

'My block' could be coming to our block Page 4



THE Jambar

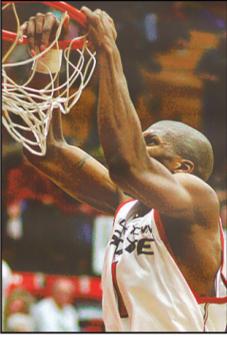
THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

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YSU News

YSU Jazz Combos

YSU Jazz Combos, directed by Kent Engelhardt, will perform a Music at Noon concert on Wednesday, January 24 at noon at the Butler Institute of American Art.

"Proof" Production

YSU's Blackbox Production Co. will be putting on the play "Proof" in the Spotlight Arena Theatre in Bliss Hall on campus. The play is scheduled at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 3 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for YSU students, faculty and staff and senior citizens. Parking is available in the Wick Avenue parking deck for a fee. Contact the University Theatre Box Office at 330-941-3105 for more information.



FACULTY

Administrative position for rent

YSU interviews candidates to fill John Habat's lengthy vacancy

Jenny Boyce
ASSIST. NEWS EDITOR

A candidate for Youngstown State University's vice president of administration and finance said he enjoyed his time on campus last week but wishes that he would have met some students.

"Youngstown showed me every courtesy possible," Grilli said. "I was only disappointed that I didn't get to meet any students."

Grilli has been the associate vice president for administration and finance at the California University of Pennsylvania for the last 28 years. His resume indicated he was responsible for assuring data analysis and directing such departments as the Bursar's Office, Public Safety and Financial Aid.

YSU's job description calls for the vice president of administration and finance to work "closely with the president, provost, cabinet and Board of Trustees to develop and lead the long-term strategic initiatives of the university and to provide the financial guidance that supports the university's overall strategic plan and goals."

The position has been vacant for more than a year after Habat was re-signed from vice president of administration to vice

president of special projects. He had earned \$148,000 per year as vice president of special projects - a salary he continued to receive even after he stopped coming to YSU and had begun working at Cuyahoga Community College as vice president of finance and business services.

Habat drew sharp criticism from faculty and others who said that it was unfair to continue to pay his salary.

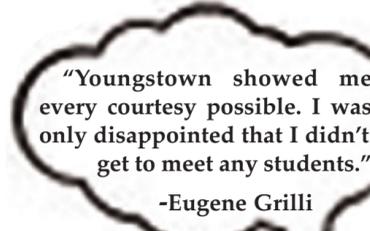
Habat, a long-time associate of YSU President David Sweet, also drew criticism after pornography was found on a university-supplied laptop computer that he was using.

Grilli, who was chosen as a finalist after a national search, had lunch with members of the Board of Trustees, met with various administrators, department chairs and faculty, and attended an open forum with members of the YSU Foundation, the Office of Financial

Aid and Student Government. He also had a tour of the campus.

Cynthia Anderson, YSU's vice president for Student Affairs, is chairing the search committee of 10 people.

"We sent out applications all over and did a screening process. We actually came down to three individuals that stood out, but one took another job," Anderson said.

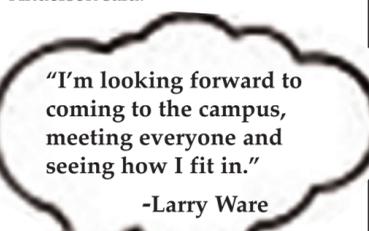


"Youngstown showed me every courtesy possible. I was only disappointed that I didn't get to meet any students."

-Eugene Grilli

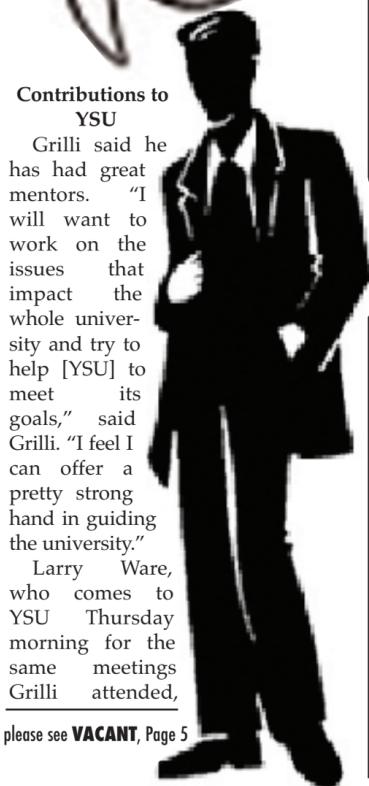


Eugene Grilli of Washington, Pa. is one of two finalists for the vice president's position left vacant when the controversial John Habat resigned after a campus labor strife and numerous other high-profile skirmishes with faculty and staff. Grilli was on campus last week, and the other candidate, Larry Ware of Concord, Calif., will be here Thursday.



"I'm looking forward to coming to the campus, meeting everyone and seeing how I fit in."

-Larry Ware



Contributions to YSU

Grilli said he has had great mentors. "I will want to work on the issues that impact the whole university and try to help [YSU] to meet its goals," said Grilli. "I feel I can offer a pretty strong hand in guiding the university."

