

# The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

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## Kasich pushes jobs, renewable energy in State of State

Governor Kasich awards his Courage Medal to Theresa Flores, after overcoming a life filled with the abuse, pain and exploitation associated with being a victim of human trafficking. Photo by Kacy Standohar/The Jambar.

Jordan D. Uhl  
NEWS EDITOR

After a hard few years in the labor market, Ohio is back open for business.

That's the message Gov. John Kasich delivered at his State of the State address to a crowded auditorium at Wells Academy in Steubenville on Tuesday.

By moving the address out of the state house for the first time in its existence, Kasich used the venue change to tout the highest performing elementary school in the state in an area with an emerging energy market.

"Clean it and burn it," Kasich said, in reference to the area's booming coal businesses.

Kasich also addressed fracking, which was met with vocal opposition from members of the crowd.

"John Kasich is selling out Ohio,"

shouted one protester.

Others joined her, and the handful in the balcony that interrupted the speech were quickly escorted out by members of the Department of Homeland Security.

Kasich said Ohioans should embrace natural and renewable energy resources, which, if done correctly, could decrease the state's reliance on foreign oil.

"If America can't have a policy that makes us energy independent, we'll let Ohio create an energy policy that makes us independent."

Despite the protester's concerns, Kasich voiced his opinion on the environmental impact of the shale boom.

"You cannot degrade the environment at the same time you're producing [natural gas]," Kasich said.

For a speech applauding educational accomplishments, discussion of higher education initiatives was dainty, with no new initiatives being introduced. Kasich

simply reiterated plans previously announced by Board of Regents Chancellor Jim Petro.

"Forty-one percent [of kids] graduating from K-12 are taking remedial math and English ... when they get to college," Kasich said. "It drives up the cost of college."

However, a study released by the Board of Regents in August 2006 reads "remedial courses account for 3.6 [percent] of total undergraduate costs," and remedial courses costs \$2,716 less than regular undergraduate courses, on average.

Kasich said remediation also leads to high drop out rates among first year students.

The study also indicated higher drop out rates among students enrolled in remedial courses their first year of college.

In 2011, 38 percent of first-year YSU students didn't return for their sophomore

KASICH PAGE 2



SPORTS 8



Jambar calendar is back

ONLINE

State of the State photo slideshow



ONLINE

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## YSU offers benefits for domestic partnerships

Marissa McIntyre  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Upon finding out that the love of her life had multiple sclerosis, L.J. Tessier, professor of philosophy and religious studies, wanted nothing more than to be able to take care of her family.

The only problem was, at the time she found out, Youngstown State University did not extend benefits to faculty members in same-sex relationships.

Tessier and her partner, Tara McKibben, have been in a relationship for over 22 years and have shared a home together on the city's North Side since 1991.

"I refuse to get married if it will not be recognized," Tessier said.

But she still wanted the ability to take care of her family.

Julia Gergits, YSU-OEA president and English professor, said that negotiations began in 2002 to make an agreement that would allow faculty members' same-sex partners to use their benefits.

Tom Shipka, professor of philosophy and religious studies, was chairman of the Academic Senate at the time the proposal to allow insurance benefits for same-sex partners was going through the approval process.

BENEFITS PAGE 4

## Students want something new from RHA

Josh Medore  
REPORTER

Students living in the dorms are concerned that events held by the Residence Hall Association are going unnoticed, not well advertised and, perhaps, not the best way to spend students' money.

RHA President Mihiri Meepegama said the spring formal costs \$1,500, half of the RHA budget, and is funded directly from Youngstown State University housing fees.

The 850 students living on campus contribute as part of their rent, but not every resident attends the events.

"It's not much," RHA Vice

President Anna Kolar said. "Maybe \$5."

RHA planned on 70 students attending the spring formal last year. Meepegama said about 100 students attended, pricing the event at \$15 per student.

Meepegama said the RHA expects another 100 to attend the spring formal this year.

Kilcawley House resident Kara Malberti will not be attending. She doesn't think that many people will go and that the money could be used on other things.

"Focus more on each house and getting to know people better," Malberti said.

Kolar said "the programs that we do go well," but that she would like better communication with students and encourages them to offer suggestions.

Chris Cargill, a senior living in Kilcawley House, said he's not sure what events he'll attend, but he will try to go to some.

"I may try to go [to the spring formal]. It should be good for residents to go and have fun," Cargill said.

RHA officials said marketing and advertising haven't produced the turnout they've hoped for.

"I feel that a lot of the residents either don't know what's going on or, even when we go over the top, they just don't care," Kolar said.

Freshman Bryan Cataldo

RHA PAGE 4

## YSU alumna murdered in Canfield

Jambar Staff Report

Youngstown State University alumna Stacey Sutera was murdered outside her Canfield apartment just off Fairgrounds Boulevard on Wednesday morning.

Police Chief Chuck Colucci told the Vindicator that authorities said she was shot multiple times entering her vehicle. Police suspect Robert McLaughlin of Painseville, who was charged with aggravated murder on Wednesday.

WYTV reported that witnesses believe McLaughlin was waiting for Sutera to leave for work that morning. Neighbors heard multiple gunshots. Sutera reportedly attempted to drive away, hitting other cars in the process.

Sutera graduated summa cum laude from the Beeghly College of Education in 2008 with a bachelor of science in education. She was an employee of Mahoning County Career and Technical Center and worked at Columbiana High School from 2009 to 2010.



MCLAUGHLIN

McLaughlin, 64, served time for stalking Sutera last year and has several other felony charges.

McLaughlin pleaded guilty to charges of telephone harassment, three counts of pandering obscenity and three counts of possessing criminal tools, a felony charge, in 2010.

Judge Maureen A. Sweeney of Mahoning County Common Pleas Court sentenced McLaughlin to refrain from



SUTERA

verbally or physically contacting the alleged victim. McLaughlin was also ordered to stay out of Mahoning County and remain in Lake County, according to the court documents.

McLaughlin pleaded guilty to menacing by stalking in December 2010 in Canfield and was sentenced to six months in jail.

McLaughlin is also involved in an open civil suit with the victim.

In an affidavit filed in that case, Sutera alleged that McLaughlin published websites accusing her of having an affair with one of her students, and being an alcoholic, promiscuous and infected with sexually transmitted diseases.

