cold temperatures. Salt doesn't melt snow or ice when the mercury dips below 15 degrees. At that point salt is used for added traction. Once the temps go above freezing, the snow and ice will melt," Ewing said. "People aren't used to these weather conditions. They need to wear appropriate shoes and be careful."

All road crews warn this is just the beginning of the winter weather season and inclement weather is a part of living in northeast Ohio.

OBAMA page 1

leader." Dorlan Curtis, who is from Nassau, Bahamas, said, "[Obama] is received well. Before he was even the Democratic nominee, t-shirts, pins, and other items were on sale."

In Tokyo most people are "excited." According to Ishi Da, "they think Obama will change foreign policy. There are a lot of expectations."

According to Aksarakoon Kummasook [Rote] of Chiang Mai, Thailand, many support Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

"We have a young prime minister, who is a new hope for our country just as Obama is to America," Kummasook said.

Munaf Nasser, from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, said Obama represents change in the U.S.

"Everybody regards him as an able and capable person. His good personality reflects change," Nasser said.

However, for some students, Obama's presidency also brings some uncertainty.

"We hope that more trust will be put in people and in Pakistanis. We hope for more support of

our government and less criticism," said Muhammad Bajwa, of Islamabad, Pakistan. Bajwa believes that Obama's toughest challenge will be "promoting a positive image of America."

"There are many countries that dislike America, [but] every country has to work together so that there is no hatred," he said.

Furthermore, while David Sarkar of Indore, India, believes Obama's presidency will be a "breath of fresh air in American politics and foreign policy," he is skeptical of Obama's policies.

"India had good relations with Republican presidents. Now we are uncertain of how policies will be with a Democratic president," said Sarkar.

Despite some skepticism, most people worldwide approve of Obama.

"Obama is treated like a celebrity in Africa. Europeans are fascinated with him. He is unknown in Asia as of now," said Keith Lepak, associate professor of political science and pre-law, coordinator of Peace and Conflict Studies at YSU.

According to a recent Gallup poll, Obama earned a 68 percent approval rating during his first

three days in the oval office. Seventy-two percent of Americans polled believe America will be better off in four years. Although America may benefit from Obama's term, Lepak said international affairs and issues might not be a major focus of his presidency.

"Americans should not expect great things internationally because of the current budget and economic trouble in America," Lepak said.

Moreover, once Obama's new team is in place, it will take an additional four to six months to review the current international policies before any anything new can be mandated.

Additionally, by appointing George Mitchell as a Middle East diplomat, President Obama is "establishing symbolic commitments to his priorities," Lepak said.

Lepak likened the scenario to a game of chess; during the first several months Obama will place the chess pieces on the board and make foreign policy statements. However, none of the pieces will move until 2010 or 2011.

COLLEGE page 1

for YSU because it will help accomplish the mission of Fingerhut's strategic plan for state universities. "I think the concept is a very important one because we are the only metropolitan area in Ohio without a community college," said Sweet.

For many students, having the community college will mean that we are enhancing their aca-

demical programs, he said.

"We will be able to reallocate the funding that goes to remediation to strengthen majors and expand programs," Sweet said.

Freshman Pam Galioto said the community college would provide an opportunity for students who don't want to attend a university.

"They'd rather go to a smaller school and there's none around

here that I know of," she said.

Freshman Nick Iaconucci said the community college is a good idea because it will give students the opportunity to study when they might not be able to afford a university. Finding a job without a degree is harder, so it's important for everyone to receive some form of education, he said.

11 a.m. and took my ring off to wash my hands. I turned my back for a minute and someone stole it off of the sink," she said. But her silver ring with a blue stone was not just another piece of jewelry for Troyer, it was a promise ring given to her by her boyfriend.

Troyer said, "Where I come from people don't steal." She and her boyfriend made a trip to the YSU police department to report the crime. "[The Campus Police] were concerned when we went there," Troyer said. The police took Troyer into a surveillance room and briefly reviewed a tape, displaying the hallway, with her. Because the cameras did not directly film the bathroom doors, a suspect could not be identified Troyer said. "I thought that was really cool of them to take the time," Troyer said. "They said they'd look at the video and let [my boyfriend and I] know if they found anything," she recollected. The thief has not been apprehended.

Classifieds

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CRIME page 1

had to support her."

Richard Jones is not alone in his concerns.

University officials understand they must combat the perception that YSU is dangerous because of its location in Youngstown, ranked the 15th most dangerous city, by CQ Press, a unit of Congressional Quarterly Inc., in its 14th annual "City Crime Rankings: Crime in Metropolitan America." Youngstown ranks as the fourth most dangerous city of its size.

Crime statistics show that YSU has a higher crime rate than Kent State University and is equal to Ohio University.

YSU claimed three more robberies than KSU and OU in 2007; both universities were robbery-free. YSU also had five incidents of cars being stolen while KSU cited two and OU reported none. The major difference in the statistics rests in the rate of violent crime.

YSU claimed enrollment at 13,712, with OU at 20,214, and KSU at 23,622 in 2007; for every 10,000 students about three were victims of violent crime at YSU and OU. KSU had the smallest occurrence of crime with less than one crime for every 10,000 students.

But YSU police said they manage more petty crimes than violent ones.

Youngstown State University Police Chief John J. Gocala said, "We deal with a lot of quality of life issues. If [drifters] walk through the campus and behave, that's their right. But if they cause an annoyance, we take care of it. Students see more police officers and so do the undesirables."

