



**JONESIN' FOR JAM** — Help yourself to a serving of Jones For Revival jam at Peaberry's Thursday, page 4

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**TENNIS** teams serve up pair of weekend wins, page 6



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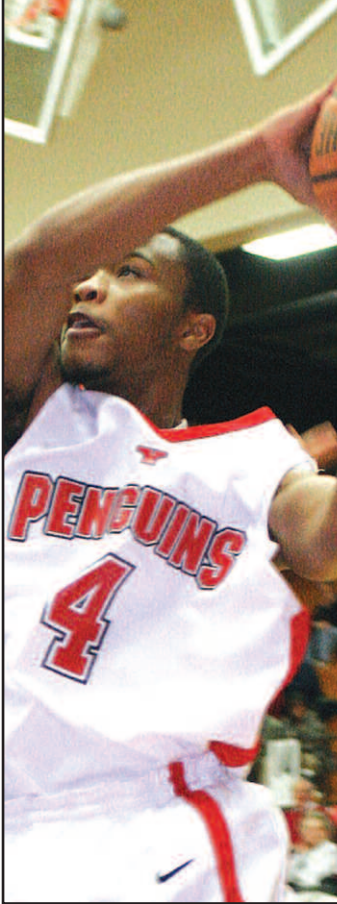
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Remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar.

**POLITICS**

## Fallacies find home in presidential debates

Courtney DiGiorgi  
Reporter

No matter which candidate gets the vote on March 4, there is one thing they all have in common. They sure know how to argue. But even if they seem to stand tall in debates, they may not have a foundation of solid arguments.

When it comes to presidential debates, YSU philosophy department chair Bruce Waller described several types of invalid arguments, called fallacies.

The most common argumentative fallacy in politics is ambiguity, or putting a statement out of con-

**Next Presidential Debate**  
The upcoming presidential debates will be held by CNN in Ohio.

- Democratic Feb. 27
- Republican Feb. 28

text, Waller said.

It's also the trickiest, he said. The "strawman" fallacy, or misrepresentation of an opponent's position, is quite common also. Waller used Hillary Clinton's comment about Barack Obama during a recent debate as an example of the

strawman fallacy.

Obama said the Republican Party has been the party of ideas over the last 10 to 15 years. In turn, Clinton said Obama supports the ideas of the Republicans.

Among others, Waller said the half-truth fallacy is just as common as ambiguity and strawman. According to Waller's book, "Critical Thinking: Consider the Verdict," a half-truth is a statement that is literally true, but lacks important information that would alter the truth.

"It's easy to distort complicated things," he said.

Though candidates use several

argumentative fallacies during the debates, they use legitimate arguments as well.

"Attacking someone's argument is legitimate," said Waller, but "it's a fallacy if it attacks the opponent instead of the argument."

This is called an ad hominem attack.

Waller said the frequent use of argumentative fallacies may have damaged the reputation of politics.

False arguments have become so common that people don't believe anything the politicians say, Waller said.

"It's admirable when politicians stay above it," he said.

**CULTURE**

## Hundreds ring in Chinese new year at YSU celebration

Jeanette DiRubba  
Reporter

Sunday night, 360 people gathered to celebrate on the campus of Youngstown State University — but they weren't cheering on their favorite team in the Super Bowl. Instead, they were celebrating the Chinese New Year.

Sponsored by YSU, the Chinese Association of the Greater Youngstown Area held the annual Chinese New Year celebration in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room. Students, faculty and community members performed in a variety show that featured song, dance and martial arts.

Ou Hu, assistant professor in economics at YSU and president of CAGYA, said similar celebrations have taken place over 30 years in the Youngstown area, but this was the first year

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**ABOVE LEFT** — Mark Lee Pringle performs the traditional lion dance to start the show.

**RIGHT** — Dylan Daniello, one of the students from Nick Gracenin's Martial Arts Center in Hermitage, performs Wushu martial arts. Photos courtesy of Jef Davis.



**ABOVE** — Kelsey Fischer and Nathanael Welch perform an acoustic cover of the Chinese pop song, "Two Sides." Photo by Jeanette DiRubba.



## Facing oppression

"I didn't realize so much hatred still existed in 2008." That was junior Justine Banks's reaction after experiencing the Tunnel of Oppression on campus Monday.

Described by the the Office of Housing and Residence Life as a "multi-sensory event that displays different forms of oppression," the Tunnel of Oppression runs today from 9 a.m to 5 p.m. in Kilcawley Center's Presidential Suites.

Resident Assistant Phillip Rauscher said the goal of the activity is acceptance.

Sophomore Kay Brown said it was sad to see that problems like racism, sexual discrimination and religious oppression still exist.

Brown said, "The display made me ask myself, 'Am I like this?'"

**LEFT** — The makeshift shelter in one part of the tunnel draws attention to homelessness, a problem that still persists in the United States. Resident Assistant Robyn Ray depicts a homeless person. Photo by Brian Cetina.

**YSU**

## Former NFL player to speak at YSU student leadership retreat

Ashley Fox  
Reporter

Going from a trailer in a depressed town to a \$250,000 mansion in a big city, then losing it all isn't what comes to mind as a typical rags-to-riches story. For Clayton Holmes, former NFL cornerback for the Dallas Cowboys, it was part of his fall from grace.

A few weeks ago, Greg Gulas, assistant director of Student Programming at Youngstown State University, came upon a story about Holmes.

"The more I read, the more I couldn't quit reading," said Gulas.

The headline that caught his eye was 'From a Benz to a Bike,' a feature written for ESPN's Web site by former Sports Illustrated editor Jeff Pearlman.

The story describes how Holmes was born into an abusive family in poverty-stricken Florence, South Carolina. Holmes threw himself into sports, saying the coaches were like parents to him while growing up.

"Coaches are a positive influence," said Holmes, in a phone interview Sunday evening. Gulas wanted to bring Holmes to YSU for the Student Leadership Retreat because Holmes' story would be tragic except for the fact that Holmes is trying to piece his life back together. Gulas described it as inspirational.

When asked why he's coming to YSU, Holmes thought for a moment. Besides Gulas' invitation, Holmes gave other reasons, like his hopes to reach out to younger groups about making choices, because they lead to what kind of life a person lives.

Planning to relate his speeches to his personal life, Holmes said he strongly believes that positive reinforcements are the most important thing in a child's life. Although he was abused by his parents as a child, he said he doesn't blame them for his past.

Holmes said his parents carried out what they knew growing up as parenting. He doesn't want to be the same kind of parent to his four children, he said.

"I love my kids to death," he said. "You should always be there for your children."