Larry Ware, who comes to YSU Thursday morning for the same meetings Grilli attended,

please see **VACANT**, Page 5

STUDENT AFFAIRS

SGA hurts for lack of participation

Jenny Boyce
ASSIST. NEWS EDITOR

Smoking, freshmen and student affairs were the topics of discussion in last night's Student Government Association meeting in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center.

After a particularly quiet response from SGA members in the first meeting of the new semester, executive committee members and advisers worked to rejuvenate members' input.

"People who have the power to do things aren't showing this," Adviser Chet Cooper told the committee. "Advocate."

SGA Vice President Sarah Vansuch told members how she'd like to see more debate in the future, asking the group to be more analytical.

"It's your job to represent the students," Vansuch said.

"It's time to take the bull by the horns," Cooper told the committee, having just returned to Youngstown State University after spending last semester in Texas.

SGA also discussed the anti-smoking law on campus and students' reluctance to follow the ban. SGA President Chad Miller confirmed that the law could not be enforced, but anyone caught breaking university policy would be subject to the same punishment as anyone else who is breaking

please see **SGA**, Page 5

YSU

YSU annual report card leaves 'Sweet' taste in president's mouth

Ashley Tate
REPORTER

Low tuition, check. Small class sizes, check. High student retention rates, check. High scores on exams, check. Is there anything that Youngstown State University isn't doing well?

The 2006 Performance Report for Ohio's Colleges and Universities completes that checklist and then some: Not only does YSU receive the lowest per-student state subsidy, the university's enrollment is increasing at a faster-than-average rate.

The report, developed by the Ohio Board of Regents, includes data about Ohio's 62 public universities and colleges. This data gives lawmakers, higher education officials, parents and students a general idea about how Ohio's colleges and universities are performing.

YSU President David Sweet said the good news in the 2006 report is consistent with past annual reports.

"The report affirms what we have long understood - that YSU has high-quality students and faculty, and that the result is outstanding educational outcomes. ...No one familiar with what occurs daily at YSU would be surprised at these results," Sweet said.

Junior Brandalyn Kemp said of the report, "It shows that [we] as students are buckling down and striving to get our degrees. It goes to show that since our tuition is ris-

ing, people are serious about getting their money's worth."

Although Sweet said anyone who is familiar with the daily occurrences at YSU shouldn't be surprised at the results, one student was.

"I'm a little surprised because not many things

said about Youngstown seem to be very positive. I think this is a step in the right direction for the university because it shows that there is a good college, which leads to there being very educated people in the area," junior Ashley Fox said.

Senior Pamela Abbey

YSU Checklist

- Low tuition
- Small class size
- High student retention
- High exam scores

said it's good to know that the teachers and professors are doing their jobs in helping the students.

According to the report, YSU's undergraduate tuition rate for this academic year is \$6,697, the lowest among Ohio's 11 comprehensive public universities.

Kemp said that the tuition is still too high.

"It was considerably lower in the past and even though the education is good, I honestly don't know what I'm paying for. Let our tuition cover books if it's going to be so high. That way, we don't have to worry about selling them back."

Fox agrees and said that the tuition increases can be a little outrageous for the area, since some students work to put themselves through college.

Abbey disagrees, stating that the quality of the education we are receiving is worth the price we are paying.

"I think that we are lucky that it is one of the lowest prices in the state. ...But of course we are always going to complain that tuition is too high because college in general is just an expensive thing."

Sweet said that "smaller class sizes create a better learning environment." The report shows that in the fall of 2005, the average number of students in a lecture class was 30, below the state average of 33. Lab sessions had 17 students, below the state average of 20.

please see **CHECKLIST**, Page 2

YSU

Students react to minimum wage increase

Britta Snowberger
FEATURES REPORTER

Effective Jan. 1, Ohio's minimum wage rose to \$6.85 per hour, courtesy of the Ohio Fair Minimum Wage Amendment. Keeping with recent trends, Youngstown State University followed suit, raising its wages to the same degree.

Ron Cole, manager of News and Information Services, said that, prior to Issue 2, university-employed students were paid anywhere from \$5.85 per hour to \$10 per hour. The majority of those students made less than what is now considered minimum wage.

"Last semester, there were 1,500 students employed on campus," Cole said. "About 1,200 of them were paid less than the new minimum wage, and now they've all

received increases to meet minimum wage."

Several students employed by the university voiced their opinions on the new state law.

Freshman Darwin Palmer, employed by YSU Security, said he is content with the increased mini-

higher pay.

"I needed [the wage increase] for my expenses," the Peaberry's Café employee said. "I was happy when it passed."

Student employees like Megan Villers and Megan Douglass are on the fence when discussing their feel-

and I think it's good we're keeping up with the rest of the country," Villers said. "But if prices become more expensive because of [the new law] and the cost of living is higher, it may be good and bad at the same time."

Employed by YSU Parking Services, Douglass, a senior, is apathetic about the minimum wage increase. Having earned above minimum wage before the law was enacted, she predicts her wages will increase proportionally to that of minimum wage.

"I think the increase is a great idea, but if everything else is going up, it's just a waste of time," Douglass said.

Whether the minimum wage increase produces positive or negative effects in Ohio, YSU student employees will notice the change when they receive their first paychecks of 2007.

