

THE JAMBAR

The student voice of
Youngstown State University
since 1931.

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WEATHER

Today	☀️	60° 45°
Wednesday	☁️	54° 36°
Thursday	☀️	64° 47°
Friday	☀️	54° 37°
Saturday	☀️	56° 39°
Sunday	☀️	60° 43°
Monday	☁️	53° 37°

Remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar.

ACE FILES COMPLAINT

ACE says university interfered with bargaining rep selection

J. Breen Mitchell
MANAGING EDITOR

The Association of Classified Employees at Youngstown State University has filed an unfair labor practices complaint against the university.

The complaint charges YSU with interfering with the union's selection of a bargaining representative by not allowing the union's president, Ivan Maldonado, on campus.

Maldonado is on paid administrative leave pending investigation of charges that he harassed and threatened a YSU employee.

Ira Mirkin of the Green, Haines and Sgambati law firm filed the complaint with the State Employee Relations Board on behalf of the union.

"It's a very recently filed charge, and it's being investigated," Mirkin said.

He said he could not elaborate beyond what is in the complaint.

Ron Cole, manager of news and information services, said the university does not have any comment on the complaint.

"It will follow its course, and that will be what will happen," Cole said.

Regarding Maldonado's leave, Cole said the university is awaiting the results of the investigation.

"The YSU police are in the midst of an investigation, and we take that very seriously," he said.

The union and administration have been at odds over a letter of agreement signed by Maldonado and former human resources chief Craig Bickley, who has since resigned.

The letter, which was to be shredded, was an agreement to award former ACE president Christine Domhoff the position of administrative assistant 4, or to raise her pay accordingly if she did not receive the position. Domhoff filed a grievance against YSU when she did not receive either.



The Up 'Til Dawn executive board poses proudly at the fundraiser finale with the poster-board that represents the amount of money raised for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. YSU students raised \$16,292 for cancer research. Photos courtesy of John Brkic.



Top YSU administrators refuse salary raise

Emmalee C. Torisk
NEWS EDITOR

In response to a troubling financial forecast, all members of the Youngstown State University president's Cabinet, including President David Sweet, have given up their expected 3 percent raises for fiscal year 2010 in order to create a new student financial aid fund.

Although the fund's details are still under discussion, the Cabinet's donation will contribute approximately \$50,000 toward student financial aid purposes, said YSU manager

of news and information services Ron Cole.

"Obviously, this action could potentially help students because it's money that will be used to help lessen the financial burden of students during this difficult economic time," Cole said.

Within the president's Cabinet, four vice presidents, including the vice president for student affairs, the vice president for academic affairs, the vice president for finance and administration and the vice president for university advancement, as well as the university's general counsel, the director of the office of equal opportunity and diversity, the

director of intercollegiate athletics and the senior assistant to the president, donated their proposed salary increases.

"This is an action by the very top administrators of the university to respond to some very real financial challenges that YSU faces in the next seven months," Cole said. "It's their way of showing that they are willing to step forward and do their part to help in that situation."

In President Sweet's March 27 memo, which announced the Cabinet's intentions, Sweet said he encourages all faculty and staff to join the Cabinet in supporting the students of YSU.

"This is an action...to respond to some very real financial challenges that YSU faces in the next seven months."

Ron Cole, manager of news and information services

Tracilyn Tsarnas
REPORTER

The two candidates for the position of dean of the College of Health and Human Services concluded their two-day intensive interview process.

An open meeting was held for O. Matthew Ardeyanju, of Ohio

University March 24 at 3 p.m.

At the meeting, each candidate's knowledge of union environment, management skills and experience with program development were discussed, said Shearle Furnish, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

"In the case of both candidates, the meetings were well attended,"

Furnish said. Joseph Mosca, assistant dean of Youngstown State University's College of Health and Human Services, is the second candidate.

While he admitted that the interview process may have been tiring, Furnish said both men "responded well and seemed comfortable." He said he feels this process allowed the commit-

tee to "learn a great deal" about the candidates.

Ardeyanju comes from a highly diversified background. He has earned degrees and has been part of several universities and academic institutions, including experience with the World Health Organization. According to his letter of application, he considers himself to be a man of

"strong organizational leadership and interpersonal skills."

Overall, Furnish said he believes the only person whose opinion still carries weight is the provost. Ultimately, the decision falls to him once the committee submits their report.

Additional reporting by Samantha Pysher.

State funds for YSU to drop for FY 2010

Sarah Sole
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

While the State Share of Instruction will increase statewide by 6.54 percent, individual funding for Youngstown State University will drop by 45 percent, according to a draft of the projected SSI for fiscal year 2010.

Out of 14 main campuses included in the draft, YSU had the biggest drop in state funding, going from \$49,503,767 in FY 2009 to \$49,282,683 in FY 2010. By FY 2011, it will increase by just over one percent to \$49,819,033.