She also alleged that McLaughlin sent the contents of those websites to schools, public residences and business establishments in Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties.

The dispute, scheduled for a judgment hearing in March, will remain unresolved after Sutera's death.

McLaughlin was charged with the aggravated murder of Sutera on Wednesday. An arrest warrant, filed with the Mahoning County Clerk of Courts, reported McLaughlin is ex-military, armed and dangerous. No arrests were made as of 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Her current and former co-workers at MCCTC and Columbiana High school mourn for her family.

## Managing your cloud Websites seek to end illegal downloads

Kevin Alquist  
NEWS REPORTER

Rather than downloading music illegally, Internet users can now use services such as Spotify, iTunes Match cloud, Google Music and the Amazon Cloud.

Through these services, users can stream music through a mobile device or computer to create a playlist that is saved in the "cloud."

The cloud, Brandon Adams said, is a term used for a location on the Web where data, such as digital music, is stored. Users add to their playlists from the digital library, or the cloud.

Adams, a graduate of Pittsburgh Technical Institute and a Youngstown State University undergraduate, added that users can access saved data from the cloud using their mobile device.

"Programs like these can exist because every device is connected to the Internet now," Adams said.

The changes in digital music have introduced new ideas of music

ownership, which are split into two categories: digital lockers and subscription.

Spotify and Rhapsody allow users the ability to stream an unlimited amount of songs.

Digital lockers allow users to store their iTunes music collection, for example, online and stream it to any computer or mobile device connected to the Internet.

"The music no longer is loaded onto the user's device as a file," Adams said. "Songs are streamed from the cloud via Internet connection."

Subscriptions typically range from \$5 to \$10 a month, while some charge annual rates of around \$25. Most services provide a free version of their program that includes commercials and storage limits.

Mark Welton, data security supervisor at YSU, said though music can be listened to from a cloud service, it can't be downloaded from computers connected to YSU's network.

"Illegal services like BitTorrent are blocked by university computers for liability reasons, but cloud services like Spotify or Google Music

are operated through a Web browser, so they are allowed," Welton said.

PacketLogic, a policy enforcement software by ProCera, is the application used to block certain protocols that programs such as BitTorrent use to download music.

"The PacketLogic software is installed on computers university-wide because YSU is responsible for anything downloaded on its computers," Welton said.

Though there are ways to get around the software through encryption, or making information unreadable, Walton said the university has to make an attempt to stop what it can.

"YSU is liable on copyright laws if no action is taken to stop illegal downloading on campus computers," Welton said. "Our software prioritizes what is allowed and what is not."

Though the university doesn't actively try to catch downloaders, data security will receive a notice from the copyright holder, and the downloader will be notified.

Michal Fraczek, a former resi-

dent of Kilcawley House, said the policy enforcement software does not pick up certain websites, such as Mp3Raid.com.

Fraczek said he has used Spotify, but still prefers illegal programs like LimeWire.

"My problem with Spotify is that I can't transfer the songs on to my iPod once I download them," Fraczek said.

Lyden House resident Brennan Haynes also said he prefers having music of his own, even if it's obtained illegally.

"I've used the cloud services," Haynes said. "It just isn't as easy as searching for a song, downloading it and having it permanently."

John Baker, a Kilcawley House resident, said he uses iTunes and Pandora Radio to listen to music when he is in his dorm.

"I haven't tried downloading anything illegal because it's not going to work consistently," Baker said.

Baker said he has never had any issues obtaining music legally while on campus.

### KASICH PAGE 1

year. Kasich appointed Ohio State University President Gordon Gee to lead a coordinated effort with other state university presidents to increase graduation rates statewide.

"Some of our graduation rates are four-year graduation rates; they're just wrong," Kasich said. "After four years, 14 percent graduation rate? We can't have that in Ohio."

He said he hopes universities will coordinate the establishment of new facilities and programs in the future to avoid competition with each other.

Gee addressed his aspirations for the plan in a release.

"By forging new partnerships ... we have an unlimited potential to transform our state," Gee said. "Ohio State is proud to be a committed partner in these efforts."

State Sen. Joe Schiavoni (D-33) pointed out how the Board of Regents' plan to increase the number of three-year degrees was absent. He criticized the cuts made at the expense of education.

"I realize that cuts need to be made, but you have to make cuts strategically," Schiavoni said. "[But] cuts in education, I don't think that's the place to go."

In the speech Kasich also proposed initiatives in the form of tackling human trafficking in Ohio, expanding and speeding up Ohio's broadband network, reforming and investing in K-12 education and the rapid growth of Medicaid costs, which burdens the state's budget.

"Four percent of the Medicaid population makes up 50 percent of the cost," Kasich said.

He added that he feels coordinated care efforts can help alleviate the financial burden the program places on the state budget.

Kasich also heralded his

JobsOhio bill, which he claims launched Ohio from 48th in the country in job creation to ninth. He also praised the work of his administration and congress for nearly closing the \$8 billion budget deficit.

"In six months, we eliminated an \$8 billion budget shortfall without a tax increase," Kasich said. "In fact, we cut taxes by \$300 million."

For Youngstown, he reminded the crowd that unemployment rates have dropped roughly three points in the past year.

"The Mahoning Valley is alive again," Kasich said.

He credited V&M Star's expansion and the General Motors Lordstown facility for being integral parts in the area's growth.

Schiavoni was reluctant to applaud JobsOhio, waiting to see the long term effects of the legislation, but said he feels it was passed with good intentions.

"A lot of democrats will argue they don't like the setup of JobsOhio. I hope we'll see more jobs. I'm cheering for it. I don't care if it's democrat or republican," he said.

Shortly after the speech, local democrats were quick to pounce.

"The effervescence of Gov. Kasich was pervasive throughout his speech," State Sen. Capri Cafaro (D-32) said. "It seemed to be more retrospective of the last year than a prospective on what's to come as far as policy initiatives."

Schiavoni equated the speech to a "highlight reel of all the good things going on in Ohio," but was reluctant to praise Kasich for anything substantial.

"I think he was overboard. He didn't give very specific plans for how the state's going to move forward for all the grandiose ideas that he had," Schiavoni said. He said that he felt Kasich's examination of privatizing the Ohio turn-

pike was a bad idea, although Kasich still hasn't made a decision as to what the state will do.

