

THE Jambor

THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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YSU NEWS

Awards dinner

YSU's 26th Annual Awards Dinner will be held in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center on Friday, where faculty and staff will be presented with awards such as the Distinguished Service, Retiree and Service Awards.

Poetry reading

YSU's Writer Guild will present the Last First Friday poetry reading on May 4, at 7 p.m. at the Mocha House, 467 High Street in Warren.

YSU art student exhibit

The McDonough Museum of Art will be hosting an exhibit May 4-18 featuring the artwork of YSU fine arts students, with an opening reception from 6-8 p.m. Friday.

“Everyone is responsible” Sweet's response to low morale

Adrienne Sabo
NEWS EDITOR

A five-page letter to faculty and staff, by Youngstown State University President David Sweet, has prompted sharp reactions and criticism across campus.

In the letter sent out Monday, Sweet responded to the recent Campus Climate Survey, which revealed low morale among faculty and staff.

In his letter, Sweet said that the YSU administration is not the only ones responsible for low morale, citing grievances filed by union members. In a phrase he repeated several times in all capital letters, Sweet wrote, “Everyone is responsible!”

Sweet named several people, including Philosophy Professor Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez and Christine Domhoff, president of the Association of Classified Employees, as contributing to the morale problems.

Sweet said Palmer-Fernandez referred to similar problems from a 2000 survey and accused administrators of doing nothing to fix them.

He also said statistics attributed to Domhoff in an April 6 Vindicator article — about how much the administra-



SWEET

tion has grown — were inaccurate.

Sweet cited numerous incidents, dating as far back as 2000, in which he said he was vigilant in trying to address low morale and labor management relations.

Domhoff said many were “appalled” by Sweet's response, and that the letter was full of inaccuracies.

“I think everybody will choose to ignore it,” Domhoff said.

“We have received a significant number of emails in response and they have almost been entirely positive and supportive,” said Thomas Maraffa, special assistant to the president.

According to the letter, “All parties on campus should have as a goal improved morale, as well as improved labor relations.”

Ivan Maldonado, administrative assistant in Payroll and vice president of ACE, said Sweet's letter did nothing to improve labor management relations at YSU.

Maldonado said leadership starts from the top, not the bottom.

“If he wants back on track, do it now,” Maldonado said, challenging

Sweet to sit down with all of the union presidents to settle the issues. “David, I'm waiting for a response.”

“My overall impression is it was not a legitimate use of university announcement,” Domhoff said, explaining that the unions do not have access to those services.

Sweet also cited a March 22 incident in his letter, to which he said, “members of the administration were subjected to profanity, constant interruptions and other unprofessional behavior, so much so that the mediator had to stop the meeting.”

Domhoff responded to the charge, saying that the individual who used a profane word was not a union member, and it was only after Sweet and the administration took one hour to respond to a question.

“Did we get angry? Yes,” Domhoff said.

Julia Gergits, president of the Ohio Education Association and professor of English, said that the unions have offered different ideas to Sweet and the administration on ways that the unions can work together with them. Gergits said that those ideas have not been followed through.

“It's unanimous through the ranks that people aren't trusting the administration,” Gergits said.

Union leaders address administration's handling of military service contract

Ashley Tate
REPORTER

Jack Walp has terminal cancer and won't be receiving compensation or back-pay owed to him because Youngstown State University reneged on a contract regarding credit for military service, said an executive committee member of the Association of Classified Employees at YSU.

Walp has three months or less to live, said Frank Betsa, and “everything is falling apart” because the agreement would've provided his family with “stability.”

During a press conference Wednesday on YSU's Veterans Memorial Plaza, Christine Domhoff, ACE president, expressed frustration that the university refused to abide by the terms of the contract.

Domhoff said that in 2005, ACE negotiated a con-

tract with YSU that recognized prior military service and its effect on longevity pay for classified employees.

“There was nearly [a] two-week work stoppage... Once the university agreed to these terms, the union members returned to their respective jobs across campus. Sadly, the university is refusing to live by the terms of the contract,” Domhoff said.

After many meetings of discussing the application of longevity calculations, Domhoff said, ACE filed a class action grievance on Nov. 17, 2005.