Gocala said he believes training programs for freshmen help prepare them for how to interact with the police. He said the campus police receive more calls reporting suspicious people since starting 30-minute presentations at freshman orientation. "If you see something that doesn't appear to be normal, you should report it right away. Our response times are great," Gocala said.

Michael Cretella, investigations and patrol lieutenant for the YSU Police, explained that at freshman orientations the police "encourage everyone to program campus police into their speed dial."

Ron Cole, manager of media relations for YSU, said the university "tries to emphasize [the safety of the campus] in anything we do when we're speaking to students and their parents."

A recent survey conducted by a journalism student suggests that though university efforts may be increasing student comfort on campus, the students' opinion of safety in Youngstown is quite different.

The survey, performed in October with 50 male and 50 female YSU students ranging in age from 17 to 38, shows 96 percent of females and 90 percent of males feel safe on campus while only 30 percent of females and 68 percent of males feel safe in the city.

Cole said, "I think there's this perception in the community and outside that Youngstown is less safe than it is and that affects the university. With any university campus, there are some issues relating to students being as safe as possible. There are many measures in place and we have professionals working to keep the campus safe. Our police force does an excellent job."

While Youngstown State University Police boast no murders since 2002, the City of Youngstown reports 39 murders in 2007 alone.

Theft may be the leading crime both on- and off-campus, but according to the survey, 54 percent of females polled at YSU said their primary concern was attack or assault, while males cited robbery as their principal concern.

But between 2005 and 2006, the university reduced campus theft by 43 percent and overall campus crime by 29 percent while Youngstown's theft was

reduced by only 8 percent and overall crime in the city by 6 percent.

Gocala said, "Crime knows no place, no time, no person. It doesn't make any difference." Based on this belief, Gocala and the campus police take a proactive approach to avert crime by target policing—placing police in various buildings around campus, in the residence halls, and in other strategic campus areas.

Gocala said target policing and the addition of cameras in the residence halls and several buildings on-campus "minimized all crimes," and lowered the occurrence of theft 95 percent according to the university's crime statistics.

In December 2005, Jessica Speece witnessed a crime undeterred by cameras. Speece, then 19 and a freshman at the university, and a friend walked to her car parked in the Cafaro parking lot on campus around 1 a.m.

As the pair approached the street Speece witnessed a man kick another man down into a ditch near the overpass.

"I heard [the victim] screaming for help and the other was screaming about giving him money," Speece recalled.

Speece and her companion got into her car and pulled away. Speece looked back and saw the tormenter running away and the victim limping off in the opposite direction.

While Speece had reservations about not reporting the crime she witnessed, her older friend insisted it would be best if they just "didn't worry about it." Speece reluctantly agreed, "I was scared. I didn't want him coming after me because I saw him."

Speece has since graduated from YSU, but even now, as a graduate student at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Speece said, "I have never witnessed a violent crime like the one I saw that night."

As she reflected on that December night, Speece said, "I was a freshman and I didn't know about all of the resources. Now, I have the campus police in my phone so if something happened to me or someone else I would be able to call for help. I have changed; matured a lot, and now I know about the resources, safety measures, and the police so I would react differently."

A native of Ellsworth, Speece said, "I grew up in a safe rural area so I didn't have to take the precautions I had to at Youngstown."

As a resident of Buechner Hall her experience in 2005 was the only campus crime she ever encountered in her four years. Still, the experience affected her.

"Once it started getting dark, I started to feel on edge. I wouldn't feel safe walking off campus at night at all," Speece said. "I think that just comes with being a female in general though. I think the city has a different reputation than the campus and the good thing about the campus police was that I would always see their cars driving around the grounds."

Gocala said "patrol and visibility are some of the most important ingredients" involved in keeping the campus crime-free. The campus police are a visible presence at YSU and Gocala said he gets feedback about how the students feel the service is working.

In the survey of YSU students, 84 percent of females and 72 percent of males believe the Youngstown State University Police Department is effective while 66 percent of females and 58 percent of males feel confident in the effectiveness of Youngstown's Police Department.

Gocala said, "I'm not a miracle worker; there's no bubble over this university, but I can guarantee you, the police are doing their job. I'm proud of what we do."

Though Gocala said he cannot make victims report crimes, he believes few crimes go unre-

ported to the campus police.

"The proper thing to do is report it; there may be a pattern," Gocala said. Campus crimes may sometimes be linked to other crimes in surrounding communities and if the crimes go unreported, it may take longer for the criminal to be apprehended.

In the past, the campus police have implemented block watches, and the Andrew's Student Recreation and Wellness Center has offered self-defense courses for the residence halls, the Court-yard apartments, and other YSU students, but these programs have proved unsuccessful.

Cretella said, "Some [classes and programs] have been cancelled because people aren't interested."

Students may take other preventative measures to ensure safety such as getting a club or car alarm, being aware, alert and familiar with surroundings, being aware of emergency phones and how they work, and making unique identifying marks in textbooks — such as drawing a box around a certain page number — and keeping a list of those textbooks and the identifiers.

If the book is stolen and the thief attempts to sell the book back, the police will have proof in the textbook list and it may be returned and the thief punished.