"I think the turnpike is an asset we need to keep," Schiavoni said.

Kasich's republican colleagues flocked to his defense.

"I've been around since '67, and that was one of the best State of the State addresses I've heard in that time," William Batchelder, (R-69) Speaker of the House, said.

Batchelder praised the governor's accomplishments with closing the budget deficit.

"It was monumental," Batchelder said.

"I'll tell you how the deficit was closed," Sen. Nina Turner (D-25) said. "It was closed on the backs of local governments."

Another one of Kasich's underlying themes throughout the address was a spirit of bipartisanship in Columbus to accomplish the initiatives he introduced.

"I think you got to steer clear of mindless partisanship," Kasich said. "They don't give you awards for being partisan."

Still, Schiavoni remained unconvinced based on prior unsuccessful attempts to work with Kasich.

"You couldn't even get in his door," Schiavoni said. "He always says come to him, but he never seems to work with you unless you vote for something that he's in favor of. Then he thanks you for working with him. But it doesn't go the other way."

Schiavoni said he finds it problematic.

"I hope it's something we can work on," he said.

Cafaro, who was mentioned in his address as a leader in health care initiatives, said she remains skeptical, too.

"I certainly hope he puts his money where his mouth is," Cafaro said.

## YSU employees clock Into a new Web-based timesheet

### STUDENT EMPLOYEMENT DATA

1408 Total students employed



Number of hourly wage positions filled  
Number of stipend positions filled

GRAPHIC BY KEVIN BUCK/THE JAMBAR

Christopher Kochera  
REPORTER

All employees of Youngstown State University, including student employees, will notice a new timesheet system in the coming months. Instead of submitting a time card on paper, employees will submit information using their YSU Banner ID.

Jack Fahey, vice president for student affairs, said the transition from paper timesheets to Web-based timesheets, known as Web time entry, will reduce processing errors.

"It will be much easier and less time consuming for departments, especially large departments, to do biweekly student payroll," he said.

The new timesheet system will save paper and allow employees to view and sign their timesheets more conveniently, Fahey said.

Paul Kobulnicky, executive assistant to the vice president for finance and administration, said employees will access their timesheets via the MyYSU Portal.

"Employees will fill out a timesheet as they do now, but the timesheet will be a form on the Web that is as personal to them as their paper timesheet is now," Kobulnicky said. "Once the employee submits their Web

timesheet, it moves electronically to the employee's supervisor to be approved or sent back for correction."

Kobulnicky said the new system allows students to fill out and submit timesheets anywhere they have Internet access — even on smartphones.

"Did you forget to submit your timesheet before you left for spring break? No problem if you have Internet access from your Cancun hot tub," he said.

Employees can expect to see the new system in place by the beginning of fall semester. However, some employees could start using it as early as summer.

Ashley Bundy, a student assistant in the economics department, said she likes the idea of the Web-based timesheet, as it will save time and paper.

"It will cut down on wasted paper, especially envelopes used to transport the timesheets," she said. "We have a giant timesheet with lots of space, but we only use one row."

Kobulnicky said other universities already use the Web time entry system for their employees.

"It is the way that the employees of most universities and large businesses enter time worked," he said. "We are just catching up."

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# Jambar

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## 2012 YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Proverb of the Month: "Rising early makes the road short." Wolof proverb, Senegal

**Saturday, February 4**  
Noon-6:00 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center  
**THE AFRICAN MARKETPLACE**  
The Marketplace is one of the popular attractions of African American History Month at YSU. In the tradition of an African weekly market, vendors from the community and neighborhoods near and far beyond Ohio bring goods, artistic creations, clothing, books, jewelry and ancient artifacts from Africa and the African Diaspora. The festive and social atmosphere is enlivened by the music and dance performances of the versatile and dynamic Harambee Youth Group.

**Saturday, February 18**  
7:30 p.m. The Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center  
ENTERTAINMENT BY GROUP FROM NEW JERSEY  
**THE FACES OF BLACK HISTORY**  
The Prospect Theatrics of Newark, New Jersey is a drama group that has been performing all over the nation, bringing to life on stage the major contribution of African Americans to America from slavery to the first African American President of the United States. This live musical show salutes many well known celebrities, personalities and history makers in an entertaining and educational format for all ages. In an eclectic musical mix, this year's production includes a tribute to Michael Jackson and a salute to the Tuskegee Airmen.

**Thursday, February 9**  
5:00 p.m. Reception, Bliss Hall Art Gallery  
6:00 p.m., Panel Discussion, The McDonough Museum of Art  
**RECEPTION AND PANEL DISCUSSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTIC DISPLAY THE ART OF LOUIS BURROUGHS**  
Louis Burroughs' art is motivated by current events and what he calls "the nation's obsession with religion, sports and global domination." Influenced by the paintings of Jean Michael Basquiat and Robert Colescott as well as the forms and shapes of African masks and sculptures, his art is rooted in the African American experience, dating from the sixteenth century to the present. The narrative represents the struggle of African Americans against oppression, servitude, subjugation and enslavement of any type.

**Tuesday, February 21**  
7:30 p.m. The Gallery Room, Kilcawley Center  
**LECTURE BY SHAWN WILLIAMS: "BLOGGING WHILE BLACK"**  
With the rise in visibility and popularity of a black presidential candidate in Barack Obama in 2008, African Americans learned quickly to communicate their concerns through blogging. Bloggers who were not used to seeing African American bloggers often misunderstood black bloggers' message, while others downplayed the significance or urgency of their concerns, while others perceived them as generally antagonistic. "Blogging While Black" conveys the experiences of the speaker and other online bloggers and provides tips for journalists who want to make inroads in their use of the social media. Shawn Williams is an outstanding journalist who has contributed to major newspapers around the country and participated in numerous bloggers' roundtable discussions. Williams is a graduate of Texas A&M University and a recipient of a President's Achievement Award for 1992-1996.

**Saturday, February 11**  
11:00 a.m. St. Andrews A.M.E. Church,  
521 Earle Avenue, Youngstown  
**AFRICAN FITNESS DANCE CLASS**  
Dance for a Cure is the initiative of Educare Group Inc., under the leadership of Eboni Bogan. Its goal is to raise awareness in the fight against breast cancer. Donations are \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth.

