



THE JAMBAR

The student voice of
Youngstown State University
since 1931.



PAGE 6

KELVIN SHINES BRIGHT AS PLAYER OF THE WEEK

THE SIDEBAR



FEATURE ▲
New season for theater 4

NEWS
Clinton assembling team of heavy hitters for State Department 2

FEATURE
PBS gets on the laugh track with 'Make 'Em Laugh' 4

EDITORIAL
Paying the piper 5

COLUMN
Winter survival training 5

OPINION
Panetta choice signals new direction for CIA 5

Letter to the editor 5



SPORTS ▲
Second half dooms Penguins 6

Momentum lost for Penguins as they lose to Loyola 6

WEATHER

Today	☁	31° 7°
Wednesday	☁	19° 13°
Thursday	☁	14° 4°
Friday	☁	9° 2°
Saturday	☁	20° 18°
Sunday	☁	21° 19°
Monday	☁	23° 16°

Remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar.

Smoked Out



Debartolo Hall was evacuated Monday after smoke triggered the building's alarm system. "A fan motor in a cabinet heater overheated, causing smoke. The very small motor was running and malfunctioned," said Mike Orto, manager of facilities and maintenance. The incident took place near the building's south-side door, close to the M-2 parking deck.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN GETTNER/THE JAMBAR



Students unsure about wage increase

Sam Marhulik
REPORTER

Over the past three years, federal minimum wage has slightly increased three times. As of Jan. 1, 2009, Ohio minimum wage increased a fourth time to \$7.30, providing people with more money to spend on needed items during a time of economic downturn.

In recent years, minimum wage has risen from \$5.15 to \$6.85, then to \$7.00 and now to \$7.30, according to the Ohio Department of Commerce's Division of Labor and Worker Safety web site. However with an increase in wages, some businesses are forced to raise prices on products in order to pay employees their new wages.

Junior Amy Foster said the increasing minimum wage has helped her in some ways, but tends to be un-

"When I go out to buy groceries, I've noticed that prices continue to go up on certain products, so it's not like the increase in wages benefit[s] us in all aspects of life."

Amy Foster, junior

fair in other ways.

"The increase in minimum wage has been great for me because of gas prices. For a while, gas was over \$3 and if I would have still been making the \$5.15 I was making when I

started working, I would have never been able to afford the gas to go to school and work every day," Foster said. "On the other hand, however, when I go out to buy groceries, I've noticed that prices continue to go up on certain products, so it's not like the increase in wages benefit us in all aspects of life."

While the increase may benefit people in regards to having extra money, for some businesses the increase can cause new employees to be laid off or even fired.

Junior Nathan O'Malley said he likes having the extra money in his pocket, but in some cases doesn't believe it is fair because raising minimum wage also means rising unemployment.

"I have been working my current job for close to three years now, and I have been told that I shouldn't worry about losing my job, but sometimes

WAGE, page 2

Obama to jump-start economy with stimulus plan

Samantha Pysher
REPORTER

President-elect Barack Obama recently unveiled an economic stimulus plan that would lift the sagging economy and create tax relief for approximately 95 percent of Americans.

This strategy, known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment plan, includes a \$300 billion tax cut. Teresa Riley, acting dean of the economics department, said the tax cut operates under the theory that tax cuts would result in increased income and spending and therefore stimulate the economy.

According to change.gov, Obama's Web site, the stimulus package would also create 3 million



Obama

jobs through strategic investments. Additionally, the healthcare system would be updated, renewable energy production would increase and public buildings would be made more energy efficient. The Web site states that Obama would do this by repairing schools, bridges and streets.

"The idea is that if you increase government spending, you can stim-

ulate demand in the economy," Riley said. "That would help pull the economy out of the recession and put people back to work."

Despite these plans, specifics of the economic stimulus package must be within guidelines of the tax codes and passed by Congress, Riley said. It is hard to tell if the plan will work and the plan's success will depend on how the money is spent and what the specifics of the plan are. Riley said the plan is expected to cost \$800 billion.

"There's concern that this needs to be enacted quickly," said Riley, although she noted it is not "an overnight fix."

"For example, once the city government receives the money to repair a road, it takes planning the

STIMULUS, page 2

Maldonado asked to pay back raise

J. Breen Mitchell
MANAGING EDITOR

The Youngstown State University Association of Classified Employees has filed two grievances against the administration in response to a change in pay grade for the union's president.

YSU-ACE President Ivan Maldonado's pay came under scrutiny when it was found that he had received a raise of \$26,000 following a job reclassification that changed his job title from administrative assistant to payroll specialist 2.

Requests for a statement from Maldonado were referred to Christine Domhoff, grievance chair and former president of the ACE union.

Domhoff said the university reduced Maldonado's pay to pay range 31. The union's grievances address Maldonado specifically, as well as the union in general.

"One of the grievances is specifically the action against Mr. Maldonado personally, the other is a class action for the entire YSU-ACE bargaining unit regarding their unilateral action," Domhoff said.

She said the reduction went into effect on Jan. 2, for the pay period ending Dec. 20.

"They followed through with their threat; we filed our grievances," she said.

MALDONADO, page 2

Timeline

Sept. 7, 2007:

Ivan Maldonado receives notification that his job audit had been completed.

Jan. 9, 2008:

YSU-ACE negotiation minutes state that YSU-ACE distributed an alphabetical classification list to team members, though Bickley, Lucivjansky and other union members later state in the report that they do not remember seeing Proposal No. 4.

Feb. 12, 2008:

Ivan Maldonado submits a modified version of the State of Ohio's classification plan, stating that he changed some titles and eliminated others, though the pay ranges were "the same as in the book." Maldonado also confirms that he would follow the state of Ohio's plan for job classifications.

April 2008:

Carol Trube asks Bickley to send her a copy of the new classification plan that the university and ACE tentatively agreed to in February. Bickley asks Maldonado to send it to her. Maldonado sent Trube a document titled Proposal No. 3, not Proposal No. 4. Upon comparing Proposal No. 3 with the 2008 State class plan, Trube finds five cases in which two job classifications had the same class number. She also finds 27 cases in which the negotiated plan has the same class number but a different pay range.

May 12, 2008:

Trube emails Bickley to submit her findings.

May 23, 2008:

Maldonado requests an audit of his position of Administrative Assistant 3.

Aug. 1 – Oct. 1, 2008:

Trube is on extended sick leave. A Classification Review Committee consisting of Craig Bickley, Steve Lucivjansky, Ivan Maldonado and Paul Trimacco reviews the outstanding reclassification requests in Trube's absence.

Aug. 2008:

The Classification Review Committee receives Maldonado's request for an audit of his position.

Sept. 11, 2008:

Under the direction of Bickley, Lucivjansky prepares an appointment form for Maldonado's reclassification, giving Maldonado a pay range of 36, step 22 at a base salary of \$81,785.60.

Oct. 3, 2008:

Lucivjansky prepares a memo authorizing the reclassification.

Oct. 8, 2008:

Bickley signs the reclassification.

December 23, 2008:

David Sweet accepts Bickley's resignation

January 2009:

YSU-ACE union files two grievances against YSU administration.

News Briefs

YSU Plans Inaugural Celebration

YSU will commemorate the inauguration of President Barack Obama with a celebration from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 20 in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room. The event, organized by YSU Africana Studies, the department of history, Office of Student Diversity Programs, department of political science, Office of Student Affairs and the Center for Working-Class Studies, is free.

