



# THE JAMBAR

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931.



THEJAMBAR.COM

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Remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar.

## SPORTS

# Baseball team lands new skipper

## Pasquale signs on to lead baseball program

**Andrew Berry**  
Sports Editor

Youngstown State University has found its new head baseball coach, and Rich Pasquale has found the job he's wanted a long time for.

Hailing from Beaver Falls, Pasquale will take over for former head coach Mike Florak and begin the 2008 season as the Penguins' skipper, after spending last season as a top assistant and recruiting coordinator with Slippery Rock University.

After coaching at the Division III level at La Roche University and most recently at Slippery Rock, Pasquale is excited about the opportunity to lead a Division I program and start a long-term career at Youngstown State.

During the official press confer-

ence on Wednesday, Pasquale claimed to be speechless on being hired to coach the Penguins as he addressed the local media.

"I'm thrilled to be here and for the opportunity to lead this program," Pasquale said. "It's taken some time [to get here] but I've enjoyed the ride."

After Florak announced his resignation, the team was left in limbo while YSU conducted a search for Florak's heir apparent. Senior starting pitcher Lucas Engle said he is happy with the signing of Pasquale and is ready to get to work.

"We stayed in shape and got together on our own," Engle said. "It was a hard wait at first, but we're glad to finally be able to start playing ball."

Senior pitcher Ryan Sellman felt that Pasquale would be the man for the job the minute he walked in



**TEAM LEADER** — New head baseball coach Rich Pasquale speaks at Wednesday's press conference in Beeghly Hall. Pasquale replaces former coach Mike Florak who resigned from his position in August.

## YSU

# Math Assistance Center considers expanding tutoring services

**Sarah Sole**  
News Editor

The new coordinator of the Mathematics Assistance Center, Joanne Leckie, plans to increase faculty involvement at the center, while increasing workshops.

Nathan Ritchey, professor and chair of mathematics said the center is also considering spreading tutors strategically across campus, expanding their services to Maag Library or Kilcawley Center.

Previously the assistant coordinator, Leckie said next semester she would like some of the math instructors to hold workshops.

"It makes a big difference when students also see their instructors here," Leckie said.

Instructors can provide assistance to tutors and students, and when students see their teachers at the center, they will feel freer to ask them questions about their class work, she said.

Some students agree.

Sophomore Allison Wiland, a tutor at the center, said instructors can be helpful because they are more familiar with teaching the material than the tutors.

Senior Vince Dravecky, a senior who comes to the center, said instructors at the center can provide individualized instruction.

"It's easier to teach someone one on one than it is to teach someone one on 20," he said.

Dravecky said going to the center helps clarify the material he learns in his math class. At the center, he can get a chance to ask questions that he did not get a chance to ask in class.

The Mathematics Assistance Center assists students with mathematics by teaching them how to do things more easily, strengthening their fundamental skills, Leckie said.

Knowledge of mathematics can be applied to everyday tasks such as balancing checkbooks and finding percentages, Leckie said.

"We use mathematics every-day," she said.

The center offers tutoring related to math department courses, but tutors assist students in a variety of majors.

Roughly 450 students have attended the center so far this semester for a total of about 2,400 tutoring sessions, Leckie said.

"They should never feel funny about coming here," Leckie said, of students.

The center has about 19 tutors, both graduate and undergraduate.

Leckie said students should address problems they have in their math classes immediately.

"Never let it go, because it compounds itself," she said.

The bulk of students come from algebra classes, so the center tries to assist those students as much as it can, Leckie said.

Leckie said next semester she would like some of the math instructors to hold workshops.

Tutors also sit in on courses, so that they can keep up with materials.

"That helps them better assist the students," she said.

Ritchey said that after the center's former coordinator retired, Leckie was chosen because of her wealth of experience.

Leckie has knowledge of the past and ideas for the future, said Ritchey, who described her ideas for moving forward, such as increasing the number of students who benefit from the center and providing more workshops, as terrific.

A group of faculty members are helping Leckie develop a strategic plan that will increase faculty involvement at the center, Ritchey said.

Ritchey said the center also wants to utilize online services and computer programs to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for students.

"We're getting there," he said.

# BEST OF Halloween

**ABOVE: YAH, MON!**  
Geological and environmental science professor Ray Beiersdorfer dresses in dreads while his wife, Susie, plays copy cat by dressing as her husband. Photo by Brian Cetina

**LEFT: THE CAT'S MEOW**  
Freshman Elisa Hosey strikes the purr-fect pose as Melanie of "Josie and The Pussy Cats." Photo by Laura Neely.

**RIGHT: WALTER, CAMPUS RANGER**  
Sophomore Walter Hartsock readies himself to roundhouse kick the costume competition. Photo by Brian Cetina.

## ACADEMICS

# Students upset with course time offerings

**Jenny Boyce**  
Enterprise Reporter

Usually, talk about scheduling conflicts is paired with closed classes and an indecisiveness on what courses to take.

This year, Youngstown State University students have a different scheduling problem — the class times offered for courses.

"I'm going into my last year, so it gets tougher to find the classes I need, at the times I need them," said junior Emily Jessup, tossing aside her student scheduling handbook as she lounges against a couch in the front of Tod Hall.

"There [aren't] even enough offerings for the classes I need, so the ones that are offered all seem to

be held at the exact same time," she said.

Sophomore Mikiel Ahmed also found a timing conflict as he looked over his own scheduling handbook for the spring semester, but for different reasons.

"I work off-campus from 2:30 [p.m.] on; I take morning classes right now," Ahmed said, but all the classes he needs for next semester are only offered later in the day.

"I'm not sure what to do," Ahmed said.

Junior Lori Rogers, who said she had yet to find the time to see her faculty advisor for guidance on what to take next semester, also found the times listed to be an issue. All the classes she wants are held in the middle of the day.

"Between 11 and 2 are the most

popular times for professors to hold classes," said Rogers.

Sophomore Jessica Vaughn said trying to earn two degrees at once causes conflicts. Vaughn said her advisor didn't offer much help.

"I only went because I had to. [My advisor] never really guided me in the beginning so now I am behind in what I should be taking."

Still, Vaughn said she usually gets the classes she wants.

Sophomore Lauren Kocher said she's finding it hard to fit everything into four years.

"I think some of the classes aren't offered enough times," said Kocher, but she thinks advisers offer a lot to students.