“Dr. [David C.] Sweet and the board of administration should be ashamed that this had to come to this point. I characterize this as a travesty,” Ivan Maldonado, ACE vice president, said.

President Sweet does not agree with ACE and said it is “unfortunate that the union misrepresented [its]



YSU ACE President Christine Domhoff speaks during a press conference Wednesday

position on the issue” and that he is “saddened to see this exploited and turned into something it is not.”

“I think it's unfortunate that the union tries to misrepresent what happened here,” Sweet said.

A year later after numerous meetings, YSU and ACE created the terms of the settlement agreement concerning prior military service, and both parties agreed to these terms, Domhoff said.

The university withdrew on the settlement agreement on April 3 and created a whole new set of terms

without negotiating with ACE. Another grievance was then filed by ACE on April 17 in response to the university's failure to implement the grievance settlement agreement, Domhoff said.

Sweet said the union wanted to add the National Guardsmen and reserves to the agreement, but the Pentagon did not consider them active duty. However, Sweet and the administration extended the agreement to the guardsmen and reserves anyway.

please see **CONTRACT**, Page 2

Tenure faculty member leaves YSU

Maysoon Abdelrasul
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

An English faculty member who was recently selected as one of the university's distinguished professors is leaving Youngstown State University because officials refused to give him time to edit an international journal.

Sal Attardo will be accepting a position with a branch of Texas A&M, a move that he said he wishes he would not have had to make.

“My biggest regret is

leaving a lot of great friends,” he said.

Attardo, editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Humor, had asked campus officials to continue his prior arrangement where he was allowed to have a reduced teaching load in exchange for editing the prestigious journal.

University Provost Robert Herbert declined Attardo's requests and, in response to questions from The Jambor, said that YSU simply does not have the funds to grant Attardo's

please see **ATTARDO**, Page 2

YSU

Ohio looks for loan fraud

Jenny Boyce
ASSIST. NEWS EDITOR

An ongoing investigation of the \$85 billion student loan industry has state officials trying to find out if Ohio colleges are receiving gifts from companies at the expense of students.

After reports of possible fraud in New York colleges, state Attorney General Andrew Cuomo said that investigators found evidence of arrangements between schools and lenders. Financial aid officers were receiving money and gifts from lenders for advising students in their direction.

Attorney General Marc Dann has launched a similar investigation in Ohio. Kent State University, the University of Akron, Ohio University, The Ohio State University and University of Toledo have all denied reports in recent phone interviews with The Plain Dealer in Cleveland.

“I am committed to aggressively pursuing criminal activity and conflicts of interest in the student lending industry and bringing them to light,” Dann said. “Backroom deals between universities and lenders — where they exist — come at the direct expense of students.”

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships on the campus of Youngstown State University has denied misconduct on the matter as well.

“Our office leaves it up to the students on who they chose for their lenders,” said Financial Aid Counselor Megan Collins. When asked if she has ever received an inappropriate offer from lenders, Collins said no.

As of April 26, the Association of American Universities reported that they have set up principles that make clear what the relationships between schools, financial aid officers and student lenders should be.

The agreement was confirmed in Washington last week, and the principles will be put in place to reaffirm the need for universities and colleges to choose student lenders based on the assessment of the students' best interests. The principles will also ensure that schools inform students and parents that they should select the lender of their own choice, and that student aid officials are not allowed to accept any personal benefits on behalf of lenders.

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When the administration looked back on the agreement, they saw that it provided more benefits to the reserves than to the active men and women, Sweet said. They will give the reserves the same benefits as the active men and women, he said.

"We talk for a year and think we reached a settlement, thinking that we [both] understand. Now you want to implement a version that we did not settle on? That does not speak on integrity," Domhoff said.

"These people have no integrity; how do they sleep at night?" Maldonado said.

Mark Welton, chairman of the Ad Hoc Military Affairs Committee, said he is "appalled by the disrespect this administration continues to show our armed forces."

Maldonado said he wants the YSU campus and surrounding community

to be aware that this is happening.

Domhoff said students need to realize that "leadership is failing, and it's so lacking by this institution."

Domhoff said the administration "makes comments and doesn't back it up with real facts. I wasn't going to come out here unless I had all the documentation and facts."