Center for Working-Class Studies Unveils New Web Site

A new web site created by the YSU Center for Working-Class Studies includes numerous resources for teachers who want to highlight work and working-class studies in their classes. The Web site, located at <http://cwcs.ysu.edu>, consists of Mahoning Valley, consists of Mahoning Valley work exhibits and historical information, YSU student and faculty projects, various classroom materials for both K-12 and college instructors and links for those seeking more information about working-class life and culture.

YSU Plans Inaugural Celebration

The Hope Foundation of the Mahoning Valley and Accent Media will stage the fifth annual Game of Hope Charity Classic at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24 in YSU's Beeghly Center. The game, played by both local and far-flung celebrities and media, will help chronically and terminally ill children in the Mahoning Valley and beyond. On Sunday, Feb. 8 at 5 p.m., the taped game will be broadcast on FOX 17/62-TV. Donations are accepted online, by mail and at any Home Savings and Loan branch.

Clinton assembling team of heavy hitters for State Department

Warren P. Strobel
 MCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

As she prepares to take over stewardship of U.S. foreign policy, Secretary of State-designate Hillary Clinton is assembling a team with star power, experience and big egos — the same qualities that her boss, President-elect Barack Obama has sought out for his White House national security team.

If Obama, Clinton and their teams see eye to eye, they could aggressively remake U.S. relations: repairing frayed ties with European allies, channeling tensions that have built up with Russia, and opening a more cordial relationship with the Islamic world.

But if the lines of authority are not clear, the result could be internecine conflict between the White House and the State Department of the sort that plagued both Democratic and Republican administrations of the past, according to current and former U.S. officials.

The question, "who's in charge," will be in the background when the former New York senator appears Tuesday for what's expected to be a friendly reception from her colleagues and a rapid confirmation in the new post. But it will be central to her success or failure as America's third woman secretary of state.

"This is a really formidable team," said David Rothkopf, a senior Commerce Department official under President Bill Clinton and author of a history of the National Security Council, speaking of Obama's overall appointments.

"The challenge is providing

strong leadership for a strong team," Rothkopf said. On the other hand, he added, "What do you want — a weak team ... so there are no rivalries?"

Rothkopf said the key will be for Obama, who takes office saddled with an array of urgent foreign policy challenges, to exert strong control over foreign policy, and over his team.

If he does that, "then all these appointments look good," he said. If not, "it could ... create ego gridlock in the highest reaches of the U.S. policy apparatus."

She is likely to face polite questioning about potential conflicts of interest arising from her husband's charitable foundation. Its top donors include the governments of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and Norway. The foundation, which had kept donors' names private, published them last month to remove a roadblock to Hillary Clinton's confirmation.

The secretary of state designate is certain to also get questions about how she intends to handle Middle East diplomacy against a backdrop of Israel's offensive in the Gaza Strip, and on policy toward Iran, where she took a more hawkish line than Obama did during the campaign.

Clinton's team includes many veterans of the White House and State Department when Bill Clinton was president. James Steinberg and Jacob Lew, both veterans of the Clinton administration, are being nominated to the two posts of deputy secretary of state, Steinberg for policy and Lew for management and budget issues.

Clinton also plans to name

former U.N. ambassador Richard Holbrooke, known for his sharp bureaucratic elbows, as a special envoy to oversee policy toward Afghanistan and Pakistan. Former Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross is expected to oversee diplomacy in the Arab-Israeli conflict and to deal with Iran. Daniel Kurtzer, a former U.S. ambassador to Israel and Egypt, is a leading candidate to be assistant secretary of state for the Near East.

Wendy Sherman, who was a top aide to Clinton's second secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, is rumored for a job overseeing North Korea policy.

Over at the White House, meanwhile, President-elect Obama is putting in place a high-powered National Security Council staff led by retired Marine Gen. James L. Jones, the incoming national security adviser.

Obama's vice president-elect, Sen. Joseph Biden, is a foreign policy veteran, with strong views and personal connections around the globe.

"The structure is going to be complicated to say the least," said a foreign diplomat in Washington.

A Foreign Relations Committee vote to send her nomination to the full Senate could come as early as Thursday.

Frederick Jones, a spokesman for incoming committee chairman Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., said "I don't think he (the chairman) is anticipating any major hurdles" in the confirmation process.

Republicans on the panel, such as conservative Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., have also publicly expressed support for Clinton.

Classifieds

HELP WANTED

Bartenders Wanted! Up to \$300 a day, no experience necessary, training provided. 800-965-6520, et. 287.

House Mates needed now!
 Rent includes all utilities plus a security system, cable tv, and internet. \$310 - \$325 per month! Call 330-506-0104.

Part-time secretary for busy front-office. Must be reliable and flexible. Must be very personable and good with computers. Fax or mail resume to Psycare at 330-270-1404 or 107 Javit Court Suite B Austintown, OH 44515.

NO BOXING!
 Why live in a BOX when you could LIVE IN YOUR OWN HOME? Chris has private residences and nice apartments close to campus and parks. Our complete housing package includes all utilities, appliances, laundry, parking, cable & internet. From only \$375 per person. CALL CHRIS AT 330-743-RENT (7368).

HOUSING

Quiet, clean, safe, low cost, Lg 2nd floor 1 Bdrm. Garage with auto opener, all utilities included. Mini blinds on new windows. \$425/mo. Lots of extras. 330-965-7013.

Walk To YSU
 Nice 2-BR apartment. All YSU students. Living room, bedroom, kitchen with refrigerator and stove, bath, walk in closet. \$395/mo. Call 330-506-0104.

VISIT US ONLINE
WWW.THEJAMBAR.COM

WAGE, page 1

it's hard to know if in the next year or two you're going to have a job," O'Malley said. "Having the extra money has allowed me to buy some things that I couldn't afford, but you never really know what's around the corner. I have seen new hires that have come in only to be fired in coming months because it's hard to manage giving a raise to every employee at the same time."

This minimum wage infla-

tion has proven to be beneficial to those whose pay rises, but to those it does not affect, the increase can seem rather imbalanced. In some businesses, the increase affects people who make less than the new wage, but workers who already make more than the increase often do not receive any extra pay.

Junior Kayla Belden is one who is unaffected by the change in minimum wage since she works for her family.

"Some of the people I work with get frustrated because they have been working for so long, and then new people come in and make close to or the same as they make," Belden said. "Looking at it from an open-minded perspective, it's nice for people to have the extra money, but at the same time I feel like it tends to be unfair for people that have been working a job for an extended period of time."

MALDONADO, page 1

Domhoff said she thinks it could be a year before there is a resolution, and that she doesn't expect it to be resolved in arbitration.

"They really don't care how they spend student tuition dollars," she said.

Ron Cole, manager of news and information services, said his pay grade was not in compliance with the state of Ohio's reclassification plan.

"The classification itself is in line with the state plan. The pay grade assigned to the classification is not in line," Cole said.

He said the university took steps to reduce Maldonado's pay to bring it within the state plan.

"There is a grievance procedure that is outlined in the contract, and that procedure will be followed," Cole said.

He said Maldonado was sent a letter asking that he return the back pay he received under the disputed pay grade.

The job classification plan was originally submitted in February 2008 by Maldonado, who said the plan was modified, but that the pay ranges matched the state plan.

Carol Trube, manager of classification and compensation, noticed 27 discrepancies between the state plan and the one submitted by Maldonado, which she reported to Craig Bickley, who was chief of human resources at the time.

In October 2008, Bickley approved Maldonado's reclassification. Bickley resigned his post at YSU in December after having been placed on administrative leave following an investigation into the reclassification process.