He said he strongly believes when a child is neglected or disrespected, it leads to problems. Instead, it's up to parents to get to the root of their children's problems and solve them.

"Kids grow up and repeat," he said. "It's time for this to stop."

One of the projects Holmes is working on is a club for parents who stay at home with their children. There, they can learn to talk with their children in a positive way, giving children confidence, because "it feels good to be around positive, goal-oriented people."

He added that many people have parents who have had terrible things done to them, and

LEADERSHIP page 2

**ACADEMICS**

## Class cancellations based on low enrollment, administrators say

Samantha Pysher  
Reporter

At the start of each semester, students receive letters explaining that some of their classes at Youngstown State University have closed or their times have changed.

Sophomore Patrick Evans is one of those students who had to accommodate a class at a different time than he signed up for.

"The only thing I could do was just go to class, because

"We listen to the students. We can't always accommodate that, but if there is a change we can do, we will and we have."

Richard Walker, chair of the department of human performance and exercise science

why drop it if I already signed up for it. At least it wasn't cancelled," Evans said.

Evans said he doesn't agree with class cancellations.

"If you sign up for a class, it should be there," he said.

Sophomore Dail McDavid agreed.

"You get yourself into a rou-

tine and it throws things off balance, especially if you have kids," he said.

Junior Kourtney Holisky pointed out that finding a replacement

class can be an inconvenience for students who need to maintain full-time status.

Evans suggested that cancellations are due to lack of faculty or students attached to the class.

Charles Singler, interim associate provost, said that classes are cancelled case by case based on low enrollment guideline.

Singler said when a class has low enrollment, department chairs notify the dean's office, which

CANCELLATIONS page 2



## TO THE POINT

### Provost appoints two faculty members

Interim Provost Ikram Khawaja has appointed two faculty members to positions aiding in academics. Annette Burden, professor of math and statistics, will be the Interim Director of Distance Learning for Spring 2008. Cheryl Bosley, professor of nursing, will become Coordinator of Academic advising.

### Students to describe travels in study abroad symposium

Students who participated in YSU's study abroad program in December will share what they experienced in China at the "Mountains of China Symposium" Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Moser Hall's room 2000. Seventeen undergraduate students participated in the course which was titled "Mountains of China: Geologic and Human History."

### Visiting professor to lecture at YSU

The Margins Distinguished Lecturer Program will feature J. Casey Moore, professor of earth and planetary sciences at the University of California. The focus of his lectures will be on earthquakes, tsunamis and mountains. A technical lecture will be held at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday in Moser Hall's room 1080. A general lecture will be held at 1 p.m. Wednesday in Moser Hall's room 2000.

### Diversity-themed artwork to be featured at show

As part of YSU's Diversity Week, YSU students and others are showing themed artwork at the Diversity Art Show in Kilcawley Center's Gallery Room. The show will be held today, Wednesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### Former editor to hold poetry reading

Karen Schubert, former editor of YSU's Penguin Review, will read her poetry on Friday in Kilcawley Center's Jones Room. Schubert, whose poetry has been published in Mid-America Poetry Review, among other publications, will read from her book, "The Geography of Lost Houses." YSU Photographer Carl Leet III provided cover art for the book.

### Drag kings, queens to participate in diversity week show

Local drag queens and kings will participate in a drag show put on by YSU Unity and Housing and Residence Life as part of YSU's Diversity Week. The show will be Thursday at 8 p.m. in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room.

### Applications for summer art festival now available

Artist applications for the 10th Annual Summer Festival of the Arts are available by contacting Factor at (330) 941-2307 or <http://www.yzu.edu/sfa>. There is a \$20 jury fee for each application. Artists are encouraged to submit applications by the early deadline on April 4. The festival will be July 12 and 13 on campus.

## POLICE BRIEF

### Police arrest eight students for underage drinking

After a complaint by the neighbors about loud music, police broke up a party at the University Courtyard apartments at approximately 12 a.m. Jan. 27. Police checked IDs after noticing a large number of empty beer cans. Eight students were arrested for underage drinking and one student, age 22, was released after he told police he did not supply alcohol to the minors.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

### African marketplace commences February celebrations

Keith Langford  
Reporter

Performances, speakers and a display of African works of art and culture at a marketplace in Kilcawley's Chestnut Room signified the start of Black History Month at Youngstown State University Center Saturday.

Event guests included traditional African dancers and drummers, and speakers who expressed the importance of Black History Month and the significance of African-Americans in pop culture.

The African Marketplace offered African culture items for purchase, ranging from books, jewelry and incense to African works of art, mahogany statues and African drums.

Specializing in glass carving, Ernie Freeman of Canton was one of the vendors at the African Marketplace. There he featured pieces of carved glass incense burners. Freeman said he has carved pieces of art out of everything from car windows and show-



INSPIRED BY AFRICA - Artist Ernie Freeman holds one of his glass carvings at the African Marketplace in Kilcawley Saturday.

er doors to glass table tops.

He said YSU is only one of a couple of colleges where he displays his artwork, and that most of his sales are from this region. Freeman has been glass carving for 10 years and said when he first started, he broke a lot of glass and consequently lost a lot of money. Nowadays, though, things are going well, he said.

Junior Amy Doverspike attended the African Marketplace with senior Kimberly Moore, who has traveled to Africa.

"It is a great cultural event for YSU," Doverspike said of the event.

Moore added, "The jewelry is very authentic and reminds me of my summer in Africa."

## NEW YEAR page 1

in a long time that YSU cosponsored the festival and banquet.

"I'm really excited that the event is at YSU," he said, because the university and faculty "values diversity and embraces culture."

Shelly Zhu, vice president of treasury in CAGYA, taught the first Chinese language course ever offered at YSU last semester. Returning students from Zhu's class, Kelsey Fischer, Nathanael Welch and Richard Louis Boccia, performed acoustic Chinese songs at the event.

Hu said the Chinese language course is valuable because not only do 1.4 billion people speak Chinese, but also the "United States Homeland Security Department announced that the traditional Chinese Language is associated with economic power and the language is important to international trade," Hu said.

Mei Ma, born in Shenyang China, now studies in the Dana School of Music. She said the best thing about this university is "all the teachers. They are really nice, and I like all of them!"

Ma sang a Chinese solo at the event, and was asked for an encore after her performance.

The evening started with a bang as firecrackers announced the lion dance, a tradition that repre-

sents the mythical lion chasing away evil. In China, the lion, resembling the form of a dragon, goes from house to house during the Chinese New Year. The lion will not leave until the family places money in an envelope and into its mouth.