But sometimes, in haste, students behave in ways that may make them more susceptible to becoming victims. Students in a rush may leave a car door or trunk open, the car running, or expensive possessions visible inside the car. The police close any open entrance to the car, and keep an eye on the vehicle as long as possible. They also leave a slip of paper on the windshield informing the student that the automobile was in a compromising position so the student can check for any missing items. Gocala said, "I think we do a lot to try to alert students that [leaving valuables in plain sight is] not the best choice."

"Crime prevention has really had a big impact," Gocala said. To educate YSU students on staying safe, the campus police offer speakers to come to events. The police also have numerous crime prevention resource boards displayed around the campus, and they distribute the crime prevention resource book as well as the Student Right to Know paper — information on crime prevention and reporting methods; Gocala said not many universities have this type of awareness.

Cretella said he is determined to keep the campus safe. "You'd like to make it a perfect world where nothing would happen to [the students]," he added.

Despite the numerous preventative measures campus police have implemented, there are many other programs Gocala would like to see adopted at YSU. "All I can do is make suggestions," Gocala said.

But not all crimes may be prevented, and the police say that in most cases the crimes are not solved within hours as the public may suspect. Gocala said their cars are committed and is not solved promptly, the campus police send the victim a letter explaining the on-going efforts to resolve the case and to let them know they haven't been forgotten. "I can't change what happens, but I can help," explained Gocala.

Ashley Jones said she has faith in the YSU police and feels she was well prepared to attend a school that is housed in what people call a dangerous city.

"I believe [my parents] wouldn't let me go to a university that didn't have the proper measures to keep me safe. My parents were a big influence in my decision to attend the university and they think the Youngstown State University Police Force does a great job," she said.

"[My dad] gave me the normal tool — mace — and taught me how to use it. He also gave me an emergency/rape alarm and taught me some self-defense."

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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:

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

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African American History Month Celebration 2009

Proverb of the month: "If you understand the beginning well, the end will not trouble you."
Ashanti of Ghana

Wednesday, February 4
6:30 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center
Sherekea: The Black Heritage Festival
This celebration of many aspects of black culture, recognizes traditions and talents rooted in South American, African, Caribbean, and American cultures. The event will include poetry readings, a gospel choir and mime performances, Harambee and step dancers, and foods of various cultures. This event is co-sponsored by the Office of Housing & Residence Life. (Sherekea is Swahili for Celebrate.)

Thursday, February 5
7:00 p.m., The McDonough Museum of Art
Reception: 5:00 p.m., Bliss Hall Gallery
Panel Discussion 6:00 p.m.
Art Exhibition and Panel Discussion "Recreation: Green Art Forms"
Christine Bethea is a nationally renowned artist and arts educator from Pittsburgh, PA. Although she commonly refers to herself as "The Accidental Artist," her works have been featured in a national best-selling quilt book, *A Communion of the Spirit: African American Quilts, Passions, and Their Stories*, by Roland L. Freeman. Ms. Bethea has received numerous awards as an arts administrator, curator, and supporter of the visual arts. She recently co-founded Passports, an art diversity project which promotes the work of artists of all backgrounds in southwestern Pennsylvania. Her art will be on display at the Bliss Hall Art Gallery, College of Fine and Performing Arts, throughout the month of February. This event is co-sponsored by the College of Fine & Performing Arts.

Friday, February 5
5:45 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center
A Play: Boys, Pull Your Pants Up
This theatrical performance is based on a new book by Akron novelist Jewelene Banks. It satirizes the current style among African American youth of wearing their pants below their waists. The impact of negative hip hop styles and videos is closely scrutinized. Banks' message is quite simple: appearances matter, and first impressions mean everything, especially to talented youth.

Friday, February 13
5:45 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center
Keynote Lecture: By the SKEGGS LECTURER
Thursday, February 26
7:30 p.m., Stambaugh Auditorium
Dr. Cornel West
Professor of Religion and African American Studies at Princeton University
Dr. Cornel West is one of America's most prominent and prolific public intellectuals. He is a much sought-after speaker in universities across the country addressing a wide variety of topics across disciplines to various audiences. He is the recipient of over 20 honorary degrees and a National Book Award. His numerous books include *Prophecy Delivered: An Afro-American Revolutionary Christianity, Race Matters, Democracy Matters*, and *Hope on a Tightrope*. Dr. West is a longtime member of the Democratic Socialists of America.

For further information, call the Africana Studies Program at 330-941-3097

Event parking is available at the Lincoln Deck and lot M24, next to McDonald's on Fifth Avenue.

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Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

SEND US AN E-MAIL

THEJAMBAR@GMAIL.COM



Inauguration hat becomes overnight fashion sensation

Bill McGraw
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Milan? No.
New York? No.
New Center? Yes!
Aretha Franklin's now-famous bow-tied, gift-wrapped, jewel-studded, \$179 inaugural hat was designed, produced and sold to the Queen of Soul by Mr. Song Millinery, a family-owned business in Detroit.

Starting minutes after Franklin finished her distinctive rendition of "My Country 'Tis of Thee" Tuesday, the store's phones started ringing.

By Wednesday afternoon, they had sold hundreds of hats. A store they work with in Dallas had sold 500 more, and the material was running out.

"People are calling from England, asking for the hat," said Luke Song, who designed Franklin's chapeau. "I'm shocked. I had no idea. We did not expect this."