STIMULUS, page 1

project, supplies, and hiring the workers," Riley said.

YSU students also have their own views of Obama's stimulus plan.

Sophomore Jose Morales said he likes Obama's ideas for the American Recovery and Reinvestment plan, especially the creation of jobs.

"I'm hoping it's going to be helpful. I support him a lot, so I hope he knows what he's doing," Morales said. "I like how

he's trying to get our economy jumpstarted again."

Freshman Ali Lessick also favored the plan.

"I feel like the 3 million jobs would best benefit the U.S.," Lessick said. "I feel that every part of that plan is going to help the average person."

However, senior Matt Kotouch said he is not sure if the stimulus plan will work, mainly because he said Obama wants to use too much money. Ko-

touch said the plan will help America in the short term, but not the long term, because of the amount of money the plan would require.

"We're trying to get out of debt," Kotouch said. "If he's going to spend that much money on tax cuts, then that would create a downfall."

On the other hand, Kotouch said if the plan can help create jobs, then that would be a plus.

www.thejambar.com



Associated Collegiate Press
2008 Best Of Show Magazine

Thanks to all who contributed to the spring 2008 Arts Issue:

- Readers
- Contributors
- Student Government Association
- Student Media Committee
- The Office of the Provost
- The English Department
- The Office of Student Affairs
- The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

• Special thanks to The Associated Collegiate Press

the yo* magazine



got an opinion?

Send letters to:
thejambar@gmail.com

Retailers fear shoppers have shifted gears

Maria Halkias
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

The retail industry is already planning next Christmas, and most store operators expect 2009 to be another difficult year.

While the prospect of spending a third consecutive December in a recession is daunting for retailers, merchants are also debating whether the new shopping attitudes are here to stay.

Whenever the economy recovers, "will everything go back the way it was before, or is there a more permanent shift in attitude?" asked Myron "Mike" Ullman, chairman and chief execu-

tive of Plano, Texas-based J.C. Penney Co. "I think that's a good debate."

A growing number of consumers are spending less, saving more and paying down debt.

That combination produced the worst holiday shopping season in decades.

"Treasure-hunting shoppers" have always been among us, said Michael Silverstein, a senior partner at the Boston Consulting Group and author of "Treasure Hunt: Inside the Mind of the New Consumer" and "Trading Up: The New American Luxury." "The lesson was for the full-price shoppers. They learned about markups and markdowns."

The U.S. has been in a recession since December 2007 and tighter credit, more layoffs and shrunken personal wealth have traumatized households.

Up until last year, luxury was recession-proof, because "recessions were borne by middle- and lower-income households," Silverstein said. This time, it engulfed even higher-income families.

"I don't believe we will have a permanent change," he said. "But we will have a shift in attitude for some time. We have ebbs and flows on conspicuous consumption. It is at an ebb now."

This week, about 18,000 retailing executives and suppliers

are attending the annual meeting of the industry's largest trade organization, the National Retail Federation, which began Sunday.

Lately, this group has stepped up its lobbying efforts, asking Congress to sponsor and pay for three sales tax holidays this year on everything from vehicles to vacuum cleaners. They promise such events will create the excitement that will produce the shoppers to stimulate the economy.

John Phee, principal in the Dallas office of consulting firm A.T. Kearney, said now is the time that retailers should rethink their ways and get to know their customers better before the economy turns around.

"Are they engendering loyalty for better times with the level of service they're offering now?" Phee said. "With the pace of store closings we're having now, should they build stores again or find ways to sell more efficiently online?"

Phee said that at a Johnson & Murphy store in Texas recently, he bought a second pair of shoes because the associate waiting on him knew they were online for \$30 cheaper and guaranteed they would be at his home in 48 hours.

"I haven't shopped at a Johnson & Murphy store in years, but I'm sure I'll buy my next five pairs of shoes there," he said.

Most forecasts predict more retailer bankruptcies and store closings in 2009.

Easy credit that accelerated shopping center development has left many cities with too much retail space and set up the industry for some "creative destruction," Ullman said. "Space that doesn't resonate with shoppers or property that can be supported for some other reason will come out."

While the economy is creating the destruction this time, competition from Wal-Mart Stores Inc. has forced massive change on the industry over the past couple of decades as it became the world's largest retailer.

Cell phones can aid students, educator argues

Lori Higgins
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Cell phones have become unwelcome in most schools, because of fears about cheating, distractions and the reality that some students have used them to take and spread inappropriate pictures.

But a new book written by a local educator argues that cell phones also are educational.

In fact, cell phones can be a handy way for teachers to supplement their lessons, said Liz Kolb, an adjunct professor at Madonna University. And she wants students to learn that their cell phones are more than just a social device.

But before she can convince kids, she has to get through to teachers.

"They need a little help getting to the point where they see how it can be beneficial," said Kolb, who is working on a doctorate degree in education at the University of Michigan.

Her book, "Toys to Tools: Connecting Student Cell Phones to Education," was published

"The kids are so much more natural when they're using technology in that way. If they were to have to stand in front of a microphone ... they get wooden and it seems rehearsed."

Pat Sattler, St. Joseph School, Trenton, Mich.

by the International Society for Technology in Education and is geared toward educators. She provides a number of examples and tips for using cell phones.

Kolb also operates a blog on

the subject at www.cellphonesin-learning.com.

Kolb said teachers can take advantage of cell phones on field trips, allowing students to snap pictures that can then be displayed in school. The cameras on cell phones also can help when students are studying things like ecosystems, because they can be used to take pictures of insects the class is studying.

Although some teachers may view cell phones as more disruptive than educational, others are embracing the technology.

Pat Sattler, a teacher and technology coordinator at St. Joseph School in Trenton, Mich., had students create a radio Christmas show using their cell phones. They used the cells to record jokes, riddles and interviews. The recordings were uploaded to a Web program, which converted them automatically into podcasts. And the podcasts then were hosted on the school's Web page.

Sattler said using cell phones keeps students motivated and engaged, and often results in students going the extra mile when working on projects.

"The kids are so much more natural when they're using technology in that way. If they were

to have to stand in front of a microphone ... they get wooden and it seems rehearsed."

And the cells are flexible, Sattler said. "Anywhere you go, you can do a podcast. It keeps things more spontaneous."

For instance, she has used her cell phone to record kindergartners on the 100th day of the school year, because the youngsters always count to 100 on the school's public address system.

Lynne Sullivan hasn't used cell phones much in her chemistry and physics classes at Cranbrook Upper School, but she did take advantage of them during a class field trip to the Cranbrook Science Museum. There, in the area where gemstones are kept, students took pictures that they used as part of their class reports.

Sullivan said she sees many possibilities, but acknowledged there are some downsides, such as the time she tried to record podcasts and learned that poor reception left her with a garbled recording.

Sattler has experienced similar problems. But she's sold on the use of cells in education.

"Anyone can do it," Sattler said. "With a cell you can capture really any moment you want."

visit us online



YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
AND KEYBANK

Diversity Leadership

RECOGNITION NOMINATIONS

Nominations are being accepted for the Youngstown State University Diversity Leadership Recognition Celebration sponsored by KeyBank to be held Thursday, April 2 at Mr. Anthony's. Nominations are being accepted in the following categories:

Leader of Tomorrow – Recognizing a current, upper division YSU student.

Campus Leadership – Recognizing a University faculty member, administrator, staff member, campus organization, or campus initiative.