As students approach graduation, it becomes more difficult to find enough openings for the courses

they want, at the times they want, said senior Sam Friscoll.

"I'm not even going to worry about this until the last minute," said Friscoll with a laugh, motioning towards the handbook.

For first-year students, the process can be daunting. Freshman Heather Wells said she's confused.

"I don't know who my advisor is, and I don't know where to go at all," Wells said.

Registration for classes by appointment begins Nov. 5 for all current students, reactivated former students and accepted transfer students. Open registration begins Nov. 19 for current, reactivated former, transfer, transient and graduate students.

Additional reporting by Diane Platon

The Jambar asks:

## What do you think of the redesign?

Share your opinion in an e-mail to [thejambar@gmail.com](mailto:thejambar@gmail.com).

### OPINION



#### TO THE POINT

### YSU programs to host religious tradition lecture

The Judaic and Holocaust Studies Program and the Center for Islamic Studies at Youngstown State University will be sponsoring the discussion "Studying the Jewish and Islamic Traditions: Mysticism." The lecture will be conducted in the Jones Room in Kilcawley Center 7 p.m. today.

### Volleyball team prepares for final two home games

The Youngstown State University volleyball team will play Valparaiso in Beeghly Center 7 p.m. Friday and will face Dayton at 2 p.m. Saturday, also at Beeghly Center.

### Open house offers prospective students tour of dental hygiene clinic

The Youngstown State University dental hygiene program will be holding an open house in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center. The open house will provide prospective students the opportunity of touring the dental hygiene clinic as well as meeting faculty, academic advisers and current students. Registration for the open house will begin immediately at 4 p.m. and all programs and tours will take place from 4:15 to 6 p.m.

### Award-winning poet to visit YSU

H.L. Hix, an award-winning poet and director of the creative writing program at the University of Wyoming, will be giving a reading at 7 p.m. Monday in the DeBartolo Stadium Club in Stambaugh Stadium.

### Business college recruits high school students with 'Business 2020' event

Eight hundred students from 22 tri-county area high schools are expected to attend the Williamson College of Business Administration's "Business 2020," scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday. The event will include guest speakers from software company Turning Technologies, panel sessions relating to financial literacy, careers in business and preparing for the job market, and additional insight from area business leaders.

#### POLICE BRIEFS

### Officer catches high school fan smoking marijuana

On Friday an officer stopped a subject entering a high school football game after observing the subject smoking a blunt. After recognizing the scent of marijuana, the officer asked the subject if he was smoking pot. After the subject admitted he had been smoking marijuana, the officer brought him to the substation and gave him a summons.

### Student reports vehicle missing from M2 Deck

On Friday, a Youngstown State University student reported that his car was missing from the M2 Deck.

There was no broken glass where the car had been parked. YSU police recorded a stolen vehicle entry.

#### HEALTH

## Hygiene can protect against staph

Chelsea Pflugh  
Features Reporter

Many times when a new health concern breaks out, people only want to know if it will affect them or those around them. The intricate details or even how to cure it are overlooked. The latest concern buzzing in newsrooms and emergency rooms that students should pay attention to is staph and methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA infections.

Staphylococcus aureus, commonly referred to as "staph," are bacteria normally found in the nose or on the skin of healthy people. Staph bacteria are the most common cause of skin infections in the United States, although most symptoms are minor boils, pimples or blemishes.

Staph bacteria like MRSA that

are resistant to antibiotics, however, can cause more severe infections. MRSA is resistant to amoxicillin, penicillin, methicillin and oxacillin, the group of antibiotics called beta-lactams.

MRSA infections cause skin to break out into blemishes that look like pimples and boils. The breakouts can be swollen and red with pus-like drainage coming from them.

It is important to seek medical attention in case of a sudden, unexplained breakout because more serious infections can lead to pneumonia and bloodstream infections.

These infections are more likely to occur among people in hospitals and health care facilities due to their weakened immune system. However, there are community-associated MRSA infections.

The most common factor for the

spread of MRSA is direct skin-to-skin contact, although locker rooms and public bathrooms are hotspots for the bacteria. Infections can spread through openings in the skin like cuts or abrasions, contaminated items and surfaces, crowded living conditions and poor hygiene.

Most staph and MRSA infections are treatable and there are ways to prevent getting infections in the first place. The most prominent way is to practice good hygiene. Washing hands thoroughly and frequently is important. Also, keep any cuts and scrapes clean and bandaged until completely healed.

Students should avoid sharing personal items such as towels and razors with others.

For more information on MRSA, go to <http://cc.ysu.edu/eohs/>.

#### HALLOWEEN

## Students dress as respiratory equipment

### Health care students advocate lung health

Ashley Tate  
News Reporter

What does respiratory care have to do with Halloween? For respiratory program students at Youngstown State University, this week was a time to dress up as their "favorite respiratory care equipment."

Respiratory Care Week was nationally celebrated Oct. 21 to 27, but at YSU, it was extended to this week so that Halloween was included, Terry Volsko said.

"It's a way to organize advocacy and education. There are respiratory practitioners in all 50 states," Volsko, director of clinical education for the respiratory program, said.

Volsko said they kicked off the celebration of the respiratory profession last week with a bake sale in Cushman Hall where they raised \$300 to go to scholarships for upcoming respiratory students.

As another part of the week, displays explained the profession and showed what smoking does to the lungs.

Smoking attributes to diseases like chronic obstructive pulmonary

disease, emphysema and chronic bronchitis, which are preventable diseases. COPD is one of five leading causes of death, Volsko said.

Handouts on how to quit smoking were also given to students as they passed the displays, in which students showed interest, Volsko said.

Smoking causes problems for people who have "never smoked a day in their lives," Volsko said. Not only does smoking affect smokers, it affects people who are around them because they breathe in toxins that smokers don't because of filters in cigarettes.

The program raises awareness for lung health, Volsko said, and helps students gain an appreciation for why the smoking law has changed.

Asthma is a common respiratory problem among college students and is triggered by a lot of things. People are not born with asthma, and it has no cure. Cystic fibrosis, a very bad lung disease, is something people are born with and also doesn't have a cure, Volsko said.

Infections, environmental exposures like strong perfume and smoke, exercise and being emotionally upset can all trigger asth-

matic attacks that can be treated with medication, Volsko said.