Domhoff said that 400 people went on strike for less than 30 individuals and gave up their bonus checks for all of them.

"We all gave up our bonus checks to come back to work in order to have the prior military issue resolved. We felt it was the right thing to do. If people are willing to give up their lives and fight for me as an American, then the least I can do is give up a one-time bonus check," Domhoff said.

ATTARDO, continued from page 1

request.

Under a deal that Attardo had negotiated with former YSU Provost Tony Atwater, he was allowed to teach two classes each semester and have a research assistant. The normal faculty load is teaching four courses each semester.

Herbert said it was Attardo's decision to leave the university and seek other employment.

"Neither I nor the dean recommended or suggested this course of action: the initiative was wholly Dr. Attardo's," Herbert said.

Attardo's arrangement with Atwater was to be editor of the journal for five years ending this year. Herbert said the arrangement was never to provide support indefinitely and that the university is not in a financial situation to support the commitment.

"The cost of that support was substantial, and it was decided, after consultation with the dean, that the university could no longer underwrite these expenses," he said.

Attardo said with in the past five years, international scholars have come to YSU to work with him on the journal. He said people pay attention to the journal and the university gets visibility.

"The costs don't outweigh the benefits," he said.

Attardo was one of five YSU professors chosen this year to receive the "Distinguished Professor of Scholarship."

Attardo holds a doctorate from the Catholic University of Milan and a PhD from Purdue University.

Corrections

In the April 24 issue of The Jambar, officials removed offensive photos in some maintenance shops, not all.

In the Thursday issue of The Jambar, Jambar Contributor Mallory Wiand wrote the article, "Penguin Review to launch longest issue in history."

YOUNGSTOWN

Youngstown places low on Forbes best cities to find a job

Ernie Calderon
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Many students and graduates are migrating to schools and cities outside the Youngstown area to find more jobs.

Youngstown's economic woes were recently profiled in a prominent business magazine.

Forbes recently released its yearly list of best cities to find a job. Out of a possible 100 cities, Youngstown placed 98, beating out only Detroit and New Orleans. New Orleans came in last place.

"I'm not sure if I would stay even if we were high-

er on the list" said high

school senior Nina Torres.

Torres, who is a senior at Campbell Memorial High School, will be going to Akron University next fall. Torres says that

er staying.

Maggie Traynor graduated from Youngstown State University in spring 2006 with a bachelor's degree

in

Telecommunications. She

is considering

moving as she

has yet to find

a decent job. "I

want to stay in

the city that I

grew up in, but

I don't know if

I'm going to be

able to make a

living working

in my field," Traynor

said. "It's sad because this

is where my core is, all

my family and friends are

here," she said.

"The Forbes list just

says that the world knows

what we have known for

a while," Traynor said.

"I'm not sure if I would stay even if we were higher on the list"

Nina Torres
Senior, Campbell Memorial

most of her friends are leaving the area or considering leaving the area after high school. "It's boring here, and there are not enough jobs," said Torres.

Torres said there would have to be some dramatic changes for her to consid-

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Miscellaneous

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CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF YOUNGSTOWN- METER READER FOREMAN WATER DEPARTMENT-SALARY: \$46,208.50.

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JAMBAR Feature

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Thursday, May 3, 2007

Hollingshead to bring energetic comedy to Peaberry's

Britta Snowberger
FEATURES REPORTER

In the face of tragedy, today's Peaberry's performer has regularly turned to her most accepting friend: stand-up comedy. Driving directly from a comedy fundraiser at Virginia Tech earlier this morning, Vanessa Hollingshead will showcase her talents to a Youngstown State University audience when she arrives on campus at 11 a.m.

Before traveling to YSU, the comedian will present a 10-minute set as part of a stand-up charity event at Virginia Tech. With regards to the university's recent student massacre, Hollingshead will perform with a number of other well-known comedians in an attempt to raise money for the victims' families.

"Many of the students' families don't have enough money to pay for funeral services," Hollingshead said. "The Virginia Tech incident has been so awful,

and hopefully the people there will want to come out and see some comedy to get their minds off of other things."

No stranger to heartbreak, Hollingshead has leaned on the shoulder of comedy to help her forget about personal misfortunes in the past. Four days after her husband passed away two years ago, the comedian was on a plane to her next stand-up performance.