This donation of money is done because the lion is said to take on evil spirits, and in order to cleanse the lion, money needs to be dropped into the mouth as a Buddhist Priest accompanies the lion and blesses it.

Performer Joanna Tang played the guzheng, a stringed musical instrument resembling the zither that was once reserved for Chinese palaces.

Mimi Jong performed with the erhu, another Chinese musical instrument said to be the poor man's violin.

A fashion show concluded the entertainment with traditional Chinese garments.

Youngstown Mayor Jay Williams, YSU President David Sweet and several trustees were in attendance.

## The year of the rat

The year 2008 marks the beginning of the 12-year cycle, with the rat being the first zodiac animal.

Illustrating one difference between Western and Eastern culture, even the rat is valued in the zodiac.

"If rats have enough food, it means that humans have enough to live by," Hu said. When rats are eating well, it signifies a year of abundance.

The new year falls on a different date every year in the west, marked by the first day of the first lunar month on the Chinese calendar.

The menu was especially chosen to represent the traditional foods eaten at the Chinese New Year.

Hu said it's important to have fish for the new year because "it signifies a surplus." Any food color that's yellow or golden "has auspicious meaning" and the color "red means luck," Hu said.

Taking those cultural symbols into account, red snapper with pineapple sauce was just one dish prepared to reflect the holiday.

Hu said that by having this Chinese New Year event, he hopes that people become more appreciative of the Chinese culture, and become more open-minded in general.

"Because on earth," he said, "we're all equal, but just not the same."

## LEADERSHIP page 1

"we've got to find something, somehow to help them."

Holmes would also like to open a sports center for children, where they can study and work on sports, as well as their education and confidence.

"The kids have such beautiful minds that go to waste."

Along with the parents' and children's clubs and his motivational tour, there are books and a movie in the works, as well.

Holmes will be at YSU 9 a.m. Friday in Kilcawley Center's Ohio Room.

The event is sponsored by the YSU Metro College, Center for Student Progress, Student Government, the office of Housing and Residence Life, and the Honors and Scholars Program.

To register to attend, call the Campus Recreation and Student Programming Office at (330) 941-3575.

## CANCELLATIONS page 2

decides on cancellation and informs registration that the class will not be offered. The department chair then informs students.

Richard Walker, chair of the department of Human Performance and Exercise Science, echoed that reason.

"Most often it's because of low enrollment, that's the only time that our department cancels classes, we don't cancel upper level classes," Walker said.

"We listen to the students, we can't always accommodate that, but if there is a change we can do, we will and we have," Walker said.

Alan Jacobs, chair of the department of Geological and Environmental Sciences said stu-

dents should speak to the department chair if this situation occurs.

"Sometimes a substitution is allowed," Jacobs said.

John Sarkissian, chair of the department of Foreign Language, suggested that if there is no substitution available, students might ask about another way to accommodate the time slot.

As for how the decision of when to have classes and what classes it is a group effort between the faculty and chair, said Sarkissian of his department.

Holisky suggests students not give up on a cancelled class.

"If it's not available this semester, maybe it'll be available next semester. Eventually you're going to need the class," Holisky said.

## ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

Will be celebrated on Wednesday, February 6th at 12:05 pm in the Ohio Room - Kilcawley Center 7:00 pm - The Newman Center Ashes will be distributed at the Newman Center after the Mass on Campus until 6:30 pm.

For more info: (330) 747-9202



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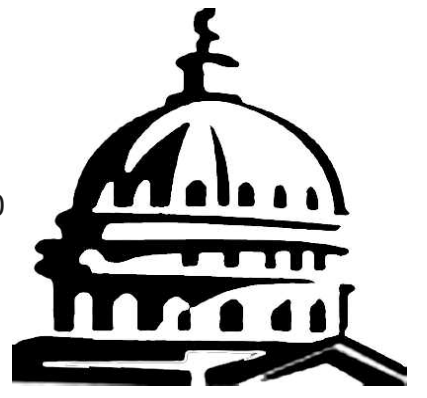


Kilcawley Center  
[www.kc.yzu.edu](http://www.kc.yzu.edu)

## ROAD TRIP TO WASHINGTON, DC OVER SPRING BREAK

From Monday, March 10 to Thursday, March 13 visit the most beautiful city in the USA.

Students will visit the U.S. National Holocaust museum, all war memorials, Arlington National Cemetery and Tomb of Unknown Soldier, Lincoln Memorial, The Capitol, Smithsonian museums, White House, National Cathedral and more. Cost of \$100 covers transportation and three nights at the DC Youth Hostel. For more information contact: Rev. Kathryn Adams at [Kathrynpam@aol.com](mailto:Kathrynpam@aol.com) or call 330-719-2902.



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**THE WINNING TEAM** — Team America members Andrew McCain, Adam Hinerman, Jesse Shilot, Andrew Emig, Doug Wajda and Ryan Novotny take home the coffee-mug gold. Photo by Nick Young.

## Dodging balls strengthens community among students

Nick Young  
Reporter

With a whistle and the toss of a ball, the first dodgeball tournament organized by the Honors Council was underway Saturday.

Amy Cossentino, assistant director of the Honors Program, said students came up with the idea of dodgeball.

Cossentino and her team of students, The Who, made quarterfinals with faces painted for competition.

Besides the face paint, there were other signs of dodgeball spirit. Cossentino said the tournament's goal was to create bonds on the campus, and in terms of how many people showed up to campus on a Saturday, including commuters, it was a great suc-

cess. About 70 students and faculty members competed.

A flyer posted before the tournament read, "Nail your professor — the honorable way."

Senior David Garthwaite agreed that the competition was successful.

"I thought it could be a good chance to meet some people," he said.

There were a total of 16 teams enrolled in the competition in the four round tournament. The first two rounds were played to a best of three games, and the final two rounds were played to a best of five.

By the final round, the stage was set for the championship match with Team 5 and Team America ready to inflict unimaginable pain on each other to ensure their team would walk

away with the coffee mug trophies.