“Once they take the taxes out, I’ve got an extra \$20 in my pocket, so I’m happy”

Darwin Palmer
YSU Freshman

mum wage.

"I work the maximum 20 hours a week like all on-campus jobs," he said. "Once they take the taxes out, I've got an extra \$20 in my pocket, so I'm happy."

Jason Mogg, a freshman, is also excited about the

ings about the new minimum wage.

Villers, a junior, works at the Office of Admissions. Earning minimum wage, she expects her income to increase by her next paycheck.

"I voted for the increase,

CHECKLIST, continued from page 1

Kemp, Abbey and Fox all agree that it helps when classes are smaller. Kemp said students can get one-on-one time with teachers, which is not likely with a class of 200.

They also agree that YSU doesn't get the credit it deserves because of its location and that it is a major commuter school.

Kemp said the media doesn't show any positive aspects of Youngstown.

"There is a lot of youth and even older people who are going back to school to get an education, especially minorities, and the media doesn't show that."

Abbey said that YSU is a great school for academics.

"If you look at the education we are

receiving versus the area we are in, I think we are a great school."

All three students are satisfied with the education they are receiving at YSU.

Kemp said, "I'm pretty satisfied. I like how teachers enforce attendance policies because it keeps us motivated and wanting to come to class, not skip. A lot of bigger schools like [The] Ohio State University don't enforce attendance and some students just come to class to take exams. It's not fair to other students who did come to class. At YSU, it just shows that our teachers and professors actually care about us."

Abbey said she was planning on attending another school but is glad she chose YSU because "the teachers are helpful and the classes are decently

challenging."

Fox, a telecommunications major, said her teachers know a great deal on the subject and she wasn't too thrilled at first, but now that she is taking classes in her major she doesn't mind going to class.

Even though YSU got such high rankings, Sweet said that YSU can always improve and that a number of initiatives are underway.

According to Sweet, new academic programs are being developed, new faculty is being hired and new faculty positions have been created to address needs. He added that YSU has invested in efficiencies and technology in the classroom.

Police briefs

MySpace dispute

Sgt. Williams responded to a call Friday after being told that a former girlfriend went to his home demanding to talk to him, according to a Youngstown State University police report.

The report said that she came to talk to him about him changing his relationship status on the social networking Web site MySpace.com.

Threats made in Meshel Hall

According to a Youngstown State University police report filed Wednesday, Officer D. Truman responded to threats being made to Shauna Long by Lakeshia Williams in the Financial Aid Office in Meshel Hall.

The report stated that Williams began to curse and threaten Long when she saw her. Long and Williams were previously involved in an altercation in 2004.

Long said that Williams was arrested for assault and damaging her car. Williams reportedly spent 12 days in jail, according to the report.

Long, a YSU graduate, said that Williams said she "would knock Long's head off again and was not concerned about going back to jail again."

Classified

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OUR SIDE

Administration: ridin' dirty

Deep into the empty parking lots and streets of the San Francisco Bay Area, to the tune of gritty, pounding rhythms of West Coast hip hop, members of the "hyphy" culture are proudly "going dumb," getting "retarded" and acting "stupid." The hyphy movement - coined from the term "hyperactive" - is characterized by acting or dancing in an overstated and ridiculous manner.

In a year's time, more toward the East Coast, Youngstown State University administrators have created Youngstown's own ridiculous-mannered culture.

A recent trend within the hyphy culture is "ghost riding," a term for a dangerous car stunt. Ghost riding is when the driver of a car puts the car in neutral, then the driver and passengers exit the moving vehicle to dance around the car and/or on top of the hood. This dangerous stunt leaves the driver seat empty while its irresponsible regulator gets "stupid" by dancing about in an enthused, carefree manner.

With the reassignments of three faculty members who were deemed unfit to serve YSU in any capacity by YSU's Labor Management Panel, YSU administrators have done some ghost riding of their own in the past year. YSU administrators have gone hyphy: they apparently also take pride in "stupid" and "ridiculous" behavior at the wheel of a moving body.

With YSU President David Sweet and Provost Robert Herbert in the drivers' seats of YSU's administrative vehicle, YSU's hiring process has gone "retarded."

In their own dangerous stunt, Sweet and Herbert have passed the administrative wheel to John Habat, Hugh Chatman and Cynthia Hirtzel, who have in turn jumped out of the car and danced around, carefree, with pockets full of our tuition dollars.

After the Labor Management Panel's recommendation to fire Habat and Chatman, Sweet and Herbert paradoxically sustained Habat's salary, reassigned Chatman and, just recently, reassigned Hirtzel.

Habat, YSU's very own champion ghost rider, is dancing down the streets of Cleveland at his new job at Cuyahoga Community College, while the car with the "Vice President of Special Projects" license plate is roaming, unguided through YSU's campus. His former YSU position remains vacant, but \$148,000 of YSU students' money is filling his wallet.

For Chatman, Sweet created the position of executive director of regulatory compliance, but Chatman resigned in December, so yet another YSU executive vehicle is wandering without a driver. For Hirtzel, former Dean of the College of Engineering and Technology, Herbert created - with Sweet's approval - the position of executive director of YSU Center for Transportation and Materials Engineering. The description of this phantom position was yet another YSU ghost when Hirtzel accepted it in October.