**Sunday, February 26**  
6:00 p.m. The Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center  
**AN EVENING OF GOSPEL JAZZ**  
The precious gems of jazz and gospel, both of which are profoundly rooted in the rich heritage of the African American cultural experience, have been around for a long time. Join us as we explore these rich traditions through some of our most gifted and talented YSU students—and a special guest to be revealed that evening. This event is free and open to the public.

**Monday, February 13**  
7:30 p.m. Jones Room, Kilcawley Center  
**KEYNOTE LECTURE BY HEIDI DURO: THE BIRACIAL/MIXED EXPERIENCE**  
Heidi W. Barrow is a New York Times best-selling author of *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky*, a coming of age story of a young, biracial girl growing up in the 1980s in Portland, Oregon. Based loosely upon elements of Duro's own life, the story has captivated readers across the nation, landing on the Indie Bestseller List and receiving an NAACP Image Award nomination. In 2008, *The Girl Who Fell from the Sky* received the Bellwether Prize for literature of social change. Ms. Duro is a graduate of Stanford University, Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism, and the Yale Law School. A book signing and reception will follow the lecture.

For more information contact the Africana Studies Program at 330-941-3097

Event co-sponsored by: FOX 33, CW 22, WINN, The Vindicator, and others.

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**English chairman receives national honor**

Gary Salvner, professor and chairman of the YSU English Department, received the Ted Hipple Service Award by ALAN, the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the National Council of Teachers of English at its national convention in Chicago. The Ted Hipple Service Award is named after ALAN's founding executive secretary, who served in that position for 26 years. The award is given annually to an individual who has provided exemplary service to ALAN and to the field of young adult literature. Salvner succeeded Hipple as the second executive secretary of ALAN, serving in that capacity for a decade. He also served on the organization's board for more than 15 years — including a term as president.

**Feb. 15 marks deadline for Women's Club scholarship apps**

Apply by 5 p.m. on Feb. 15 for the \$1,000 Youngstown State University Women's Club scholarship and the \$1,000 Martha Kryston Shuster Memorial Scholarship. The Women's Club scholarship, which is based primarily on need, will be awarded to full-time female students who have a GPA of at least 3.3, have completed a minimum of 31 semester hours and have declared a major. The Martha Kryston Shuster Scholarship, which is based primarily on academic performance, and is awarded in memory of a former YSU employee and Women's Club president, provides \$1,000 awards to one male and one female undergraduate student, and one graduate student. Undergraduates must have a GPA of at least 3.3 and have completed a minimum of 31 semester hours at YSU. Graduate students must have completed one-third of their degree requirements and have a GPA of at least 3.5. Both scholarships require applicants to write a short essay that explains their academic and career objectives. Application forms are available at [www.ysu.edu/finaid/scholarships](http://www.ysu.edu/finaid/scholarships) or from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships in Meshel Hall. Direct applications to Denise Walters Dobson, chairwoman of the committee, in Moser Hall, Room 2325.

**POLICE BRIEFS**

**Student suffers seizure in University Courtyard Apartments**

YSU Police reported Monday afternoon to the University Courtyard Apartments in reference to a woman having a seizure. An ambulance arrived and transported the woman to Northside Hospital for further evaluation.

**Strange man found in campus buildings**

Police arrested a man on Friday for trespassing on the YSU campus. He was first seen in Lincoln Hall and later chased through Cushwa Hall by the police. After being caught in Cushwa, the man resisted arrest and was eventually placed in handcuffs. The man was charged with criminal trespassing and resisting arrest.



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**BENEFITS PAGE 1**

"Two campus unions had tried unsuccessfully to secure domestic partner benefits in contract negotiations over the years, and that's why I took the Senate route," Shipka said in an email.

"My role, historically, on domestic partner benefits at YSU was to propose approval of it by the Academic Senate and then by the YSU Board of Trustees. As I recall, the Senate approved it unanimously," Shipka added.

It was officially added into employee contracts in 2005.

Today Tessier and other faculty members can use their insurance benefits for their partners as married couples do.

To prove Tessier and McKibben are together, they had to fill out a form with Human Resources, which included a "promise of punishment" section in case they were not together.

"They even check if married couples are still married," Gergits said. "The university has the right to dismiss anyone who falsifies records of any kind."

One of McKibben's medications costs nearly \$4,000 for a 28-day supply. Prior to being diagnosed with MS she worked as a registered nurse and English teacher to Korean students. She is medically prevented from working now.

She takes a number of medications to control her symptoms and requires periodic treatment for multiple sclerosis exacerbations.

"For years, we were caught in a desperate double bind. Benefits at YSU were extended only to the spouses of married faculty. I, of course, was legally prevented from marrying Tara," Tessier said.

For a while Tessier and McKibben were able to purchase medication through a benefit created by friends.

"These funds eventually ran out, and without domestic partner benefits it would have been essential for me to relocate," Tessier said.

Tessier said it's more of an equity issue than a moral issue to her.

"I have the same basic right to protect my family and provide for them that my colleagues enjoy," Tessier said.

**RHA PAGE 1**

said it would be good for RHA to plan more.

"Anything fun, really. The movie night outside of Christman's was fun. Maybe if they did another one inside," Cataldo said. The YSU Office of Housing and Residence Life handled the Welcome Week movie night.

Toney Claytor, RHA treasurer, said students often don't realize who is putting on the event.

"We put up our posters through graphic services, and people just don't notice that it's RHA who's doing it," Claytor says.

Cataldo was one of those confused students.

He said the only event he knew about was "just the karaoke party," pointing at a Penguin Productions poster hanging in the Kilcawley House lobby.

Penguin Productions is a group separate from the RHA that also plans on-campus events.

Meepegama said all events have the same amount of advertising. RHA uses fliers, Facebook groups and Twitter. Kolar said the group

**Campus Connection**

What events would you like to see on campus?



"I would like to see more speakers on campus. I try to go to everything I hear about."  
- Donovan Beedie, sophomore



"Cookouts. Everyone loves food. With these I could go with friends and not by myself."  
- Amber Hissom, senior

plans to start advertising for the spring formal this week, and that RHA is open to suggestions.

"We encourage it, and we want people to tell us what they want," she said.

Effective interaction is another key component of the RHA's success.