"When my husband died, I thought to myself, 'Comedy is the only thing going for me right now,'" she said. "When I traveled, I was so far from New York City, no one knew me, no one knew that I'd just lost my husband. I could tell jokes as though he was still alive and forget about the tragedy."

Performing all over the world, Hollingshead wields 13 years of experience in comedy and many more in show business.

Originally trained as an actress, the New Yorker spent several years auditioning for plays and television shows,

where she earned a number of development deals. However, while entertaining other actresses at auditions, Hollingshead realized that her true calling was comedy.

"I was always painfully shy, but I learned to quickly adapt with a microphone and appear more confident than I really was," she said. "I took a comedy class and started performing at pubs in the city, and I got strong as a female comedian."

Influenced by comedians such as Richard Pryor, who "took bad experiences and made them funny," and George Carlin and Dave Chappelle, who are "honest, vulnerable, bright and not afraid to take chances," Hollingshead sculpts her material around personal struggles and interesting experiences.

"I talk about weird friends, getting addicted to vodka and Valium, the Olympics, my crazy pot-smoking mom and how marijuana should be legalized," she said. "I'm kind of bloody, and college kids seem to like me because I'm free-spirited."

This distinct approach to comedy is enhanced by Hollingshead's energetic delivery and ability to morph between

characters.

"The fact that I have so much energy makes me unique. If I ever took cocaine, I'd probably explode," she said. "With all of my acting training, I also do characters well, and I like to be anyone but myself."

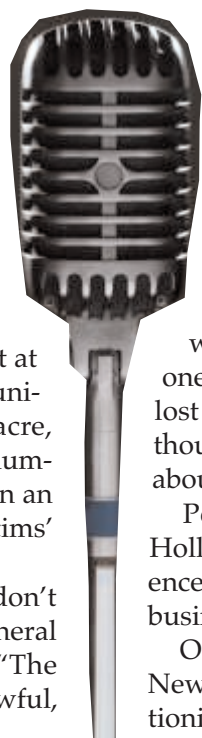
Before an intense show, Hollingshead prepares herself mentally and physically.

"Before I go on stage, I look at my ass in the mirror, and I'm like 'I so have to f*cking workout,'" she joked. "Then I fix my make-up, say a little prayer, go over my notes and get a feel for the audience."

Hopefully, the comedian will receive positive vibes from today's Peaberry's audience, as she looks forward to the lunchtime performance.

"I'm always treated very nice in Ohio, and I love going to Youngstown," she said. "I hope the students laugh a lot."

Following today's set, Hollingshead will entertain audiences at the Funny Farm Comedy Club tomorrow at 9 p.m. and Saturday at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m.



The vagina dialogues

Rudi Whitmore
FEATURES REPORTER

"I mean, when you say 'vagina' a thousand times ..." senior theater major Gretchen Breslawski said, while her cohort, Elizabeth L. Farrow, chants in the background, "Vagina, vagina, vagina, vagina, vagina ..."

The rest of her explanation is trailed off as Angela Medaugh, also a senior theater major, overlaps with her own, "... and it has facts, right? About women?"

Breslawski picked up the thread seamlessly. "It does. The monologues are broken up with facts about women's rights in countries other than the United States."

What the women are tripping over each other to explain is Breslawski's vision of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues," a play with a varying number of monologues performed by different women with wildly differing perspectives on what it means to be one. She is directing, acting in, and producing "The Vagina Monologues" as part of her senior project, but also out of a love for the show.

"The first time I read it, I was shocked, but the second time, I was crying I was laughing so hard. The interest has grown exponentially since we cast the show, so

I'm trying to not be anxious," Breslawski said.

Sitting with three of the eight actresses, it is obvious they are inspired by their individual pieces and the themes in them. Their conversations are a bit like a song — single pieces slipping into a three-part harmony, then back to solos again.

"A lot of men who have been brought to the show said they felt really awkward, but that it was interesting ... They were having things explained that they would never understand otherwise," Medaugh said.

Breslawski chimed in as well. "At the end of every monologue, a woman finds herself."

"Except one," Farrow interjects.

"...who talks about genital mutilation in the Sudan and Yugoslavia's Bosnian refugees," finished Breslawski.