The three salary-pumping positions created especially for these three add up to approximately \$400,000 in yearly salary.

Their ridiculous salary ride means just the opposite of what YSU students are getting.

Their combined salaries could pay for 67 students' yearly YSU tuition, a year's worth of textbooks for 500 students, and 40,000 YSU parking tickets at 10 bucks a pop.

How's that for a ride?

The Jambar editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambar and its Editorial Board members. Those wishing to schedule meetings with the Editorial Board should call the editor in chief.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Internet alert

To the Jambar and its readers:

I've come across some very disturbing information that I'd like to share, in addition to other suppressed information you may or may not be aware of.

Are you aware that Google.com has a massive, computerized database that records EVERY SINGLE SEARCH that is performed on it? If you don't see a problem with this, know that this kind of information is accessible to the government and private parties to survey, monitor and incriminate individuals. You can oppose this by writing the company at security@google.com

Does everyone know what the Halliburton Corporation does or who its close cronies with? They supply ARMS AND AMMUNITION for the U.S. military and the war in Iraq, and they are personal allies of president George Bush. Cynthia McKinney, a former house representative from the south, who is BLACKBALLED from the media, has given public speech-

es and held discussions with others who have EVIDENCE that Halliburton has contracts to build camps, presumably concentration camps, in America and with American tax dollars. If you think this is far fetched, at least do yourself the service of informing yourself of our elected president at www.impeachbush.com; also consider this country's very dark history of choosing corporate lobby interests over public safety, and the world's history of how fascism and the few and evil in power can lead to militarization of entire countries.

U.S. soldiers and innocent civilians in our war zones are getting sick from depleted uranium in Halliburton's war products; this element pierces armor better when coated on bullets and protects tanks yet is traced to causing cancer, sickness, and premature death in Americans and Iraqis since the first Gulf War. Those nearby exploded tanks suffer the worst exposure.

Three trillion dollars are allotted for this war and yet ALL can see the state of America's schools, health crisis, and social and environmental decay. America is looked down

upon because of our collective apathy, ignorance and inaction. Worse, this condition is making us all SITTING DUCKS to corrupt American legislators and international forces, not to mention environmental repercussions from the utter lack to innovate new technologies to stop America's 2/3 contribution of greenhouse emissions globally.

Lastly, may I please urge faculty or groups at YSU to offer low-cost or free screenings of the recent documentary films "American Blackout" (which shows undeniable proof that Bush swindled BOTH presidential elections) and "An Inconvenient Truth," which alerts all to the now accepted-as-fact phenomena of global warming.

For your sake and that of those you love, WAKE UP! It is not enough to be aware of what is affecting your world, find reason to involve yourself in changing it. Future generations will NOT forgive us who stood idly by as the planet was left to waste.

Sophomore,
Elizabeth Khumprakob

COMMENTARY

For \$3, clean water to the world's poorest

McClatchy
Tribune News Service
(MCT)

How's this for a good idea: An oversize drinking straw that sucks clean water from a tainted mud puddle, works for up to a year without servicing, and costs roughly three bucks to make.

Meet LifeStraw, the invention of a Swiss-based weaving company called Vestergaard Frandsen.

This ingenious water purifier is a tube about 10 inches long and an inch in diameter, with a string that lets it be worn around the neck.

Vestergaard Frandsen isn't retailing this product and doesn't plan to. Instead, it sells LifeStraws in bulk to charitable organizations for distribution in areas of need. They've become a favorite of several Rotary chapters in Britain, and the company would be delighted to hear from American groups interested in sponsoring LifeStraw deliveries.

COMMENTARY

Senator's push for unity threatens wanna-bes who divide to conquer

Michael Godwin
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
(MCT)

I don't know whether Illinois Sen. Barack Obama will be our next president. I do know that, win or lose, Obama will have a huge impact on the 2008 campaign, one that will force others in the race to mind their manners. Think of him as the "Meet John Doe" candidate.

That's the title of Frank Capra's 1941 masterpiece starring Gary Cooper and Barbara Stanwyck. She is a newspaper reporter in a non-descript city - Chicago, perhaps - who concocts a story that Cooper, a hobo, would commit suicide on Christmas Eve as a protest against a heartless society. Cooper plays along with the sensational hoax so well

that an "everyman" movement springs up, making him the leader and sending shivers through fat-cat pols and powerbrokers. One exchange sums up the film's guiding spirit. When a mayor is told he can't join a John Doe club, a woman explains that "Just the John Does of the neighborhood because you know how politicians are."

"You know how politicians are" could be Obama's motto. That everyman disgust with Washington as usual was front and center Tuesday in his statement about why he is exploring a run for the Oval Office. He cites the familiar laundry list of problems - health care, pensions, college costs, security and a "tragic and costly war that should have never been waged." So far, so stan-

dard, especially for a liberal Democrat.

But it's the next part that defines Obama and explains his sudden poll vault. He says, "But challenging as they are, it's not the magnitude of our problems that concerns me the most. It's the smallness of our politics. America's faced big problems before. But today, our leaders in Washington seem incapable of working together in a practical, common-sense way. Politics has become so bitter and partisan, so gummed up by money and influence, that we can't tackle the big problems that demand solutions. And that's what we have to change first."