The hat has gone crazy in the media and cyberspace. Everyone from Jon Stewart on the "Daily Show" to the women on "The View" were talking about it last week. (Stewart poked fun at it; the women seemed more appreciative.)

On the "Ellen DeGeneres Show," Ellen wore an exaggerated hat similar to Franklin's.

On the Internet, people have created dozens of sites devoted to the hat and, using software, have placed it on mug shots of Dick Cheney, assorted dogs and the heads of Mt. Rushmore, among many others.

On the Los Angeles Times blog page last week, a poster named Sarah Hart wrote: "Loved that hat! She is the Queen and she rocked that hat and made that old staid anthem new and powerful!"

Song said Franklin, a longtime customer, came to him and wanted something to go with a

coat she had picked out for the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

"She had in mind what she wanted," Song said. "She said, 'I want it altered this way.' That's what we do most of the time with the client. We meet them half way."

The heather-gray hat was done in wool felt. The sparkly things are Swarovski crystals.

The hat Song is selling to avid customers now is not the precise customized hat Franklin wore, but it's very close.

Song, 36, of Southfield started Wednesday and took calls from around the globe, surrounded by about 1,000 vibrant colored hats in the store, which sits in a stretch of Woodward that has evolved into a funky avenue of fashion. Next door on one side is an abandoned store. On the other side is the Praise Him Beauty, Barber and Nail Salon.

The hat store was started by Song's mother, Jin, an immigrant from South Korea, in 1982. Luke Song, who graduated from Birmingham Seaholm High School and the Parsons The New School for Design in New York, does the designing.

"It's an art form for me," Song said. "For me, hats define a culture."

Mr. Song Millinery's clientele is 90 percent African-American, church-going women, Song said. His wholesale business supplies hats to shops in other cities with large African-American communities, and the merchandise sell especially well in California, Houston and Dallas. He designs 100 hat styles every six months.

Business was good before the hat appeared on one of the most-watched spectacles in recent years. Song smiled as a TV crew trooped in to do an interview.

"Now it's taken on a life of its own."

Real stories, real people recollected by Robbie Jay Band

Gary S. Angelo
REPORTER

Local alternative country stalwarts The Robbie Jay Band just completed their first studio three song EP at Youngstown's Ampreon Recorder. The Robbie Jay Band has been blazing the stages of Barley's, The Royal Oaks, and Cedar's brewing their warm rendition of outlaw country and rekindling the spirit of Waylon Jennings.

On Jan. 31 at Cedar's Lounge The Robbie Jay Band will perform with the New Jersey power-pop act, Readymade Breakup. Proving that roots country spans beyond the mainstream fluff of Nashville, The Robbie Jay Band draws in the working class rock influences of Damn The Torpedos-era Tom Petty and The

Heartbreakers with the artful edge of The Drive By Truckers. Despite modern influences, The Robbie Jay Band sheds light on the classic Johnny Cash influenced approach on their somber track, "Slow it Down."

The conception of the band began in early 2006, when front man, guitarist Robbie Jay McFarland, was working at Hubbard Music and met drummer Dan Dominic. McFarland invited Dominic in for an open mic gig when he started out solo and the musical chemistry clicked. The pair discovered they had identical music tastes and started tinkering with acoustic songs together. In came bass player Ryan Rexroad, who began working at Hubbard Music at the time. Rexroad was not playing bass yet, but gave it a good attempt and was instantly a part of the band. Lead guitar-



Photo by Gary S. Angelo

ist Jason Hinrich completed the circle and the creative working-class sound of The Robbie Jay Band was born.

The factor that makes The Robbie Jay Band similar to their modern alternative country peers is the fact that they write material about everyday situations. McFarland adds, "I think that is why people are listening to us. It's real stuff about things that really happened." The band remains true to

their astute Americana songwriting ethic in that they don't embellish stories for the thrill of writing songs.

The band plans to expand their following beyond Youngstown by planning shows in the regional areas of Pittsburgh and Cleveland. They are playing at Cleveland's famous Beachland Ballroom on Feb. 4. On Feb. 6 the band aims even higher taking the stage at Cleveland's House of Blues.

Buying used ain't what it used to be; It's cool

Daniel Vasquez
MCT

Remember when you were embarrassed as a child to wear used clothes to school? Or maybe you hated to take your used bike around the block. Perhaps you have had memories of a used car when you were in college.

How things change. Buying used is vogue today.

And the opportunities to save money (and the planet since reusing is as smart as recycling) by buying slightly or gently-used items is growing thanks to the tanking economy (See, it's not all bad).

You just have to know where to look. Game Stop is a great place to snatch up cheaper, used video games. And check with your local Toyota dealer, used-certified Prius' are becoming all the rage. Even Apple's used-iPhones are ringing up sales.

Bargain pros have known for some time that it could be beneficial to shop on Web sites like eBay, Craigslist and PropertyRoom.com. And if you haven't been to a local Salvation Army or Goodwill thrift store, you may be surprised at the plethora of choices for quality used clothes, furniture and electronics, including TVs.



Photo courtesy of MCTampus

Fast food restaurants begin outsourcing drive-through order-taking

Jen Aronoff
MCT

That crackling voice taking your order at a fast food drive-through may come from a lot farther away than the restaurant: Try Texas, or even overseas.

San Diego-based Jack in the Box has tested outsourced drive-through order-taking since mid-2008 at seven of its 30 Charlotte, N.C.-area restaurants. Spokeswoman Kathleen Anthony declined to specify the locations, though workers at the Cotswold restaurant in Charlotte recently said it uses the system.