The Ohio Board of Regents divided colleges according to three categories: Negative, high, and low growth, which was where YSU fell.

While Tom Maraffa, special assistant to the president, said it's hard to say why the funding dropped without fully understanding the formula, he also added that these numbers — the first run of the process — are subject to change before the final budget.

Michael Chaney, chief communications officer for the Ohio Board of Regents, said the same.

FUNDING page 2

SGA proposes resolutions for dining, parking

Emmalee C. Torisk
NEWS EDITOR

On Tuesday, the Youngstown State University Student Government Association unanimously voted to accept a dining services resolution, which includes plans to replace the meals-per-week system with a fixed food allowance per semester.

The proposed meal plan would also permit off-campus use at locations including McDonald's, Taco Bell, Inner Circle, Coyoacan, University Pizzeria, Subway and Winslow's Cafe.

Additionally, the dining services resolution would also create late-night hours at Christman Dining Commons on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights from midnight to 3 a.m., with numerous take-out only options. Some of these choices include fast food items, such as pizza, French fries and hamburgers.

Finally, the Dining Services Resolution would establish a trayless dining system in any all-you-can-eat dining hall on YSU's campus. On each table would be silverware, napkins and condi-

SGA page 2

Health and Human Services dean selection left to provost

Tracilyn Tsarnas
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Additional reporting by Samantha Pysher.

News Briefs

Yambar's Collection comes to Youngstown

Youngstown native neo-pop artist Chris Yambar and his art collection will be on display at the SMARTS Center Gallery in Youngstown. Yambar's two most famous cartoon characters, Mr. Beat and Happy Adventure Kat, will be commemorated at an artist reception on Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the SMARTS Gallery. Children can take part in a coloring contest at the event, and winners will be revealed in a limited-edition print that will be shown on May 9 when the show closes.

Miss Julie in Bliss Hall

Miss Julie will be shown in Bliss Hall April 3-5 in the Spotlight Arena Theater. This will be the final main stage performance this year for the University Theater Department. Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances start at 7:30 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. All seats in Spotlight Arena Theater are general admission.

Police Briefs

Fire alarm activated

On March 25, an officer was sent to the Courtyard Apartments in reference to a fire alarm activation. The community assistant advised the officer that it was caused due to a grease fire. Residents were allowed to re-enter the building.

Student has seizure

An officer was dispatched to Cushwa Hall on March 26 in regard to a student having a seizure. Rural Medic arrived and suggested the victim go to the emergency room. The victim was later transported to St. Elizabeth's for evaluation.

Male told to leave Maag Library

On March 26, a male subject was watching pornographic material on a computer screen in Maag Library before a reference desk employee told him to stay off campus.

Missing keys

While working an event at the Chestnut Room on March 26, an officer was approached and given a set of keys by a professor. The professor said she was given the keys by another staff member. There was a gold tag on the set of the keys with the name of Stephanie on it.

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SGA maps out future campus plans

Samantha Cavalier
REPORTER

"We plan to encourage professors and students alike to utilize more technology in the classroom, as well as online systems..."

Zachary Brown, senior

Although Zachary Brown and Abbie Twyford are the sole candidates for the positions of 2009-2010 Student Government Association president and executive vice president, they will share their platform with students at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Peaberry's Cafe.

In their platform, Brown and Twyford will focus on four key points that they believe are central to the well-being of Youngstown State University and its students.

These four points include a better campus and community, a commitment to academic excellence, a financially conscious future and a more effective Student Government Association.

Brown and Twyford intend to continue SGA's commitment to campus organizations, athletics and Greek life.

"This includes working to expand the budget for student organizations, continuing to support a high level of student attendance at athletic events and promoting the growth of a rich Greek life," Brown said.

The team also wants to get students more involved with campus issues, including the potential removal of the M-2 parking deck on Lincoln Avenue, the dilemma of the Pilgrim Collegiate Church and the development of the Flats at Wick.

Enhancing the technological

environment on YSU's campus is also a priority. Brown and Twyford also want to try to get advisement sessions online via live chat options.

"We plan to encourage professors and students alike to utilize more technology in the classroom, as well as online systems that are currently available such as MyYSU, Banner and the new e-portfolio in order to streamline the educational process and help the environment by reducing paper waste," Brown said.

Brown and Twyford would

like to reduce the university's spending by increasing the use of more environmentally friendly solutions on campus. Brown said this would range anywhere from using online systems to reducing paper waste in classrooms, advocating for campus-wide paperless notification and billing and assessing the inefficiency of campus-wide systems.

Finally, the candidates' two largest concerns include maintaining continuity in the organization from year to year and increasing the visibility of SGA to students.

"Firstly, we hope to instate mandatory committee and executive staff meetings to help with continuity from year to year, while creating a comprehensive digital record keeping system that will allow us to access things from the past while maintaining contacts of past SGA officials for new members to contact with questions," Brown said.