Notice he doesn't blame only Republicans, he blames all partisans. And he doesn't say "I," he says "we have to change" it.

That sense and sensibility are what give Obama running room. In a crowded field of bare-knuckle insiders easy to depict as partisan dividers, Obama is casting himself as a uniter. One who can cross all kinds of lines. And smile at the same time.

The racial line is the most obvious, he of the white American mother and black African father. And he clearly aims to make a virtue of his short two years on the national stage by challenging all "our leaders in Washington."

Most important, Obama has a natural, easygoing warmth. He headed the Harvard Law Review, yet his manner appears unassuming, even modest. John Doe, indeed.

For now, his approach threatens everybody else in his party, starting with

Sen. Hillary Clinton. Polls show her as the ultimate divider, and although she has taken steps toward the center, if nominated, she could probably win only in a close and bitter election. John Edwards, the other top Dem contender, is so far left and identified with "attack" politics that he would likely fade next to Obama.

All that assumes that Obama's sizzle doesn't fizzle and that his strengths stay that way. At the very least, if he plays his role right, the others will have to follow his lead by putting away the brass knuckles and developing the common touch on the stump. That alone would be a happy ending straight out of Hollywood.

JAMBAR Entertainment & Feature

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

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ENTERTAINMENT

Beat stage fright at open mic night

Britta Snowberger
FEATURES REPORTER

The routine is simple. A local band takes the stage and performs a few original songs, or perhaps a few covers. Bar patrons bob their heads to the beat, and as soon as the band's last note falls silent, the musicians exit the stage, leaving their instruments behind.

Now it is your turn. You hesitantly approach the stage and pick up the lead guitarist's axe, only to realize that you have taken on a mean power stance midway through Led Zeppelin's ever-too-popular "Stairway to Heaven." Maybe you select a pair of drum sticks instead, demonstrating to an attentive audience the cadence you learned in high school marching band. Maybe you compel the crowd to square dance during a performance on your family heirloom, an accordion.

Whatever your preference, several Youngstown bars can make your musical aspirations a reality during weekly open mic nights.

Barley's, located at 21 Federal Plaza West, holds an open mic night every Tuesday from 10 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. Barley's owner Dan Crump said that, since the bar began hosting these events three months ago, the weekly open mic nights have become increasingly popular.

"We get anywhere from 75 to 100 people," he said. "It's a

mixed crowd, but we have a lot of regulars. Local bands like Via Sahara usually come out and play a few songs on open mic nights."

Like most venues, Barley's maintains a flexible schedule for open mic nights.

"We usually have a cover band open. They play a few songs and then leave their instru-

ments onstage," Crump said. "You can go up and play whatever you want — the band can even play with you if they know the song."

Participants are not limited to the instruments provided by the opening band. They may perform using their own equipment, or none at all.

"People have played anything from saxophones to harmonicas, and we've had people sing a cappella," Crump said. "We've even had rappers set up their own gear and perform."

No matter what performers bring to open mic

the evening with several original songs before leaving its equipment onstage for others to play.

Like Barley's, Cedar's openly accepts all types of acts and performers.

"We're pretty much open to everything," Vanderbilt said. "We've had people play anything from keyboard to guitar to bongos. We don't see much poetry, since we have a poetry reading the third Wednesday of every month. People sometimes sing their poems though."

Although a relatively new event for Cedar's, open mic night is rapidly gaining public interest.

"It took us about five weeks to really get the word out, but now we get an excellent turnout," Vanderbilt said. "We usually have 20 to 60 people, quite a bit who are YSU students."

Open mic nights at Cedar's will be on hold for the next few weeks, since the events' organizer is in the hospital.

"We'll have karaoke instead," said Vanderbilt. "The old Nyabinghi used to hold 'Krapaoke,' and

we're kind of taking that over for a few weeks."

Those looking for an open mic on Wednesdays can check out Royal Oaks Bar and Grill at 924 Oak St. Open mic nights at the Royal Oaks begin at 10 p.m.

Although the event has not yet been established, Ken Bigley, owner of The Cellar in Struthers, hopes to start a semimonthly karaoke night featuring a live band on Feb. 10.

"We had a trial run, and it was a hit," said Bigley. "Although it is karaoke, people can perform with the house band while promoting their own bands, so it will be similar to an open mic night."

With local open mic nights increasing in popularity, open mic night organizers encourage Youngstown musicians, singers and poets to chime in with their own works.

“People have played anything from saxophones to harmonicas, and we’ve had people sing a cappella”

Dan Crump

Barley's Owner

nights, Crump said that attendees enjoy the atmosphere most of all.