The technology is intended to improve speed, accuracy and service, freeing up restaurant employees to process orders, accept payment and address other needs, Anthony said. The chain has not reduced staffing as a result of the remote order-taking, and the restaurants can turn the system on and off as they wish, she said.

Still, it's piqued curiosity among local customers who

have encountered heavy accents with order-takers, then rounded the bend to find different people handing them food.

"I had noticed it (several months ago), but I just thought the person taking the order was somewhere else in the store where we couldn't see them," said Elizabeth Banks, a Charlotte teacher and mother of three who takes her 15-year-old daughter and her daughter's friends to Jack in the Box for Oreo milkshakes most Friday afternoons. "It never occurred to me they might be out of the country."

At one point the girls asked the order-taker, "Where are you?" There was a pause, Banks recalled. Then, the person on the other end said, "Texas."

"I really don't think that's where they were," Banks said.

The Jack in the Box test orders are routed to a Texas call center operated by Bronco Communications, a company specializing in fast food order-taking, Anthony said. Some may be routed outside the U.S., she said, but she wouldn't specify where.

Companies began trying remote ordering in 2005. As with outsourcing in other industries, technological advances namely high-speed Internet made it possible. When customers pull up to the menu, a call center worker takes the order on a computer. The order pops up on a screen inside the restaurant.

Even where people have grown accustomed to seeing bank and computer questions directed overseas, international order-taking is rare in the realm of cheeseburger combos and large Cokes, said Sherri Daye Scott, editor of QSR Magazine, dedicated to the quick-service restaurant industry.

A greater number of restaurants, including McDonald's and Wendy's franchisees, have tried centralized order-takers within the United States. None has introduced the technology nationally, in part because they've found it difficult to prove it saves money, Scott said. The parent company of Hardee's has conducted a limited test, too.

Other chains said they have not tried it and don't plan to at

this point, including Burger King and Taco Bell, spokespersons for both said.

The technology has the potential to eliminate language barriers between Spanish-speaking employees and English-speaking customers, said Kate Mosteller, marketing director of Massachusetts-based Exit 41, which focuses on off-site order taking. Yet time zones and regional dialects can also present hurdles.

"You want someone who's friendly and articulate and who can understand ... different nuances," Mosteller said. "(Otherwise) you're going to know you're (being routed) somewhere else, and that's exactly what you don't want to do."

Jack in the Box's Anthony declined to discuss the results of the Charlotte trial, noting that the company doesn't speak in depth about its tests. "It is something we're testing, not something we're necessarily committed to at this point," she said.

Though the local run is wrapping up soon, Jack in the Box will continue to try the approach

in other markets "here and there," Anthony said.

Customers such as Banks say the system can sound a bit distant: After all, fast-food order takers aren't always the easiest to hear even when they're around the corner, let alone around the world. But it hasn't posed any other issues, and the speakers are very polite. Then again, Banks said, that was the case with the old method, too.

"It would be nice to understand what the rationale was behind (the change)," she said. "It seems like an awful lot of trouble."

Even so, she noted, it hasn't bothered her family so much that

they've stopped visiting for milkshakes. "We just kind of laugh about it when we go through there: 'Oh, there's a guy in 'Texas' again.'"



OUR SIDE EDITORIAL
Comparing apples to oranges

RELATED STORY

CRIME, page 1

THE JAMBAR EDITORIAL BOARD

Though Youngstown State University has proved to be safer than Youngstown, when compared with other regional campuses, the university still has room for improvement.

According to crime statistics, YSU and Ohio University have equal crime rates, though OU has some 6,000 more students than YSU. Both universities have crime rates that are higher than those of Kent State University, which has a higher enrollment than YSU and OU.

Though Youngstown State University Police say that YSU has more petty crimes than violent crimes, students still have to worry about the prospect of stolen property. And since the university is an oasis that sits in the middle of the 15th most dangerous city in the U.S., the campus is already fighting negative stereotypes.

However, despite the number of petty crimes and unflattering stereotypes, a recent survey of 100 YSU students shows most feel safe on campus. From 2005 to 2006, efforts by university police reduced campus theft by 43 percent and overall campus crime by 29 percent. Compared to the entire city of Youngstown — which reduced theft by only 8 percent and overall crime by 6 percent — the campus statistics are significant and commendable.

Although these numbers are definitely a step in the right direction, the work of both campus and city police is far from done. Feeling safe on campus and actually remaining safe on campus are entirely different; despite a considerable reduction in campus crime, it still occurs. Ideally, far less crime should be occurring than what actually transpires.

It may be true that YSU is located in the center of a partially crime-ridden city, but when compared to other neighboring campuses, these recent crime statistics are a lot less satisfying. YSU should strive to be comparable in crime rates with other campuses, especially those nearby, and not necessarily with its surrounding city.



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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

This letter is in response to the media coverage of President Barack Obama.

In the 25 or so years I have been following politics in the United States, I have never seen media coverage of an individual that borders on promoting a "cult of personality". It never fails to amaze me how foolishly we elect the leaders of this country. We end up electing someone with virtually no experience in government to lead us out of the worst financial disaster in our country's history. Keep in mind that this disaster has not yet run its full course. Still the media paints a picture of President Obama as a great savior before he has even executed one of his duly sworn duties. He has not merited the consideration of greatness bestowed on past presidents because he hasn't even completed one month in office, not to mention a full term.