Secondly, Brown and Twyford want to improve the visibility of SGA. They plan to host a monthly information table in the lower arcade of Kilcawley, send SGA representatives to visit large sections in their respective colleges, frequent their Web sites, as well as utilize blogging and Facebook to reach out to students. They also want to work with The Jambar to establish a permanent SGA reporter to attend all SGA functions.

FUNDING page 1

"We're still working it through," Chaney said.

The funding formula was based on recommendations from a summer panel discussion with representation from university and community colleges, The Inter-University Council of Ohio and the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, Chaney said.

"We're trying to find a way to encourage institutions to focus on the success of students while they're in the programs," Chaney said.

Enrollment, course completion, success attracting and retaining at-risk students, degree

attainment, success in graduating at-risk students, and STEM, technical and other course incentives are all factors outlined in the draft. Enrollment is still the most heavily weighted factor at over 50 percent, Chaney said.

According to the draft, YSU had a 10.34 percent drop in undergraduate course completion success. The number might substantially impact funding.

While all elements included in the formula are valuable, "the course completion piece is an important element, so that is weighted pretty heavily," Chaney said.

SGA page 1

According to the SGA meeting agenda, the creation of the dining services resolution can be attributed to the "campus-wide increase in meal prices, the stagnation of meal equivalency and bonus points, the lack of dining options, especially during evening and weekend hours," and "the increase in concern over environmental issues and conservation."

SGA President Mike McGiffin said this resolution is "pretty big."

"The Dining Services Resolution could really affect student life on campus," McGiffin said. "The late nights could contribute to more students staying on

campus."

SGA also unanimously voted in favor of a parking services resolution, which calls for the immediate renovation — rather than demolition — of the M-2 parking deck in phases in order to extend the deck's lifetime by 15 years. This would permit adequate accommodation time for campus parking changes.

According to the SGA meeting agenda, "the administration has no definite plans to replace the spaces lost during the demolition of the deck or over the long term, should the deck be demolished."

According to statistics provided by SGA, YSU's campus is at 95 percent capacity in re-

While Maraffa said he doesn't know how the number impacts the funding, he said course completion is an area YSU has been addressing.

"We've been doing that prior to this funding formula and we'll continue to do it," Maraffa said.

If the governor approves the nearly half percentage drop, YSU will be prepared to deal with the smaller budget.

University officials are engaged in cabinet-level discussion for the preparation of a balanced budget to show the Board of Trustees in June, Maraffa said.

gards to parking at various times of the day in mixed lots. The agenda also states YSU's large commuter student enrollment will increase with the Western Pennsylvania Advantage Initiative.

McGiffin said the M-2 deck has a quoted two-year demolition process, and parking spaces would be replaced afterward. Out of the 1,200 parking spots once provided by the deck, a surface lot constructed on the property will provide 375 spots. McGiffin said 825 parking spots would be replenished in various other locations.

"This is a tremendous loss," McGiffin said. "The renovation buys 15 years."

Classifieds

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Who should apply?

To apply for a paid position you must:

- (1) be enrolled in YSU's spring 2009 semester,
- (2) be in good standing,
- (3) be enrolled for 12 or more hours,
- (4) and you must have completed course **ENG #2622 News Reporting** or be currently enrolled in ENG #2622 for spring 2009. [Also listed as JOURN #2622]. If you do not meet all four of these requirements you will not be considered for a PAID *Jambar* position; however please do email the *Jambar* for VOLUNTEER staffing opportunities at thejambar@gmail.com.

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- Design positions also require having successfully completed initial design or related photography courses.

Penguin Review Literary Magazine

- Editor-in-chief also earns part of his/her tuition. (Course #2622 not required to apply.)

Applications Now Being Accepted

Where to pick up an application:

Applications are available from Lynn Haug in the Kilcawley Staff Office located on the upper level of Kilcawley Center. One application applies for both publications—simply check the position(s) you are most interested in.
Application Deadline: 1pm, Tuesday, March 31, 2009

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, 2009.
 Interviews will be scheduled for mid-April.


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BLINDED BY SCIENCE



Brandon Latronica ignites thermite in a flower pot outside of Ward Beecher Hall. Latronica volunteered to perform in Dr. Ray's Amazing Sideshow of Science during Saturday's Lake-to-River festival.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL BURY/THE JAMBAR

Michael Bury
REPORTER

On Saturday, sideshow and science came together in the Ward Beecher Planetarium to help educate children about physics and commemorate a fallen friend.

Dr. Ray's Amazing Sideshow of Science, hosted by Ray Beiersdorfer, showed children the science behind such typical sideshow stunts.

"We take traditional carnies things like the bed of nails and the blade box and we explain the physiology behind all that," said Beiersdorfer, professor of geological and environmental sciences.