Respiratory therapists educate people about medications they can take and how to take them. Volsko said a lot of respiratory students at YSU are asthmatic.

The first respiratory care program was started by Louis Harris, program director for the respiratory program, in 1977. The first graduating class was in 1979.

Later, Harris changed the program to a bachelor's degree program in which the first graduating class completed their degrees in 2000. Volsko said YSU is one of only 50 in the nation with a bachelor's program for respiratory care.

Harris then added a certificate program for polysomnography, which is used to help diagnose and evaluate sleep disorders. YSU is one of 13 in the nation with this program, with its first class graduating in 2006.

Respiratory Care Week was also extended this week as a tribute to Harris, who is retiring. Respiratory students made him a tie that said "Haloween." A "halo" is used when a person has head and neck injuries and "wean" is to get someone off of life support, Volsko said.

## JOB OPENING

The Jambar is taking applications for a **General Assignment Reporter**. Interviews for the position will be held in early November. Applicants must have a sophomore standing and have an understanding of basic news values. Applicants must also be available to work on Mondays and Wednesdays. To apply see Lynn Haug in the Kilcawley Center Staff Office, and ask for a Jambar application

## Jambar Classifieds

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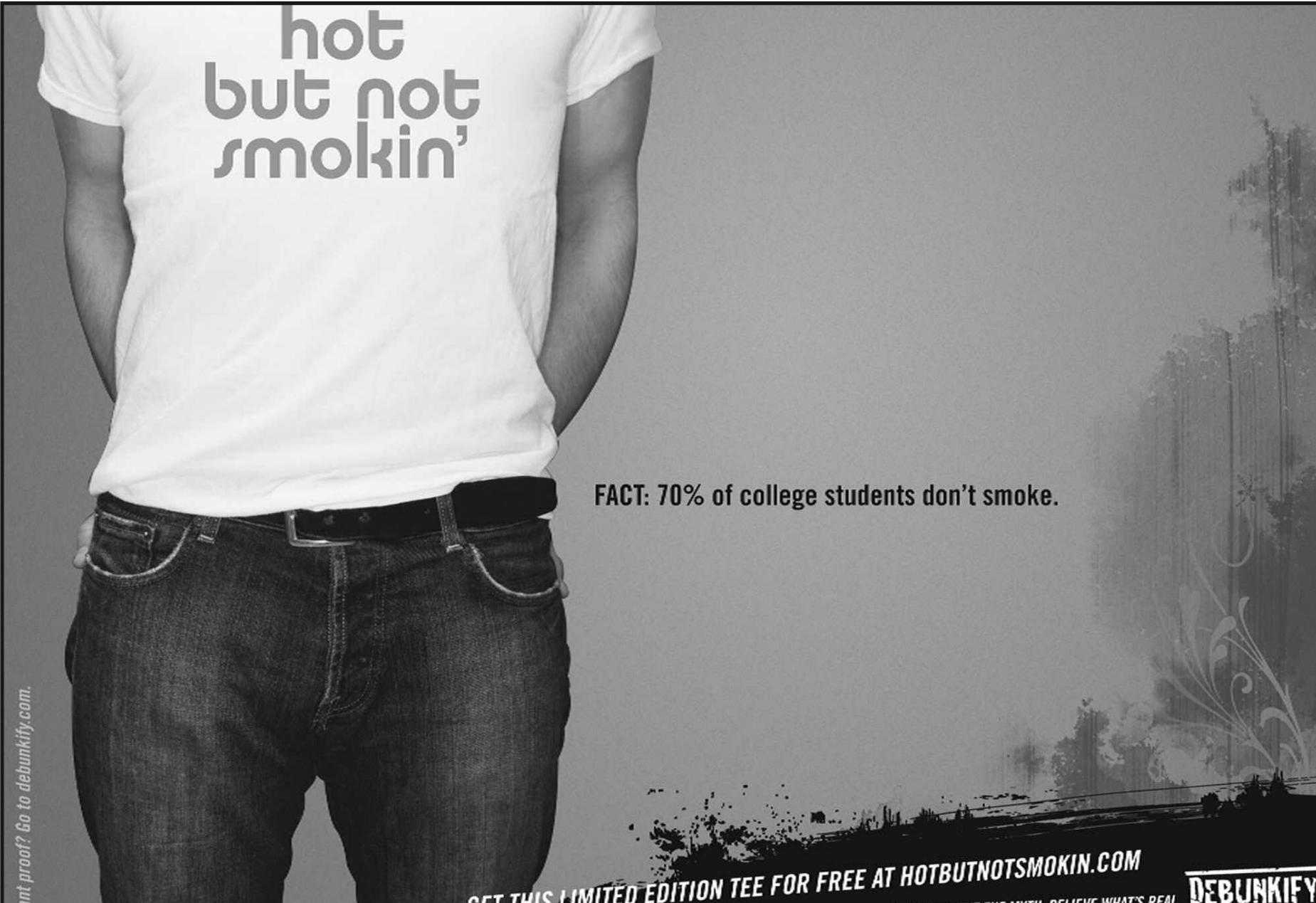
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## H.L. Hix



Director of the Creative Writing Program at the University of Wyoming, H.L. Hix is the author of four books of criticism and six books of poems, including *Chromatic*, a National Book Award Finalist. His latest book is *God Bless: A Poetic/Political dialogue* featuring poems from the speeches of George Bush, pitted against arguments culled from Osama bin Laden. His has won an NEA Fellowship, the Peregrine Smith Award, and the Groller Prize. As part of the continuing Distinguished Visitor Series, H.L. Hix will spend this week touring the NEOMFA consortial campuses.

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From **BASEBALL** page 1

"When he first came in we thought he was our guy right away," Sellman said.

Pasquale said he was very impressed with Youngstown State's winning tradition and how the university takes priority in advancing student athletes through its programs. He also mentioned the close proximity of his hometown as a main draw to signing on with YSU.

The former Slippery Rock assistant said he was brought to tears when he received the good news from YSU. Pasquale stood out from the rest of the interviewed candidates with his energetic personality and deep passion for the game of baseball.

Now in charge, Pasquale has several goals set for his team. As the team begins practice today, its new coach is setting the bar high with

the main goal of winning a conference title in 2008. The time seems to be right, as the Penguins will host the 2008 Horizon League baseball tournament.