Medaugh took the story from there, saying, "It's all relatable. We all have vaginas. Mutilation is scary. Women don't understand their own vaginas, ya know? We don't talk about the first time we started our periods. It's awkward."

Talk around the cookie-laden table turns to their specific monologues. Farrow said, "My monologue is 'Reclaiming C-nt.' It spells out the word, every pulse and feeling that could

be behind it. I also do some introductions and narration."

Medaugh laughed a bit, "I was lucky enough to get 'The Angry Vagina' and ..." "She requested it!" Breslawski interjected.

The conversation is saved again, scooped up gracefully by Medaugh. "Really ... she ... gets pissed about all the junk people give her, and [those who] try to not talk about the vagina. She is who she is."

Roxanne Hauldren performs "Hair," which, according to Breslawski, is about exactly what you'd expect.

"Ya know ... muff stuff," she reported factually amid gales of cackling laughter from the other girls.

Rachel Rossi is acting out "Vagina Workshop," Kari Kleemook is bringing "Because He Liked to Look at It" to the stage and Alyssa Connelly will be doing a piece on the rape and mutilation of a young girl in "My Vagina Was My Village." Molly Makselan takes the role of a dominatrix in "The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy."

Breslawski took a deep breath after her descriptors and exhaled slowly.

"Just give it a chance," she said pleadingly. "It will shock you, but it's such a moving experience."

Today, May 3
Vanessa Hollingshead at Peaberry's, 11 a.m.
Keith Anderson at The Wedge, 6 p.m., 18 and over, \$20 tickets available online.

Friday, May 4
Chris Cagle at The Wedge, 6 p.m., 18 and over, \$25 tickets available online.
Ohm and The Devotees at Barley's, 9 p.m.

Vanessa Hollingshead at Funny Farm Comedy Club, 9 p.m., 18 and over, \$13.50 admission.
Saturday, May 5
Cinco De Mayo Party featuring Via Sahara at The Cellar, 9 p.m.
Mahoning Valley Thunder vs. Louisville at The Chevrolet Centre, 7:05 p.m., tickets available at

all Get Tix locations and The Chevrolet Centre.
Vanessa Hollingshead at Funny Farm Comedy Club, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., 18 and over, \$13.50 admission.
The Zou and Posture Coach CD Release Party at Cedars, 10 p.m.
Oral at The Dash Inn, 8 p.m.

Upcoming
events



Favorite Jambar quotes of the year

"In Michigan, these two topless girls were up on the barricade by the stage, and I walked out and was like, 'There are naked girls here! Later, a huge fight started behind them. I mean, naked girls, fights ~ that s a rock show right there! Someone came out for a good time, ya know?'"

Keith Nelson ~ Buckcherry

"One of my friends thought it would be amusing to pants me as I was attempting to drink an entire beer as fast as possible. During this hilarious time, no one managed to spot the police boat approaching at fast speeds. As he came aside our boat, he noticed my pants resting about my ankles and the empty beer can in my hand. Needless to say, I had to board his boat and give all of my information. I ended up getting an underage drinking ticket."

Joe Flood ~ YSU sophomore

"What are the Woodie Awards? Is it, like, a bunch of erect penises? Is that it?"

Juli Merhaut ~ YSU sophomore

"I don't really know what my style is. I just go out there and play with my heart. I play with my heart first and that's kind of why I messed up today. Every time I touch the ball I'm trying to save the world."

Justin Reams ~ YSU Penguin running back

"I am not holding my breath for David Sweet to do anything constructive for the human element of this institution."

Gabriel Palmer ~ Fernandez ~ Philosophy professor

"I like to look at a rock and be like, 'Whoa, that's sweet, and then start climbing it.'"

Justin Carlyne ~ YSU sophomore

"Sometimes I wish I were a smoker because right now I just feel like I need a cigarette."

Gary Shackelford ~ YSU senior

Compiled by the Jambar staff

NATIONWIDE

Abortion ruling sets new state battle lines

Christine Vestal
MCT

WASHINGTON- Prompted by the U.S. Supreme Court's approval last month of a federal ban on a medical procedure known as partial-birth abortion, activists on both sides of the abortion battle are aiming their sights at state capitols, where new campaigns already are under way.