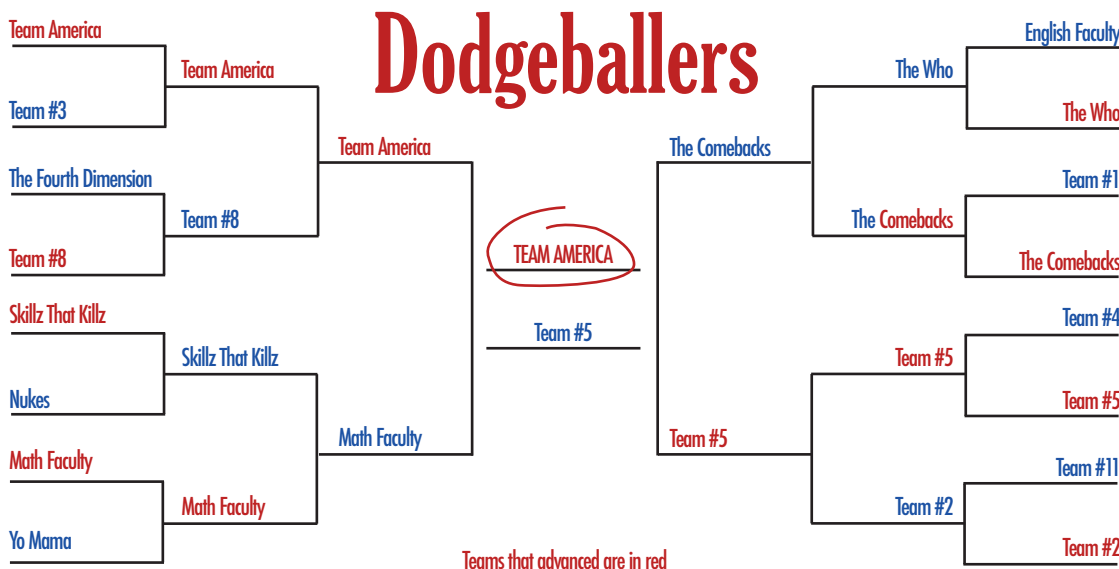
Team America dominated Team 5 in three quick games.

This will not be the last of these dodgeball tournaments on campus, though.

"There will be dodgeball in the spring and perhaps another sport in the fall," said Cossentino.

Besides another tournament, Cossentino and her teammates have other plans. The Who stands for Women in Honors Organization, a group that Cossentino and students may make into an official student organization.

"I would definitely do it again if there was going to be another one before I graduated," said Garthwaite, even despite his team being knocked out early.



## MUSIC

# Jonesin' For Jams

Like the spread, this band's got flavor and fusion

Aaron Workman  
Reporter

Those jonesin' for jams will get some Thursday, when local jam band Jones For Revival will perform at Peaberry's Café at Youngstown State University, following up their Dec. 6 show. The show begins at 7 p.m. and will also feature Youngstown rap group We Famous.

Many band members will squirm when you ask them what their band sound like, but James DeCapua, guitarist and vocalist, eventually described Jones For Revival as "a new-age jam band with a jazzy, funk-fusion kick."

"That's always the hardest question," said percussionist Gino West. "Describing your sound is tough. We appeal to an eclectic group of people."

The members of Jones For Revival, who've been playing together since 2004, are on a mission "to revive the music scene with fresh, no-rules, upbeat jams" in the greater Youngstown area. Their funky smooth sounds are rounded



out by Matt Hahn (bass/ vocals), Fredo Burazer (saxophone/ flute/ vocals) and Drew Ridgley (keyboard/ vocals). "Having several vocalists helps give us a much fuller sound," DeCapua said. They want to stand out, he said, and the variety of instruments helps create a signature sound.

On Thanksgiving the band released a five-song EP, "Outside the Box," which was recorded in Youngstown at Ampreon Recorder and engineered by Pete Drivere. Both DeCapua and West said this was an enriching and rewarding experience for the band.

"We're really excited to start recording for a full-length album," said West, adding that they hope to begin recording again late next month.

Jones For Revival also has a 45-minute DVD version of their performance at this summer's Vexfest, a local music festival held downtown. Portions of this DVD can be

viewed on the band's Web site, also where EP "Outside the Box" can be purchased. DeCapua said Jones For Revival looks forward to its yearly appearance at Vexfest because it allows the musicians to see what other music is being created in Youngstown right now.

Jones For Revival has been busy lately, playing shows all over the state and even in West Virginia. The band has played in Akron, Cleveland, Columbus and Dayton, and has a pretty large following in Kent.

"I know a lot of people there, so the shows always rock," DeCapua noted.

They'll be playing there on Feb. 23, followed by a show in Chester, W. Va., and Salty Grog's St. Patrick's Day Music Festival in Boardman March 15. A charity benefit for the Crawford Family is in the works for mid-February, including several local acts.

Their spring shows will end May 31 with a bang they call "Jonesfest," when West Federal Plaza downtown will be taken over by jam bands in a day-long, outdoor festival. Bands from across Ohio will be given a chance to prove themselves in Youngstown.

"This is going to be a really great thing," DeCapua said. "I can't wait."

Writers, photographers, artists and ads majors: E-mail us to get involved in Youngstown's regional culture magazine [theyomagazine@yahoo.com](mailto:theyomagazine@yahoo.com)

## 800 AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Youngstown State University

Proverb of the month: "If God breaks your leg, he will teach you how to limp" (The Dagbani of Ghana)

**Saturday, February 2**  
Noon-6:00 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center  
**The African Marketplace**  
Join us as we begin the celebration of African American History Month with the African Marketplace. The Marketplace offers everyone the opportunity to view—and purchase—art objects, Afrocentric writings and a wide variety of goods and products that represent the creative genius of Africans and African Americans. Entertainment is provided by the dynamic and festive performances of the Harambie Youth Group and the Drum Circle of the Unity Building of Youngstown.

**Thursday, February 7**  
7:00 p.m., The McDonough Museum of Art  
**Art Exhibition and Panel Discussion**  
by Featured Artists: Elizabeth Asche Douglas and Julius Lyles  
Exhibition at the Bliss Hall Art Gallery, College of Fine and Performing Arts  
Elizabeth Douglas is an artist, musician and educator with degrees in painting and design from Carnegie Mellon and the University of Pittsburgh. Her professional exhibition record covers five decades. She has won many Art Awards, including the Arts Award from the Guild Council of the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. She also performs as a jazz and gospel vocalist.  
Julius Lyles is a graduate of Kent State and Cleveland State universities, where he studied graphic design and photography. His colorful, complex work has been featured at several galleries in Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Washington D.C., New York, and Chicago. (Co-sponsored with the College of Fine and Performing Arts)

**Wednesday, February 13**  
6:00 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center  
**Education Summit**  
This event will bring together stakeholders in the elementary school system in Youngstown, to recognize and learn from those whose performance, experience and success in producing exemplary models in the system are worth emulating. This event is a culmination of earlier effort by the Family Institute to identify positive trends in the Youngstown School system, began last year by focusing on successful classroom practices. (Co-sponsored with the Family Empowerment Student Institute)

