

the jambar

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The student voice of Youngstown State University

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ACADEMIC SENATE

Prof to YSU: Take a breather



Jambar / Leonard Glenn Crist

YSU professor Chet Cooper (top left), SGA President Bob McGovern (above) and Academic Senate chair Tom Shipka (right) spoke Wed. before the senate.

By: Cheryl Thompson
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

After listening to Thomas Shipka discuss his thoughts about labor relations at Youngstown State University, both administrators and faculty acknowledged the university's focus should be brought back to where it belongs, the students.

Shipka, YSU's Academic Senate chairman and also a member of the Labor-Management Review Panel, spoke Wednesday afternoon before a meeting of the senate.

Responding to rumors that senate members planned to cast a vote of no confidence against YSU President David Sweet, Shipka urged members not to do so.

Shipka encouraged the members to postpone no-confidence resolutions, citing efforts by the YSU Board of Trustees and Sweet to deal with several of the more controversial recommendations made in the Labor-Management Review Panel's report.

"If there is no progress along this line in coming days and weeks, those who are anxious to submit a resolution of no-confidence certainly may do so at the senate meeting in April or May," Shipka said.

In response to Shipka's report on campus labor relations, biology professor Chester Cooper said union members and administration need to take a step back and stop perpetuating negativity between the two groups.

"I think what we have seen transpire not only recently but what started over a year ago was a cancer of anger and hate that has metastasized all throughout this campus and even into the greater community. It needs to stop," Cooper said. "It is my suggestion that the entire university community take a breather."

Cooper admitted to bashing the administration in the past, but said it's time to stop the alienation of administrators

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Jambar / Leonard Glenn Crist

CHEVY CENTER

YSU could gain more access to Chevy Centre

By: Katie Libecco
COPY EDITOR

Students could benefit more from the Chevrolet Centre with a joint use agreement between Youngstown and YSU that is being discussed by the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees during today's meeting.

"The University shall be entitled to use the Chevrolet Centre upon terms and conditions more favorable than those available to the public to a degree that reasonably reflects the Funds appropriated," a draft of the 20-year agreement included in the agenda reads.

The agreement calls for YSU to receive the preferential treatment because of \$2 million that was jointly appropriated for YSU and the Chevrolet Centre in the 2006 state budget. According to the draft, YSU would have to receive benefits that "reasonably reflects the Funds appropriated" during the next 20 years.

In an interview this week, Youngstown mayor

and YSU graduate Jay Williams said, "Obviously, this happened before I was in office, but it's my understanding that when the money came in for the center, it flowed through the Board of Regents, and encouraged cooperation between the city and the school... This is an opportunity to give YSU a chance to make use of the facility."

Youngstown's Finance Director and YSU graduate David Bozanich said the city, YSU and the Chevrolet Centre worked together to create the joint use agreement and that

State Rep. Sylvester D. Patton was responsible for bringing the \$2 million to the Chevy Centre and YSU through the state's capitol budget.

"We see this as having a pretty positive impact. Hopefully it will encourage YSU to hold more events, including student events through Greek and social organizations at the center," Bozanich said. "We're hoping the university will hold events like graduations and orientation events there. We

want YSU to expand their use of the center, especially now that it makes sense economically."

Greg Morgione, YSU's new assistant general counsel, said he expects the agreement to be voted on and approved "within the next month or two." He said it would ultimately be up to the Ohio Board of Regents to approve the joint use agreement after the city and university vote to approve it.

Morgione said the Board of Trustees will not vote today, that it is more of an informational situation for the trustees. However, he said he feels both sides are "okay with it" and that the document was "pretty much final."

Perks for students are requested at one point in the document, where the draft reads, "The City agrees to use its best effort to work with promoters that utilize the Chevrolet Centre so that the promoters offer incentives for University students to purchase tickets for events."

please see **CHEVY**, Page 4

YSU

Performance report highlights YSU's pros and cons

By: Bill Rodgers
NEWS EDITOR

A new Ohio Board of Regents performance report of Youngstown State University shows that the school is ahead of the game in areas of in-state student employment after graduation, student retention rates, overall enrollment and financial aid.

However, some possible areas of improvement include a reducing the number of students taking remedial coursework and increasing the number of full-time faculty who teach students.

Associate provost Bege Bowers presented a summary of the report to YSU's Board of Trustees student affairs committee on Tuesday. Bowers said the performance report was a yearly assessment of all 13 public universities and community colleges in Ohio. She said Gov. Bob Taft called for the reports five years ago to get data on the quality of education Ohio universities provide.

Remedial coursework and the number of full-time to part time faculty stood out in the report as possible areas of improvement. Sixty-one percent of YSU's first year students needed coursework in math, English or both. Students who do not have a high school-level understanding of these "core" areas enroll in remedial classes. The percentage is a sharp contrast to the state average of 25 percent.

The high percentage could come from YSU's high nontraditional student popula-

"We need to convey to both high school students and parents the importance of completing the high school curriculum."

David Sweet, YSU President

tion, Bowers said. Another factor could be the lack of a community college near Youngstown.

Bowers said that the state frowns upon large numbers of students attending remedial classes in college because it has to pay for courses the students should have had in high school. However, she said that students who complete minimum high school requirements are more likely to return to next year. The retention rate for these students at YSU is 80 percent compared to the 74 percent state average.

Citing the high remedial numbers, YSU President David Sweet said Wednesday that the university was considering some incentives for students who complete the high school core classes before coming to YSU. The incentives could take the form of scholarships.

"We need to convey to both high school students and parents the importance of completing the high school curriculum," Sweet said.

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News Briefs

Summer festival of the arts applications available

Art applications are now available for the eight annual Summer Festival of the Arts in July. The deadline to turn in the applications is April 3. Artists can submit their art in two-dimensional fine arts, three-dimensional fine arts, and fine crafts. For applications call Lori Factor at (330) 941-2307.

Free movie, women's study discussion

YSU's Women's Studies and Student Diversity Programs will present a free showing of "Whale Rider," 4 p.m. March 2, 4 inside the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center. Stephanie Tingley, of the YSU English Department will lead a discussion following the film.

SGA sponsors 'Rent' screening

The Student Government Association will sponsor a free showing of "Rent" 7 p.m. Monday in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center. The first 150 students will receive pop and popcorn when the doors open at 6:30 p.m.