Anti-abortion activists said that, in light of the new high court ruling, they plan to push legislatures in more than half the states to revive state bans on late-term abortion procedures that had been blocked by courts. Anti-abortion groups also see a chance to seek additional restrictions on abortion procedures late in pregnancy.

At the same time, abortion-rights groups are gearing up to push states and Congress to pass laws ensuring a woman's right to abortion. The new laws-known as Freedom of Choice Acts- are designed to prevent further barriers to a woman's right to abortion.

Last week, New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer vowed to push for a Freedom of Choice Act. If approved, the Empire State would join seven others with laws enshrining a

woman's right to abortion as established by the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 1973 decision, *Roe v. Wade*.

Since *Roe v. Wade*, anti-abortion groups have turned to state legislatures to chip away at a woman's right to an abortion with a patchwork of restrictions, from parental consent to physician counseling and mandatory waiting periods. The latest high court ruling is the first to uphold an abortion restriction without requiring an exception to protect a woman's health. It is also the first time the court has approved a ban on a specific medical procedure.

Legal experts on both sides of the debate agree the high court's April 18 decision- *Gonzalez v. Carhart*- does not open the door for outright abortion bans. Instead, they say the decision leaves room for more limits on the procedure.

But new efforts to restrict a woman's right to an abortion could face stiffer opposition since last year's state elections. Six new governors who support abortion rights were elected and 15 state-house chambers shifted toward greater abortion rights, according to an analysis by NARAL Pro-Choice America.

In the anti-abortion camp, activists are targeting 31 states with laws similar to the

federal Partial Birth Abortion Ban of 2003 just upheld by the Supreme Court. The state laws were blocked by federal courts following an earlier U.S. Supreme Court decision- *Stenberg v. Carhart*- that overturned partial-birth abortion bans in Nebraska and other states.

Because the high court's latest decision veered away from that ruling, laws in two of the states- Missouri and Virginia- were sent back to appellate courts for reconsideration within days of the Supreme Court decision. Court cases involving bans in Michigan and Utah also could be affected by the court's ruling, legal experts said.

In the other states, attorneys general and legislators must decide whether to dust off the old laws and seek court approval, rewrite the statutes or do nothing, legal experts say.

In most states, laws banning the procedure known as partial-birth abortion- in which a late-term fetus is removed from the womb intact- would need to be redrafted, said Denise Burke, an attorney with Americans United for Life, an anti-abortion advocacy group.

Although the federal ban applies in all 50 states, Burke said, state laws are needed as well, because "the federal law is

very narrow and may not catch all the procedures being done." Of the 31 states with blocked partial-birth bans, NARAL's analysis indicates that at least 18 have legislatures with a majority of members opposed to abortion.

Burke said her group and others also plan to seek additional state restrictions, including curbs on post-viability abortions performed after the fetus is capable of living outside of the womb.

Meanwhile, abortion-rights advocates already are building defenses against an anticipated onslaught of new restrictions.

In addition to New York, abortion-rights advocates are seeking to pass laws to shore up a woman's right to an abortion in other politically receptive states, including Massachusetts, New Jersey, Minnesota, Montana and Vermont, according to Katherine Grainger of the Center for Reproductive Rights.

Nevada was the first to pass a so-called freedom-of-choice law in 1990, followed by Maryland (1991), Maine (1992), Washington (1992), Connecticut (1997), California (2002) and Hawaii (2005).


In Congress, Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., and Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., last week sponsored a similar law.

FINALS WEEK
Pancake Study Break

**Will be Tuesday, May 8 &
Wednesday, May 9
11 PM—12 MIDNIGHT**

The Newman Center,
254 Madison Avenue
(Across from Lyden House)