Beiersdorfer developed the show with Rick Pirko, a Ward Beecher producer and technician who passed away in October from a heart attack.

Beiersdorfer said that doing the show without his friend has been a little bittersweet.

"Yeah, it's been sad. Rick was my best friend. We were together almost every day. His untimely death has really been a shock," Beiersdorfer said.

Beiersdorfer said he continues to do the show to keep Rick's memory alive.

Courtney Waskin, who participated in the show, had a cin-

der block broken on her stomach with a sledgehammer while lying on a bed of nails.

"It's a lot like what you'd think laying on a bed of nails would be like," she said.

Waskin said she wasn't worried about the stunt going wrong, even though the first time she tried it was Wednesday.

"I trust Dr. Ray," she said.

Brandon Latronica, another assistant, has been doing the sideshow for a while. Latronica's job during the show was freezing pingpong balls with liquid nitrogen and burning a flowerpot with thermite.

"Some of the more dangerous experiments I did because I had more experience with them. They pay me and I am on the plan if I get hurt," Latronica said.

Latronica was also in charge of breaking the cinder block on Waskin's stomach. Latronica said he wasn't worried about harming anybody when doing the stunt.

"They probably get more nervous than I do," Latronica said.

Beiersdorfer said he hopes he can keep the group together, even though some of the student volunteers will be graduating. He said he is always on the lookout for new members to add to the group, though.

"Especially if they're a size 4 female who can fit into a blade box," he said.

Internet Explorer 8 is fast becoming the go-to browser

Eric Benderoff
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

I generally don't care about Web browsers. I care about getting where I want to go on the Internet quickly and without hassle.

I have no brand loyalty on this issue, just a preference for efficiency. There are people who rave about one browser over another I'm not that guy.

I use Safari and Firefox when I'm on a Mac. But on a PC, I use Firefox for one reason: It is faster than Internet Explorer 6 and 7.

Well, that has changed. Microsoft has just released the final version of Internet Explorer 8, one that is very fast and offers new features.

If you've moved away from IE or find your current browser too slow, you should check out the new version, which can be downloaded free at Microsoft.com starting at 7 p.m. Thursday. It won't take long, and the upgrade may make you think you're on a new computer.

OK, that might be a stretch, but you will be happier.

Let me illustrate how much faster IE 8 is running on my computer.

The Chicago Tribune's Web site took 11.4 seconds to open with Internet Explorer 7 and 7 seconds with Firefox. With IE 8, the site loaded up in 4.1 seconds.

The New York Times: 3.9 (IE 7), 5 (Firefox), 2.7 (IE 8).

Gmail: 4.1 (IE 7), 4 (Firefox), 3.2 (IE 8) But speed isn't the only reason to upgrade.

IE 8 has improved tabbed browsing, my favorite feature.

Tabbed browsing allows for multiple open windows tabs across one browser page. You can move from tab to tab to access what you have open. I generally keep open my e-mail, blogging software, a Web-based radio sta-

tion and a few other items.

On Firefox, to open a new tab, you click on file and then "open new tab." (Or Ctrl+T if you like shortcuts.) This is not onerous.

But IE 8 has made it faster keeping an open tab available next to the other tabs. Just click on that open tab when you want a new Web page.

Even better, that open tab includes a list of your most recent browsing history. So if you closed a site several hours ago that you'd like to revisit, a link is offered.

If you have many tabs open and can't find the one you want easily, click on the "quick tags" icon to see a snapshot of every open Web page. It looks like a mosaic, but if you click on any of those pages, that tab opens.

A new feature that clearly borrows from RSS feeds the tool that brings news headlines or blog updates directly to your browser is called "Web slices."

I set up a slice for ESPN.com. It sits in my favorites bar, and I can click on the "E" icon to open the site. Or, using the Web slice, I can click on the arrow next to the "E" and pull down a list of headlines. This "slice" of the page is a mix of links to stories, blogs and video clips.

Only a handful of the millions of Web sites have slices right now, but expect more.

Microsoft keeps a list at iead-dons.com.

Then there are the "accelerators," a handy set of features that makes finding and sharing information more useful.

For example, if I want to meet a friend for lunch at a new spot, I might go to the restaurant's Web site, highlight the address, copy it and then paste into an e-mail.

With IE 8, once I highlight the address, I right click and an accelerator box opens with a link to my e-mail account. I then e-mail that address from the restaurant's page to my friend.

Another accelerator option opens a map for driving directions.

There are other nice features, including "In Private" browsing dubbed "Vegas mode" because what's surfed here stays here a visual search tool (great for comparison shopping) and a host of security features to protect your computer from the Web's seamy side.

One security-related note: The browser will not allow you to open a site it believes has malware that could damage your computer.

"We feel, hands down, this is the most secure browser" available, Amy Barzdukas, a senior director for Windows Live, told me during a demonstration.