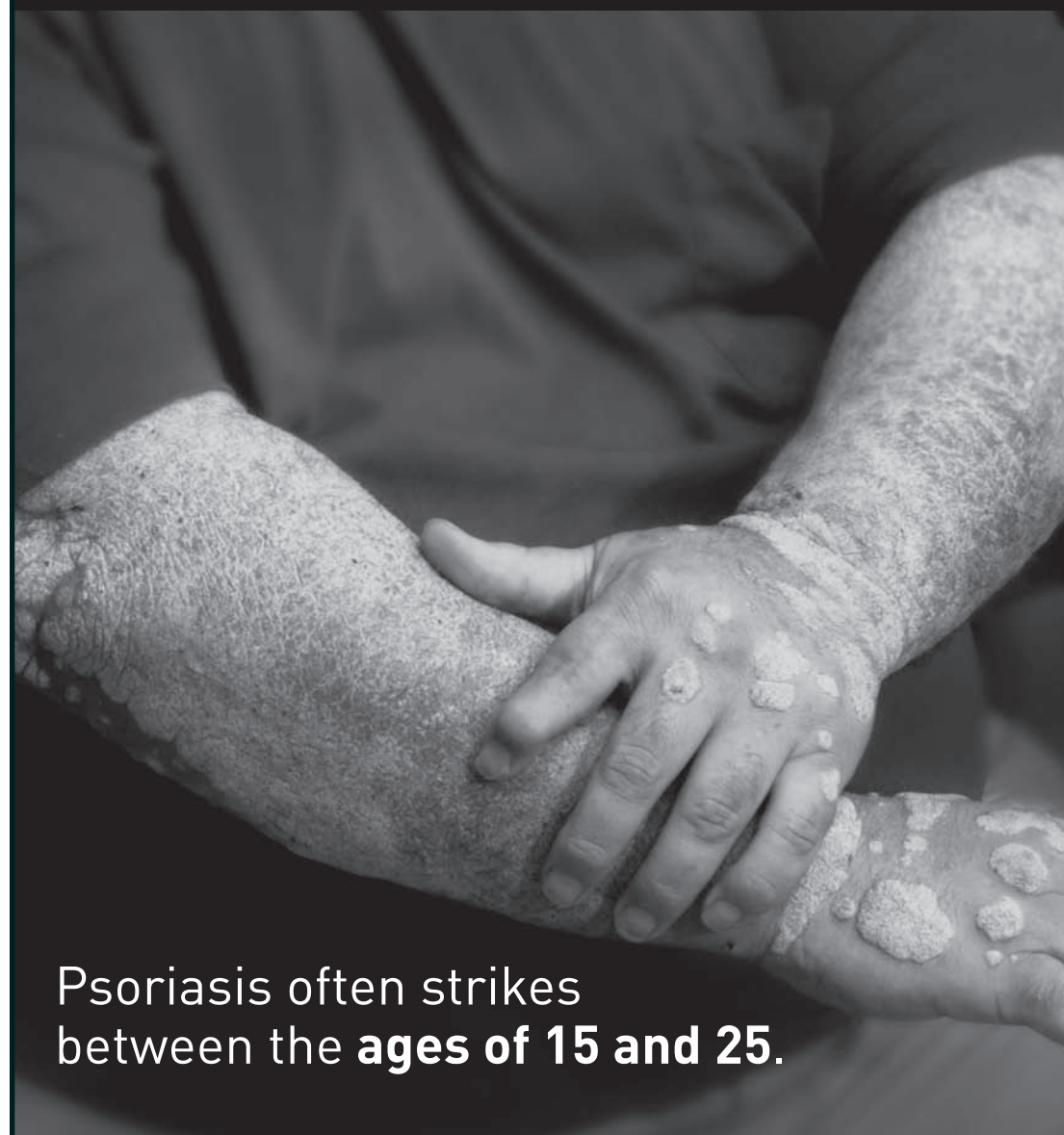
Community Leadership – Recognizing an individual, business, group, agency, organization, or community initiative.

For recognition criteria and submission form, visit the Diversity Leadership website at <http://www.ysu.edu/NominationFormLDB.pdf>

NOMINATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY
JANUARY 23, 2009

Youngstown
STATE UNIVERSITY

Look familiar?



Psoriasis often strikes
between the ages of 15 and 25.



1. Guttate psoriasis on chest
2. Inverse psoriasis in armpit
3. Psoriasis of the nails

NATIONAL
PSORIASIS
FOUNDATION®

Get informed at www.psoriasis.org.

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF YOUNGSTOWN – PART-TIME CLERK TYPIST II–YOUNGSTOWN CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION - \$14.02 PER HOUR. Work hours will be Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and when needed for Saturday examinations. The employee in this position performs general office work involving all aspects of the operation of the Civil Service Office. Work requires the exercise of considerable initiative, independent judgment, and discretion in handling delegated tasks, answering and disposing of requests for information, and general public relations activities. Applicants must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Office Applications. Applicants that successfully pass the written examination may be required to take a typing/performance test to demonstrate skill in the operation of a personal computer. This performance test will be considered part of the job interview process. Applicants should have experience in secretarial and general office work; knowledge of modern office practices and procedures; be skilled in the use of a personal computer including proficiency in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Office applications; excellent typing/word processing skills; be extremely trustworthy and sensitive to the confidential nature of the civil service examination process and personnel matters; and have the ability to deal courteously and effectively with the public, news media, city officials, department heads and employees. Must be a resident of Youngstown when appointed or must become a resident within 120 days following appointment to the position. Applications accepted at the Youngstown Civil Service Commission Office, 7th floor, City Hall, Youngstown, Ohio, from January 12, 2009, through January 22, 2009. City Hall will be closed Monday, January 19, 2009 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Hours: 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Examination will be given on Saturday, January 24, 2009, starting at 10:00 A.M. at the Choffin Career and Technical Center. To qualify for Veteran's Bonus, submit a copy of DD-214 when application is filed.

New season for theater

YSU theater and dance performance schedule



The cast of *Almost Maine*: Patrick McGuire, Roxanne Hauldren, Shawna Jone and Nathan Beagle. Photo courtesy of Joel Stigliano.

Almost Maine

By John Cariani
Spotlight Arena Theater
January 22, 23, 24 at 7:30 p.m.
January 25 at 3:00 p.m.

Set in the fictional town of Almost, Maine, this play focuses on love and its sometimes-comedic consequences.

The Servant for Two Masters

By Carlo Goldini
Ford Theater
February 12, 13, 14, 20, 21 at 7:30 p.m.
February 15, 22 at 3:00 p.m.

This commedia dell'arte play illustrates the plight of Truffaldino, who strives to achieve the overwhelming task of serving both his masters and himself.

Miss Julie

By August Strindberg
Spotlight Arena Theater
March 26, 27, 28, April 3, 4 at 7:30 p.m.
March 29, April 5 at 3:00 p.m.

August Strindberg's play, written in 1888, deals with the gender and class issues that arise when the daughter of a rich businessman becomes attracted to her father's servant.

Dance Ensemble

By Christine Cobb
Ford Theater
April 30, May 1, 2 at 7:30 p.m.
Christine Cobb, associate professor of Theater and Dance will direct the performance, which includes styles from various dance genres.

The Tender Land

By Horace Everett
Ford Theater
April 16, 17, 18 at 7:30 p.m.
April 19 at 3:00 p.m.

The *Tender Land* tells the story of Laurie, the first person in her family with a high school degree, and her desire to escape her small town.