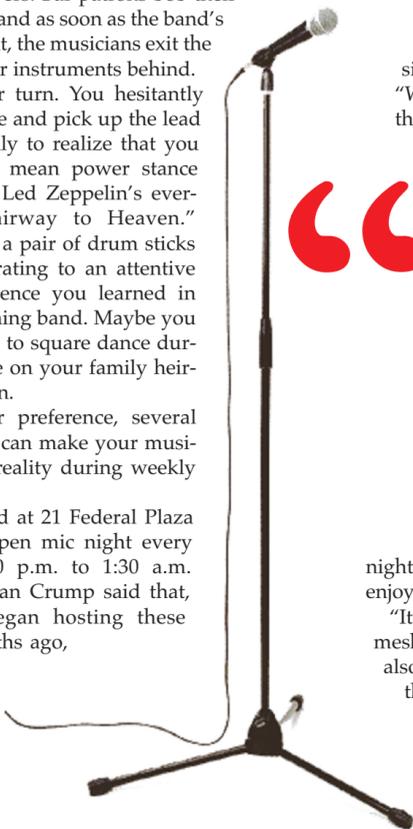
"It's a great time for musicians to mesh and jam out," he said. "It's also a good way for them to get their name[s] out."

Open mic nights at Barley's are open to persons 19 years of age and older. Attendees must be 21 to consume alco-

hol at the bar.

Cedar Lounge and Restaurant, located at 23 N. Hazel St., hosts open mic nights for persons 18 and over on Wednesdays from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Chrissy Vanderbilt, Cedar's booking agent, said the lounge follows normal open mic procedures. A local band, The Company, begins



FEATURE

'My Block' could be coming to our block

Rudi Whitmore
FEATURES REPORTER

Four Youngstown natives may be bringing MTV2 to their "block" by participating in a contest held by the network. "My Block" profiles cities and their nightlife, music scenes, history and character every week in a regular segment on MTV2.

Voting on the "Your Block" contest has started, with Youngstown in the final four, brought to the eyes and ears of MTV2's prospective 63 million viewers by Christopher Moss, Charles Ellis, Albert Fisher, hosted by underground rapper Suge B.

Charles Ellis, one of the producers of the video, said, "I've been watching 'My Block' since the first one, maybe Memphis. But we didn't let it deter us, and it shows our determination and dedication and where our city has come from."

Ellis said that the video couldn't have been done without Suge B, but refrained from having him rap in the video. Instead, they decided to let his personality and the city shine through his hosting.

The original 12-minute entry

video has been edited down to a 2-minute viewing format on MTV2's Web site, and includes moments at Mill Creek Park, Youngstown history, culture, nightlife and an interview with Mayor Jay Williams.

Ellis said the video echoes the sentiments of

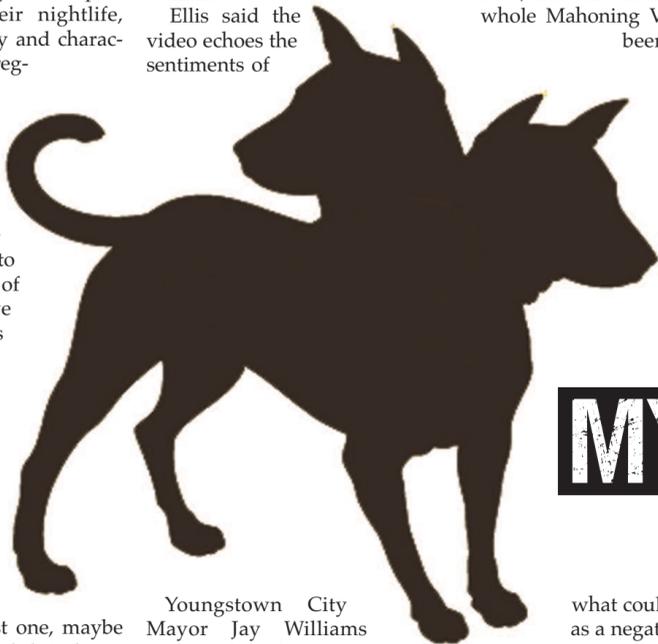
positive light."

Besides Youngstown, the other three finalists include Long Island, Phoenix, and Seattle. "Our history, it's diverse. People still maintain ties that go back to their grandparents, with Greek fests and Italian fests, and our cultures collide. The whole Mahoning Valley... hasn't

been filled with opportunity, we can't ignore that, but it makes us want to work harder to succeed and take

You don't have the kind of opportunity a town like Phoenix does. We have 96.5 and HOT 101 which are both great, but you can only go so far. With MTV2, it can be seen by the whole world, and put Youngstown on a platform."

The other finalist videos focused heavily on the city's nightlife. While Youngstown's video also had pieces of its nightlife, it was heavily grounded by shots of Mill Creek Park and the McGuffey Market. It shows the city's struggle, hope, and people. "At first it had more night life in it," Ellis said, "but the MTV executives said they wanted more of the... socio-economics in it, about us being a major steel hub



MY BLOCK

Youngstown City Mayor Jay Williams expressed in his interview with them. "We're looking toward the future," Ellis said, "The rough days are behind us now, and there's a lot of hope for progress." A lot of effort was put into the video, he assured, "We met with city officials and researched the history of Youngstown... We hope it puts Youngstown and all of its artists and businesses into a more

what could be looked at as a negative and turn it into a positive. Our story would be more unique than a major metro hub. When you come to a small town, you get exposed to a little bit of everything."

"When we got the call, we were ecstatic," Ellis said. "We've been involved in the Youngstown music scene from hip hop to rock. We've been at Cedars, The Cellar, open mic nights at Kilcawley...

and where we came from, being totally decimated after the steel mills left... And really being like the little engine that could."