"We need a better form of communication between

the student body and RHA," Kolar said. "Students need to come to RHA and tell us their ideas. We can only spend money the best way that we know how."

Meepegama said the RHA is planning three events in addition to the spring formal: a "Just Dance" party, a murder mystery and an RHA member auction.

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got an opinion?

## Enough is enough

The Jambar  
EDITORIAL BOARD

MURDER  
PAGE 1

Just two days after mourners flooded campus in remembrance of Jamail Johnson, who was killed in an off-campus shooting one year ago, YSU alumna Stacey Sutera was also shot and killed. This time the shooting occurred far from campus outside her Canfield residence.

Last week, another one of our own was hospitalized under still undetermined circumstances. He remained in critical condition for most of the weekend. The university said the incident also happened off campus.

The proximity to campus isn't the most worrisome element in each of these incidents.

They're all Penguins, and that bothers us.

In a town of 60,000, we grieve more than most. It doesn't have to be this way.

Gov. John Kasich stormed into town after Johnson's death last year, promising not "the moon," but "something" he could do to help.

Then Mayor Jay Williams decried that Johnson's life could "not be lost in vain."

Vanity is synonymous with arrogance, a not-so-distant cousin of apathy. And apathy has fueled fear of the criminal element in this town for some time now.

But not here.

"Youngstown State University is an oasis of safety," YSU President Cynthia Anderson said following Kasich's visit.

We don't doubt that campus is safe. But our students and alumni don't all live on campus.

Until the local government prioritizes violent crime and the governor comes through on his promises, we fear the criminal perception of Youngstown will forever shadow the safety of our university.

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SHENEMAN TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES



## Fighting for the civil rights of orcas

MCT Forum  
(MCT)

What excuse is given for denying some beings the protection afforded by the law? At various times in history, it has been race, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation or ethnicity. All these reasons boil down to essentially the same thing: Those other beings — the ones who were denied their rights to freedom, to marry whom they chose, to be educated, to worship as they wished, to work at the jobs of their choosing — were different from those in charge. The differences were more important than the similarities until someone went to court to challenge it.

This is what happened this week in the U.S. District Court in San Diego. But in this case, the difference is species. For the first time ever, a federal court is considering whether or not a constitutional amendment applies to five orca whales enslaved by SeaWorld.

There is no question that these five animals are being held in involuntary servitude. They need and deserve the protection afforded by the Constitution.

Plaintiffs Tilikum, Katina, Kasatka, Ulises and Corky — or-

cas now confined to suffocatingly small concrete tanks at SeaWorld in Orlando, Fla., and San Diego — were heard on Monday through their attorneys in this first-ever case to assert that a constitutional right should extend to nonhuman animals. The legal team, led by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals general counsel Jeffrey Kerr and PETA's outside litigation counsel, civil rights attorney Philip Hirschkop — who argued the landmark Loving v. Virginia case that declared unconstitutional the laws banning interracial marriage — argued that SeaWorld is holding the orcas against their will in violation of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution's ban on slavery. The suit was brought on the orcas' behalf by PETA, three marine-mammal experts and two former SeaWorld trainers.

In this case, as in the others, what matters is not the difference between the enslaved and the enslavers. As Mr. Kerr stated in court, slavery does not depend on the species of the slave any more than it depends on race, gender or ethnicity. "Coercion, degradation and subjugation characterize slavery, and these orcas have endured all three," he argued.

Indeed they have. These intel-

ligent, complex orcas, who have their own language and customs that they would pass on to their young and who should be swimming a hundred miles every day, have instead spent three decades incarcerated in tiny pens and being ordered by humans in orca-colored wetsuits to leap for dead fish. They were forcibly taken from their families and homes and are held captive at amusement parks where they are denied everything in life that matters to them. They cannot make the simplest choices for themselves. They cannot eat, associate with others of their own kind or even swim except when allowed to by their captors. They have involuntarily lined the pockets of SeaWorld's owners and have been subjected to artificial insemination or sperm collection in order to breed more performers for more SeaWorld shows for more profit.

This is the very definition of slavery.

When human animals violate the 13th Amendment, it should not matter that the enslaved are nonhuman animals. If the court's ruling reflects this, the case will go to trial. The five orcas have had one day in court in this precedent-setting case. They deserve more. They deserve their freedom.

## Should the world bribe Ecuador to protect that country's rain forests?

McClatchy-Tribune  
News Service  
(MCT)

One-fifth of the world's proven reserves of oil lie in South America, much of it underneath or near the vast Amazon basin. At the rim of that basin, in remotest eastern Ecuador, perhaps a billion barrels of recoverable crude lurk below Yasuni National Park. Here the Amazon, the Andes Mountains and the equator combine to create a lush climate ideal for plants and wildlife. Few if any locations on Earth are as pristine and biodiverse: The continent of North America has fewer tree species than you'll find in a patch of Yasuni the size of three football fields.

Ecuador, though, is a poor country. Pumping the oil would bring it considerable wealth. But exploration, extraction and shipment of the crude also would inject industrial roads, heavy machinery and, most menacing of all, humans to untouched rain forests that for eons have parlayed their isolation into self-protection.

Ecuador's president, Rafael Correa, offers a trade: If those in the developed world who understand the importance of rain forests give Ecuador enough money, he pledges that his nation will leave Yasuni essentially as is. Oil drilling begone.

Correa's plan, the Yasuni ITT Initiative, seeks some \$3.6 billion over 13 years. That's about half the estimated value of the oil. If the rest

of the world complies, the United Nations Development Programme would devote it to renewable energy projects, rain forest preservation and assistance to settlements in and near the park. So far, a few governments and individuals have met an initial, Dec. 31 deadline for promising more than \$100 million.

Viewed uncharitably, this is extortion: Ecuador demands protection money no less brazenly than Outfit mobsters and other violent gangs have demanded protection money on the streets of Chicago.

Or is Correa, viewed unemotionally, offering the rest of the world something of obvious value, and — like all of us who expect to be paid for the goods or services we provide — forthrightly asking for compensation in return? "We're renouncing an immense sum of money (for the crude)," he told Time. "For us, the most financially lucrative option is to extract the gasoline."