Subject of biopic 'Notorious' was B.I.G.-ger than life

Rafer Guzman
NEWSDAY

Soul music has "Ray," the Oscar-winning film about the legendary Ray Charles, and country music has "Walk the Line," about Johnny Cash. Punk rock got the biopic treatment in "Sid and Nancy." Even the minor subgenre of post-punk spurred "Control," about the cult figure Ian Curtis.

Yet hip-hop, one of the most influential and far-reaching musical idioms in the world, has been overlooked -- until now.

"Notorious," scheduled for release by Fox Searchlight Pictures Friday, marks the first studio-produced, wide-release biopic of a hip-hop artist -- in this case, Christopher Wallace, known in the 1990s as The Notorious B.I.G. or, more affectionately, Biggie Smalls. The film, co-produced by his mother, Voletta Wallace, traces Biggie's life from his drug-dealing days in Bedford-Stuyvesant to his sudden fame, and ends with the bicoastal rap feud that seemingly led to his 1997 murder at age 24.

Known for his unapologetically violent and hedonistic lyrics, Biggie was as controversial as he was popular. Many, but not all, members of his inner circle were closely involved in the making of "Notorious." His childhood friend Lil' Cease (later part of the rap group Junior M.A.F.I.A.) served as a sort of consultant to the filmmakers. Biggie's widow, singer Faith Evans, provided an advance copy of her memoir to her on-screen portrayer, Antonique Smith. The man who first signed Biggie to a record deal, Sean Combs (played by Derek Luke), is the film's executive producer.

If "Notorious" is a familiar story of drugs, fame, women and violence, that's because Biggie's lyrics -- in tracks like "Gimme the Loot" and "Ten Crack Commandments" -- established a blueprint that rappers to this day yearn to follow. All of which presented a lot of potential clichés, according to director George Tillman Jr.

His main challenge, he says: "How do you try not to make this movie feel like the VH1 movie of the week?"

One way was to take a gamble on the actor who would play Biggie. At 6-foot-3 and weighing in the neighborhood of 350 pounds,

Biggie was a physically imposing figure. He was also a giant in his field, known for his verbal agility and off-the-cuff creativity. Add to that a natural charisma and unlikely sex appeal, and Biggie became a tough role to cast.

Ultimately, Tillman found his man in New York. His name was Jamal Woolard, a heavyset fellow who'd already been rapping under the name Gravy. And, like Biggie, he was raised in Bedford-Stuy by a single mother (Woolard says his father died of AIDS). Woolard pretty much had the part from the moment he entered the room, when Wallace spotted him and, she recalls, whispered aloud, "That's my son."

The only problem: Woolard, 33, had never acted. But under the direction of acting coach Mimi Lieber, he entered "Biggie Boot Camp," learning how to emulate the rapper's hulking carriage and speak with his cheeks full of cotton balls. Woolard also splurged on pasta and lasagna, gaining upward of 50 pounds to match Biggie's girth.

For Woolard, Biggie wasn't just a celebrity but a childhood hero. "At that time, I was trying to be a man," Woolard says. "We all were kids, trying to understand. We listened to Big to try and find out what life was about. We related to his stories about being broke and trying to get rich. When he died, it was like, where we gonna go now?"

Much of the film concentrates on Biggie's struggle to become not just a rap star but the kind of man his mother (played by Angela Bassett) raised him to be. "Notorious" attempts to humanize a rapper who, with his flashy jewelry and double-breasted suits, presented the classic image of a gangster but was also a husband and father.

"There's this misconception in black films where we're not human -- we're the bad guy," says Wayne Barrow, who, along with his cousin, Mark Pitts, managed Biggie until his death. (The two also helped produce the film.) "You can see beyond the badness when it's 'Scarface' or 'The Godfather.' This is no different. They did bad things, but by the same token, they're sitting in the kitchen stirring up spaghetti, and their little grandchildren are running around."

He adds: "We're doing the same things, just in different ways."

PBS gets on the laugh track with 'Make 'Em Laugh'

Neal Justin

STAR TRIBUNE (Minneapolis)

According to most historians, the first comedy bit took place in 3,000 B.C. when a caveman bopped his roommate on the head with a club, sending his startled victim into the flames of a nearby fire. That classic clip isn't included in PBS' "Make 'Em Laugh: The Funny Business of America," a three-night documentary that plays out over the next three consecutive Wednesdays, but there are plenty of other historic moments to savor, from Jack Benny chewing over his choice between his money or his life to excerpts from Judd Apatow's super-bawdy films.

The title and the involvement

of PBS may suggest an academic approach that would trigger more chin stroking than belly laughing, but the series is light on its feet, more committed to sharing side-splitting footage then deconstructing the nature and history of humor.

Not that there isn't a lot to learn. Sprinkled throughout the six hours are nuggets on how Harold Lloyd discovered his inner nerd when he donned a set of glasses; why Bart Simpson is the son of Eddie Haskell, that brown-nosing, two-timing weasel on "Leave It to Beaver"; how Harry Houdini nicknamed Buster Keaton after the youngster took a stumble at six months of age and didn't shed a tear; and why a scathing review convinced Harpo Marx to hit the mute button.

But those who expect Ken

Burns-type revelations will be disappointed. (In fact, the project sets itself apart from the PBS master in an opening sketch by host Billy Crystal, poking fun at Burns' somber approach.) Instead, you get a treasure trove of material dedicated to faded masters of the form, including Jonathan Winters, Gertrude Berg and Mae West, all of whom are connected to more contemporary descendants by an all-star roster of commentators.

As revealing as the clips are the sources they come from. Over the course of three nights, you'll see material from a number of long-forgotten variety shows hosted by Dinah Shore, Ray Stevens, Helen Reddy and Flip Wilson, a reminder of just how heavily prime-time used to lean on stand-up comedians.

With that in mind, it's slightly stunning that Kantor all but ignores late-night TV, where this generation gets most of its laughs. David Letterman and Jay Leno are completely missing, and Johnny Carson gets just a two-minute tribute in the project's waning moments. On the other hand, there is plenty of time for a segment on Paul Lynde.

"There's no doubt there's going to be some tough calls in terms of what we'll have to leave out," Kantor said in an interview that took place while he was still assembling the project. "It's such a broad canvas, but we'll pick the stuff that leads to a richer story."

By simply offering dusty clips of some of the masters at work, Kantor has given us a half-full but still dazzling treasure chest.

School gets bathrooms-in-a-box for lockdown emergencies

Merrill Balassone
MCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

They are now fixtures in every classroom.

Teachers returned from winter break to find a bathroom-in-a-box on their desk, complete with toilet paper and all the accessories, marked "For Lockdown Only."

Staff members assembled the kits to use during long-term lockdowns like the four hours Patterson High School students spent in their classrooms last fall when fights broke out on campus.

Shielded by their classmates, Patterson teens used trash cans as toilets until police allowed students and teachers outside.

The incident spurred school superintendents across Stanislaus County, Calif., to discuss ways to make sure history did not repeat itself.

Hence, in Turlock, the emergency toilets. Maintenance workers put together 701 of them over the winter break, enough to sup-

ply every classroom in the district that needed one. They cost \$20 each, or about \$14,000 total the equivalent of nearly 200 high school textbooks.

"It's a small price to pay for personal dignity," said Patricia McGuire, a district assistant superintendent.

Most lockdowns last just minutes. But some can last hours, like the two-hour lockdown experienced by several Turlock, Calif., elementary, middle and high schools last fall.

School violence is only one reason to keep students in their classrooms. Police will tell administrators to lock down a school if they are chasing a criminal suspect or making a raid nearby.