**Thursday, February 14**  
7:00 p.m., Youngstown YWCA  
**Panel Discussion on African Development**  
Topic: Are Western Organizations and NGOs an Impediment to African Development?  
A panel discussion will follow a lecture by Dr. Edward Elmendorf, an economist with the World Bank with extensive experience in the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and World Health Organization Africa regional office. He has taught at a secondary school in Ghana, and currently spend his time with the World Bank and the United States UN Office (UNA-USA). (Co-sponsored with Youngstown Chapter of the United Nations)

**Saturday, February 16**  
7:30 p.m., The Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center  
**Keynote Lecture by Dr. Julia Hare**  
Topic: The State of the Black Family  
Nationally recognized authority on broad range of issues in the African American community, Dr. Hare is a founding member of the Black Think Tank in San Francisco. She will address the history of black upheaval, the destruction and devastation of the black family—and how to correct it, starting with Black Male/Female Relationships, including domestic violence, displaced rage and division—and how to correct it. She will talk about the children and the thoughts behind her books, *The Miseducation of the Black Child*, *Bringing the Black boy to Manhood*, and *How to Find and Keep a BMW (Black Man Working)*, and address other relevant topics.

**Saturday, February 23**  
7:00 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center  
**African and African American Fashion Show**  
The runway comes alive with African and African American contemporary fashions, African hair designs, and other special features. The African and Pan African Student organizations are involved in this event.

**Monday, February 25**  
7:30 p.m., The Ohio Room, Kilcawley Center  
**Selected Black Faculty Research Showcase and Panel Discussion**  
African American faculty at YSU will put their publications on display in the Maag Library Gallery, and participate in a panel discussion on their current and future research projects. Participants include Dr. Samuel Adu-Poku, Art Education, Dr. Cryshanna Jackson, Political Science, and Dr. Tom Oder, Physics and Astronomy, among others.

**Thursday, February 28**  
7:00 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center  
**Panel Discussion: Race Relations in Youngstown**  
Race relations in the Youngstown area have been marked by the painful struggle for economic resources, political gains, and human dignity. But that struggle goes beyond familiar stereotypes and simplistic solutions. The panel for this important discussion includes longtime Youngstown residents as well as those who have been keen observers of different groups. The panel includes Youngstown Clerk of Courts Sarah Brown-Clark; Dr. William Jenkins, Professor Emeritus of YSU; Rev. Kenneth Simon, Pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church; Ra'Shawnd Davis, student; Rev. Gina Thornton and Atty. Ron Miller, and will be moderated by Brother K, former host of "Let's Talk about It" on WGFT Radio and a student of race relations.

**Friday, February 29**  
7:30 p.m., Gallery, Kilcawley Center  
**Poetry Competition**  
Participants at the poetry competition covering a range of topics that include African and African American lives and experiences, or those in celebration of Youngstown State University's centennial. Compositions must be original, and must not have been presented or published previously. The three best poetry submissions will receive prizes and will be judged on style, content and delivery by a panel of experts. The deadline for submissions is February 23rd. Open to the Public.

**University Centennial-Related Events**  
**Seminar on Economic Empowerment**  
Dr. Claud Anderson, author and expert on Black empowerment through Povernomics  
Thursday, April 10  
7:00 p.m.  
Dr. Anderson will offer practical suggestions and tools to participants interested in starting new businesses or expanding existing ones. (Co-sponsored by the NU Valley Black Chamber of Commerce)

**Future Featured Skeggs Lecturer**  
**Dr. Cornel West**  
Professor of Religion and African American Studies at Princeton University  
Monday, October 6  
7:30 p.m., Stambaugh Auditorium  
Dr. Cornel West is America's most prominent and prolific public intellectual. He is a much sought-after speaker in universities across the country, and addresses a wide variety of topics across disciplines to different audiences. He is the recipient of more than 20 honorary degrees and a National Book Award. His many books include *Prophesy Deliverance: An Afro-American Revolutionary Christianity*, *Race Matters*, and *Democracy Matters*. Dr. West is a longtime member of the Democratic Socialists of America.

For further information, call the Africana Studies Program at 330-941-3097

Event parking is available at the Lincoln Deck and lot M24, next to McDonald's on Fifth Avenue.

Co-sponsored by: FOX 17.62, 270 FIRSTNEWS, 20 WFMJ, CW 33 WYTV, my YTV, TheVindicator | Vindy.com

Youngstown State University 100th Anniversary logo

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got an opinion?

**ATTENTION YSU STUDENTS**

children's museum of the VALLEY

Lend a hand! Earn community service hours! Build your resume!

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- Help plan and facilitate weekly programs!
- Lead school groups through the museum while improving your public speaking skills!
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Children's Museum of the Valley  
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**OUR SIDE**

## Target the issues, not each other

**RELATED STORY**

FALLACY page 1

If attacking an opponent instead of an opponent's argument makes for a poor debate, then our presidential candidates have some work to do.

All of the negativity in the blow-for-blow tactics that candidates enthusiastically use to tear each other down distracts people from the issues that really matter.

We don't care who smoked marijuana when they were younger. We don't even care who smokes it now.

We would just like concise answers about the economy, the war in Iraq, health care, foreign policy, taxes, gas prices, education and immigration.

If candidates would take half the time they spend cutting down their opponents and devote it to properly explaining their plans for presidency, it would certainly be more beneficial to us voters.

In Ohio, our opinions may not hold as much weight as we'd like them to, since our state's March 4 primary falls after Super Tuesday.

Though some say the Democratic Primary may still leave things undecided, there is no question that Ohio is getting short-changed.

After being touted as one of the key deciders in the election and a swing state, leaving Ohio out of the Super Tuesday mayhem seems like a waste.

If all delegate votes are decided after today, then voter turnout will drastically drop off in March.

College students are hard enough to motivate to go to class or finish an exam, and if things end up they way they are being predicted, where does that leave us?

We will be unmotivated to go out and do something. With 22 states heading to the polls today, the nation might just have made up its mind before we Ohioans can have our say.

However, with a tight race predicted, today might not decide as much as we think.

2008 is just heating up.