That's blunt. It's also accurate. Ecuador is a veteran oil exporter that knows how to exploit the Yasuni deposits. Yet the nation also bears vivid environmental scars from prior oil exportation. It's in everyone's interest to have Ecuador focus its future extraction on using new methods to better drain its existing oil fields. If the nation pursues that strategy, Yasuni ITT director Dr. Ivonne Baki told Forbes magazine last fall, "the additional environmental impact is relatively low, and profits can compete with those from new blocks that could thereby remain untouched —

hence promoting the conservation of the most sensitive areas, such as Yasuni National Park."

For Americans, the essence of Ecuador's proposal should strike familiar chords: Metropolitan Chicago, for example, has Morton Arboretum in Lisle because a salt company magnate thought enough of its natural amenities to make it a sanctuary. The analogy is inexact, but Joy Morton put potential profit where his heart was: He might just as easily have sold the land for development.

This would be just the sort of financial commitment that, in normal times, governments like those of the U.S. and Europe might easily make. Environmentalists worldwide would applaud. Trouble is, one side effect of the enormous debts now confronting those governments is that it's much harder to justify just this sort of expenditure — even of a relatively small amount such as \$3.6 billion.

Saving the Yasuni, its animals and its flora, though, is a project ideal for private foundations or conservation groups to lead — and for many of us, as individuals, to join. The park is worth the trouble. And Ecuador has a point: All of us who benefit from the environmental cleansing performed by rain forests and other hard-working habitats — many of them in impoverished countries — should be willing to help protect them. To paraphrase President Correa: The way to advance conservation is to make sure that poor countries benefit from conservation.

## 'If we're going to hell, at least we'll all be there together'

### Gay rights activist raises awareness

Chad Travers

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT  
REPORTER

Gary Daniels, associate director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Ohio, spoke to Youngstown State University students on Tuesday afternoon in Kilcawley Center's Ohio Room.

Originally a Youngstown resident, Daniels served as the Ohio ACLU's litigation coordinator for several years before becoming the organization's associate director and head of the Columbus regional office.

He holds a seat on the board of the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education and has been a board member of the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless.

Daniels spoke to students on the topic of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights, both in Ohio and at the national level.

His lecture focused on the state of GLBT rights today and where he and his organization believe the issue is heading.

Daniels said he believes that it is the older, more conservative generation that is relatively less accepting of gay rights.

"If you look at polling, it's easy to see that most of these things are non-issues to the younger generations. Gays and lesbians getting married, gays and lesbians adopting, gays and lesbians in school; most younger people don't see what the big deal is," Daniels said.

Thirty states currently have constitutional amendments against gay marriage, and in 2012, six more states are putting the issue on November's ballot. Only six states have legislation that permits gay marriage.

Daniels said he feels that progress is being made, though.

The emergence of gay/straight-alliance groups and LGBT support organizations points to a society that is slowly becoming more accepting.

"The GLBT movement is still young," Daniels said. "There hasn't



Gary Daniels, associate director of the ACLU of Ohio, spoke on Tuesday in Kilcawley Center's Ohio Room about the future of gay rights. Photo by Chad Travers/The Jambar.

really been a GLBT movement for very long — at least not a successful, vocal, visible one."

Daniels said he sees the visibility of gays and lesbians in popular culture as a contributing force in driving the movement forward.

"It was a big deal when Ellen [DeGeneres] came out of the closet on her TV show. There was so much ink spent writing about that particular incident, but look where we are now. Is it a big deal to have a gay or lesbian character in the cast of a sitcom? No, I think it's actually more of a big deal to not have a gay character on a TV show," Daniels said.

Daniels' most important advice is to "guard against complacency," and he urges people to contact their local legislators about gay rights issues.

"It's easy to become complacent, even for people inside the movement. Maybe they find themselves in a position where they're comfort-

able and feel accepted. It's easy to forget that there are a lot of people out there who aren't in that position," Daniels said.

YSU's gay-straight alliance, YSUUnity, cooperated with Youngstown Area PFLAG, an organization for parents and friends of lesbians and gays, to host Daniels' lecture.

"I'm so glad to be working with Youngstown Area PFLAG and the Unitarian Church. We're very happy to be co-sponsoring Mr. Daniels' lecture," said Ken Holt, president of YSUUnity.

Marguerite Felice, president of Youngstown Area PFLAG, said she is pleased with the progress her organization has made in publicizing gay and lesbian issues.

"We have monthly support meetings, and we're working with local school districts to promote safe schools for our kids," Felice said.

The Welcoming Congregation

of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown, a volunteer organization within the Unitarian church that seeks to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for people of all sexual orientations, was also involved in bringing Daniels to campus.

To become recognized as a Welcoming Congregation, a Unitarian church goes through a lengthy process of training and education to ensure a safe space for people of any sexual orientation.

Senior Molly Toth is a member of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown.

"We go through workshops and education before we can be considered a Welcoming Congregation. It took about three years before we were recognized. It's nice because so many other religions want nothing to do with these issues. We're an open and accepting congregation," Toth said.

## YSU student pursues hip-hop dream



Local rapper Keilyn Davis promotes his new hip-hop album, "Timing." Photo courtesy of Michael Krieger.

Chelsea Telega

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT  
EDITOR

Keilyn Davis describes himself as essentially introverted — a man with unwavering faith. He is on a mission to embrace his own pursuit of happiness through music, expression and the art of honesty.

"I'm a very private person, and I have a tough time talking about my emotions, or even past stuff, just anything. I have a hard time expressing myself through just talking," Davis said.

On stage, however, Davis shows his true colors.

"When I'm expressing myself on stage to music, I just let myself go," Davis said.

Davis started his hip-hop career two years ago. He began with a clean slate, experimenting with basic recording to piece his songs together.

The young musician did not have experience recording music, but took the initiative to learn from people who are involved in the field.

Davis showcased his music on the Internet and got the at-

ention of a Cleveland producer who passed his information on to a friend.

Michael Krieger became his representative through his western-based music industry, The Higher Plane. As their professional relationship grew, so did their friendship.

"It was really important to me that we continue to grow and connect on a personal level because we share the same Christian beliefs, and our values are the same," Krieger said.

Those values, Krieger said, are precisely what he thinks will make Davis successful. He said it is hard to come by an artist that is so grounded at the beginning of his career.

Davis said his biggest inspiration is Kanye West because his first album was so relatable and down to earth.

Krieger said Davis incorporates the same morality into his music.