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the jambar poll question

Last Question

Should South Dakota force a Supreme Court abortion showdown?

38% 62%

Yes No

Today's Question

vote online @ www.thejambar.com

Q & A

YSU President David Sweet talks labor issues

By: Leonard Glenn Crist
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Editor's note: Due to a design error, the vast majority of this story, which originally ran in Tuesday's paper, was not printed.

Youngstown State University President David Sweet delivered his response to the controversial Labor Management Review Panel report during a YSU Board of Trustees meeting on last week.

The panel, appointed by Sweet to study the causes and offer solutions to YSU's labor problems following the August 2005 faculty and staff strikes, offered a number of recommendations in its report, the most contentious of which called for the firing of two top administrators, John Habat, YSU's administrative vice president, and Hugh Chatman, YSU's executive director of human resources.

Sweet has announced that Chatman will be reassigned to a new position, but has been mum on the future of Habat. The president also announced the formation of a standing labor council that would bring union presidents and administrators together on a regular basis in hopes of improving communication.

Sweet spoke with The Jambor Monday about the panel's report, his responses and the upcoming negotiations with YSU's police and administrative unions.

The Jambor: Did the Labor-Management Review Panel improve the labor situation at YSU or has it made it worse?

David Sweet: In all fairness, I think that's a question that can only be evaluated over time. I think there were many, many constructive comments in there. I thought there were others that would have been better if they were communicated to me in person rather than necessarily put in writing. And that's particularly as it relates to personnel matters. I just don't think it's appropriate to handle that in the public fashion it was, particularly the names of individuals. Certainly the strike itself was painful on all parties, faculty, staff, students and administrators. The appointment of the panel I made were intended to address and make recommendations and I think they did and for the most part they were very constructive. I think over time there may be a little different perspective on this. That is certainly

my great hope.
What exactly is Hugh Chatman going to be doing in his new position as director of regulatory compliance?

I've got a set of tasks. There have been a number of changes in federal and state law that have implications in some of our activities, and so I want him, particularly in the Fair Labor Practices Act, to take a look at what the implications are for the staff. He'll report to our general counsel, attorney Holly Jacobs.

Is this director of regulatory compliance a new position at YSU?
We have some new challenges and so we have assigned Hugh to a new responsibility. There wasn't an existing position that dealt with this matter. Historically there hasn't been the need. Although the general counsel's office often has handled this, sometimes with outside counsel, so it's a matter of taking advantage of his skill set and using it in that fashion.

Is Chatman working under his old contract or will a new one be drawn?

I'm honoring his contract.
Is he making the same amount of money?

I'm honoring his contract.
Will there be drops in pay for either John Habat or Tom Maraffa?

I'm not going to go into that. That's one of the areas that we're talking about, some of the issues that haven't been worked out. But in general, I think the theme about respecting contracts remains. With the realignment of duties, there frequently then is additional duties that need to be undertaken. So at this point there are no changes.

How would you respond to critics who say the administration keeps growing in size while faculty and staff are facing budget cuts?

I think that's always a subject for review and analysis. We continue to add faculty. I think it always has to be a balance. As a university you've got certain administrative and academic responsibilities. I think the record will reflect our faculty numbers continue to grow.

Are you worried that labor relationships will continue to remain strained because Chatman and Habat are still employed by YSU?

As I said, I'm hopeful that we've taken major steps forward in addressing the panel's recommendations. We have drawn on the theme of new faces in labor-management relations. We have achieved that objective. And while

there are a wide-range of discussions around personnel issues, I think at this point that's all I'll say.

Are you feeling pressure to fire John Habat from the trustees?

The trustees and I have extended discussion on all of these issues and came away from them, I think, united in terms of our perspectives.

What is that perspective with regards to Habat?

I'm not going to discuss the issues in detail about personnel.

What is next for John Habat? Has it been decided that he will stay or is that still open for discussion?

I'm not going to talk about personnel issues. There were a wide range of personnel issues discussed. The president was asked to take them under advisement. I've acted on some, there are others I'll be acting on. So I think it's an ongoing process relating to a number of topics that remain in play as a result of the recommendations in the report.

Did John Habat do anything with regards to the summer 2005 labor negotiations that was not authorized by either yourself or the trustees?

I think in general, the board, the president and the negotiating staff — including John Habat — were all on the same page.

In general?
We have had some specific discussions around the ceiling authority in terms of the funds available and the objectives as it related to health care and some of the other topics. But I think — we were — on the same page.

Why is it so important for YSU to keep ACE staff union President Chris Domhoff out of a job? Wouldn't bringing her back be a simple way to ease labor tensions?

I don't want to discuss that. I think my response in the report stands for itself.

Should there be better or more easily accessible channels for the unions to get concerns heard by the trustees?

I think we're taking a step in that direction with the response to the recommendation about establishing a labor management council. Quarterly reports will be provided to the board and on an annual basis the panel will have the opportunity to meet with the board. I think this will be a giant step forward in improving communications.

Who is going to be represented on this new standing labor council?

What I said in my response is I will convene the four bargaining unit presidents, myself and the provost, and in a collaborative discussion we will identify what should be the composition and the objectives of the labor management council. So it will emerge from a discussion of that group.

Will there be a place for students?

I was asked that question. It certainly would have my support. We have, as you know, two students on the Board of Trustees. In my six years here, we have been very fortunate that, without exception, they have made a positive contribution to the discussions of the various committees they participate on. They have been active, informed. I think the same model can apply elsewhere.

I think a lot of people get the idea that David Sweet thinks he does no wrong. What personal feelings are you willing to admit to in this whole labor process?

Well, anybody that thinks that, I think has a misperception of my feelings. What I'm recommitting myself to is this concept of getting the union presidents and myself together for conversations, opening informal channels. Obviously in retrospect, I could have improved in looking at the communications issue more intensely.

The thing that really troubled me in some respects [was] the topic that was pointed to in one of the recommendations about the availability of economic data and information. I think one of my basic tenets in terms of my administrative style, particularly in a public university, is that we have open access to information. I mean this is public information. And so I was troubled that there were some — I don't know that this was pervasive — some that didn't feel they were getting the information they required. Now what I've said in the report and what I strongly believe, if there are reasonable requests, I will bend over backwards to make sure they are responded to. I have said to both the president of FOP and the president of APAS, if during the course of your preparation for the upcoming negotiations, you encounter any difficulty, I'm asking you to call me directly, because I will do my best to unjam any logjam.