**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.

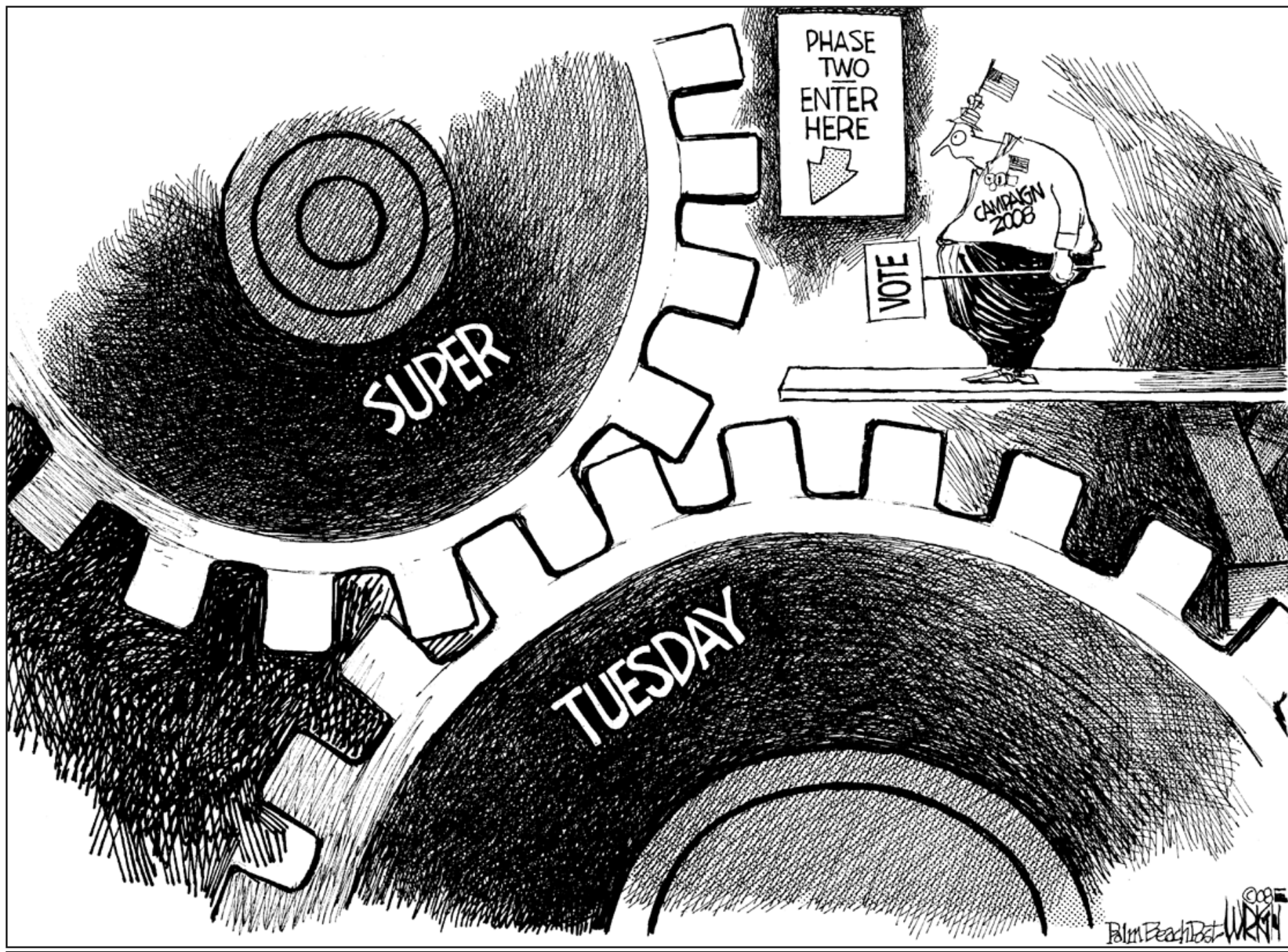
The Jambar will not print letters that libel others or threaten harm. The Editor in Chief reserves the right to reject letters that do not follow policy.

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**

The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the summer sessions. Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press Honors.

Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.



**COMMENTARY**

## Toxic tuna is raising raw fears

**Bruce Friedrich**

*People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (MCT)*

Waiter, is that mercury in my sushi?

If your sushi is made with fish, the answer is probably "yes." That's the scary news reported by The New York Times, which bought and tested tuna sushi from 20 Manhattan stores and restaurants. Several of the samples were so tainted with mercury that federal regulators could confiscate them for violating food safety rules. Experts warn that similar results would likely be found in other parts of the country as well.

It turns out that eating fish can be as hazardous to humans as it is to the fish.

As someone who hails from the "land of 10,000 lakes," you'd think I'd be all about fish. Like most Minnesotans, I grew up eating fish and going fishing. Then I started to learn more about fish and decided I'd rather see these complex animals alive in their lake homes than dead on my plate. Fish, like other animals, are smart, can feel pain and even have their own distinct personalities.

Here's what else I've learned: Fish is anything but "health food."

As the Times study shows, tuna—and other fish—are often contaminated with mercury, a documented poison that can cause brain damage, memory loss, tremors, joint pain and gastrointestinal disturbances and has recently been linked to cardiovascular disease.

If you think mercury poisoning doesn't happen in the United States, think again. San Francisco physician Jane Hightower found that dozens of her patients had high levels of mercury in their bodies, and many showed symptoms of mercury poisoning, including hair loss, fatigue, depression, difficulty concentrating and headaches. When her patients stopped eating fish, their symptoms disappeared.

The Wall Street Journal reported on one of Dr. Hightower's patients, 10-year-old Matthew Davis. Matthew had always excelled in school, but suddenly he was missing assignments and struggling with

basic math. His teachers said that Matthew could barely write a simple sentence. What's more, Matthew's fingers had started to curl, and this formerly excellent athlete could no longer catch a football. One specialist told Matthew's parents that their son had a learning disability.

The real culprit was the canned tuna that Matthew had been eating for lunch and snacks. Tests revealed that Matthew's blood-mercury level was nearly twice what the Environmental Protection Agency says is safe. After Matthew quit eating tuna, his blood-mercury level returned to zero and his condition dramatically improved.

This is far from an isolated case. Sen. John Kerry says that he has gone cold turkey on most fish after tests revealed that his mercury level was "sky-high." A 2006 study found that one in every five women of childbearing age has mercury levels that exceed the government's acceptable limit. Women who eat fish at least twice a week have the highest levels.

Even if you follow fish consumption guidelines, you may still be at risk. A Chicago Tribune three-part front-page investigative series, titled "Mercury Menace," found that government regulations on fish are so lax as to be essentially worthless and that mercury levels in individual samples of fish sometimes spike far higher than the averages reported by the government. The paper also found high levels of mercury in orange roughy and walleye, two species for which the government has not issued consumer warnings.

Eating fish and other sea animals is our sole source of exposure to mercury. So if you're worried about mercury and the other toxins in fish—including DDT, PCBs and dioxin, which have been linked to cancer and nervous system disorders—the solution is simple: Stop eating fish. If you eat fish to boost your heart health, eating low-fat vegetarian foods will help your heart even more.