The last time the Penguins hosted the tournament Youngstown State won the league crown and a bid to the NCAA national tournament.

Engle said he is confident that the team can meet their new coach's high expectations.

"There's no doubt in my mind we can meet those goals; we have so many seniors that know exactly what to do and what's expected of them," Engle said.

As a former recruiting coordinator, Pasquale is familiar with the local talent the local area high schools have to offer. Having seen the talent first hand at high school games at Cene Park in Struthers,

Pasquale said he is dedicated to building the team around local players.

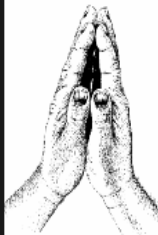
"I want to put a fence up around Youngstown and I want the good players to come here," Pasquale said. "I want them to be excited about playing at Youngstown State."

In his one-year stint with The Rock, Pasquale helped the team reach a 35-17 record and hit for a team average of .360 on the season. With nine seniors and two juniors returning to this year's YSU squad, Pasquale comes in with a very talented team at his immediate disposal.

"I'm excited about coming into a veteran group because they know what's expected of them at this level," Pasquale said.

**MASS for the Solemnity of All Saints**

A Vigil Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, October 31st at 7:00 pm at Newman Center and on Thursday, November 1st 12:05 pm in the Ohio Room - Kilcawley Center



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**Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY**

**SOCIAL NETWORKING**

“If I wanna talk to someone I’ll just give them a call.”

*Charlie Fagon, YSU student*

# Friend request denied

Some Youngstown State University students shun Facebook and MySpace

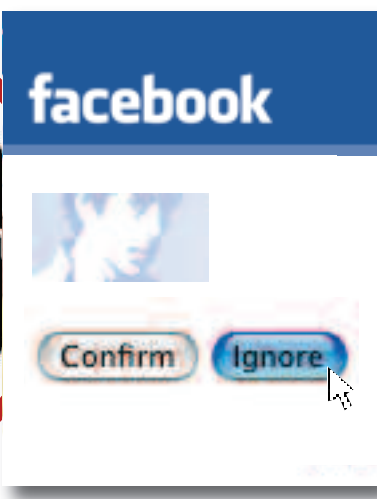
Adam Planty  
Jambar Contributor

With MySpace selling for \$580 million and Facebook racking in a \$100 million ad deal, online social networking is bigger than ever. At the center of the phenomenon are millions of college students. But despite the mass appeal, plenty of students at Youngstown State University opt to forgo the social networking experience.

“I don’t have the time or the desire to get on those sites,” said junior Marie-Elizabeth Dohar.

“I have lots of friends who tease me about not having an account on either site. I get e-mail invites from them that I just end up deleting,” Dohar is an adviser with the Maronite Youth Organization and meets “more than enough people through that,” she said, citing her busy schedule another reason she avoids getting online much.

While people who use the networks can acquire hundreds or thousands of online “friends,” it’s



rare that these relationships evolve into anything beyond what some describe as glorified popularity contests.

“It seems kind of preppy,” said Charlie Fagon, a YSU student. “If I wanna talk to someone I’ll just give them a call, ya know?” he said with a laugh.

Sophomore Jenna Kantz echoes Fagon’s resentment.

“If you need a computer to meet people you’ve got some problems,”

she said, echoing the fundamental truth that face-to-face communication can’t be ruled out.

According to a study from University of California, Los Angeles, 93 percent of communication effectiveness is determined by nonverbal cues. That means that of every conversation, only 7 percent of the message is contained in the words being spoken.

Online, text-based communication like Facebook wall posts and

MySpace messages can translate some messages poorly, losing shades of meaning.

For some, a lack of computer skills keeps them out of social networking.

“I’m completely computer illiterate” said junior Jen Ramsey.

Faced with the idea of expanding her online activities to include Facebook or MySpace, Ramsey said she “can barely function as it is, and nothing I see from them makes me want to change that.”

Junior Samantha Pyscher is also in a bind. While she knows her way around a computer, she said she just doesn’t “have the time to dedicate to something like that.”

Dohar has them both beat however.

“I’m slightly outdated,” she admits rather ashamedly.

The few hours she does have to surf the Web at home are done so over a 56k dial-up modem. She tells her friends not to get their hopes up that she might upgrade one day and dive in with the hip crowd.

“I love them, but not that much,” she said with a slight grin.

# Captain Cornhole



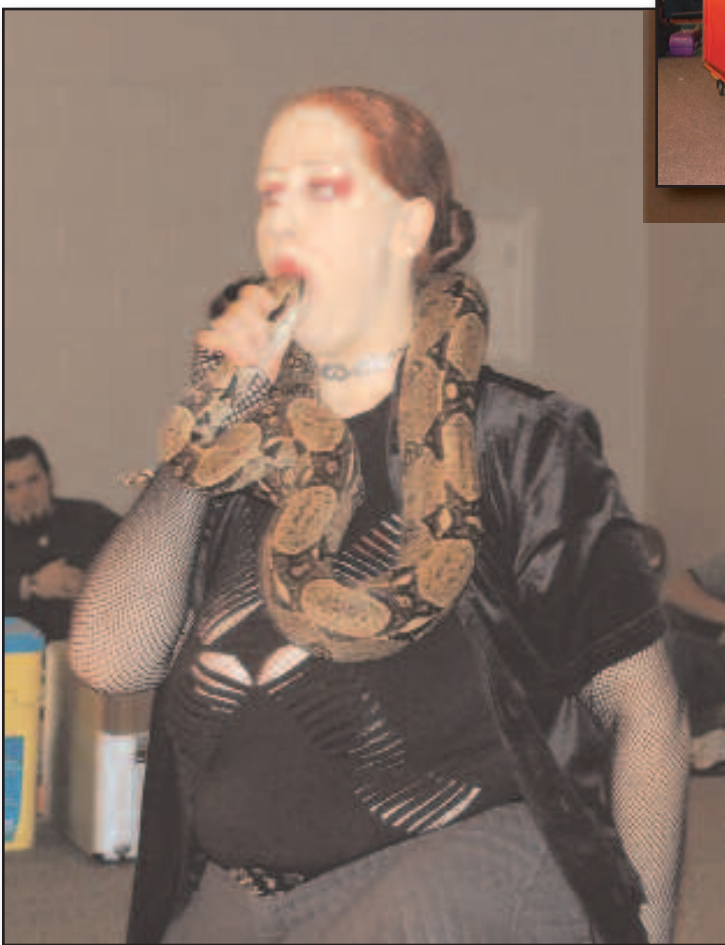
**ABOVE: IN THE HOLE**  
Junior Phil Rauscher, dressed as Captain America pitches a corn bag towards the hole while playing Cornhole outside the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

**RIGHT: DEAD-ON PITCH**  
SGA president Dave Spatholt, dressed as ‘dead guy,’ gets ready to pitch a corn bag.



Photos by Laura Neely.