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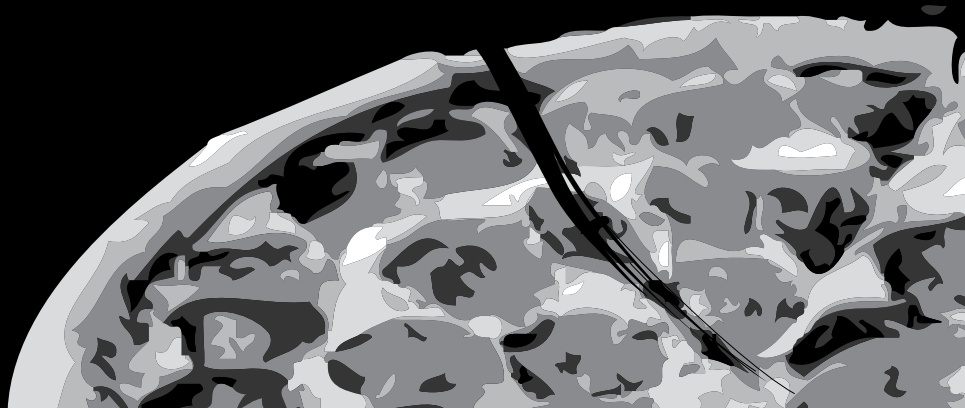
**Friday, May 4,
Noon to 2 p.m.**
Ohio Room, Kilcawley Center

Topics:

- Update on campus issues
- FY2008 budget developments
- Northeast Ohio collaboration discussions

There will be time for questions and discussion.

Youngstown
STATE UNIVERSITY



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Kilcawley Center
Student Jobs**


Visit www.kc.ysu.edu for details on student employment and position descriptions in Kilcawley Center. Stop in the Kilcawley Staff office for an application. You must be in good standing to apply. Open positions are not known at this time. Applications will be kept on file through October 1st.

www.kc.ysu.edu

The Home City Ice Co., based in Cleveland, Ohio, is opening a delivery driver terminal in Austintown, Ohio.

Looking to hire students to work during school and summer break. Excellent pay and flexible scheduling for delivery driver positions. Average \$9.00 to \$14.00 per hour. Please call 1-800-376-5388 or visit homecityice.com to submit information online.

Home City Ice



In this year's NFL Draft which player was selected last, earning the title Mr. Irrelevant in

- A. Alan Ball
B. Steve Vallos
C. CJ Ah You
D. Ramzee Robinson

D. Ramzee Robinson

SOFTBALL

Softball squad set to host Horizon League's best

The Penguins will play a crucial three game home series against the top ranked Ramblers

Andrew Berry
SPORTS REPORTER

The final week of the spring semester will end with the final action of the regular season for the Youngstown State University softball team as they play host to Loyola University.

Beginning with a Saturday double-header, the Penguins will take on the Ramblers for the first time this season as they attempt to gain ground in the standings and dethrone the top team in the league before tournament play begins.

Even with an intimidating 13-3 league record this season, Loyola has struggled against non-conference opponents as their overall record stands at just 18-16 for third best in the league behind Cleveland State, Wright State and Butler University.

Junior McKenzie Bedra believes that despite Loyola holding the top spot in the league, the Ramblers are a team that can be defeated by the Penguins.

Bedra said opportunistic play will give the team the best chance for a series win.

"We are going to go out with confidence, capitalize on all the opportunities that come our way and get a sweep," she said.

The Penguins have had mixed results when facing Horizon League opponents this season.

The team's 14-17 overall record puts it in the middle of the pack, but its 5-6 league record puts them dangerously close to the bottom of the standings, not the best place to be only a week away from the league championship tournament.

The Penguins find themselves low on the totem pole having not been able to string together more than two consecutive wins this season.

For the team to put together a three-game sweep of the league's best this weekend, Bedra believes limiting mistakes and errors while playing a well-rounded game will give the Penguins the edge.

"When we put everything together we play well, and we play well against higher competition," Bedra said.

What makes the final series of the 2007 regular season crucial for the



Photo courtesy YSU Sports Information

Playoff seeds are up for grabs this weekend as junior McKenzie Bedra and the Penguins look to take down top ranked Loyola University.

Penguins is the impact the weekend will have on the final league standings.

With their 5-6 record, the Penguins have the chance to leapfrog four teams as only two games separate them from second place behind Loyola.

A win on the final day of the regular season would end league play the same way the Penguins began it and give the team momentum going into the league tournament scheduled to begin May 10 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Bedra said the Penguins chances in the tournament are good and believes the same emotional strength and confidence that won them the title in 2006 will give the team all it needs to repeat as champions.