And if you're still tempted by that tuna sushi or tuna salad sandwich, just remember that you'll be ingesting a toxic brew of bacteria, contaminants and heavy metals—and running the risk of going into the "fish fog" of mercury poisoning—with every single bite.

**COMMENTARY**

## Paparazzi Through the lens, darkly

**McClatchy-Tribune News Service (MCT)**

Ah, young adulthood — a time when newfound freedom and poor judgment collide, sometimes spectacularly. Drink till you puke, shop till your credit's ruined, party all night, sleep all day, abuse your body and fall in love for all the wrong reasons.

Your parents worry. Once in a while, the police show up. But the tabloids hardly ever write about it.

Then there's Britney Spears, whose every misstep plays out with the entire world watching.

At 26, she's experienced higher highs and lower lows than most people will ever know—from

uber-successful pop maven to unfit mother and substance abuser—in full view of the cameras.

Every moves plays out like a tragic pop song. Two failed marriages, two babies, an ugly custody battle in which she lost visitation rights.

The pack of photographers who trail Spears caught her shaving her head, shopping for a car in her wedding dress, and swimming in the ocean in her underwear.

Photos showed her attacking a photographer's car with an umbrella, weeping on a curb after a reportedly rocky reunion with her parents, being wheeled into an ambulance after a confrontation with her ex over the kids. Distanced from her family, she's

even invited photographers into her inner circle.

The papers revel in her maternal failings and her emotional meltdowns.

It is perhaps the most thoroughly documented mental breakdown ever, and it isn't pretty.

If you believe half of what you read, which you probably shouldn't, then it's easy to conclude that Spears is selfish and unstable, bent on self-destruction.

That's true of a lot of people, sadly. But those transgressions are harder to live down when they play out in the white-hot limelight.

Mistakes look so much better in the rear-view mirror than through the long lens of a paparazzi camera.

## THE JAMBAR ASKS

### What do you think Super Tuesday is?



*"It's an election day where most of the votes are taken."*

**Sara Fouad**  
Sophomore



*"That's when you get Mardi Gras beads or something."*

**Josh Benaim**  
Freshman



*"I hope I get a girlfriend on it, but I have no idea man."*

**Dwayne Shaver**  
Junior



*"It has something to do with voting."*

**Hiliary Hill**  
Sophomore

**got an opinion?**

**Send letters to:**  
thejambar@gmail.com



TENNIS

## Tennis teams serve up pair of weekend wins

The women's team crushed IUPUI 7-0 for its first win of the season while the men opened their first match of 2008 with an impressive 6-1 victory of St. Francis (Pa.). Both teams are now competing in the regular season and have high hopes for their respective campaigns.

Eric Barone & Andrew Berry  
 The Jambar

While the men's squad had to wait three weeks to get the season underway, the Youngstown State University tennis teams are both engaged in the regular season and are coming off an impressive weekend at home.

In both teams' last home match until March, the Penguins came away with a pair of wins. The men's and women's teams slammed their opponents in convincing fashion to gain much needed momentum heading into their respective, month-long road trips.

The women's team started the season with three straight defeats to the quality squads of Xavier, Bowling Green and Toledo. But the squad was able to shake off its slow start to end the three-game slide after a 7-0 stomping of Indiana University of Pennsylvania at the Boardman Tennis Center on Saturday.

The Penguins swept all on-comers in the singles competition and allowed the Jaguars a sole win in doubles. Sophomore Anna Volkova swept her No. 1 singles match to win her second singles match of the season.

The sophomore team of Tanisha Welch and Kelly Culbertson soundly defeated IUPUI's Vanessa Cama and Dana Gardner 8-2 in the No. 2 doubles spot. While the Jags were able to pick up a doubles win to tie it up, the Jaguars' default in the No. 3 spot secured the doubles point for the Penguins.

Despite the number of losses early on in the season, the team still has high expectations for the remainder of the campaign. Welch, who swept her match 6-2, 6-1 Saturday, said the team is focused on achieving its goals by maintaining a competitive spirit throughout the season.

"Our goal for the season is to come out, play hard, have fun and win as many matches as we can,"

### Saturday's Results

**MEN VS ST. FRANCIS**

	MATCH SCORE
Scott Kathary def. Andrei Sandu	7-6, 7-3, 6-7, 3-7, 6-4
Ryan Trapp def. John Anguioni	6-1, 6-2
Diego Cerzosimo def. Stephen Kowalski	6-7, 8-6, 6-4, 6-2
Maurice Rucker def. Ajay Nune	6-2, 6-1
Chris Leson def. Jordan Kowalski	6-2, 6-4
Kyle Primeau def. Zach Landgraf	7-6, 7-1, 6-1

**WOMEN VS IUPUI**

	MATCH SCORE
Anna Volkova def. Andrea Burkhardt	6-0, 6-0
Tanisha Welch def. Emily Holsapple	6-2, 6-1
Emily Thayer def. Vanessa Cama	6-4, 6-1
Irena Lanc def. Dana Gardner	6-1, 6-0
Kelly Culbertson def. Lisa Gebhard	6-2, 6-1
Hannah Patten def. No player	Default

**NEXT MATCH**

Women's team at Albany, Saturday, Time to be announced  
 Women's team at St. Bonaventure, 4 p.m. Saturday  
 Men's team at Duquesne University, 6 p.m. Feb. 12

the Welch said.

On the men's side, the Penguins were finally able to join the women in action as the men's team kicked off its 2008 season hosting St. Francis (Pa.) Saturday.

The team picked up the doubles point with seniors Ryan Trapp and Scott Kathary teaming up at No. 1 doubles to hand Andre Sandu and Jeff SeEVERS an 8-2 defeat. Senior Zach Landgraf and sophomore Chris Leson also won their doubles match 8-6 to seal the point for the Penguins.

In singles action, the Penguins took five of the six matches to beat St. Francis by the final of 6-1.

Men's tennis head coach Eric Ronan said that getting off to a solid

start to the season "was very important" for his team as it heads into a lengthy road trip that includes stops at top-notch opponent schools.

While the competition may be fierce, Ronan believes the veteran presence on the squad will make the difference. The Penguins are loaded with experience as three seniors, one junior and two sophomores compile this year's squad.

"It's an older team, and I'm expecting a lot



"It's an older team and I'm expecting a lot out of them."

Eric Ronan, men's tennis head coach



EYEYS LOCKED ON — Senior tennis player Scott Kathary winds up as the ball sails over the net. The men's tennis team opened the 2008 season with a win while the women's team ended a three game slide Saturday with a solid win over IUPUI at the Boardman Tennis Center. Photo courtesy of Sports Information.

out of them," Ronan said.