What kind of request for publicly available financial information would be unreasonable?

If you came in the day before and

asked for 4,000 pages of analysis on a massive set of data sets, I think that would probably be considered unreasonable. I think if you think through and ask in a reasonable fashion, there's absolutely no reason we can't be in a position to respond.

YSU's Student Government Association President Bob McGovern said last week he felt students were the forgotten product of the continuing labor-management strife. Is this the case in your opinion?

I have said that we need to move forward and refocus our energy on why we're here: For the students. I think that there has been no question, enormous amounts of time [have been] taken up by this matter for key administrators. I would assume others. There's no question it has had a pervasive impact on the campus, and that's why I'm anxious to move forward.

Has your opinion of Provost Robert Herbert changed since the panel report was released?

In terms of the interactions I've had with him, seeing him work in the context of some of the academic initiatives, my opinion has been enhanced.

I've heard union chatter that said you've called Herbert a traitor. Is that true?

Absolutely false. I get accused of a lot of things, but I can tell you, his and my working relationship is stronger today than it was six months ago when he first arrived.

The Fraternal Order of Police union contract is up in March and the APAS administrative union contract expires in June. What is the status of YSU's negotiations with these two unions?

The police contract expires on March 30. The APAS contract expires on June 30. Reflecting on the history of what I consider to be very positive labor-management relations with the APAS and the FOP, I was intrigued to see that 3 years ago we were about at the same place with the FOP. Three years ago, the contract was to expire on March 30. On April 1, we began negotiations and six meetings later on April 15, we concluded the contract in, I think, a very positive way. So from where I sit, we're right on track.

Are there any chances that either of these groups might strike?

Based on my conversation with both [union] presidents, I have every reason to believe that we can move forward in a constructive fashion.

APAS, FOP contract negotiations nearing

By: Bill Rodgers
NEWS EDITOR

YSU's faculty and classified staff unions returned to the dugout last summer following a turbulent round of contract negotiations. Now, it's time for two new unions, the Association of Professional and Administrative Staff and the Fraternal Order of Police to step up to the plate.

APAS' contract will expire on June 30, FOP's will expire on March 30. YSU President David Sweet said Wednesday that the administration's new negotiating team was in place with chief negotiators to be decided on at a later date. Sweet said he expected the negotiations would demon-

strate improved labor relations on campus.

"I think we have had good interactions with [APAS President Sally Kenney] and [FOP President John Spencer]. I believe that we will move forward in improving labor-management relations at YSU," Sweet said.

Kenney said that APAS, the union which represents 135 full and part time administrative members, had recently elected their negotiating team and would begin meeting to review their contract.

She said her union hadn't yet met with administration to discuss a starting date for the talks. She said the two negotiating teams would

need to set a list of guidelines for the talks. The guidelines may include a news blackout for the duration of the negotiations.

Kenney was asked if she thought her round of talks could reach the level of tension of the faculty's and classified employees. She said she couldn't predict anything at this point.

"It's hard to say on any given year. We don't know who the administrative team is going to be... We're hoping not, but it's hard to predict right now," Kenney said.

Spencer could not be reached for comment.

Sweet received some criticism from a faculty member at last week's board of trustees meeting for not moving forward sooner with the talks. Sweet said yesterday that three years ago negotiations with the FOP union began on April 1. After six sessions, they agreed to a contract for the police on April 15.

"We're on track," Sweet said. "We will get started with both union presidents when we come forward with a team."

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989

More news in brief

Free Business Seminars

The Small Business Development Center will conduct free seminars throughout March and April. "Business Start-Up Basics" will teach basic information about starting their own business, including how to license, plan and finance it. The first will be held on Monday March 6, 9 a.m. to noon at the Youngstown Incubator on Federal Plaza West in downtown. To register, call (330) 746-3350.

RecycleMania: Bring it on, Harvard!

Youngstown State University continues to compete in the national RecycleMania, which continues through April 8. The 10-week competition pits 90 colleges against each other to see who can collect the largest amount of recycled materials. YSU recycling encourages all students, staff and faculty to recycle all paper, plastics and cans.

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Editorial & Opinion

Thursday, March 2, 2006

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thejambar

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OUR SIDE

Professor's wise advice should be heeded by all

At last. Out of the darkness of Youngstown State University's seemingly never-ending labor strife, a hopeful ray of light emerged Wednesday at a meeting of the university's Academic Senate.

From the mouth of Chet Cooper, an admitted faculty union hardliner, came these wise words:

"I have lost a great amount of sleep these last three weeks. I've been under a lot of stress because I too love this university. And I've been here since the very first day that David Sweet came, we started at the same time. We've walked different paths but we're at the same junction."

"I think what we have seen transpire not only recently but what started over a year ago was a cancer of anger and hate that has metastasized all throughout this campus and even into the greater community. I think its time to stop. It is time to stop the alienation of our colleagues, both administrators, faculty and most importantly the students. We need to be less self-centered, we need to be more giving and most of all we need to be more honest."

"I and my colleagues have said some ugly things and I think its time to stop. I think its time to take a step back, and it is my suggestion that the entire university community take a breather and begin a dialogue with one and other of openness, honest communication that is respectful and reasonable."

A round of applause from the Academic Senate followed Cooper's words, perhaps a sign that YSU has finally turned a corner.

Cooper exhibited the kind of leadership that has sorely been missing from the university over the last year. Union officials, administrators and trustees must follow Cooper's lead and begin to concede certain facts to the other side.

For starters, President Sweet should hire back Christine Domhoff, YSU's staff union president who was railroaded out of her job last year, conveniently close to the start of collective bargaining.

Next, the unions should be willing to concede that John Habat and Hugh Chatman can effectively serve the university in some capacities, just not with regards to labor-management.

Finally, once Domhoff has been rehired, union negotiators should step down, as recommended by the report. Administration negotiators have already made that move.