In addition to the media's cultic adulation of President Obama

is this pre-occupation with the election of the first black American president. President Obama is not an African-American any more than I'm a Polish-American or Irish-American. He is a black American who happens to have African heritage as I am a white-American who happens to have Polish and Irish heritage. As for the election, Donald Duck could have beaten the republican nominee, so to suggest that America has made a cultural shift toward better race relations by electing the first black American president is making an error in logic referred to as a faulty cause. If the economy was strong and foreign policy not such a mess, would the election have turned out differently? We will never know. The only thing certain now is that President Obama is on the clock, and time waits for no one.

Joe Bialek
 Cleveland

COMMENTARY

Close Guantanamo: Restoring world trust

McClatchy-Tribune
 MCT

With an executive order directing the shutdown of the Guantanamo Bay detention camp in Cuba, incoming President Barack Obama would signal that needed reform is coming to U.S. antiterror strategies.

While Obama celebrates his historic inauguration, his Guantanamo order could come as soon as this week.

Redressing Bush administration excesses and missteps in its antiterror campaign, however, will require more than a simple declaration from the new administration.

An official inquiry into Bush policies should be undertaken, if only to document abuses.

Two key challenges await Obama:

He must craft a better strategy for bringing terror suspects to justice, preferably in the federal courts or under court-martial rules. In doing so, the nation should eschew offshore jails and secret prisons akin to those maintained by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Meanwhile, tactics used to safeguard the nation against further attack from detection to capture to treatment of terror suspects need to be reshaped so they're "consistent with who we are as Americans," as a top Obama aide said.

That means having close court oversight of intelligence surveillance. It means adhering to the Geneva Conventions in the interrogation and detention of suspects. Specifically, no more waterboarding.

Even though Bush contends his policies headed off further attacks after Sept. 11, 2001, his administration blundered badly in bringing terror suspects to

justice. The extreme tactics gave the nation a black eye, trampled civil liberties, and flouted international human-rights standards.

Closing the Cuba detention camp is the first step toward restoring order to the terror fight. By all means, terror suspects must be prosecuted, but the process must be fair in order to be viewed as legitimate.

The preferred course is to honor due-process rules. Bush officials tried an end-run, but they have been rebuked at several turns by the Supreme Court. It's encouraging that Attorney General nominee Eric H. Holder Jr. says he will seek to prosecute some from Guantanamo through the federal courts.

The problem for some detainees, however, will be that the cases against them have been tainted by harsh interrogation. Indeed, U.S. officials already concluded they cannot try a Saudi detainee alleged to be the 20th hijacker because he was tortured.

Detainees who cannot be charged should be repatriated to other countries where they can be supervised, if posing a danger.

To its credit, the Obama legal team at the Justice Department and in the White House appears staunchly against torture and resistant to any idea of a new law providing for indefinite detention inside the United States. Similarly, Obama should repudiate the Bush policy of depriving suspects of most legal rights by declaring them enemy combatants.

Even as much of his attention will be devoted to getting the economy back on track, the new president needs to move quickly and decisively to enact antiterror reforms that embrace core democratic values while still keeping the nation safe.

COMMENTARY
Dierkes deliberated



Class Warfare

Doug Dierkes
 COLUMNIST

The deadline for getting a full refund for dropping a class is either drawing close or already passed. I don't know, I don't really pay attention to that deadline as I generally force myself to stick through every class until the professor shuts things down. With that in mind, let me give you a rundown of what classes I'm taking this semester.

Intermediate Spanish

I've been taking Spanish lessons in and out of the Ohio school system for the better part of 10 years if my memory is correct. And still, the most I can say in the language is "I like cheese," or "Where is the train station?" I also dislike it because it starts at eight in the morning, and I have not been a morning person since I first learned the joys of sleeping in. But I'll stay with it because it's only two days a week.

Religion and Moral Issues

I signed up for this one because I enjoyed all the lengthy and course de-railing arguments I got involved in during my last religion class. I've never had a class with Victor Wan-Tatah before, but I must honestly say he is the Keith Lepak of the religious studies department. Anyone who's ever taken a political science class knows why he's awesome: he encourages these class-wide debates. And there are no wrong answers if you can explain your logic. I do foresee a problem in this course, and I'd like to apologize to Dr. Wan-Tatah right now for it. My handwriting is now impossible to decrypt. I will stay after class and read my test answers to you if this becomes a serious threat to my grades.

Introduction to Eastern Religion

Another religion class? It's for my minor. Well, really I should be covered, as I've taken enough of the substitute classes to fill out my peace and conflict studies paperwork. But any chance I get to learn about the philosophy of a culture besides the "civilized" or "Western" world is okay by me. And it's forcing me to expand my Netflix queue outside of my typical movie range of "filthy comedy" and "EXPLOSIONS!"

Journalism Senior Project

It had to happen sometime. I have to write several investigative stories on the same topic, not to mention manage a Web site about the whole affair. I thought at first I would be doing something political, but those ideas were shot down. Then, jokingly, I suggested covering the history of professional wrestling in the Ohio Valley. So now I'm doing investigative work on wrestling. I have no idea how I manage to stumble into awesomeness this frequently.