Is IE 8 my new favorite browser? It's too soon to say, but as I used it in its first week, I didn't miss Firefox.

Unofficial study links classical music to high SAT scores

Sam Marhulik
REPORTER

According to a study done by Virgil Griffith, a doctorate student at the California Institute of Technology, music that you may find pleasing to your ears may not be as pleasing to your brain.

Griffith did a study across 1,352 schools and compared the music that students listened to the scores that students get on tests like the SAT and ACT. What Griffith conducted was that people who listen to rapper Lil Wayne scored the lowest on tests, versus people who listened classical music such as Beethoven that scored highest on tests.

On his Web site musichat-makesyoudumb.virgil.gr/index.php, Griffith comments about how he obtained his information. He downloaded the ten most frequent listed artists under the "favorite music" category at every college using the network statistic page on Facebook. After

obtaining the music, he went to the CollegeBoard Web site and got the test scores from all of the schools. What he came up with was a correlation between the music that people listen to versus the scores they get on tests.

Griffith claims that while his study may not be completely accurate, or even accurate at all, he enjoys the hilarity that ensues from people getting upset because the music they like is low on his study.

Frank Ragozzine, a psychology professor at Youngstown State University, said this study was put on the Internet and not published in a journal for a reason.

"This study is something that I have a hard time taking seriously. The author has no representative sample, meaning that the information he gained from Facebook could have just been the product of a few random people posting music interests. I'm skeptical to his study, but I kept an open mind to it because it is something that could be plausible," said Ragozzine.

A point that Ragozzine made

was concerned the "Mozart Factor," which is believed support the fact that if people listened to Mozart's music, it would improve their special reasoning skills.

Ragozzine said that no particular type of music is going to make someone perform better.

"If you find any type of music particularly arousing, it may make you sharper for a period of time, whether it's Lil Wayne, the Beatles or Beethoven. If you like it, you can see results," said Ragozzine.

Junior psychology major Amy Foster said she also is skeptical of the theory.

"I find it hard to believe that people would take something like this so seriously," she said. "The question that I have is that do unintelligent people listen to music like Lil Wayne because they are dumb, or does Lil Wayne make them dumb? Just because Lil Wayne wants us to li-li-li-lick the lollipop, that doesn't mean we have to fail tests for his music."

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OUR SIDE EDITORIAL

Parking resolution resolves nothing

RELATED STORY

SGA, page 2

THE JAMBAR EDITORIAL BOARD

The Student Government Association's resolution against tearing down the M-2 parking deck has a few problems.

First, SGA is in favor of renovating the deck, which will extend its life for, arguably, another 15 years. This option has been weighed, though, and the fact is that it is approximately \$5 million more expensive than demolishing the deck, not including the cost of additional surface lots around campus. This should not be a hindrance, either, because additional parking is already included in the campus master plan.

SGA argues this should not be a concern, because renovation in the first year would be cheaper than demolition, and the university would have more time to shore up funding. This may be the case, but it also may not be. It is not a responsible approach to make plans assuming you will probably have the money for them in the future.

Just as every household budget feels the need to be more fiscally responsible than they may have been in the past, Youngstown State University must do the same.

Our final argument with SGA's resolution is that it is essentially meaningless. Plans are in place, and any objections raised now are unlikely to carry any weight. If student government is interested in regaining a position of influence at YSU, it needs to be far more proactive than this. The plan to tear down the deck was announced last November. If SGA were serious about their objections, this would not be the first time they would have publicly voiced them.

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

COMMENTARY

Plan B: Health over politics

McClatchy News
MCT

ordering the Food and Drug Administration to rethink its politically motivated age restrictions on an emergency contraceptive for women known as "Plan B."

District Judge Edward R. Korman of New York told the FDA to make Plan B available to 17-year-olds within 30 days, without a prescription.

He also instructed the agency to review whether the contraceptive should be made available to girls of all ages without a doctor's order. While that decision is more difficult, the judge's order makes it possible for the agency to base its findings on health considerations, not political interference.

The ruling confirms what women's health groups and family planning advocates have long contended: the FDA under the Bush administration turned Plan B into a political football. The agency delayed decisions and limited access to the contraceptive due to objections of conservatives in the GOP.

Plan B consists of two pills, which contain higher doses of a hormone found in birth-control pills. When taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex, Plan B is highly effective at preventing pregnancy. It does not cause abortion, as some opponents have argued.

The FDA approved Plan B in 1999 for use with a prescription. In 2003, an advisory panel at the agency recommended over-the-counter sales. The FDA delayed a

decision for three years, and then approved nonprescription sales only for women 18 or older.

The safety of the drug has been proven. Plan B is already available without a prescription in more than 30 countries. Nine states also allow over-the-counter sales without age restrictions.