# Boobzilla comes to Youngstown



**SAW IN A BOX, SNAKE IN THE MOUTH**

The Crispy Family Carnival Sideshow came to town this Halloween, performing at Peaberry’s for a full audience. Boobzilla, pictured at left with the act’s snake, was placed in a box and sawed in half as part of one of the illusions. The sideshow gave two later performances at the Oakland Wednesday night with local band, the Zou. Photos by Brian Cetina.

**MUSIC**

# Five questions for Vinnie Paul, drummer for metal band Hellyeah

Ben Edmonds

*Detroit Free Press*

Billing Hellyeah as “the ultimate metal supergroup” (Revolver magazine) may be a shade over the top. But hyperbole is the coin of the heavy metal realm, and this band certainly boasts an impressive pedigree. Singer Chad Gray and guitarist Greg Tribbitt are on vacation from Mudvayne. Guitarist Tom Maxwell comes from Nothingface and bassist Bob Zilla from Damageplan.

Most surprising is the participation of Pantera and Damageplan cofounder Vinnie Paul. Long regarded as one of rock’s best drummers, Paul (full name Vinnie Paul Abbott) kept a low profile after the December night in 2004 when a deranged fan pulled a gun at a Damageplan show in Columbus, Ohio, and killed four people, including Paul’s brother, master guitarist Dimebag Darrell Abbott.

When we spoke to Vinnie Paul, he was in Corpus Christi, Texas, where Hellyeah was appearing with Korn and preparing for its first headlining tour.

QUESTION: Many people

thought they’d never see you onstage again. What did it take to pull you out of retirement?

ANSWER: I didn’t consider it a retirement. It was more a state of coming to grips with everything that had happened and trying to sort my life out. I started a record company and released “Rebel Meets Rebel,” the record Dimebag and I made with country singer David Allen Coe, as a tribute to my brother.

Then these guys kept calling, telling me how they needed a heavy hitter for this new band, but I wasn’t ready. Finally, they caught me one night when I’d been drinking a bottle of vodka and listening to Kiss, and suddenly it seemed like a damn good idea. We wrote seven songs in the first eight days we were together, and I realized how much I’d missed it.

Q: What do you guys get from this that you don’t get elsewhere?

A: I missed the camaraderie of being in a band, that feeling that you’re part of an unstoppable army. Musically, we wanted to have great grooves and songs people could sing along to. More than anything, I think we’re bringing fun back to playing this music.

Q: Is this more a parallel band than a side project?

A: Absolutely. From day one, we said we wanted this to be a real band, not a one-off. We just have to make it coexist with everybody’s previous commitments. We’ll kick as much ass as we can until the end of the year. The Mudvayne guys have a record and a tour after that. Then, a year from now or whenever, we’ll get back together and start kicking ass again.

Q: The posthumous acknowledgement Darrell has received has got to be gratifying, but bittersweet as well.

A: There’s two ways I can look at it. I can look backwards, and it’s a horrible feeling because no matter how much he accomplished he’s no longer here. Or I can look forward and say, “What he did was amazing and will never be forgotten, and I’m gonna honor his spirit and carry that torch as high as I can.”

Q: Is that what the Hellyeah song “Thank You” is about?

A: Yes. Tom had just lost his grandmother; it seemed we’d all suffered some personal loss. When Chad showed me the lyrics, I knew he’d nailed the feeling.

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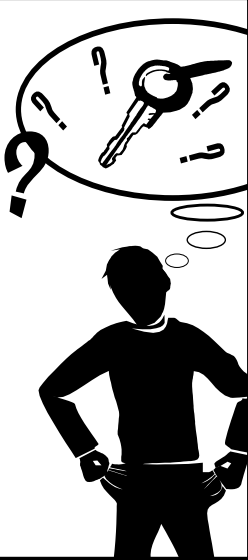
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OUR SIDE

## Scheduling for next semester: Take the long view

**RELATED STORY**  
 SCHEDULING page 1

In what can be a joyous time for those graduating in the spring, and also one of the biggest headaches, registering for another college semester sometimes seems to only grow more difficult as we progress through the years.

The signs in DeBartolo Hall say it all. An adviser is your best friend on campus. Make friends with them, because they are the ticket out.

Without a good roadmap to the classes in a given degree program, the time and money needed to graduate can increase dramatically.

Students need the advice provided by advisers and faculty in order to make it out in the traditional four years — give or take a year or two.

So many students go through the motions of scheduling without checking to see what courses are needed to fulfill their degrees. Perhaps the uncertainty of life after school makes it more comfortable to stay in this ongoing cycle of college classes and never really getting anywhere.

We all know the pressures that come with the end of the semester and the lack of spare time during the run-up to finals. But if we don't make the time during these crazy last weeks to sit down and really consider where we're headed, we could be in for more stress.

It takes information, well-planned decisions, and for most students, an appointment or two with an adviser to get the most out of our college educations.

The resources are literally at our fingertips. Log on and do some research, the earlier the better. Majors and degrees are listed online. Find out what track you're on and see what steps need to be taken to graduate.

POLICIES

The Jambar editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambar's editorial staff, which includes the Editor in Chief, News Editor, Managing Editor and Copy Editor.

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. E-mail submissions are welcome at the-jambar@gmail.com. All letters must be typed and must not exceed 400 words.

Submissions must include name and telephone number for verification, and letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. For Tuesday's edition, letters are accepted until noon on the previous Friday. For Thursday's edition, letters are accepted until noon Tuesday.