Sixth-grade teacher Melanie Chancellor still remembers what it was like three years ago to be locked inside her Crowell Elementary classroom for almost two hours.

"I had kids who needed to go," Chancellor said. "So I was like, 'We all have to hold it.' It

was hard on the kids."

Chancellor eyed a spot next to her desk where she plans to set up her emergency lavatory. The toilet comes with a plastic seat, steadied by steel legs, and a plastic bag in lieu of a toilet bowl.

On Monday, Turlock High teenagers looked quizzically at the plain cardboard box that housed their classroom commode. Their teacher had offered extra credit for whoever guessed what it contained.

A student began to read the contents: a roll of toilet paper, disposable liners, a tarp (to create privacy in the corner of a room), chemical packs, hand sanitizer wipes, disposal liners and, of course, a folding toilet.

Then came the laughter.

The students, understandably giggly and embarrassed about the thought of relieving themselves among their peers, claimed they could wait. Under any circumstances.

But when you gotta go ...

BOOKING IT TO THE STORE



PHOTO BY BRIAN GETTIN/THE JAMBAR



Monday marked the first day of the spring semester and the return of long lines at the bookstore registers.

ABOUT THE JAMBAR

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press Honors. The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during summer sessions. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.

OUR SIDE EDITORIAL

Paying the piper

RELATED STORY

Maldonado, page 1

THE JAMBAR EDITORIAL BOARD

The median income for Youngstown residents is \$24,201. This is almost \$2,000 less than the raise that YSU-ACE president Ivan Maldonado received as a result of a job reclassification that changed his title from administrative assistant to payroll specialist 2.

Maldonado's status as a labor leader should, in theory, put him at a distinct vantage point to understand the plight of the working man. Instead, it appears he has used his position to elevate himself above those he is charged with representing. From fiscal year 2007 to fiscal year 2009, Maldonado's pay went from \$44,429 to \$82,613.

Many of the working families who struggle to pay their bills during this recession would consider this level of income to be akin to striking it rich. This seems lost on Maldonado, however, as he seems to take an approach that prioritizes his own self-interest over the interest of others. This is particularly true for members of his own union who are now likely to be looked upon with suspicion as a result of his actions. This does not absolve the administration of guilt for this situation, however.

As stewards of the funds paid by students and taxpayers, there is no excuse for them to have missed the pay grade discrepancies. It would have been far easier and more responsible for them to have thoroughly examined the plan submitted by Maldonado in the first place, rather than giving it a cursory spot check.

Though YSU-ACE and the administration contributed to the problem in different ways, they both violated the cardinal rule of public relations with their initial silence.

Maldonado looked even guiltier when he refused to comment until after he addressed his union. Despite this, he still has not been open about what he did and why.

President Sweet still will not comment to The Jambar, a move that gives the impression of weakness.

Transparency should be the goal.

Both sides' determination to discredit the other is counterproductive to the image that YSU and the city seek to cultivate.

OUR SIDE POLICY

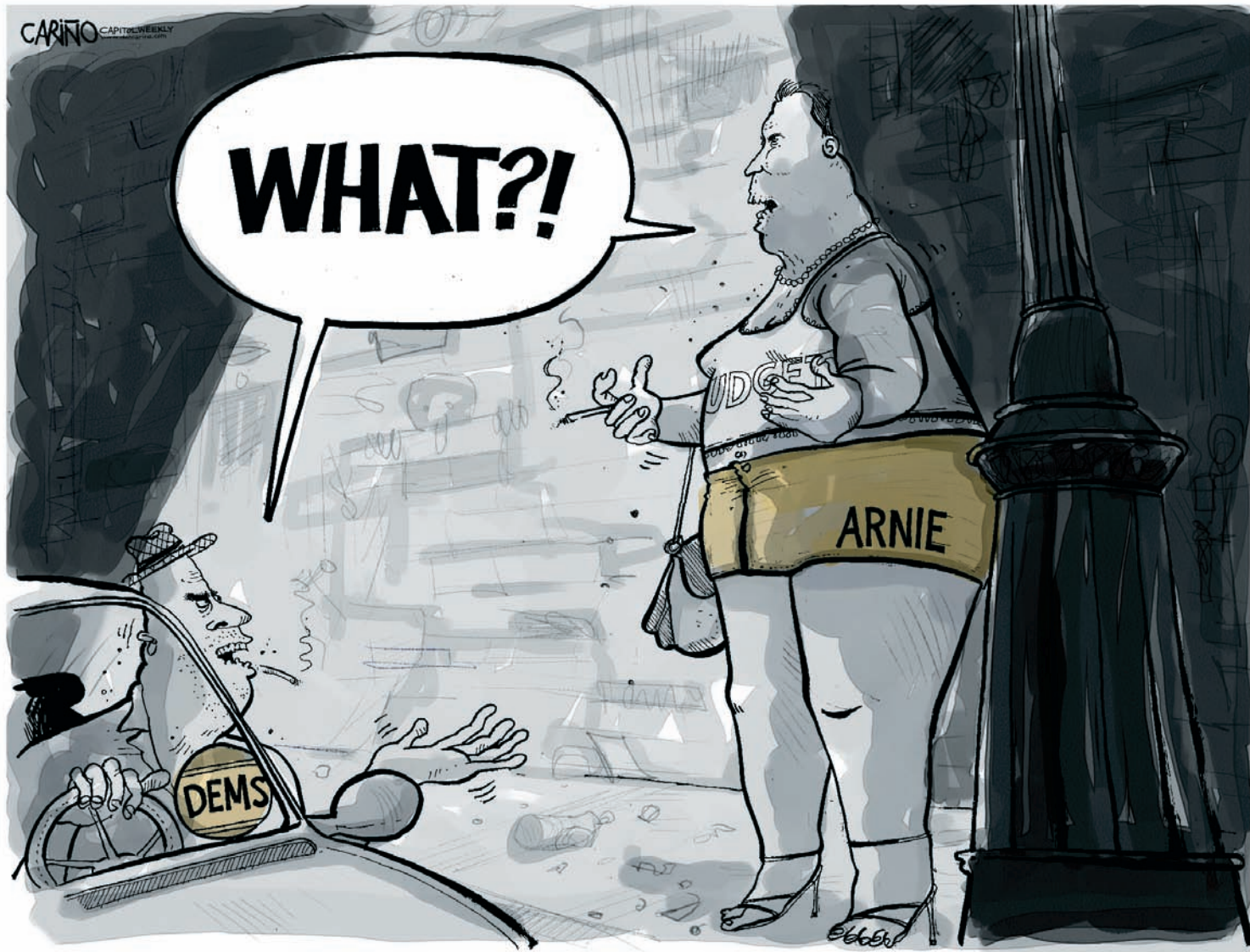
The editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor and news editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and draw on the opinions of the entire writing staff. The Jambar's business manager and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

YOUR SIDE POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. E-mail submissions are welcome at editor@thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification and the writer's city of residence for printing. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries that are libelous or that don't defend opinion with facts from reliable sources. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitting writer based on these requirements.

Letters will not be rejected based on the view expressed in them. Letters may be rejected if they are not relevant to Jambar readers, seek free publicity or if the editorial staff decides the subject has been sufficiently aired. The Jambar will not print letters that libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The Jambar does not withhold the names of writers of letters or guest commentaries.

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



Indecent (Budget) Proposals...

The views of this syndicated artist do not necessarily agree with those of The Jambar.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor,
Have you ever woken up at night to the sound of gunfire in the streets? I have, long ago when I lived on the wrong side of town.