The concern about making the contraceptive available to younger girls is something the agency must take into consideration. Many parents wouldn't want their daughters to make such a decision without discussing it with them, or consulting a doctor. The manufacturer at one point said it would require a doctor's prescription for anyone under age 16.

There's no excuse for the FDA to claim, as it once did, that it can't figure out a way to prevent sales to girls under 16. For exam-

ple, the agency has decided pharmacies are capable of screening teenagers to make sure that nobody under age 18 buys tobacco products.

Teens shouldn't consider Plan B as a form of birth control; it's not intended to be used that way. It's a safe and effective option for women to prevent pregnancy in emergencies. One peer-reviewed study released in 2005 found that use of Plan B did not cause women to engage in more risky sexual behavior.

The availability of a contraceptive doesn't nullify a teen's or parents' responsibility to discuss the consequences and risks of sexual activity.

But the court's ruling allows the agency in charge of drug safety to make a decision based only on public health considerations.

Expanding federal control of health care will raise costs and reduce quality

Grace-Marie Turner
MCT

President Obama says we can't afford not to pass health care reform, even as our economy faces its biggest challenges in decades.

So far this year, his stimulus legislation has pumped an additional \$150 billion into our \$2.4 trillion health sector, with no efforts at reform. And the health care plans he is proposing would add trillions more.

Mr. Obama argues that American companies are at a competitive disadvantage because of high health costs that add, for example, \$1,500 to the price of a car. But health costs wouldn't vanish under his plan; they would just get switched to another ledger through higher taxes.

The president is working with congressional leaders to write legislation that would require companies to provide a rich health benefits package one more

expensive than most can afford today. Companies that don't comply would pay heavy fines. This is hardly a prescription for reducing costs.

The plan involves major new subsidies, creation of a new government health insurance plan, and possibly a requirement that all Americans must buy insurance. The entire plan is expected to cost at least \$1.5 trillion over the next decade. This is far too much to be taking on in this economy.

To pay for this and many other changes to our health sector, the White House has set aside \$634 billion as a "down payment" on health reform. But even this is difficult for Congress to swallow because it involves increasing taxes on mortgage interest deductions and charitable contributions for affluent taxpayers and cutting Medicare Advantage programs that serve lower-income seniors. These are bad ideas, especially in a fragile economy.

Pumping more money into

the health sector and increasing demand will add to the inflationary pressuring, which will in turn exacerbate the cost problem.

The president argues there will be huge savings from the plan's multibillion dollar investments in information technology, wellness and prevention.

He says the average family would save up to \$2,500 a year as a result. But analysts say it will be hard to see any savings from these programs for the next decade, if then. And even if the savings materialized, Mr. Obama's own advisers have acknowledged they would not actually accrue to individual consumers but to the system as a whole. So don't hold your breath waiting.

They also argue that we must get everyone covered to lower health costs. Massachusetts actually provides us with evidence: The state was the first to require all residents to have health insurance, but the subsidies enacted as part of its reform plan are forcing lawmakers to impose new fees,

taxes and fines on employers and providers, and the program still is in the red, even with huge subsidies from the federal government through additional Medicaid funds.

The United States already is on red-ink alert with huge federal deficits as far as the eye can see and with existing entitlement programs that are threatening our country's long-term economic survival.

So where does that leave us? It means that we need to focus on providing targeted help to the uninsured to purchase private coverage, giving people more options in buying health insurance, and building a stronger safety net for those with pre-existing conditions.

That's a full plate in itself, but one more likely to achieve results.

We can build on the strengths of our system, but it won't happen if we try to reform one-sixth of our economy in one sweeping bill.

COLUMN

Dierkes deliberated



How teenage girls can save your life

Doug Dierkes
COLUMNIST

For years I thought that text messaging was just another way for cell phone companies to make extra cash off their customers, but I am starting to see the light in recent months. Not because text messages have somehow become more useful, but there are now companies that specialize in giving advice and responding to problems through the communication format.

The most obvious player in the business is the Knowledge Generation Bureau, which claims to answer any question you can text their way. There are also more focused services, such as Stadium Solutions and GuestAssist, which assist spectators who message complaints about the drunken lunatics that happen to be drawn to sporting events like moths to open flames. While getting security to escort a jerk off the baseball field five minutes faster might not seem like progress, keep in mind that the usual content of commercial text messages involves phone psychics telling you how hot your significant other is and you'll see how far we've come.

Though this is definitely an advance in a positive direction, some people (probably including Dave Betras) will claim that the new uses for text messages are a way of invading the privacy of our citizens. My counter to that argument: There was no invasion of this generation's privacy, we willingly gave it away.

The graduating class of 2000 and beyond don't have a problem opening the door to their lives with the outside world. MySpace, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and any combination of the above services shows that the average citizen cares more about being noticed by large groups of people than keeping an eye on just who is watching their every move, which they so conveniently leave on the Internet for the entire world to see.