These steps can be achieved only when all the parties finally set their egos aside and begin working toward their common goal: the higher education of students.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Jambar editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambar and its Editorial Board members. Commentaries and columns reflect only the views of the individual who wrote the piece. Those wishing to schedule meetings with the Editorial Board should call the editor in chief.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Remember Sept. 11 by focusing on the future

Editor:
Though the attacks on Sept. 11 were horrific in every regard, I disagree with your assertion that it's selfish of us as a nation to put an end to our grief and face the future. In no way do I think we should forget what happened in 2001, but I do believe that instead of focusing on sadness, loss, and revenge, we should instead focus on what the terrorist attacks and their repercussions mean in a broader context, with respect to both our nation's and our world's future. Remembrance does not mean mourning; it means learning. We ought to remember the events of Sept. 11 and learn from them, but we shouldn't let one day's calamity rule our lives. The goal of the terrorist is implied in the name: to induce terror. If in our alarm we willingly give up our liberties to keep ourselves safe, then the terrorists have won, even if they never attack again. Your life is yours to live, and if you want to spend it in mourning and in fear, that's certainly your prerogative. I choose to get as much joy and happiness out of my life as I possibly can. I don't want to be afraid in the future due to my obsession with the events of the past, because I know that the sun will rise tomorrow. It's a shame that your eyes will be squeezed too tightly shut to see it.

Lori MacDonald

Quality of labor can't be defined by wages

Editor:
Vice President John Habat writes that "YSU-ACE classi-

fied staff are paid well above the market median".

Jack Labusch
Support Services

Voters already had their say in SD abortion ban

Editor:
Once again I have occasion to take issue with one of your blindly pro-choice editorials. This time, however, I am not writing to criticize your logic as I have in the past. Today, I only take issue with the last paragraph of the editorial, in which you said:

"Perhaps if you feel strongly about the possible ban, you should contact these representatives now and tell them about it. Get your say in now, because if South Dakota is any indication, the voters won't be consulted when it's time for the bill to pass into law."

Without sounding too condescending, let me briefly explain how a representative government (such as we have in Ohio, South Dakota and the United States itself) works. The voters vote on election day for the people they want to represent them in the government, be it state legislature or US Congress. Whoever gets the most votes in each district wins. These winners become our representatives, they make the decisions they feel is in the best interest of the country, and at the end of their terms,

they run for re-election, and if we the voters are satisfied with their work, we re-elect them. If we are not, we vote for the other guy/gal.

So, dear editor, my gripe today is with your argument that the voters will not be consulted when it's time to pass the bill. See...we already have been consulted. The voters of Ohio voted in the current legislature. This is an election year, which means we will have the opportunity to give our consultation again at the polls. What those of you on the editorial board seem to have a hard time accepting is YOUR SIDE LOST. The Democratic (usually pro-choice) party earned a minority of seats. The Republican (usually pro-life) party earned a majority of seats, and therefore the right to run the state as they see fit for the two-year term that ends this coming December. If you dislike it that much (and obviously you do because you waste no opportunity to whine about how terrible things are), get off your butts and go vote for candidates who think the way you do. Just remember, every other person in the state has the same right to vote that you do, and if your side loses yet again, then maybe the people of Ohio WANT to challenge Roe v Wade, and you're (still) in the minority.

Don Rudolph II

Want to send a letter to the editor?

Interested in writing commentaries?

E-mail us at:
thejambar@gmail.com



CHEVY, continued from page 1

"We see this as a great strategic alliance between the city and the university," Bozanich said. "When we went into this, we really looked at how to benefit both places."

The document reads, "The University shall be entitled to use the Chevrolet Centre six times per year for events such as graduation, speakers, concerts, conventions, sporting events, orientations and other relation events...the University will be responsible for the costs incurred by the City to operate the Chevrolet Centre and provide adequate security, however, such costs shall not exceed \$3,000 per event."

In addition to the six events, the joint use agreement draft calls for free use of in-house production equipment, use of two hospitality suites (accommodating a total of 68 people per event) and access to parking for up to 2,300 vehicles.

The joint use agreement draft also calls for YSU to access the 'festival grounds adjacent to the Chevrolet Centre' six times per year for outdoor events.

A conference room within the building that accommodates 75 people is also requested to be used up to 20 days a year, eight hours a day.

"I hope, and I'm confident, that YSU will find a way to use this to their advantage," Williams said. "One of the goals of the facility was to be a valuable resource to people in the Mahoning Valley, and with YSU being an integral part of it, we want to make sure

YSU can benefit from it."

A value analysis included in the draft of the proposed joint agreement follows:

- The cost to rent the Chevrolet Centre is \$15,000 per event. For each event, YSU will only be responsible for operational and security costs, which shall not exceed \$3,000.

- The Chevrolet Centre has state of the art production equipment, which is rented for \$2,000 per event.

- Youngstown will provide YSU with the use of two hospitality suites per event. The hospitality suites accommodate up to 34 people per suite. Hospitality suites rent for \$2,500 per event.

- The use of the festival grounds with private parking is \$1,500 per event.

- The City will provide covered parking for up to 2,300 vehicles per event. This parking would cost \$3 per vehicle. The value of the use of this parking for each event is \$6,900.

- The cost to rent the conference room is \$75 per hour, or \$600 per eight-hour day.

A representative from the Chevrolet Centre declined to comment on the agreement, due to being unfamiliar with the background of the document.

Call Katie Libecco at (330) 941-3758.

SENATE, continued from page 1

and faculty. "The negativity is harming what we are supposed to consider to be the most important element of the campus, the students," Cooper said. Those in attendance applauded Cooper after his statement. Bob McGovern, YSU's Student Government Association president, said it was refreshing to hear Cooper mention students in his comments.

"Lately it seems like students have been placed on the backburner. Amid all this talk of labor relations, it feels like some have lost touch with why they're here," McGovern said.

McGovern alluded to the Panel's recommendation that Sweet fire two top administrators, John Habat and Hugh Chatman, a recommendation which has thus far not been implemented. McGovern said the decision to keep the two on

board should be honored.

"This decision should be accepted, even if not agreed with," McGovern said.

Instead of termination, Sweet reassigned Chatman to a new position, and would not disclose Habat's future with the university, leaving it open for discussion.

McGovern said the university's situation is similar to group of students assigned to work together in a classroom for a group grade. Some members excel while others may falter.

McGovern urged other "group members" to put in more effort to improve the situation of the "group."

McGovern suggested that union members and administrators patch things up by making individual efforts to show concern for the other party.

"Do something to demonstrate that you care

about them and what they do for the students," McGovern said.

Cynthia Anderson, vice president of student affairs, proposed the senate look into ways to build communication between the unions and administration.

"Let's come up with some ideas to open the communication channels, so what is being said today doesn't just end up as pretty words," Anderson said.