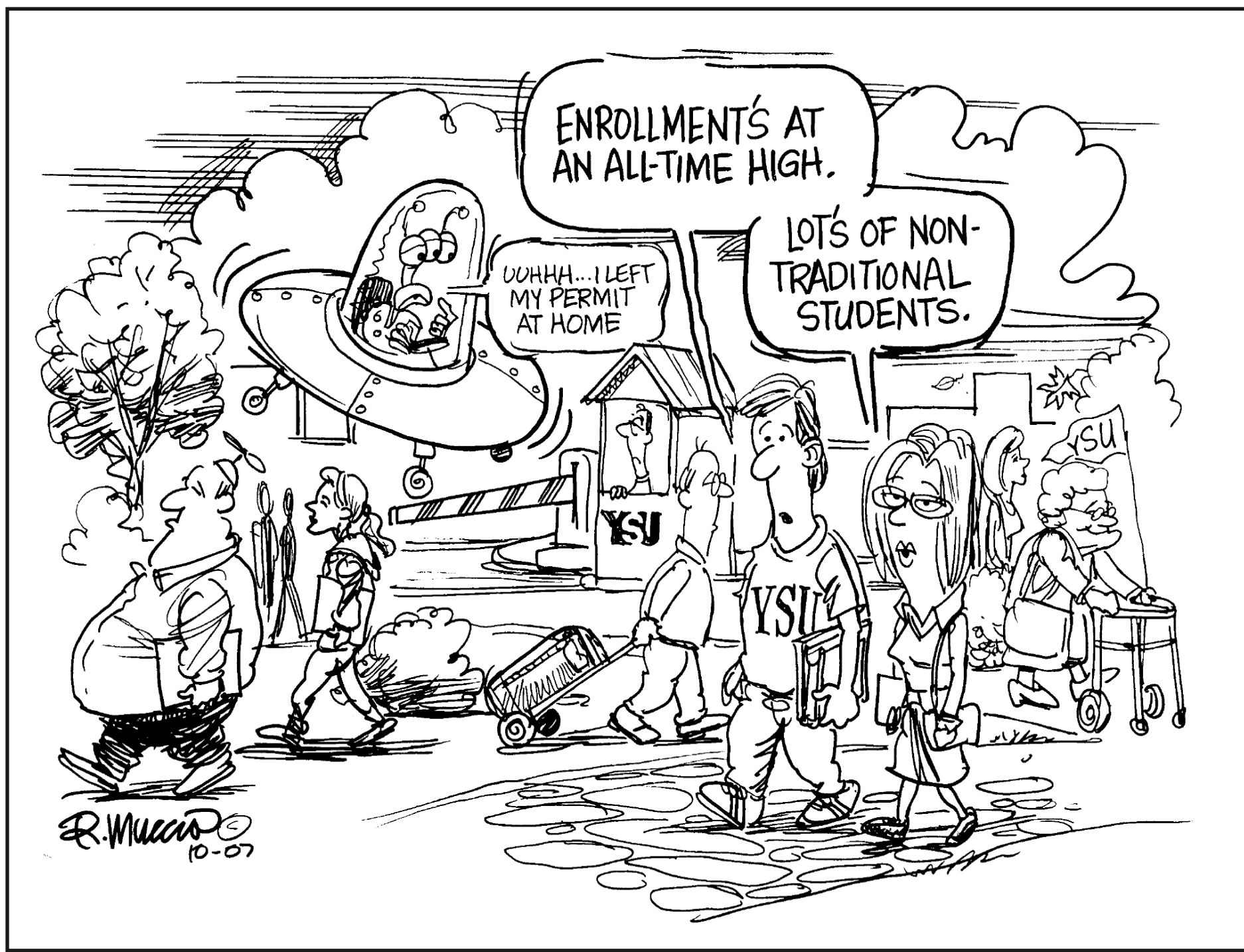
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The views and opinions expressed in published letters do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff or the faculty, staff or administration of Youngstown State University.

ABOUT THE JAMBAR

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COMMENTARY

# Advocating for an honorable end

Michael Tackett

Chicago Tribune

With Congress' approval ratings so low that members make President Bush look good, it is easy to think that everything they do in "your nation's capital" is a product of greed, conflict or revenge.

Oh, there's plenty of that. But every now and then there are also members of Congress who can't help themselves from making sense. One of them is the ever-civil senior Senator from Tennessee, Lamar Alexander.

His presidential ambitions now a memory, Alexander, a Republican, spends time on matters that get beyond the tiresome partisan fights of the day. Things that really matter, such as trying to make sure that the United States doesn't continue to fall behind China in math and science education.

The latest example? He is a lead sponsor, along with Sen. Ken Salazar, D-Colo., of a measure that would require the Bush administration to regularly report to Congress on the status of plans to redeploy

troops from Iraq. It is not legislation that forces the hand of the Pentagon, nor does it diminish the president's powers as commander in chief. Yet the president is against it.

It is at least one effort to get some actual accountability after a war that is replete with bad numbers in cost, casualties and troop levels, to name just three obvious areas.

The co-sponsors are an interesting mix. They include Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., Sen. Jim Webb, D-Va., Sen. George Voinovich, R-Ohio, Sen. Mark Pryor, D-Ark., and Sen. Elizabeth Dole, R-N.C. So some of the war's harshest critics, such as Webb, and some of the president's most loyal supporters, such as Dole, find themselves agreeing on this.

The bill would finally give Congress a sense of genuine oversight rather than have it play the role of rubber stamp preferred by the president and the Pentagon. It would require the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress and also require the secretary and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of

Staff and other high-ranking officers to brief Congress. That they would need legislation to achieve this is telling on its face.

Reached en route to his home in Maryville, Tenn., Alexander said he has been pushing this stone uphill since January in one form or another. He also has urged the president to embrace the recommendations of the Iraq Study Group, another suggestion that Bush has disregarded. He and Salazar introduced the bill requiring additional accountability in March and they are awaiting action by the Senate Armed Services Committee.

"Since January, I have been urging the president to embrace the Iraq Study Group's recommendations as a way to shift gears in Iraq and develop a bi-partisan solution for an honorable finish there," Alexander said.

Then he laughed the laugh of the happy warrior.

"And we've been seeking support for that (and we have) done what almost no one else has been able to do — unify (Sen. Majority Leader) Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and President Bush on Iraq. But it was

in opposition to our bill.

"The president wanted to conduct the war his way; Reid wanted to keep it as a political issue. So they were both opposed."

For its part, the House has passed a near identical measure, but the Senate so far has balked.

Alexander is hoping that the president will come to see his bill as a way for the administration to "shift gears and make sure we are on a path to an honorable conclusion to the war."