Now, some entrepreneurs have discovered a way to make a buck off of the newfound openness in American culture without infringing on the average citizen's rights any more than their circle of friends. Big Brother, big business, to-may-to, po-tah-toe. This isn't some conspiracy by a secret society to destroy the rights of the working class so much as a change in culture. We've grown accustomed to the thought of letting perfect strangers into our existence, why shouldn't we try to put some of those voyeurs to work for us?

At least now, when I see someone texting in between puffing their cigarette outside the mall, there is the remote possibility that they're doing something more interesting and/or useful than telling their BFF list, "smoke break, BRB."

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

THE JAMBAR ASKS

What's on your mind?



"Where's a ShamWow when you need one?"

Patrick Peachock, junior



"I hate the Jambar."

Maria Mabrondis, freshman

send us your letters

Penguins look to get on track against the Detroit Titans



Sophomore Kim Klonowski

PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

The Youngstown State University softball team will host the Detroit Titans in a three-game series on April 1 and 2.

The first two games will be part of a doubleheader against the Titans, while the third game in the series will be played a day later.

The softball team recently traveled down to Dayton to take on their Horizon League opponent the Wright State University Raiders for a weekend series.

The Penguins won the rubber match of the doubleheader against the Raiders on Saturday, 6-2. The win for the Penguins was their fourth win of the season.

Now the Penguins have to look forward this week's series against the Titans.

The Penguins are 4-19 overall on the season, but most of their games have been played far away from home in Florida and Virginia. Despite the record, the Penguins have won two games within the Horizon League for a record of 2-4 in the Horizon League.

The Penguins have to start hitting the ball if they want to win more games.

The Penguins as a team are batting a dismal .239 while their opponents are hitting .329. The Penguins are struggling in the field as well. The Penguins have committed 47 errors in 23 games this season. Their opponents have committed only 28.

A bright spot for the Penguins has been the play of sophomore first baseman Kim Klonowski.

Klonowski leads the team in many key statistical categories. She leads the team with a .342 batting average, 26 hits, three home runs, 14 RBIs and a slugging percentage of .526. Klonowski has proved to be

very durable as she has started in all 23 games.

Junior Cheryl Cale has been the Penguins' most consistent pitcher to date.

Although her record is not impressive, she does lead the team with three wins. Her earned run average of 2.15 is also a team best. Cale has the only shutout win YSU has as she held the Loyola Ramblers to five hits and no runs on March 22.

The Titans have struggled this season too.

The Titans are 4-21 overall and are winless in the Horizon League at 0-6. The Titans have not won a game on the road this season and the Penguins want to make sure it stays that way.

The Titans' most consistent offensive threat is sophomore second baseman Kristen Sclater. Sclater on the season has a batting average of .293, has hit four home runs and has 20 RBIs. The Penguins will need to contain Sclater if they want to win the series.

Home sweet home for the Penguins

Josh Stipanovich
SPORTS REPORTER

Picture this situation: It's nearly halfway into a season and only one home game has been played at home.

This has been the situation the Youngstown State University men's baseball team has had to deal with due to the fact that 23 of their first 24 games were all played away from home to open up the 2009 season.

That is all about to change though as the Penguins find themselves playing on their home sod for their next 14 of 16 games.

Head coach Rich Pasquale may be coming back to Youngstown with his hat and gloves on, but he knows how nice it is to finally be back home for a few games.

"I'd forgot what our pin stripes looked like," said Pasquale. "It's going to be very good to have our guys be at home. You feel com-

fortable at home ... you relax more at home. You hit second," he added.

YSU (4-20 overall, 1-5 Horizon League) has come out playing competitively in all 24 games this season, losing eight of their games by just one run, two of those games being in extra frames.

Pasquale understands how the team has been losing as of late, but he does not let that phase him.

"We're right there. We can't get frustrated," said Pasquale. "This will make us stronger the second half of the year," he added.

The homestand ignites this Wednesday as the Penguins play host to a less than stellar Akron Zips (5-20 overall, 2-4 MAC) team who have lost nine of their last 12 games at 3 p.m. at Eastwood Field.

The Zips may have had a rocky start to the season, but they

have HAD the Penguins' number since 2007, defeating them four straight times.

The weather may become an issue for Wednesday afternoon's game, but Pasquale said despite the weather, it is important that the team stays active and keeps playing.

If the game happens to be cancelled due to the weather, Pasquale plans on holding an inner squad scrimmage for Thursday to work on different situations on the base pads.

Along with the extra batting practice and scrimmages, coach Pasquale and the Penguins have used the knowledge of former YSU head baseball coach John Zizzo, who in 1991 led the Penguins to their first winning season since 1982.

"I always think it's important to invite former coaches back. They feel like they're a part of the program," Pasquale said.

Thunder stay perfect in home openers



Wide receiver Chris Schubert scores a touchdown for the Thunder. Photo by Brian Cetina/The Jambar.