Provost Robert Herbert, who headed the Labor Management Review Panel, echoed Cooper's sentiments.

"The mood of the senate is one that would let us return to what is important, the education of our students," Herbert said after the meeting.

Call Cheryl Thompson at (330) 941-1913.

PERFORMANCE, continued from page 1

Sweet said that university provost Robert Herbert would be working on a plan to bring up YSU's percentage in another area: Classes taught by full time faculty. In 2003, full-time faculty taught 45 percent of YSU's first-year classes. The rate has fallen 11 percent since 1998 and is now 4 percent lower than the state average in 2003.

Bowers said that the drop was bigger since YSU used to be the state leader in full-time faculty teaching classes. Since then, professors working on research could have caused YSU to hire more part-time faculty.

The higher numbers of part time faculty haven't hurt YSU in the area of accreditation, Bowers said. She said that an accreditation team reviewing the engineering college mentioned it once, but said that the part time faculty was doing a good job educating students.

Sweet pointed out that YSU had hired 30 new faculty members from the years 2001-2005.

The report showed several positive statistics. YSU was ahead of the state average in the number of students who were employed or sought more education

in-state after earning a baccalaureate degree; 80 percent to 75 percent. In the realm of tuition, YSU is the third most affordable school in Ohio, beaten only by Shawnee State and Central State.

The report said that 87 percent of YSU students received financial aid. It said that YSU students generally needed to borrow less in federal loans than students at many other state universities.

YSU has also shown substantial enrollment growth and retention rates of first-year students. Undergraduate enrollment

increased 11 percent from the years 2000-2004, beating the 7 percent state average. YSU also exceeded the retention rate for an open-admissions college, 69 percent to 68 percent, the second highest in the state.

Sweet said he was pleased with the report overall.

"This report provides ongoing evidence that as a university, we provide quality education for students at a reasonable cost in contrast to the other 12 in Ohio," Sweet said.

Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

Upward Bound at YSU
Summer Employment Opportunities

Upward Bound is looking for YSU students who enjoy working with high school students and have or would like to gain experience in housing/residential setting and student activities.

Position Descriptions and Salary

Lead Resident Assistant Salary \$1900
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June 19-July 28, 2006 plus training

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Must be a current student with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Preference given to Juniors and Seniors with majors in education, psychology, social work, and those with prior work experience with high school students.

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Applications are available in Jones Hall 2002. The deadline date is March 24th, 2006. For additional information contact Angie Urmsen Jeffries at (330) 941-4666.

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Miscellaneous

Discount to YSU students: Call Susan at Monet's Hair Salon in Boardman 330-259-0707 (or 0708). She has day and evening hours Monday/Tuesday/Friday by appointment.

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YSU BASKETBALL

Men fall to Loyola, Women to face UW-GB

Women optimistic going into the quarterfinal match up Tough loss ends the season for the YSU men

By: Justin Smolkovich
SPORTS REPORTER

The seventh seed Youngstown State University women's basketball team head to University of Wisconsin-Green Bay this afternoon to battle the second seed Phoenix.

The Penguins, along with head coach Tisha Hill, are ready, despite being swept in the regular season.

The reason the 8-19 Penguins create a spark of optimism in their head coach coincidentally has been the reason that it has been a long year for the team. Hill said the inexperience of her team might keep them from getting caught up by tournament play.

"The young kids don't know any better," Hill said at her weekly press conference. "And I love it like that. They are going to go out there and play loose and just have fun with it."

While using the inexperience of her team as a positive, Hill has also tapped into another source of pride for the program. Hill is using last year's upset win over UW-Green Bay to motivate her team.

The Penguins toppled the Phoenix last season when



Jambar/ Katie Libeco

With UIC defenders in hot pursuit, Monique Godfrey heads towards the hoop to shoot a layup during a game played earlier this season. The YSU women face-off against UW-GB tonight in the quarterfinals of the Horizon League championships.

they were ranked 23 in the country. The 60-56 victory was arguably one of the benchmark wins for Hill in her tenure at YSU, and she said she wants to use every moment of that game last season to motivate.

"We have got the picture in the locker room of that night," Hill said. "We've got the highlight reel going; all the stops are being pulled out for this one to get these guys to understand that it

can be done."

While Hill will be using motivational aids to inspire her team, it will take actual performance on the court to secure a first round win on the road. The Penguins will need to take care of the ball if they hope to sniff the victory against the Phoenix.

The Penguins have turned the ball over more than 499 times this season for a 18.5 per game average compared to just 15.3

turnovers for opponents on the season. Hill said eliminating these mistakes could keep her squad in contention.

"Are we expecting a perfect game with handling the ball, absolutely not, but we have to limit those opportunities for Green Bay to score," Hill said.

Tipoff is set for 8 p.m.

Call Justin Smolkovich at (330) 941-3758.

By: Justin Smolkovich
SPORTS REPORTER

Quin Humphrey scored a team-high 22 points during Tuesday's game against Loyola and led three Penguins in double figures in the first round of the Horizon League Tournament, but the Penguins were unable to overcome a 32-17 halftime score, finishing their season with a loss to Loyola 76-61.

Dominique Crawford scored 17 points on the night while Derrick Harris accounted for 10. Crawford led the Penguins in rebounding with nine boards.

The Ramblers Blake Schilb who battled Humphrey during the season for the league scoring record finished the night with a game high 23 points.

Tuesday night's game came just three days after the teams met at Beeghly Center in an overtime finish that saw Loyola eek out a victory.

The Penguins' doom was spelled out early in the night as they struggled from the field, shooting a

dismal 29 percent from the field on 7 of 24 attempts.

The Penguins would come within nine points, the closest that they would get during the contest and played better offensively in the second stanza. In the second half the Penguins shot 45 percent including 7 of 15 from behind the three-point line. The Penguins cored 44 points in the second half but were outmatched as the Ramblers bested the Penguins by shooting 75 percent on 12 of 16 in the second.

The victory for the Ramblers put them into position to play Detroit Friday night in Milwaukee in the second round.

The Penguins, however, finished the season with a record of 7-21, a two game improvement from last season's 5-23 mark.

The bright spot for the Penguins heading into the off-season lies in experience. They return 11 players including Humphrey and emerging star and senior

be senior Keston Roberts. Call Justin Smolkovich at (330) 941-3758.

WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC

WBC: a classic remedy for boredom

By: Greg Cote
KNIGHT RIDDER (KRT)

We know Major League Baseball begins its season more specially than other sports. The anticipation is somehow greater. No matter baseball's various troubles, the capital letters in Opening Day always seem to fit, seem earned. Finally, the reason why has come clear.

It isn't so much that we are grateful a new season has arrived.

It is that we are celebrating the end, at last, of spring training.

There may be nothing more meaningless in all of sports than March's dull parade of fraud-games — glorified practices between yawning players on facsimiles of their actual teams-to-be.

Finally, a diversion has been invented.

Welcome, World Baseball Classic.

You may be flawed. You may not even have a future.

But you have instantly succeeded if only as an experimental toy, something shiny and new to take our minds off of "split squads," starters going two innings, no-names bound for Double A getting too many at-bats, guys jogging along the outfield wall during play, and results so inconsequential you wonder why they even turn on the scoreboard.

Spring training will continue to drone on in the background, like awful elevator music does, but now baseball offers a more pleasing March alternative in the buildup to Opening Day, some-

thing where results actually will matter. In its dubious wisdom, the IOC booted baseball from its Olympic Games, so MLB and its players union have together created what amounts to a baseball Olympics: 16 national teams going for the figurative gold.

It's a good, noble and natural concept, reflecting the globalization of American sports in general and accentuating in particular the inherent diversity of baseball: the game without borders.

If baseball has any remaining claim to "America's Pastime" as a legitimate credo, it is in the melting-pot nature of the sport mirroring the nation where it was born. Send us your tired, your poor but mostly, send us your shortstops, Venezuela.

In the WBC, running March 3-20 with opening rounds in four cities including Orlando, players fanned across the major leagues reunite with their countrymen to represent the nation of their birth or citizenship.

Some teams will be dominated by big-leaguers, by starpower. Others might not field a single recognizable name. The expected disparity is why they'll have a 10-run "mercy rule." Baseball purists don't like that, or the 65-pitch limit for starters in the first round.

Appreciate the bigger picture, though, the interesting storylines.

Can a U.S. team led by Roger Clemens and Alex Rodriguez and featuring the Marlins' Dontrelle Willis prevail over a star-studded Dominican team led by Pedro Martinez, Albert Pujols and Manny Ramirez? Can Venezuela, featuring the Marlins' Miguel Cabrera and inspired by its recent Caribbean World Series triumph, surprise both the United States and Dominican Republic and help unite a Venezuelan people wracked by political turmoil?

Will a dark horse such as Japan or Puerto Rico surprise the world?

And, of intense interest in greater Miami and 90 miles south, will Fidel Castro get the pulpit and forum he seeks by Cuba winning? (Or might he be shamed by an ouster or player defections instead?)

Politics and controversy always will be a part of the WBC, which is supposed to be played again in 2009 and every four years thereafter.

A-Rod was eligible to play for either the U.S. or Dominican and almost chose not to play at all rather than disappoint either country's fans.

Some teams exercised a rule allowing them to prevent players from competing, as the Yankees did with catcher Jorge Posada.

Some players, such as Barry Bonds, Carl Crawford and Nomar Garciaparra, simply chose not to participate.

Plenty of managers privately would prefer the WBC didn't exist at all as a disruption to the routine of their spring. New managers especially, such as the Marlins' Joe Girardi, have three fewer weeks to evaluate certain players and have their whole team together. (Young Marlins catcher Miguel Olivo is

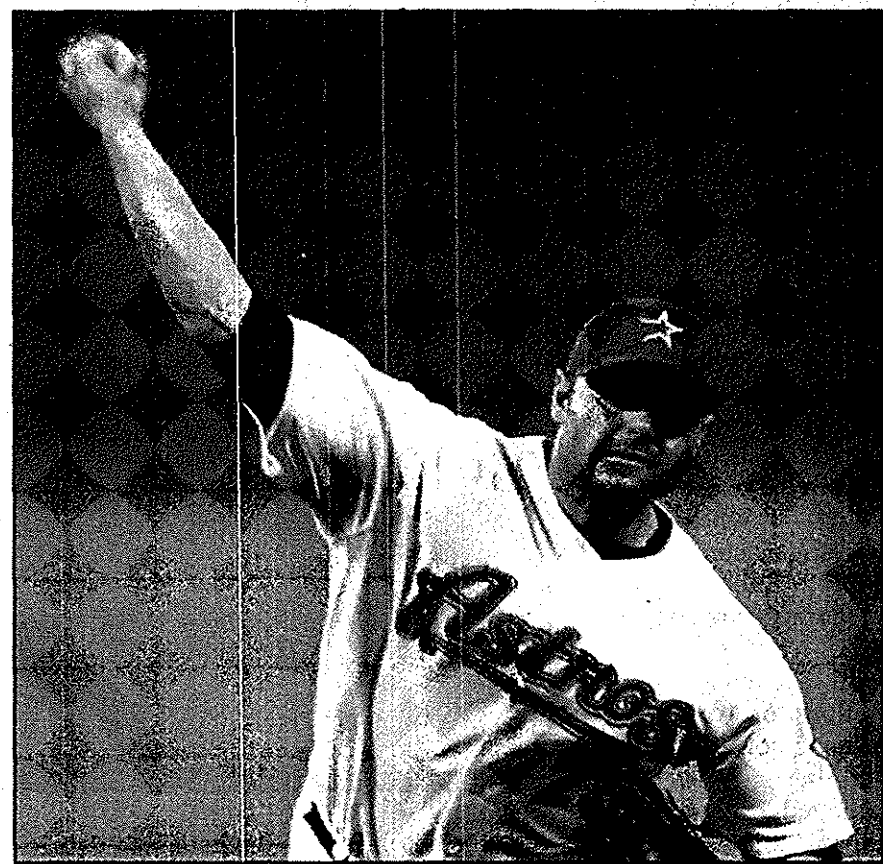


Photo courtesy of KRT Campus

Roger Clemens, pictured above, is one of the Stars of the U.S. team competing in the World Baseball Classic.

batting to start. You think Girardi would rather have him spend March in a Marlins or Dominican jersey?)

And can you imagine the outcry if a star player happened to suffer a serious injury playing in a made-up tournament for his country rather than for the big-league team paying his salary?

Or the scandal if the WBC's more stringent drug-testing caught some previously unsuspected superstar?

Overriding everything: Will fans buy it? Will the public embrace this?