Photojournalism

It's a class where I take pictures. And I don't have to deal with all those unnecessary art lessons first. Point camera at Barack Obama, get passing grade. There has to be a catch, there's no way a class can be this super nifty without there being a catch. Well, there's the random fieldwork assignment around week 13, but I think I'll know enough about taking pictures by then to pound something out.

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

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.

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ABOUT THE JAMBAR

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THE JAMBAR ASKS
What's on your mind?



"I hope Pittsburgh loses on Sunday."

Mike Tokarsky,
 sophomore



"Parking Sucks."

Corey Huff,
 sophomore



"I feel like crap. I'm sick. I want to go home and go to sleep."

Tyler Amendola,
 freshman



"Don't let friends borrow your car, because they lose your keys."

Justin Butt,
 freshman



Penguins erase losing skid as they earn victory on ESPN

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

With approximately 6,200 fans in attendance for Friday's nationally televised game, the Youngstown State University men's basketball team shined as they disposed of in-state rival Cleveland State University Vikings at Beeghly Center.

The crowd was the fourth-largest in Beeghly Center history.

The game, broadcast live on ESPN, ended in the Penguins' favor, with a score of 64-60. The Penguins never trailed in the game, and many students said the game lived up to the hype.

Freshman Chad Mullins said he was excited to attend the nationally televised game.

"It's crazy. I always wanted to be on ESPN. I'm supporting my school and we are going to upset Cleveland State," Mullins said.

In the first half of play, the Penguins got the ball rolling with an early message by senior Jack Liles. Liles dunked the rock to put the Penguins up early 4-0.

The Penguins played good defense early in the game. Junior DeAndre Mays was the benefactor of a steal and a fast break layup to extend the lead to 12-7.

The Penguins went up in the first half by as many as nine points, but they didn't put the Vikings out of the game for long. The Penguins got sloppy toward the end of the first half and saw their nine-point lead disappear as the Vikings tied the game at 23-23 with a basket by Cedric Jackson.

The Penguins regained the lead on a basket made by Liles. The Penguins went into halftime with a 29-25 lead. In the first half, the Penguins forced eight turnovers, which led to 10 points. The Penguins shot 37.5 percent from the field. The Vikings out-rebounded the Penguins by a 23-19 margin, and both teams shot five out of

"It's crazy. I always wanted to be on ESPN. I'm supporting my school and we are going to upset Cleveland State."

Chad Mullins, freshman

seven from the free-throw line.

The second half brought intensity to Beeghly Center it has not seen in years, as the Penguins gave the home fans a great game. Junior Sirlester Martin got the Penguins started early in the second half as he made a deep three-pointer and followed it up with an impressive dunk over a Vikings defender to put the Penguins up 36-31.

The second half was a back-and-forth fight as both teams took punches, but never went down. After an up-and-under bucket by Liles, Jackson connected on a three-pointer to trim the lead to 39-38. The Vikings would play catch-up for the entire second half, but they could not quite catch the Penguins.

The Penguins stacked their lead up to seven as they went up 47-40. The Vikings started chipping into the lead as they crawled to 47-44 after two free throws by J'Nathan Bullock, a key player for the Vikings. Bullock tried to keep his Vikings in the game as he would go on to have a monster night for the Vikings with 19 points and 14 rebounds.

Despite Bullock's huge night, the Penguins continued to chug along as they pushed the lead back up to eight after a jumper