There are thousands and thousands of kids living in Gaza that probably have not had a night of sleep in over two weeks now.

Every night the bombers roar over the city, the missiles screech and then the loud booms, followed by crashing sounds, screaming and smoke darkening the night itself as the bombs tear apart the houses and the streets themselves are ripped open and everywhere that people seek shelter is bombarded and targeted.

If you are lucky enough to live through that then there is the risk of madness, for who could live through that and remain sane? Why does the world allow this to happen? Did we not learn our lesson from Rwanda, from Bosnia and from the Holocaust? This is not a military battle between two equals. It is a killing spree like Mumbai was only two weeks before.

The Israelis are destroying everything and trying to kill as many people as they possibly can. Even God would not be safe in Gaza. In fact, I would say that this is a war against God Himself.

Javonne Lafontaine

COMMENTARY

Panetta choice signals new direction for CIA

McClatchy-Tribune
MCT

If President-elect Barack Obama wanted to send a message that change is coming to the Central Intelligence Agency, he could hardly have done better than to pick someone with Leon Panetta's know-how and experience as the next director.

The surprise choice drew a cool response from some members of Obama's own party because he has no background in espionage and intelligence, but Panetta's sound judgment and views on policies are exactly what the CIA needs.

Panetta has minced no words in condemning the interrogation and detainee-treatment policies that the Bush administration has allowed the CIA to employ after 9/11.

"All forms of torture have long been prohibited by American law and international treaties respected by Republican and Democratic presidents alike," he wrote back in March. "Torture is illegal, immoral, dangerous and counterproductive." The CIA claims it does not use torture, but that seems to be more semantics than substance. Panetta's selection signals the end of that game.

Panetta enjoys a reputation as a superb manager and budget expert.

Those skills don't necessarily make him a good spymaster, but as a former chief of staff to President Bill Clinton, he is familiar with the vital role of the CIA in keeping the president informed of events around the world and able to anticipate developments before they burst into crises.



From flawed assessments about Saddam Hussein's arsenal to the use of harsh interrogation methods, the CIA has been criticized by civil libertarians who believe it has violated the law and by hard-liners who believe it has become ineffective.

This has led to a demoralization of the agency that someone like Panetta can do much to improve by doing away with dis-

credited policies and restoring the CIA's tradition of providing impartial, nonpolitical analysis, regardless of what the president or vice president wants to hear.

Nothing has done more to damage the agency's standing than the politicization of intelligence. It's likely many CIA veterans will welcome a change, despite the agency's reputation for resisting leadership from outside the cloak-and-dagger world.

"What Panetta lacks in direct intelligence experience, he more than makes up in sound judgment, broad governmental experience and savvy about how all the pieces fit together perhaps the most important qualities for a CIA director," said John McLaughlin, No. 2 in the CIA under a former director.

None of this means that the Senate should avoid close scrutiny of Panetta.

Presidents should have leeway in making executive appointments, but the concerns raised by some senators deserve a thorough airing, given the importance of the position and the nominee's lack of intelligence experience.

Obama has made a strong appointment, but Panetta must still prove himself at his confirmation hearings.

COMMENTARY

Dierkes deliberated



Winter survival training

Doug Dierkes
COLUMNIST

A majority of the students at Youngstown State University have been through an Ohio winter before. For those of you who haven't, know that it won't be over until mid-July at the earliest. Either way, it's still within my rights and abilities as The Jambar's columnist to make sure you survive through the winter.

Lesson 1: Dress Warmly

Bring out your baggiest set of pants, then see just how many pajama bottoms and sweatpants you can fit inside while still being able to walk. Subtract one layer for every five inches of snow you usually get in your hometown. And remember: just because you're inside doesn't mean you're safe from frostbite. I guarantee you at least one of your classrooms won't have a functioning heater for the semester.

Lesson 2: Ice Hates You

Unless you plan on regularly submitting YouTube videos of yourself falling down, you need to learn how to walk and drive on ice. Walking is easy: just don't raise your feet, or try to move faster than 3 miles (or 5 kilometers, for you exchange students) per hour. Driving is a little harder, mainly because you have to learn when to say "no." Most days, you'll be better off taking a bus. It's not because you can't handle driving slower on a slippery road, it's that every other person on the planet can't seem to.

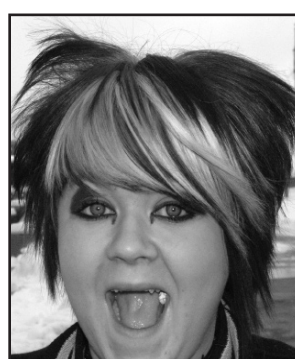
Lesson 3: Snow Problems

Salt, shovels, plows, those things that look like rolling wood chippers ... man has created a lot of devices for removing snow from the driveway. They all pale in comparison to the greatest invention of all: fire. The traditional "hair spray flamethrower" works wonders for melting the mounds of snow that pile in front of your residence. Just make sure you're not keeping anything flammable or living under those snow mounds, otherwise things could get messy.

And there you have it. Everything you need to survive your average snowstorm. In a blizzard, follow the same rules but stock up on canned foods. You have no idea how much your life may depend on baked beans until it's too late, so prepare now to avoid such an experience.

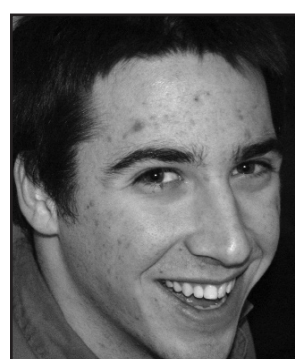
The views of this columnist do not necessarily agree with those of The Jambar.

THE JAMBAR ASKS *What's on your mind?*



"School, mostly."

Megan Cent,
freshman



"Just going over ways to make a pressurized wet towel cannon."

Cory Siwiec,
sophomore



"I'm thinkin' Arby's."

Frank Bosak,
junior



"I'm hungry."

Vilmary Poaceras,
sophomore

Send us your letters

thejambar@gmail.com

Men's Basketball at Milwaukee, 1/15 8:30 p.m.

Men's Basketball at Green Bay, 1/17 8:00 p.m.

Track and Field at Doug Raymond Invitational, all day 1/17

Women's Basketball vs. Cleveland State, 1/17 2:05 p.m.



Photo by Ron Stevens.

Second half dooms Penguins

Penguins score only 7 points in last 14 minutes

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

A new year means a chance to start fresh for the Youngstown State University women's basketball team as they try to erase the memory of the beginning of their basketball season in 2008.

The Penguins are 2-12 overall and 0-3 in the Horizon League. The Penguins have played road games at Valparaiso University and Butler University and hosted University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to start off the new year.

The Penguins hoped to kick-start their season with a home victory over one of the better teams in the Horizon League, the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Phoenix, on Saturday, but Phoenix got the best of the Penguins as YSU fell 62-42.

The Penguins jumped out to an 8-2 lead but saw the lead evaporate as the Phoenix seized control of the first half. The Penguins committed 13 turnovers in the first half to Green Bay's five. Even with the turnover battle in the Phoenix favor, the Penguins managed to shoot 11-for-22 from the field and won the rebound battle in the first half. The Penguins would grab a 25-24 lead toward the end of the half but would allow the Phoenix to close the half on a 7-0 run to take the lead at the 31-25 at halftime. The leading scorers at the half were Nikita LaFleur for the Penguins, who was perfect from the field at 8-for-8 and 18 points, and Kayla Tetschlag for the Phoenix, who scored 11 points.