"A lot of times he goes into a song and really has a concept behind it. He's always using his voice in every way he can. He's really found his voice," Krieger said.

Davis' first album, "My Pursuit of Happiness," was titled in honor of Will Smith's 2006 film. While watching the film, Davis said he felt like he was going through the same tribulations as the main character.

"Pretty much to strive for my goals and my dreams, but it's like everything is hindering you, and the whole world

is sitting on you, but you have to persevere through that."

Krieger said "My Pursuit of Happiness" is a strong album, and it has really helped Davis grow as an artist.

"In this project, he's showing off more of his diversity. He doesn't try to overwhelm people with his lyrics," Krieger said. "There are songs that are a bit more universal; there are still some songs that are catchy and relatable to the listener."

Davis said his album "Timing" is diverse, and that he is confident that people will enjoy it. He attributes his fame to his family, friends and God.

He said that, although he has been doing it for only a couple of years, he has accomplished an exponential amount.

"I feel like my faith has really taken me places that I could never imagine, and hopefully it will take me to even bigger places in the future," Davis said.

Krieger said he started at the "ground floor" with Davis, and the sky is the limit for this "up-and-coming" artist. He added that he has high hopes for Davis to achieve greatness.

Davis' main goal, he said, is overall contentment.

"My hope is make great music and to live comfortably. I was never in it for the fortune and the fame," he said. "If that comes with it, then so be it, but I want to make good music first and foremost and be happy."

# College sells morning-after pill from vending machine

L.A. Times  
MCT

LOS ANGELES — A central Pennsylvania college is surprised to find itself the center of media attention this week simply for selling Plan B, the so-called morning-after pill, from a vending machine.

After all, the machine has offered the pills for at least two years, said Peter Gigliotti, spokesman for Shippensburg University, a public school about 40 miles southwest of Harrisburg.

"This is nothing new," he said. "I have no idea why it's getting the reaction it's getting now."

But women's reproductive health has been a hot topic of late, and an Associated Press story on the vending machine was bound to get noticed.

Much is being made of the Obama administration's requirement that even Catholic organizations provide contraception coverage to employees via their health plans. The requirement has drawn sharp criticism from some corners, and signs of support from others.

On Tuesday, a Public Policy Polling survey conducted for Planned Parenthood reported that 56 percent of voters agreed that health plans should cover the cost of contraceptives. Further, it found, a majority of vot-

ers said Catholic institutions should not be exempted from the requirement.

And last week, Susan G. Komen for the Cure suffered a public relations debacle of epic proportions when the cancer group pulled funding from Planned Parenthood, a move many say was motivated by the health care organization's support for abortion services.

Gigliotti said the vending machine was installed at the urging of the school's student government after a survey found that 85 percent of students supported the effort.

"We value student input on matters that directly pertain to their health and safety, so these results were an important part of the decision-making process," he wrote in a statement.

The vending machine, which also dispenses condoms and pregnancy tests, is in a private room at the college's student clinic and is accessible only by students — all of whom are 17 or older, the age at which Plan B is available without a prescription.

"The university is not encouraging anyone to be sexually active," Gigliotti said in a statement. "The university does strongly encourage all students to make wise and appropriate decisions in their lives, but we have no way to ensure that happens."

The school does not subsidize the cost of the drug, which sells at \$25 a pop.

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## Perry rounds out HL POTW honors

Joe Catullo Jr.  
SPORTS EDITOR

On Monday, sophomore guard Kendrick Perry was honored as the Horizon League Player of the Week, making Youngstown State University the first school in HL history to have all of its starters named player of the week in one season.

Perry averaged 25.7 points, four assists and 3.7 steals per game in three games last week, earning his first player of the week award.

Perry said in Monday's press conference that he was more excited about getting two wins.

"It's always nice when hard work gets recognized, but I just wanted to do whatever it took for my team to win," Perry said. "I just tried to stay positive, stay hungry and do anything that was necessary for my team to be successful."

He ranks first in the conference in points per game (15.7) and third in assists per game (4.1).

The YSU men's basketball team finished 2-1 last week with wins over the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Loyola University Chicago. The team's lone loss was to the University of Illinois at Chicago.

The Penguins (13-10, 8-5 in the HL) began on Jan. 31 at the UWM with a 73-65 victory. Perry scored a career-

high 30 points and became the first YSU sophomore to score at least 30 points since Mike Alcorn on Feb. 24, 1992.

Head coach Jerry Slocum said he could not be more proud of how his team is competing in the HL.

"All five of those guys have made great strides in fundamentals and their improvements in their game, and they ought to be commended," Slocum said.

While all five players made history, their next focus is Thursday's home game against two-time national champion runner-up Butler University.

The Penguins fell to Butler on Jan. 15, 71-55.

"They're a very, very good basketball team," Slocum said.

"Ask Stanford, ask Purdue, ask all of those teams. If you don't come with your 'A'

game this week, you're not going to meet success."

Before the Bulldogs reached the NCAA National Championship last year, the Penguins were the last team to defeat them.

Perry hit the eventual game-winning 3-point field goal with 20.9 seconds left, lifting his team to a 62-60 victory.

"There's always going to be recollections, but it's a new year," Perry said. "Butler's going to come into this game hungry, and we just have to match their intensity."

The Bulldogs (13-12, 7-6) rank sixth in the conference, but could move to third after this week if everything falls into place.

Following Butler, the Penguins face Valparaiso University at Beeghly Center on Saturday.

Slocum said Valpo is the best in the league.

"I think Cleveland State's the best defensive team in the league," Slocum said. "I think Valpo is the best team in the league in terms of really good defensive pressure, but they also can score the basketball."

The Penguins fell to CSU on Jan. 28, 67-47, in front of 6,313 fans at Beeghly Center and shot 30.9 percent from the field (16.7 beyond the 3-point line).

Slocum added that Valpo and YSU have a similar offense.

"I think they're the only team in the league that can put five guys on the floor like us and can score the ball," he said.

Slocum added that the Penguins' eyes are on junior forward Kevin Van Wijk, who is averaging 15.1 points per game (third in the HL). He is first in the HL with a 62 percent field goal percentage.

Van Wijk scored 23 points and collected seven rebounds against the Penguins on Jan. 13. Valpo won, 76-62.