The contest winner's will have an MTV crew film a segment for "My Block" to be aired on MTV2 and MTV Overdrive. The winner will be announced in February, and the final four videos can be seen and voted on at www.mtv2.com/myblock

Tuesday

Rock Night at
The Wedge 9 p.m.

Wednesday

Kirk Bogus, Comedian
Sponsored by Student
Activities from 11:00 a.m.
to noon at Peaberry's
College ID Night at the
Dusty Armadillo
Reduced cover charge
with ID
21 and over Free, all
guests 18 and over are
welcome
Beginner dance lessons
begin at 7 p.m.

Country Night at
The Wedge 7 p.m.

Thursday

Kirk Bogus, Comedian
Sponsored by Student
Activities from 11:00 a.m. to
noon at Peaberry's

The Number Twelve Looks
Like You
Peabody's Downunder
Cleveland
7 p.m.

Friday

The Warped 12 Years of
Music, Mayhem and More
Rock and Roll Hall of Fame
7 p.m.

Proof
Spotlight Arena Theatre
8 p.m.

Upcoming
events

Cleveland Indians Media Tour & Kids Fest



Jambar/ Rudi Whitmore

YSU's Pete the Penguin poses with one of the children who attended the Cleveland Indians media tour and kids fest.



Jambar/ Rudi Whitmore

YSU baseball players Jason Reitenbach and Brett Crocker assist with one of the kids' fest games at the media tour.

SGA, continued from page 1

school policy. First year students are also a main goal of the committee for the semester. Miller said the goal isn't just to target freshmen, but to help transfer students understand that they can come to SGA for help with credit transfers. "The Academic Affairs Committee is continuing [its] First Year Experience project, following through on [its] plans of last semester. We'd like to get general first year students at YSU more

involved," said Miller, explaining SGA's plan to help get freshmen settled into the university in hopes of reducing the drop-out rate of newcomers. In preparation of February's African American History Month, Cooper said the committee was also going to become involved in upcoming diversity activities across campus. The SGA Web site can be found at <http://www.yсу.edu/studgov/>.

VACANT, continued from page 1

also has worked in finance and administration at a university. "I'm looking forward to coming to the campus, meeting everyone, and seeing how I fit in," said Ware. According to Ware's resume, he served as associate vice president for fiscal affairs at San Francisco State University for 15 years. Servicing as treasurer and chief operating officer of the San Francisco State University Foundation Inc., Ware has additional experience in general accounting,

financial reporting and preparing the university's annual \$400 million budget. "I have experience in higher education, in finance, accounting and management. So I'll bring a broad range of experience with me," Ware told The Jambar in a telephone interview. Ware's Thursday itinerary includes a noon luncheon with the Board of Trustees in Kilcawley Center's Humphrey Room. An open forum will begin at 9:30 a.m. on Friday in Kilcawley Center.



Jambar/ Rudi Whitmore

Eric Marzec gives one of the children some pointers on his golf game as he starts to putt.



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www.kc.yсу.edu

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- ▶ 1/24 — M. Basketball @ Wright State
- ▶ 1/26 — Swimming @ UIC
- ▶ 1/27 — W. Tennis @ Toledo
- ▶ 1/27 — Swimming @ UW-Green Bay
- ▶ 1/27 — W. Basketball vs. CSU @ 2:05 p.m.
- ▶ 1/29 — M. Basketball @ Loyola

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

www.thejambar.com/thejambar@gmail.com/330-941-3758

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Three score in double digits in win over CSU

Jake Glavies
SPORTS EDITOR

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team improved to 9-11 on the season and evened its mark in Horizon League play to 4-4 Saturday, as the squad defeated Cleveland State University 68-63 at Beeghly Center.

Led by senior Quin Humphrey's team-high 22 points and 12 rebounds, YSU was able to overcome eight second-half turnovers to outscore the Vikings 20-13 during the final 11 minutes of the contest.

Humphrey was not alone in his efforts as fellow guard Keston Roberts had a 20-point night and forward John Barber scored a career-high 18 points. Both players also combined for 10 rebounds and just two turnovers.

This was the 12th time this season the team had more than two players score in double digits, and the 19th time more than one player accomplished the feat.

According to head coach Jerry Slocum, the play of junior John Barber was a key component to the Penguins' victory.

"He [Barber] played tremendous tonight. We need that extra low post presence, and tonight John just played tremendous," Slocum said.

The team also had a strong showing at the other end of the court, grabbing 25 defensive rebounds and registering three blocks against the No. 6 scoring team in the league.

"Starting in practice, Coach will [stress] that we've got to be a good defensive team. We need the ball to score, and the only way to get the

ball is to get stops on defense and try to focus on rebounding. So we know [if] we take care of that part of the game, we'll be good," Humphrey said.

The team will need to continue its solid play Wednesday, as it takes to the road for a showdown against 12-7 Wright State University.

Playing against a Raider defense that is allowing just 64 points per game, YSU's duo of guards Humphrey and Roberts will have to shoulder the offensive burden to keep alive the Penguins' hopes of a win.

To help the cause, the Youngstown defense will have to stop Wright State's DaShaun Wood, the Horizon League scoring leader.