Even with an impressive performance to start the season, Ronan feels there is still room for improvement. The head coach pointed out that shorter swings and stronger volleys would help elevate the Penguins' play even more.

The wild card before the team's

next match will be the squad's ability to come out from under the weather, as several players have been hit by the flu bug.

"My main concern is staying healthy," Ronan said. "We had three kids playing sick, so we need to get everyone back to full health."

The women's team will be back

in action Saturday against Albany and St. Bonaventure in New York while the men's team returns to the court Friday against Duquesne University in Pittsburgh.



"Our goal for the season is to come out, play hard, have fun and win as many matches as we can."

Tanisha Welch, freshman tennis player

MEN'S BASKETBALL

## Losing streak hits six for Penguins following loss to UIC

Aaron Blatch  
 Sports Reporter

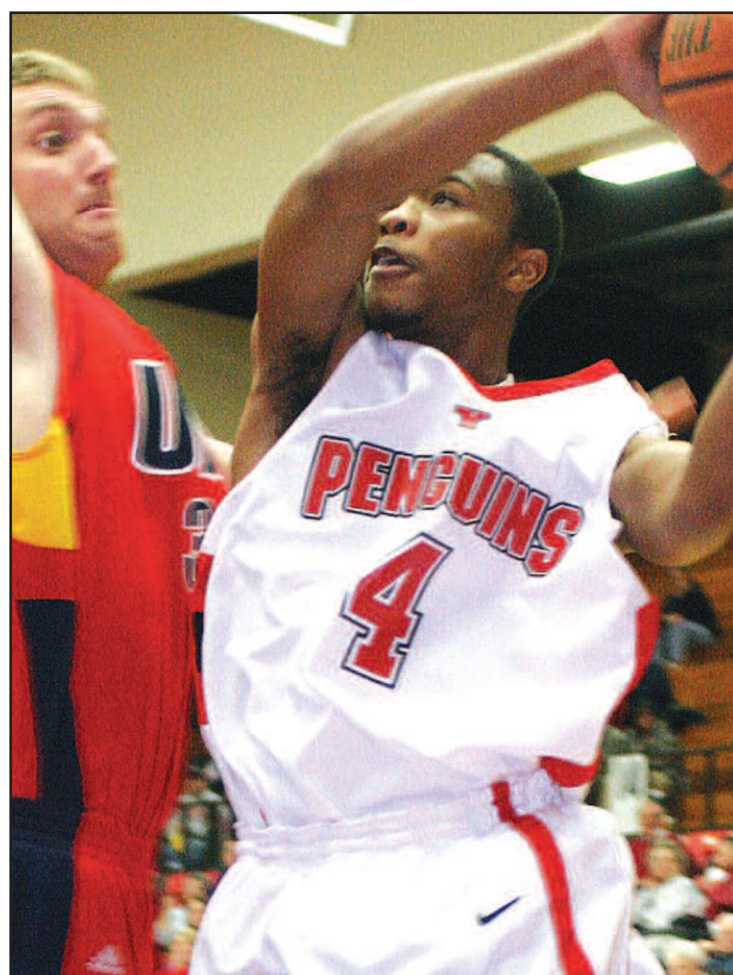
The losses continue to mount for the Youngstown State men's basketball team. Two days after losing at the buzzer at Loyola, the Penguins fell behind 14 points at halftime at University of Illinois-Chicago, and their late rally Saturday fell short in an 86-72 loss. The loss is the sixth in a row for the Penguins, who now are 7-15, and 3-9 in the Horizon League.

The biggest bright spot for the visitors was the strong second half of freshman guard Vytas Sulskis, who had all 18 of his points in the final period. He was followed in the scoring column by junior forward Jack Liles, who scored 16 points, and senior guard Byron Davis, who had 10.

The Penguins allowed UIC to shoot 51.7 percent from the floor, while connecting on just 37.3 percent of their own field goal attempts. Josh Mayo and Robert Kreps put on a long-distance display on their home floor, going a combined 7 for 9 from 3-point range. They were just two of five Flames players in double figures, and three of whom came off the bench.

Trailing 42-28 at halftime, the Penguins rallied to cut the deficit to six at 51-45 in the second half. The run was ended by consecutive 3-pointers by Mayo, and YSU could not get any closer.

The game completed a four-game road trip for the Penguins, returning home to face Horizon



UP IN FLAMES — Freshman Vance Cooksey and the Penguins couldn't find the firepower to outshoot the Flames as the men's basketball team lost its sixth straight game to UIC on Saturday. The last time the Penguins tasted victory was against Detroit on Jan. 12, the team's next opponent Saturday at the Beeghly Center. Photo courtesy of Ron Stevens.

League opponent Detroit on Thursday, followed by a match-up with reigning conference champion Wright State on Saturday

### Men's Basketball Standings



Butler	8-2	19-2
Wright State	7-4	14-6
Cleveland State	7-4	14-9
Milwaukee	7-5	12-10
Valparaiso	5-4	14-7
Green Bay	6-5	12-9
Illinois-Chicago	6-5	12-10
Loyola	5-7	9-13
Youngstown State	3-9	7-15
Detroit	1-10	5-16

**PENGUINS LAST FIVE GAMES**

Feb. 2	UIC	Away	L 72-86
Jan. 31	Loyola	Away	L 68-69
Jan. 26	Green Bay	Away	L 58-66
Jan. 24	Milwaukee	Away	L 69-76
Jan. 19	Butler	Home	L 69-78

**PENGUINS SPORTS TO THE POINT**

*Lady Penguins fall short against Butler*

The Youngstown State women's basketball team (10-10, 5-4 Horizon League) shot just 32.2 percent from the field and committed 21 turnovers and dropped a 63-48 decision to Butler (14-6, 4-5 Horizon League) Saturday afternoon at Hinkle Fieldhouse.

Junior Tiara Scott led the Penguins with 17 points and eight rebounds while junior Velissa Vaughn scored 13 points.

The Penguins jumped out to an 8-4 lead within the first six minutes after Vaughn scored the game first five points on a jumper and a 3-pointer.

The Penguins return home to host league leader Green Bay, Thursday, Feb. 7. Tipoff is slated for 5:15 p.m. at the Beeghly Center and is part of a men's and women's basketball double-header.

*Penguins edge Cleveland State in double dual split*

Youngstown State got two wins apiece from Natasha Bray and Ashley Williamson and won the 400-yard freestyle relay to nip Cleveland State 117-108 on Saturday at the Busbey Natatorium.

The Penguins' diving team will compete at the Youngstown State Diving Invitational on Saturday at 11 a.m.