Sam Marhulik
REPORTER

a knee injury and backup Adam Bednarik stepped in. Combined, the Firebirds went 24-of-40 for 251 yards, two interceptions, four touchdowns and seven sacks.

Tony Bowick, Albany's head coach, said that he was unsure of Wasil's injury, but it was severe enough to take him out of the game.

"It was a lot like the hit that Tom Brady took last year in their season opener. The defender was on the ground and got to Stephen, but that's how the game goes. Players get injured [and] that's why you have backups," said Bowick.

Mahoning Valley's team played well overall with the defense coming up big in the fourth quarter, returning a Bednarik fumble for a touchdown, putting the Thunder up by ten with 49 seconds to go.

The Thunder defense came up big in the game managing to force seven fumbles, recovering four of them, returning one for a touchdown, and also picking off quarterback Adam Bednarik twice.

Thunder coach Mike Hold applauded the defense for creating opportunities for the offense.

Hold said, "Our defense kept us in the game tonight and helped us win the game tonight by creating scoring opportunities for our offense."

Mahoning Valley's leading receiver Quorey Payne had eight receptions for 99 yards and two touchdowns. Payne was also crucial on special teams and made a tackle, giving the Firebirds the ball on their six-yard line, which led to the fumble that was recovered for a touchdown.

"We did everything that we needed to do to win, but we owe this to our defense. The defense was a solid confidence booster and led to a great win for our team. We are excited that we won the season opener and we are looking forward to playing at home again next week and to get our second win," Payne said.

The Thunder will look for their second win of the season Saturday at home against the Milwaukee Iron.

SPORTS EDITORIAL

NCAA tournament down to its Final Four

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

For the past two weeks, the men's NCAA tournament has been filled with many magical moments that have led up to the final showdown with four teams remaining: the Midwest Region champion Michigan State University, South Region champion University of North Carolina, West Region champion University of Connecticut, and East Region champion Villanova University.

I have three out of the four final teams remaining, while sports reporter Josh Stipanovich has two out of the four teams he picked for the Final Four.

Josh and I bombed on the Wake Forest University pick in the Elite Eight, who bowed out in the first round to the Cleveland State University Vikings, a team Youngstown State University beat this season 64-60 on Jan. 23. The only team I picked to make the Final Four that did not make it was Duke University.

The faculty fared lukewarm with their picks.

English professor Steven Reese only has North Carolina remaining in his Final Four teams. Joe Conroy, intramural coordinator, only has Connecticut left with his picks. Mathematics professor Gary Stanek went with the chalk theory and picked all the No. 1 seeds, so only two teams remain for his Final Four. Sports writer David Lee Morgan Jr. did the best of the faculty and still has three teams left.

No surprises are left out of the four teams who remain. Villanova may be a surprise to some, but they played in arguably the

toughest conference in the Big East conference, so they have been battled-tested throughout the entire season.

Now that the Final Four is set, it's time to review the teams and see who has the best shot of winning it all.

Michigan State takes on UConn while North Carolina will battle Villanova in the national semifinal games.

From what I have seen in the tournament, the best team has been the Huskies of UConn. The Huskies have beat teams with their physicality in getting up and down the court. They have topped the 100-point mark twice in the four games they have played in the tournament. Center Hasheem Thabeet has been the catalyst for the Huskies' deep tournament run. Michigan State is going to have its hands full with UConn. The Spartans, a tough team that's all about defense, ousted the No. 1 overall seed in the tournament when they held Louisville to just 52 points to advance to the Final Four. Center Goran Suton and guard Kalen Lucas led the attack.

Because of this, I think the Huskies are too much for the Spartans — the Huskies will advance to the championship game. In the other national semifinal game, the Tar Heels take on the Wildcats.

North Carolina's one-two punch, Tyler Hansbrough and Ty Lawson, will be tough to beat. North Carolina has arguably played the best ball of any team in the tournament except for UConn. Still, the Tar Heels used their defense to get past Oklahoma and Blake Griffin to advance from the Elite Eight to the Final Four.

Villanova is the dark horse in the Final Four; many people, including myself, did not have the Wildcats in the Final Four. Villanova bested Pittsburgh in one of the best games the tournament had to offer this year. The Wildcats were tied with Pittsburgh 76-76 with less than five seconds left. A perfectly executed inbound play saw junior guard Scotty Reynolds racing down the court with the ball. He raced to the lane and put up a floater over three Pittsburgh defenders, which found nothing but the bottom of the net. Reynolds is the key player the Tar Heels have to contain.

I think the Wildcats' magical ride ends against the Tar Heels. There will be no reenactment from 1985 when the then-No. 8 seeded Villanova team went on to win the championship. The Tar Heels will advance to take on the Huskies.

This is my national title game I picked over two weeks ago. I hope I am right.

NCAA men's basketball