"We can win it all if we play like we want it," Bedra said. "Any team can win on any given day."

FOOTBALL



Jambar/Jake Glavies

Former Penguin Marcus Mason will take his hard running and quick cuts to the Washington Redskins crowded backfield after he signed a rookie free-agent contract this week.

Marcus Mason signs free-agent deal with Washington Redskins

Sports Information
YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

Former Youngstown State All-America tailback Marcus Mason has accepted a free-agent deal with the Washington Redskins, the organization announced on Monday.

Mason, who rushed for a school-record 1,847 yards in 12 games as a senior, becomes the first Penguin to sign a contract with the Redskins since Quentin Lowry in 1981. Mason averaged a school-record 153.9 yards rushing per game and scored 23 touchdowns as the program reached the NCAA playoff semifinals for the first time since 1999.

After transferring from Illinois prior to the 2005 campaign, Mason had a memorable two-year career with the Guins. In his two seasons, he played in 21 games rushing for 2,739 yards on 478 carries. He had 31 touchdowns and set a school record with a 95-yard touchdown run at Western Illinois in

2006.

He was a first-team All-America selection by The Associated Press, the Sports Network, the Walter Camp Foundation and the American Football Coaches Association. He was named the 2006 Gateway Offensive Player of the Year and set a school record with 10 100-yard rushing games during the '06 campaign, including six straight at one point.

Washington's backfield is currently one of the most talented in the NFL. Clinton Portis, Ladell Betts, Rock Cartwright and Kerry Carter are all listed as running backs for Washington.

It marks the second straight year the Penguins have had a free-agent signee.

Last year, wide receiver Kyle Smith signed a contract with the Minnesota Vikings. After being released last year, Smith signed a contract with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in January and is currently a member of the Hamburg Sea Devils in NFL Europa.

FEATURE

Tips from [campus] pros for [average] Joes

Jake Glavies
SPORTS EDITOR

The recreational backyard quarterbacks are dead, but not forgotten.

These fun-loving, free-wheeling signal callers that once graced side streets and open fields everywhere have been replaced by uber-competitive faux Peyton Mannings that try to do more than just imitate their favorite NFL or college players, they try to become them.

But not many can, and the

majority fall flat on their faces trying.

This phenomenon isn't limited to just the finely manicured gridirons of suburban housing developments though.

The competitive nature of these over-obsessed rec-room wanna-bes has spilled over to the gymnasiums, playgrounds, tennis courts and mock baseball diamonds that dot urban and rural landscapes.

How would these jokes respond if they got a little one-on-one tutoring from

the real players with game?

Would they outshine their competition or flounder like a fish out of water?

Who knows.

But here's their chance to show what they're made of.

Some of YSU's top athletes and coaches have opened their bag of tricks to share the tips that have got them to where they are.

So put down your racket and watch that your eye black doesn't smear because here's your chance to earn some street cred for your skills.

[Coach Tisha Hill - Basketball - All around game]

Making it rain - On the outside create space from your defender. Use change of direction moves to freeze them so you can get past and score.

D-Up - Stay in a defensive stance with your shoulders and knees in line. This way you can slid and contain to keep your offensive player from getting to the basket.

[James Terry - Football - Defense]

Stick'em - When it comes to tackling make sure you have a good base and when you go in to tackle gather your feet. Don't just fly in because most of the time you'll miss.

Form - When you come to make a tackle, break down and try to get your head across their body so you can keep them from moving forward and you can get your arms around them

[Lucas Ingle - Baseball - Pitching]

Up your velocity - Warm up with some long throws

Up your strike count - Stay back, don't fall forward and stay low. Finish in the zone

[Gina Periti - Tennis - Overall Game]

Faster serves - You have to use your legs. Just reach up and push off with your legs

Hitting it back - The best thing to do is use their pace and just chip it back. It'll make the ball go lower over the net.

For volleys - Always make sure that you're going forward and not backing-up. Don't let the ball drop on you, you want to hit it high.

[Ivo Gallozzi - Baseball - Hitting]

Improve your hitting - Practicing off a tee is the best thing you can do to shorten your stride up and choke up on the bat a little. Try not to pull the ball

For more power - Don't try too hard or it won't come and you'll get more strikeouts. Swing smoothly