Alexander used the word honorable nearly half a dozen times in 10 minutes, as though he's convinced the White House just doesn't get the cover his solution would provide.

"We've got to find a way to speak with one voice," he said. "It's inexcusable for us to lecture Baghdad that they are in a political stalemate."

He said his proposal, along with a companion measure, "represent a significant body of opinion in the U.S. Senate that we are not going to have a precipitous withdrawal and we are not going to have a victory like we had in Germany and Japan

in World War II. So we need to be clear that we are on a path to honorably finishing the job in Iraq."

While that sentiment might seem hard to argue with, there remains plenty of opposition. And that is contributing to voter resentment. "I think the American people are thoroughly disgusted with the partisanship and are starved really for members of Congress to solve big problems," Alexander said.

And he concedes that the president of his party has largely prosecuted the war with something verging on indifference to congressional opinion.

"This bill helps with Congressional oversight, but the major value of this bill is, if the president signs it, it's a clear shift of direction in Iraq, [from] saying 'I want to do it my way.'"

"This would say that we want to hear from the administration every 90 days. It doesn't infringe on the president's constitutional authority, but it does put him on record saying it is time to do the job. I don't know why he wouldn't agree with that."

COMMENTARY

# This is like a highway with no cops and no speed limit

Jack Z. Smith

McClatchy Newspapers

The housing bubble has burst. So what about the oil bubble?

Crude oil futures prices zoomed to an all-time high closing mark of \$90.46 a barrel Thursday on the New York Mercantile Exchange, continuing a steep upward trend. Billionaire Texas energy investor Boone Pickens predicts that prices will top \$100 in coming months.

Motorists are feeling the pinch, with the average price for regular-grade gas rising to \$2.80 a gallon nationally and \$2.68 in Texas. More increases are likely.

As I learned in college economics classes, prices of oil and other commodities are based predominantly on supply and demand. The more limited the supply and greater the demand, the higher prices will

be. As a Fort Worth Star-Telegram business writer covering the oil industry from 1985 to 1993, I saw how heightened energy conservation and higher fuel economy standards depressed U.S. oil and gasoline prices by whittling demand.

But something funny is going on now. It appears increasingly obvious that oil prices are being pushed into the stratosphere by speculators in a lightly regulated global trading market that has grown by leaps and bounds.

Traditional supply-and-demand factors can't explain the price jump. There's no shortage of oil or gasoline, nor major supply disruptions. World oil demand has stabilized at about 85 million barrels a day.

A weak dollar has made purchases of oil on the futures market look increasingly attractive to foreign investors. But that can't

account for \$90 oil.

A favorite whipping boy — "Middle Eastern tensions" — again is being trotted out to explain the soaring prices. Yes, Turkey is threatening to go after Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq. Yes, Iran continues inviting trouble, including a potential U.S. military strike. But even if one of these hot spots explodes, the odds are still against a major, sustained curtailment of global oil supplies.

Fadel Gheit, a respected energy analyst for Oppenheimer & Co. in New York, predominantly blames speculators.

"There is absolutely no shortage of oil," he told me by telephone Wednesday. "I'm absolutely convinced that oil prices shouldn't be a dime above \$55 a barrel."

Oil speculators include "the largest financial institutions in the world," he said. "I call it the world's

largest gambling hall. ... It's open 24/7. ... Unfortunately, it's totally unregulated. ... This is like a highway with no cops and no speed limit, and everybody's going 120 miles per hour."

Speculators can trade from anywhere via their Blackberries and buy oil on the margins by putting up only a small fraction of the price of a barrel, Gheit said.

Oil prices are escalated by a "fear premium," he acknowledges — trepidation that events such as a new Mideastern conflict will escalate prices.

Gheit said he is "making a bet that the U.S. will have air strikes in Iran in the next two to four months," but he notes that global oil supplies haven't been seriously curtailed even by the prolonged war in Iraq.

Gheit and I share the belief that stronger oversight and regulation of

energy markets are needed. Fortunately, Congress is looking at strengthening the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, as outlined in an in-depth story in Sunday's Washington Post.

Gheit and I share another belief: America needs to stress energy conservation, including adopting substantially higher fuel economy standards for vehicles, to lessen our dependence on foreign oil and reduce air pollution. Two-thirds of U.S. oil consumption is for transportation.

It's my bet that oil prices eventually will fall considerably, as supply-and-demand fundamentals prevail over market speculation. Some traders undoubtedly will take a financial bath. In the near term, however, gas-guzzling U.S. motorists will be taking it in the shorts.

got an opinion?

Send letters to:

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## FOOTBALL



**ONE FOOT IN** — Junior wide receiver Da'Michael Horne catches a pass in traffic while avoiding the sideline for a big gain for the Penguin offense. The Penguins will travel for the second straight week as they take on Indiana State. Photo by Andrew Berry.

# Penguins look to break two-game skid on the road at Indiana State

**Andrew Berry**  
Sports Editor

"This season just got a lot less fun," remarked a reporter following Youngstown State University football team's homecoming loss to unranked Illinois State on Oct. 20.

Tuesday's football press conference in the DeBartolo Stadium Club gave off a similar atmosphere that any hope of making the playoffs have been dashed.

With the loss to No. 1 Northern Iowa, the window to a third straight Gateway conference championship has also been slammed shut. With a 5-4 record, the best the team can finish in 2007 is 7-4.

But head coach Jon Heacock didn't waste any time getting to the point. Even with no chance of making the postseason, his football team still has a lot to play for.

All though it won't get them into the playoffs, the Penguins would like to finish with a winning record and start a winning streak now that can carry over to next season.

"There's still a ton to play for," said senior free safety Dorian Chenault. "We want to end the season on a good note and not go out with two more losses. There's more we can accomplish."

## Series breakdown versus Indiana State



The Penguins are 7-0 against the Sycamores under Heacock  
 Penguins lead all-time series against Indiana State 15-1  
 In the team's previous meeting, YSU won 55-17  
 YSU is 8-0 on the road at Memorial Stadium

For the senior class, the end is almost near with only one home game remaining on the schedule. Chenault stressed the importance of not slacking down the home stretch, and the importance of setting an example by working hard so the younger players will continue to pour their hearts into the game.

Senior tight end Louis Irizarry said his job now as a leader is to set the tone for the younger guys over the course of the team's final two games.