Averaging 19.3 points per game, Wood is WSU's only scoring threat, with the team's next leading contributor averaging just 9.2 points per game.

To keep Wood from dominating the contest, the Penguin defense will have to limit second-chance opportunities by snagging defensive rebounds while also causing turnovers.

Penguin big man and leading shot blocker Jack Liles must play lights-out on the defensive side to keep his team competitive.

Tipoff will be at 7 p.m. at the Nutter Center on the WSU campus in Dayton. The game will be presented live via the Horizon League Network, which can be accessed at HorizonLeague.cstv.com.



Jambar/Ron Stevens

Youngstown State University's John Barber helped the Penguins hold on for a 68-63 win over the last place Cleveland State Vikings. Barber finished the game with a career high 18-points, eight rebounds, a block and an assist.



YSU
SPORTS
IN BRIEF

Penguin breaks school shot put record

Youngstown State University sophomore Aaron Merrill broke the school shot put record with a mark of 54 -1 3/4 at the Baldwin Wallace Mid-January Meet on Friday. Merrill's throw topped Jarrod Davis' record that was set in 2006. Merrill also holds the school record in the outdoor shot put. His victory was one of seven for the Penguins in the non-scored meet. On the women's side, four Penguins claimed victories in their 82-68 defeat over Kent State on Friday. The squads will be in action again at the Akron Open on Friday and Saturday.

Swimming, diving split weekend home meet

Youngstown State University's swimming and diving team topped Radford in a double dual Saturday at the Beeghly Natatorium. Senior Cortney Harless swept the diving events, and four other Penguins were overall top finishers. The team took 11 of 13 events en route to a 155-72 victory but fell 116-107 to Saint Francis. The Penguins will travel to Chicago to take on the University of Illinois-Chicago at 5 p.m. Friday.

HOCKEY

YSU hockey prepares to rumble with JCU

Andrew Berry
SPORTS REPORTER

The Youngstown State University Ice Hockey Club will look to rebound from a pair of weekend losses as it hosts John Carroll University on Wednesday at the Ice Zone in Boardman.

The Penguins' regular-season record took a shot after dropping a 3-2 decision to the University at Buffalo Bulls on Friday, followed by a 6-2 loss on Saturday.

Despite the two-game skid, YSU still lays claim to second place in the overall standings of the College Hockey Mid-America Conference with a 14-10 record.

Wednesday's matchup with John Carroll will mark the sixth and final time the Penguins will duel with the Blue Streaks before postseason play begins in February.

Head coach Rocky Russo expressed confidence in his squad going into the contest.

"We feel we have the more talented team," he said.

To secure a victory in front of its home crowd, Russo said the team will have to exploit mistakes and play good, positional hockey.

Solid play from forward Mike Poljak will be a must if the Penguins hope to get back on track.

Poljak, one of the top scorers in the league this year, scored a goal and tallied three assists when the Blue Streaks last invaded Youngstown.

While YSU has found much success this season despite fielding a young team, the

same cannot be said for JCU.

Starting a unit similar in youth, John Carroll has found itself stuck in the basement of the CHMA this season.

In the previous meeting between the two clubs, the Penguins easily handled the Blue Streaks with a 7-3 win.

But the final score wasn't the highlight of the contest.

With less than a minute remaining and the game well in hand, a brawl broke out between the two squads. The result? Several penalties that totaled 74 total penalty minutes.

Even though three Penguins were involved in the melee, Russo described the situation as the result of an emotional game against the Blue Streaks.

"Hockey is obviously an emotional sport and their frustration came out down 7-3 at the end of the game," Russo said.

Both squads have had time to cool down since their last meeting and while Russo believes no further altercations will occur, he still expects a physical game.

"When you play a team five teams in a season, you start to get a rivalry. The guys understand it was a heated incident," Russo said.

With the season winding down the Penguins have put together a solid run despite a lack of team experience.

A strong finish could result in a high seed in the conference's post-season tournament.

"There's no question that we've made big strides. I've seen a lot out of our freshmen that gives me hope," Russo said.

"There's no question that we've made big strides. I've seen a lot out of our freshmen that gives me hope."



Rocky Russo,
YSU Hockey Head Coach

Football team hoists season awards



Jambar/Ron Stevens

The Youngstown State University football team held its annual end-of season banquet Saturday where awards were handed out to individual members of the squad. The team also received its 2006 Gateway Conference Championship trophy at half-time of Saturday's men's basketball game at Beeghly Center.

2006 YSU Football Awards

- Outstanding Offensive Player:** Monquantae Gibson
- Outstanding Defensive Player:** Marty Hutchinson
- John Delserone Most Valuable Player:** Marcus Mason
- Ron Stoops Inspirational Player:** Jason Perry
- Dr. Spurgeon Torchbearer:** Joe DeBee
- Jim Zdelar Offensive Lineman of the Year:** Patrick Walker
- Jermaine Hopkins Defensive Lineman of the Year:** Jeff Koval
- Neal Frost Outreach Man of the Year:** John Foster
- Four Square Academic Player of the Year:** Todd Rowan
- Paul McFadden/Jeff Wilkins Specialist of the Year:** Joe Bishop
- Alumni Club Difference Maker Award:** Marcus Mason and Louis Irizarry