All of these issues, imperfections and questions make the future of the World Baseball Classic debatable. Is it a one-shot

deal or will it enjoy perpetuity and grow beyond 16 teams?

It has a chance to be the latter if enough top players stay interested, and if winning the championship seems important.

"This is a pretty neat event. I've never been a part of an Olympics or anything, but I imagine the competition is going to be pretty heated," U.S. starting pitcher Jake Peavy offered on a conference call. "You got your country's name across your chest. We're going to want to win this thing."

For now, the World Baseball Classic is that shiny new toy we like because the results matter, and because anything beats spring training.

LOCAL MUSIC

Brady's Leap releases second album

By: Katie Libecco
 COPY EDITOR

Youngstown State University's own Brady's Leap has released their second album, "Heart of a Stranger"

This album could accomplish two very important tasks as spring approaches. It could be your best friend on St. Patrick's Day. It's also the perfect album to listen to on a rainy day.

Brady's Leap is a new-Celtic band comprised of six musicians, five of whom are YSU faculty.

Members of Brady's Leap include frontman and YSU professor of English, Phil Brady. YSU SMARTS coordinator Kelly Bancroft also performs a large portion of the band's vocal work, with exceptional harmonies.

The rest of the band pitches in to cover vocals throughout the album, including Steve Reese, YSU associate professor of English, William Greenway, YSU professor of English and Istvan Hommer — the only member of Brady's Leap to not work for YSU.

"The inspirations come from many places — from the instruments themselves, from the various talents in the bands, and from the fusion of traditional and contemporary elements. Since we are grounded in poetry, we like to do songs in which the lyric content is compelling in some way," song-writer Reese said recently. "I do

not have a favorite period or style — I love the traditional elements in the music, but I love fusing them with other elements so that the traditional is filtered through a contemporary sensibility. Traditional purists will not like this, but it's what we do and love."

"The inspirations come from many places — from the instruments themselves, from the various talents in the bands, and from the fusion of traditional and contemporary elements..."



Steve Reese, YSU
 Associate professor of English

A good example of a song that can be analyzed thoroughly and still enjoyed is "Daffyd's Lament," with a smooth blend of modern and traditional musical elements. Brady belts the song with a seriousness that can't be argued with. Reese compiled a collection of works by Scottish medieval poet Daffyd to serve as the basis for this song.

"Songs can take two days or two months, it all depends. Some get written, played for a while, and then worked on some more — we have some songs that have been evolving for over a year," Reese, the creative force of Brady's Leap,

said. "The layering comes from many things: From the mix of Celtic and American influences, from the mix of traditional and contemporary sounds, from the mix of instruments and voices in the band."

Bancroft said "Daffyd's Lament" is one of her personal

favorites.

"I really like 'Daffyd's Lament' because of the odd blend of modern instruments like electric guitar with ancient language and narration," Bancroft said. "But 'Heart of the Stranger' is also moving to me every time I hear it."

The song "Heart of the Stranger" also serves as the second album's title. "Heart of a Stranger" is a story of Walt Whitman's interaction with a Civil War soldier.

"I like the fact that it has a poem by Walt Whitman as its bridge, and the story is for me absolutely compelling," Reese said. "Heart

of the Stranger' is my favorite song."

Another highlight of the album is "Poor Girl's Meditation," with vocals based on an ancient Irish poem. The song has a Lennon-McCartney feel, with mellow verses and upbeat choruses. It tells a story of a lonely Irish girl, pretty and alone — a story still told in today's pop music.

What stands out the most is "Love Among the Ruins," a gentle ballad. Brady's tin whistle softly accompanies the lyrics of the eternal love story.

"One tower's ruins are all that's left, where houseleeks blossom in every cleft and there's a girl who waits me there with eager eyes and yellow hair," Brady sings.

But a familiar melody surfaces in "Johnny, I Hardly Knew Ye," in a hauntingly sad story of loss. Bancroft sings the story of a soldier marching to war to a tune many would recognize as "The Saints Go Marching In."

"No they never will take our sons again, Johnny I'm swearing to ye," the song closes.

"Most of us know this song as a marching-to-war song, a song that applauds the war. It is actually written originally as an anti-war song. It shows the horrors of war — you're an eyeless, boneless, chick- enless egg," as the lover who was left behind laments the man she once loved. It is one of my favorites," Bancroft said.



Jambor/Katie Libecco

Brady's Leap band member and YSU's SMARTS Coordinator Kelly Bancroft performs during a recent show at the SMARTS Center. Five members of the new-Celtic Brady's Leap are YSU faculty members

Of course, it's not really an Irish music album without a few good drinking songs. Be sure not to miss "How the Whiskey Rescued Me," "The Brown and Yellow Beer" or "Jolly Good Ale."

Brady's Leap will be playing at Irish Bob's from 4 - 7 p.m. on March 12, and from 3 - 8 p.m. on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, at the Youngstown Sports Bar and Grill.

For more information, visit www.bradyisleap.com.

Call Katie Libecco at (330) 941-3758

COMMENTARY

'Arrested Development' got canceled for this?!

By: Bob Mackey
 COLUMNIST

There's a point in every TV show's lifespan where it's more than obvious that cancellation is the essential act needed to both spare the dignity of its actors and preserve the legacy of the series. For "That '70's Show," it was clear things were over when the boundaries of the 1970s were pushed further than chronologically possible, leaving the characters who remained looking very old and very confused. One night on Fox, I could have sworn that Wilmer Valderrama, disillusioned from playing a teenager for eight years, was being pulled around the set like a marionette by sympathetic stagehands.

There was no floating Fez to signify the end of "Will and Grace," however; the writing on the wall was much more subtle. The show simply ran out of ways to portray homosexuals as mythical creatures who live exclusively in the big city, and as a result of this, it will vanish from the airwaves at the end of the season. While "Will and Grace's" fate is sealed, many other programs will remain, despite how

awful they've gotten or have always been. The following is a list of programs whose ongoing existence baffle me; I encourage you to write to your local television station or congressperson to get these shows removed from the

air, and to have their writers deported or beaten, depending on your mood. You can always opt for both.