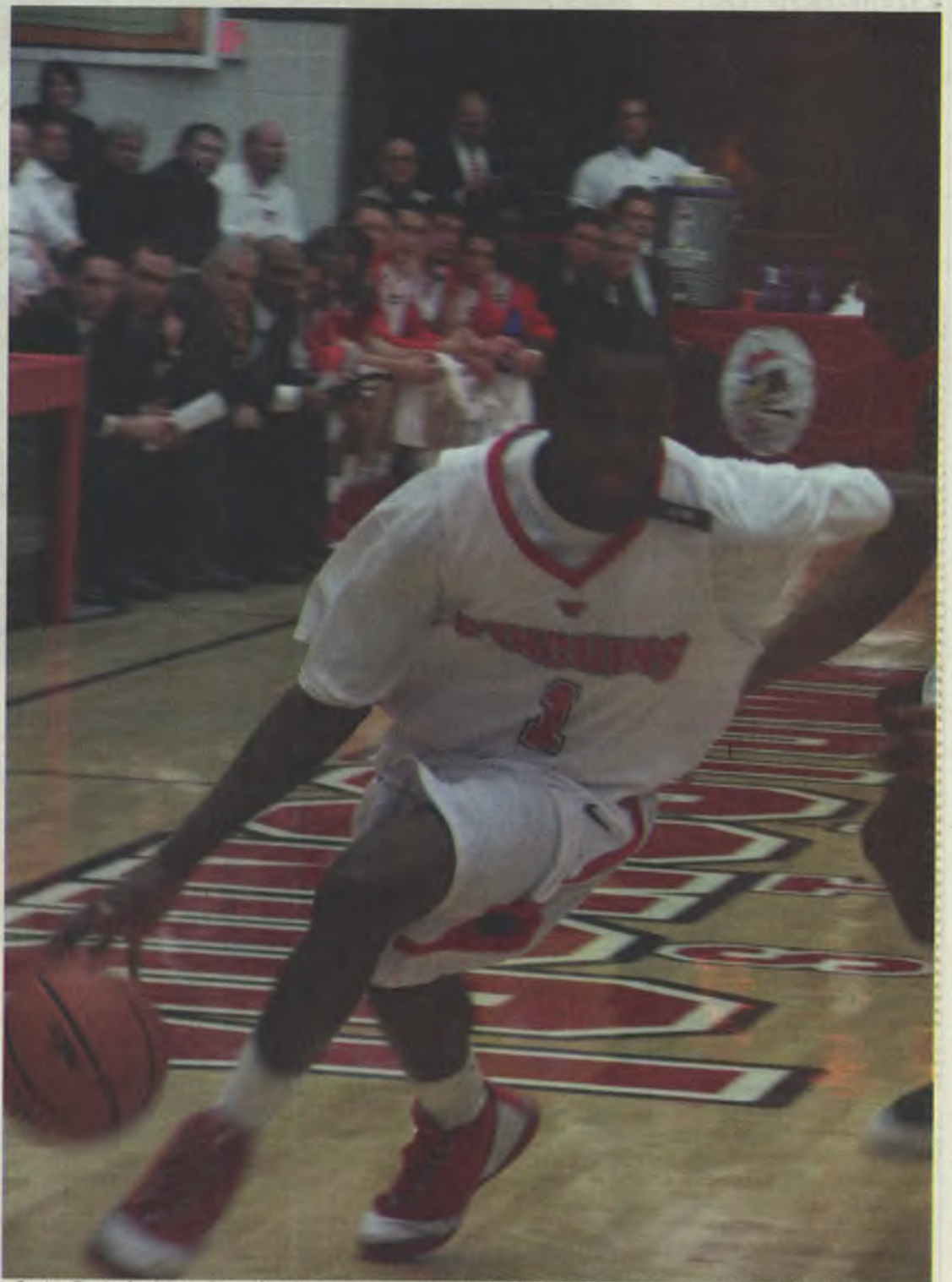
from Mays; this put the Penguins up 54-46. The Penguins were up 60-52 with 2:23 left in the game and looked poised to cruise toward a win. However, the Vikings would not go down easily as they went on a 7-1 run to trim the lead to 61-59.

The Penguins shot free throws poorly toward the end as they missed four out of six free throws to keep the Vikings alive. A foul by Mays would put the Vikings on the line for two free throws by Norris Cole.

Cole made the first free throw, but a lane violation turned the ball over to the Penguins with two seconds remaining. Senior Jack Liles would ice the game for the Penguins as he sealed the last two points of the game with two clinching free throws.

The Penguins' key statistic for the game was the poor three-point shooting from the Vikings; they shot a dismal 11 percent on two for 17 shooting. The Penguins got away with shooting only 57 percent from the free-throw line, on 15 for 26 shooting.

Four Penguins scored in double figures as Liles led with 18 points, on seven for 11 shooting. Mays scored 16 points, Martin scored 15 and leading scorer Kelvin Bright scored 10.



Junior DeAndre Mays drives hard to the hoop as he tries to score against a Cleveland State defender.

Photo by Lester Salter/Jambar

Akron defeats YSU, 67-53



YSU held a eight-point lead in the first half but could not hold on to it as they trailed 29-27 after the first half. The Penguins tied the game at 33-33 but could not catch up in the second half as the Zips pulled away and won the game.



Photo by Sam Mathalik/Jambar

Hockey team hit hard by injuries after solid start

Josh Stipanovich
SPORTS REPORTER

After starting the season off to an 11-4 record with the top spot in the College Hockey Mid-America conference, the Youngstown State University men's hockey club has lost seven of their last eight games and now sits at third in the conference heading into the final month of play.

Injuries are common for every team in sports, and that is what the Penguins have fallen victim to with eight games left in the regular season.

The injuries began with junior forward Greg Eggleston, one of the team's leading scorers, when he suffered a spinal concussion that put him in the hospital for three days. He is still recovering from the injury and his status is day-to-day. Junior forward Geno Clayton is out for the rest of the season with a broken ankle and junior forward Naaman Moorman is out for Saturday's game after a suspension for fighting.

Moorman was called for the fighting penalty in the same game that Eggleston was injured. Head coach Rocky Russo said after the injury to Eggleston, some of the team lost their composure.

With these injuries, the Penguins will rely on their younger

players to help the team make a push toward the playoffs.

"We're going to utilize the bodies we have," Russo said.

Coach Russo said the defensive zone and team discipline are going to be two things he will focus on for the remainder of the season. He also added that the last eight games could be expected to be more conservative, tight and defensive games.

"Hopefully, we can do this and win the league," Russo said.

The Penguins had their chance to do so as they played back-to-back road games on Friday and Saturday, but the struggles continued after losing 7-2 on Friday and 10-4 on Saturday.

"Team defense is lacking and an overall sense of urgency is just not present," Russo said. "We will need to regroup this week and get back to fundamentals."

Some positive notes on last weekend's losses are that senior forward Dave Cornich and senior goalie Matt Jacob, who was forced to play forward due to the injuries, scored their first goals of the season. Other players performing well for the Penguins include senior forward Bob Walla and first-year YSU player James Fougne.

The Penguins will be back on home ice as they host Mercyhurst College at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Ice Zone.

YSU hockey schedule:

YSU at John Carroll, Jan. 30

YSU vs. Mercyhurst College, Jan. 31