The second half of play for the Penguins worsened as Phoenix held the lead. The Penguins

would get as close as 36-35 after a basket made by Nikita LaFleur but would not do much after being down by only one point.

From that basket forward, the Penguins would only score seven more points in the last 13:55 of the game as the Phoenix put the clamps down on defense. The Phoenix showed why they are one of the best teams in the Horizon League as they shut down the Penguin offensive attack in the second half.

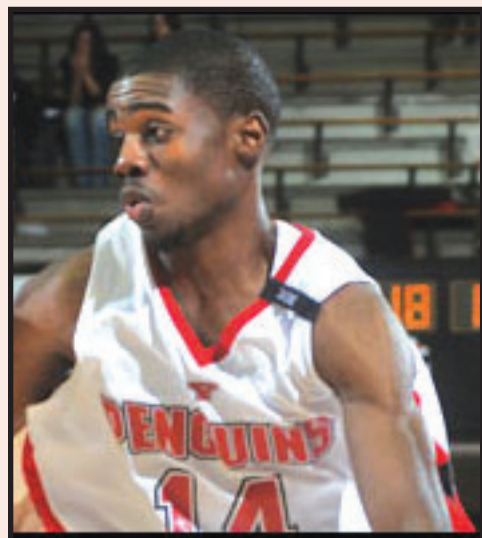
The one bright spot for the Penguins was a career-high point total out of senior Nikita LaFleur. The senior had 25 points to go along with 14 rebounds for the double-double. "We got real tired and sloppy in the second half, like a few too many turnovers," LaFleur said after the Penguins were defeated.



Kelvin Bright named Horizon League men's player of the week

The junior guard for the Penguins averaged a cool 22.5 points this week in two games. Bright poured in 23 points for Youngstown State in a winning effort on Thursday. He led the Penguins to a win against the University of Illinois-Chicago Flames 80-70. In the second game Bright's performance was just as stellar as the UIC game. Bright scored 22 points, but could not lead his team to a victory on Saturday against the Loyola-Chicago University Ramblers.

Bright managed to shoot 45 percent on 15 for 33 shooting for the week while making 12 out of 15 free throws for a free throw percentage of 80 percent. Bright also dropped 2.5 assists to go along with his 22.5 points.



Photos courtesy of Sports Information.

Momentum lost for Penguins as they lose to Loyola

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team comes into the new year with a sense of optimism as the Penguins have won four out of their last six games.

The Penguins come into 2009 with a 2-1 record, with wins against the University of Illinois-Chicago Flames and the University of Detroit Titans. YSU has an overall record of 5-9 and is 2-3 within the conference. The Penguins took a step toward the .500 mark as they squared off against the 9-7 Loyola Ramblers Saturday.

In the first half of play, the Penguins started off with a 2-0 lead but did not lead again in the first half as the Ramblers reeled off a solid first half. The Penguins did tie the game at 14-all, but the Ramblers would pull away to lead by six at the halftime break 28-22.

The Penguins allowed the Ramblers to make four 3-pointers while the Penguins went 0-for-4 from behind the arc. The Ramblers also crashed the board at a greater rate than the Penguins as they out-rebounded the Penguins 19-12 in the first half of play.

The Penguins held the sec-

"I said yesterday in practice that we had no intensity. I'm very, very disappointed in our performance..."

Jerry Slocum, head coach



ond-leading scorer in the Horizon League for the Ramblers, J.R. Blount, to only seven points. Kelvin Bright held the Penguins within striking distance as the junior poured in 12 first half points.

The Penguins allowed the Ramblers to shoot 47 percent for the field as they looked forward to shutting down the Ramblers attack heading into the second half.

In the second half, Kelvin Bright made a jumper to tie the game at 48-48, but the Penguins could not grab the lead. The Ramblers shot 10-for-15 from behind the arc while the Penguins shot 0-for-11. The Penguins could not muster enough offense at the end of the game to come out with the

win and the Ramblers went on a 20-9 run to end the game.

Despite losing 68-57, The Penguins committed just 10 turnovers compared to Loyola's 13. The Penguins' Kelvin Bright lead the game by scoring 22 points. Senior Jack Liles played a solid game and registered a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

After the game, head coach Jerry Slocum expressed his dismay for his team and their effort. "I said yesterday in practice that we had no intensity. I'm very, very disappointed in our performance and the fact that we did not work hard and got outworked in our building is not acceptable," Slocum said.

NATIONAL

Steelers the lone home team to survive playoff weekend

Randy Covitz
MCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

The wacky weekend of NFL playoffs didn't escape the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Before the Steelers even took the field against San Diego late Sunday afternoon, they knew both No. 1 seeds and a No. 2 seed had all lost, the first time in NFL history as many as three home teams lost on the second weekend of the playoffs.

"As the weekend wore on, it became evident it wasn't good to be the home team," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said.

The Steelers, too, appeared vulnerable, trailing for most of the first half, but they took advantage of a remarkable third quarter and eliminated the Chargers 35-24 at Heinz Field.

Now, Pittsburgh, 13-4 and the highest-seeded team left standing, will meet sixth-seeded and AFC North rival Baltimore, 13-5 in the AFC championship game here next Sunday for the right to advance to the Super Bowl. It will be the Steelers' third AFC championship game in five years and the second in Pittsburgh.

"That was something we talked about throughout the sideline ... all the home teams weren't playing well," said Pittsburgh

wide receiver Santonio Holmes, whose 67-yard punt return for a touchdown tied the game at 7-7 in the first quarter.

"But we knew the road to the Super Bowl can run through Pittsburgh once we saw that Baltimore won its game (on Saturday). It was time to turn it on from there."

The Steelers didn't turn it on until late in the second quarter when quarterback Ben Roethlisberger hit wide receiver Hines Ward for a 41-yard gain to the San Diego 3. Willie Parker scored on a run on the next play, giving the Steelers a shaky 14-10 lead over San Diego, 9-9, which had won its last five straight, the longest current winning streak among the playoff teams.

But the game turned in the third quarter. Pittsburgh ran 26 plays to San Diego's 1 in the period, sucking 14 minutes, 43 seconds of possession time to the Chargers' 17 seconds.

The Chargers' Darren Sproles answered that touchdown with a 63-yard kickoff return to the Pittsburgh 23. But on the Chargers' only play of the third period, Philip Rivers' pass intended for Chris Chambers was deflected by defensive end Brett Keisel and intercepted by linebacker Larry Foote at the 21.

"We thought the cornerback was off Chris Chambers by 12

yards," lamented San Diego coach Norv Turner. "We thought we'd get an easy first down, we're down in the red zone, and the ball gets tipped up ..."

The Steelers were forced to punt, but then disaster struck San Diego again. The ball struck the helmet of San Diego safety Eric Weddle as he was retreating to block for Sproles. The Steelers recovered at the San Diego 23, and though they were stopped on fourth and goal at the 1, the game bled into the fourth quarter before the Chargers regained possession.

Now, the Steelers will face the Ravens, a bitter rival Pittsburgh swept during the regular season, 23-20 in overtime at Heinz Field - when the Ravens supposedly put bounties on several Steelers players - and 13-9 during the Dec. 14 rematch in Baltimore that secured the division title.

Tomlin scoffed at the notion it is tough to beat a team three times in one season.

"I personally don't subscribe to that hocus-pocus," he said. "It is two good teams. They play the way we play. It is going to be a knock-down, drag-out (game). What happened in the other two games will have no bearing on the outcome of this game."