"Charmed" — "Charmed," or, "The Boobs Show," has been a vehicle for Alyssa Milano's breasts for eight years now, and, as long as its writers can find new and exiting things to happen to Alyssa Milano's breasts, I see no end to this WB favorite. Perhaps time and gravity will eventually effect the ratings, but with bra technology increasing at an exponential level, it looks like we may be sentenced to at least another five years of the show that makes "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" look like a Seinfeldian masterpiece of modern television. While "Charmed" had a few good ideas in the beginning — namely, showing Shannen Doherty's face regularly in an effort to add some horror to the show — the only people who watch it now are fan fiction writers desperately in need of new material. I guess there's really nothing more terrifying than that. Thanks, "Charmed!"

"E.R." — I'll admit, I was hooked on "E.R." back in the mid-90s when Thursdays were "must-see" and people talked about O.J. Simpson daily. Now that it's 2006, "must-see" has transformed into "you should probably read a book instead" Thursdays, with "E.R." standing as an eroded monument to an age when NBC was unstoppable. Crime dramas like "Law and Order" have avoided going stale by branching off into several different areas, but hospital shows face certain difficulties when trying to do this.

"E.R.: Burn Ward Squad?" "E.R.: Harlequin Baby Unit?" Not even "Fear Factor" could be more disgusting.

"Saturday Night Live" — Many people are against canceling SNL, their defense being, "It's an institution!" So was slavery. To be honest, SNL has always had a 10 percent batting average, and its most overrated years — the 1970s — are held in such great esteem because everyone who watched those episodes thirty years ago was very, very high. Today, SNL continues to set a low benchmark for comedy, with 90 percent of the sketches using the theme of, "Hey, what if a really annoying character hosted a talk show?" SNL could be saved if it was pulled out of the clutches of the un-funniest man from Canada (Lorne Michaels), but it has done so much damage to the television landscape that it would be more productive to resurrect good sketch comedy shows like "Mr. Show" and "Upright Citizens Brigade." Of course, this could only happen in my dream world, a place where Tim Allen never existed and life is bearable.

Every ABC Sitcom — From "The George Lopez Show" to "Hope and Faith" and "According to Jim," the ABC network has a strong stable of shows that no one can possibly watch. I say this because I can't think of an occasion where a human would willingly sit down to watch Jim Belushi's bloated, unfunny body siphon as

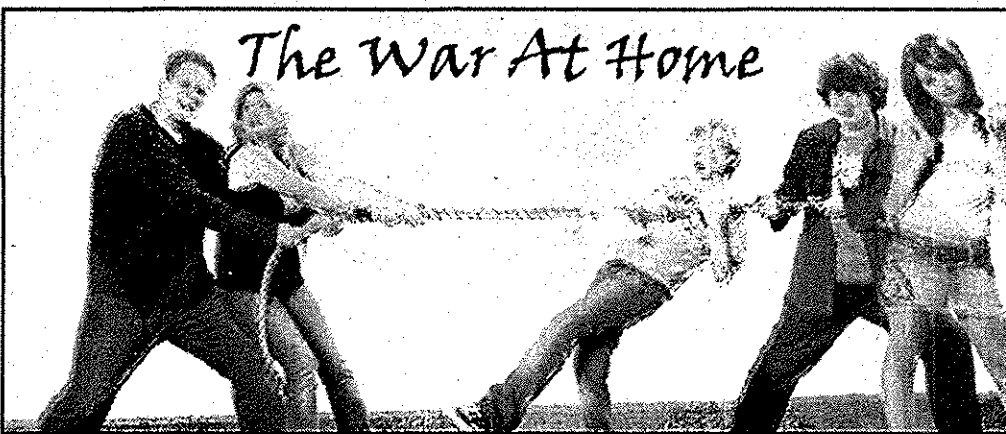


Photo courtesy of FOX Broadcasting

much popularity he can out of his brother's corpse over the course of a half-hour. The sitcoms I mentioned aren't much better, but — with a few exceptions — ABC sitcoms were never really that good. The only redeeming quality of the ones I watched as a kid was kitsch; there were robots, magic potions, and time travel, and this was just on "Family Matters." While the current batch of sitcoms could be improved in this way, I would prefer to never see a Belushi-bot.

"The War at Home" — Yes, "The War at Home" has barely been on for a season, but on a weekly basis it commits crimes against humanity, greater even than the male pony-tail or Zubaz pants. Take the stereotypical family unit, add many contrived plots and a terrible sense of self-important edginess, and you get a sitcom that should be erased from the earth with space lasers. You may also get cancer.

Just the fact that these sitcoms are still on the air and good shows like "Arrested Development" have been destroyed is scientific proof that there is no God. Okay, I may be going a little overboard; God may exist, but he cares not for matters of televised entertainment. Lord, why have you forsaken me?

Bob Mackey swears on a stack of "TV Guides" that he is telling the truth. He can be reached at (330) 941-1913.

WEEKEND EVENTS

Friday:

The Clarks with Via Sahara at The Cellar, 162 S. Bridge St., in Struthers. The show starts at 9 p.m. (18+) Tickets are \$20 and are on sale now. For more information, visit www.thecellarrocks.com.

Monster Truck Mania at the Chevrolet Centre, 229 E. Front St. Tickets are \$20 for VIP, \$15 for adult and \$10 for children. General Motors employees receive a discount on tickets, except VIP.

It's the last weekend for YSU's **"Seussical: The Musical"** at 8 p.m. by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens, based upon the works by Dr. Seuss, Mar. 3-4, 8:00 pm, Mar. 5, 3 pm, Ford Theater, Bliss Hall. For tickets, call the box office at (330) 941-3105.

Kitchen Knife Conspiracy CD release party for album "A Friend in Need...Is a Friend to Kill" at The Nyabinghi, 1229 Salt Springs Road, with Rue and Harlequin's Voice. Show starts at 10 p.m. (18+)

Saturday:

Catch **"Seussical: The Musical"** 8 p.m. in Bliss Hall's Ford Theater. For tickets, call the box office at (330) 941-3105.

Dana Vocal Society Recital, 8 pm, Bliss Recital Hall

Monster Truck Mania at the Chevrolet Centre. Tickets are \$20 for VIP, \$15 for adult and \$10 for children.

Aura with River's Edge and Relic at The Nyabinghi. Show starts at 10 p.m. (18+)

Sunday:

Catch **"Seussical: The Musical"** 3 p.m. in Bliss Hall's Ford Theater. For tickets, call the box office at (330) 941-3105.

Want to be included in the Weekend Event Calendar? Let us know what's going on by e-mailing thejambor@gmail.com.