The Crusaders (17-8, 10-3) rank second in the conference, but the Penguins have a chance of at least a share of second place if they win on Thursday and Saturday, and if the Crusaders do not win this week.

"I think the coaches are aware of it. I don't think our players care at all," Slocum said. "If you start thinking about that stuff and talking about that stuff as being a priority, things jump up and bite you."



## 'Should contribute to our blue-collar hockey'

### Phantoms add two, Cangelosi wins award

Joe Catullo Jr.  
SPORTS EDITOR

A few days ago, forward Jonathan Liau was practicing in Nebraska with the Omaha Lancers, the No. 1 team in the United States Hockey League (USHL) Western Conference.

Interim coach Mike Aikens went to Liau and told him he had been traded to the Youngstown Phantoms (23-13-3), who are tied for third in the USHL Eastern Conference.

Liau was traded on Monday for a fifth-round pick in the 2013 USHL Entry Draft. He was shocked when he heard the news, but said it was a good transition and is excited for a fresh start.

"I'm hoping to bring in my speed and intensity, maybe some play-mak-

ing ability," Liau said.

Liau attended the Phantoms' optional skating practice on Tuesday, and forward Austin Cangelosi said it means he is serious.

"Very fast guy, very physical in the corners [and] flies down the boards," Cangelosi said. "Should contribute to our blue-collar hockey."

Liau has eight goals and seven assists for a combined 15 points this season.

"Depends on where he's playing; I think he'll make the team faster wherever he plays," said forward Sam Anas. "Bit of a grinder as well."

The Phantoms also added forward Zach Evancho on Tuesday from the Buffalo Jr. Sabres Under-18 AAA team.

"He's a smaller guy, but he's another guy that is very skilled," said forward Dylan Margonari. "He can defi-

nitely do it, and I think he'll definitely be a huge plus for our team."

In 36 games with the Sabres, Evancho has 14 goals and 18 assists for 32 points.

Liau and Evancho could be ready to play when the Phantoms travel to Muskegon on Friday.

The Phantoms will travel again after winning two road games last week. They defeated the Dubuque Fighting Saints, 5-3, on Thursday and Cedar Rapids, 4-3, on Friday after dropping a home match to Chicago, 3-1, on Feb. 1.

Cangelosi said the Phantoms were more focused on the road trip than at home.

"We were just excited to play," Cangelosi said. "On the bench, guys were talking to each other."

Cangelosi led the Phantoms and won the USHL's co-CCM Offensive Player of the Week for his efforts. He

scored three total goals, including the game-winner against Dubuque, and collected two assists.

"It's definitely good to see one of our guys get some recognition," Anas said. "I'm sure he's been a candidate almost every week."

Margonari said the award also gets the Phantoms recognition from around the league.

"It's good to see anyone from our team get that award," Margonari said. "It opens our eyes to see that Cangelosi is one of the top players in the league."

Cangelosi leads the Phantoms with 19 goals and 22 assists.

After the battle with the Lumberjacks on Friday, the Phantoms return to the Covelli Centre on Sunday against the same team.

"They're a physical team, so just stay out of the garbage," Cangelosi said.

## Women head for Windy City

Nick Mancini  
SPORTS REPORTER

After losing to Butler University on Saturday by a last-second 3-pointer, the Youngstown State University women's basketball team looks to regroup in two conference road games.

The Penguins (10-12, 4-7) will travel to Chicago to take on the University of Illinois at Chicago (13-9, 6-5) on Thursday and Loyola University Chicago (10-12, 5-6) on Saturday.

Senior guard Macey Nortey said in Monday's press conference that the loss to Butler was frustrating, but there is always something to be learned when moving forward.

"Whether we are in a game and it comes close like last Saturday, or whether we just come out and flat out beat a team, you learn something," Nortey said. "We still have a lot of basketball left. We just have to keep getting better."

The Penguins had a chance with about two seconds left in the game. Nortey missed an opportunity for an open shot and passed to senior guard Kenya Middlebrooks, who ran out of time before getting up a shot.

Head coach Bob Boldon said in the conference that

being in close games is a step in the right direction.

"Last year at this time, we weren't even in a lot of close games, so it is nice we are in these close games," Boldon said. "So I think the next step now is figuring out how to pull them out."

In the previous meetings this season, the Penguins lost both games against UIC and Loyola. Boldon said the team would make the necessary adjustments to be successful.

"We are going to have to go with a different sort of adjustment," Boldon said. "That is the thing that is exciting for me and our staff to try and think a little bit and create situations for our kids to be successful."

Nortey said the UIC is the more athletic of the two teams that the Penguins will face.

"Their guards like to get out and run," Nortey said. "They have a nice pull-up jumper game. We just have to be solid on defense and really understand our rules and follow everything we know how to do."

The Penguins will be down a coach for the road trip and for the rest of the season. Assistant coach Jen Theissen left the program to pursue a career in human resources near Marietta.

"I am happy for her and her husband," Boldon said.



Senior guard Macey Nortey splits the defense in Saturday's game against Butler University. The Penguins look to rebound on this upcoming road trip. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

"It is a good opportunity for her, and unfortunately we cannot pick when those times come. It came at probably an inopportune time for us."

The Penguins will move John Cullen to assistant coach, and Boldon is excited

about this prospect.

"He has been a blessing," Boldon said. "He has a wealth of basketball knowledge, [and] he has a ton of energy. It's been good on a number of fronts. It's been good for the kids just to hear

someone else's voice at practice."

Loyola will provide a different challenge than the UIC, as Boldon said it is an efficient team offensively and possibly the best in the conference.

"We have to figure out a way to slow them down and guard them," Boldon said. "We have one day to prepare for them, so it will up the ante to try and figure out how to guard those guys."

With the Penguins now beginning to see teams for a second time this season, Nortey said there are aspects of these games that are easier.

"If they have a shooter that's only shooting [3-pointers], you can run out and contest her, or if there is a guard that is driving, you can play her more straight up and honest," Nortey said. "It is a lot easier on the defensive aspect."

With five of the next seven games on the road, Boldon said this would be a tough challenge for the Penguins.

"We said before, [conference games] are all exciting," Boldon said. "We are in conference play, and it is their challenges, but conference play should consist of challenges. We play two very athletic and two very skilled teams. We will get our money worth. That's for sure."