"These are my last two games, and I'm not going to be here next year," Irizarry said. "I want to give these guys something back. Hopefully they take all the lessons so when they're in my spot they have that positive feeling from the end of the season."

The Penguins put together a strong effort and nearly dethroned the top-ranked team in the nation. Heacock said the week leading up to the contest with the Panthers was the best

week of preparation he had seen from his players the entire season. It was the formula the team was looking for, but it didn't come with a victorious end result, making the loss to Northern Iowa that much harder.

"In the locker room our kids were devastated, but that's how it's suppose to be when it doesn't go your way because that tells me we prepared to the highest," Heacock said. "Hard work gives you a chance."

Heacock said the final two games of the season will be tough, and the Penguins will look to close out 2007 with two straight wins starting on the road with a struggling Indiana State squad.

The Sycamores have been living in the basement of the Gateway conference for the better part of the season. At 0-9 and 0-4 in the Gateway, the Sycamores are still looking for something positive to take out of a season that has included a

head coaching change and several blowouts on the field.

Heacock pointed out that Saturday's game will be the last home game for Indiana State and its 17 seniors. The Penguin coach said playing a team in its stadium for the final time is dangerous regardless of how the team has fared throughout the season.

"When it comes to senior day, it's your last shot and you play to the max, and I think that's what they are going to give us," Heacock said. "I expect them to play the best football game they've played."

For the game against Indiana State, senior quarterback Tom Zetts could miss significant playing time after being banged up toward the end of the Northern Iowa contest. Because he is missing practice time this week, backup Todd Rowan could be thrown into the mix. Heacock clarified that any appearance Rowan makes will be because of Zetts' injury and not for Rowan to gain experience for next season.

Heacock mentioned that the key to winning on Saturday is to staying within the team's boundaries and preparing to the fullest once again.

"The key will be how we handle ourselves, because I still think it's about us," Heacock said.



# This Week's Impact Match-ups



**Louis Irizarry**  
Tight End  
No. 81

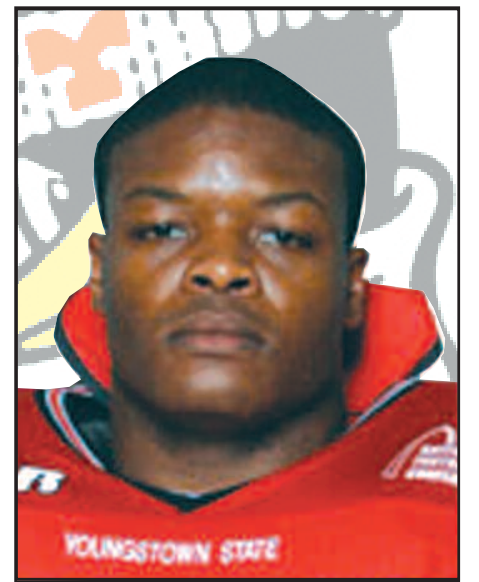
After missing a month of action with a broken right hand, Irizarry has recovered and is back in the lineup for the Youngstown State offense. His presence helped the team last week against Northern Iowa as the senior tight end caught a career high five passes against the Panthers. Irizarry will want to contribute even more, but standing in his way will be a versatile linebacker in Andy Jones. Jones is tied for the second most tackles this season with 95 stops for the Sycamores. But Jones is more than just a tackling machine as he also has three sacks and an interception to his credit. Irizarry will have to find away to run routes around Jones as well as block him on plays where the Penguins need extra pass protection.



**Andy Jones**  
Linebacker  
No. 7

**Jeremiah Wright**  
Linebacker  
No. 25

The bright spot for the Indiana State squad has been the emergence of sophomore running back Tony West. The speedy back has amassed 813 yards on the ground with five touchdowns. West has seen a majority of the work-load as no other running back on the Sycamores squad has more than 275 yards rushing this season. Shutting down West will be a top priority for senior Jeremiah Wright and the Penguins' prolific core of linebackers. Wright leads the team with 71 tackles and has had a lot of support from James Terry and Rashon Simons who have combined for 101 tackles from the linebacker position. West should be bottled up for most of the contest, but if he is able to get to the outside, then Wright and his defensive teammates could be chasing after him to the end zone.



**Tony West**  
Running Back  
No. 11



## Keys to Victory

The Penguins have been able to pull ahead early on against opponents, but maintain the lead has been a problem this season. Leads of 10, 13 and 17 points have all disappeared in three games as the Penguins have continuously allowed opposing offense to put up points and keep the game close. The trend should not continue against Indiana State. The Sycamores are coming off a 63-17 blowout against Missouri State and have an inexperienced squad that doesn't score a lot of points consistently.

Head coach Jon Heacock has stressed the importance of winning the turnover battle throughout the season. The Penguins turnover margin is plus four while the Sycamores are struggling to hang onto the ball with a minus 18 turnover margin. The Penguin defense should have a field day against the Sycamores as long as the group maintains focus and doesn't let up. The Sycamores run a dangerous spread option offense and losing track of the ball carrier during a play could result in disaster.

## SOCCER

# Season ends for soccer, Wack receives Horizon League honors

**Andrew Berry**  
Sports Editor

The Youngstown State women's soccer team was unable to prevail in the Horizon League tournament.

In a hard fought contest with Cleveland State, the Penguins were able to score a goal for the first time in their last three tournament trips.

The Vikings tied the game just minutes to force overtime where the Penguins eventually lost by the final of 2-1 on Heather Clapacs game winning overtime goal.

With the win, the Vikings will advance to the next round of the Horizon League Tournament.

Youngstown State concludes the 2007 season with an overall record of 1-18-1.

The lone win for the Penguins came on Sept. 16 against Howard in the Penguin Classic tournament where the team pounded in five goals to win the contest 5-1.

With the season complete, the Horizon League named junior defender Carrie Wack to the All-League second team for her solid play during the 2007 season.

Wack played a crucial role for the Penguins all season playing in 19 games and was a starter for 18 of those contests.

She played a big role in the team's win over Howard by contributing two assists. Wack finished the season with three total assists and one goal scored that came against Albany in the team's second home match of the season. Wack also lead the team in points with five and had 20 shots on goal.



**TOP DEFENDER** — Junior middle fielder Carrie Wack was named to the All-League Second Team for her accomplishments during the season as a defender. Photo by Andrew Berry.