

## YSEARC president to step down

Evan Houk  
 REPORTER

The Youngstown State Environmental and Animal Rights Coalition is seeking new officers to fill a few posts that will soon be vacated, including the president.

YSEARC President Michelle Gbur decided to step down due to time constraints.

"We didn't really get too many committed members involved last year, and most of the responsibility fell to me," Gbur said.

During the organization's first meeting on Wednesday in Kilcawley Center, members discussed ways to recruit new officers.

Gbur said the organization must formally name at least four officers to different posts in order to officially remain a student organization. The available positions include president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.

Until recently, Gbur held the only official position.

She said the only requirements to be an officer are to be dedicated and willing to be heavily involved in the group and its various activities.

The group is now looking for volunteers within the organization to step in to fill the void that will be left when Gbur steps down.

Some of YSEARC's regular activities include its annual vegan bake sale on Earth Day in April. During the sale, members pass out leaflets that describe animal rights and veganism. They also volunteer for litter cleanups at animal shelters.

YSEARC members Melissa DelSignore, Katie Krancevich and Julie Plesich each voiced their interest in the open positions during the meeting.

Four new students were present at the meeting, and each expressed an interest in eventually joining the organization.

Will Geer was one of the new attendees. Geer is a vegan, and said he is firmly committed to animal

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U.S. President Barack Obama gives the State of the Union address before a joint session of Congress on Tuesday in Washington, D.C. Photo courtesy of MCT.

## Obama creates new 'Blueprint'

Jordan D. Uhl  
 NEWS EDITOR

Nation-building and reinvestment in America was the overall theme of President Barack Obama's State of the Union address on Tuesday night.

The president laid out his "Blueprint for an America Built to Last," focusing on manufacturing, job creation and reclamation from overseas, clean energy and education.

Obama called on Congress to "stop the interest rates on student loans from doubling in July" and to "extend the tuition tax credit."

Rich Williams, a higher education advocate with the United State Public Interest Research Group, praised the plan.

"In this economy, we cannot double the student loan interest rate. Without a new plan, millions of students will pay a crushing \$5,200 more on their student loan than they otherwise would," Williams said in a press release.

Obama said more needs to be done than just furthering subsidization, and he requested that states play a larger role in getting students through college.

"[States] need to do their part, by making higher education a higher priority in their budgets, and colleges and universities have to do their part by working to keep costs down," Obama said.

After mapping out his plan for sustainable growth, he began to criticize the tax code, saying it made no sense.

"Right now, companies get tax breaks for moving jobs and profits overseas. Meanwhile, companies that choose to stay in America get hit with one of the highest tax rates in the world," Obama said.

He also forwarded the idea of the "Buffett Rule," or the idea that Americans who annually make \$1 million or more should pay a minimum tax rate of 30 percent.

"We need to change our tax code so that people like me, and an awful lot of members of Congress, pay our fair share of taxes," Obama said.

Pessimism was an early criticism.

"Can you blame them for feeling a little cynical?" Obama asked. "The greatest blow to our confidence in our economy last year didn't come from events beyond our control. It came from a debate in Washington over whether the United States would pay its bills or not."

While the Republican primaries rage on, the speech was the campaign of a roughly 10-month campaign by Obama.

"You really see the power of the office," said Paul Sracic, chairman of the political science department at Youngstown State University. "It really is a contrast seeing the Republicans debate each other [Monday] night and the president stand

behind the presidential seal in front of a joint session of Congress."

Stephanie Cutter, Obama's deputy campaign manager, said she sees Obama gaining a strong advantage over his GOP competition.

"[Mitt Romney's] record is finally being exposed," Cutter said. "People are starting to see Romney for who he really is."

At the college level, Cutter has noticed a growing amount of youth participation. She said she feels that Obama keeping campaign promises of health care reform and ending the war in Iraq connects him to youth voters.

The president's push for work-study jobs will produce more than 100,000 summer jobs for low income and disadvantaged youth, Cutter said.

Locally, U.S. Rep Tim Ryan of Niles, D-17th, called the address Obama's "best policy speech of his administration" in a tweet.

"The vision that the president outlined [Tuesday] night is a blueprint of the opportunities for success that lie ahead for Ohio and the nation," Ryan said in a prepared statement.

With Super Tuesday approaching, and Ohio again of vital importance, attention is beginning to shift to the Rust Belt.

"The beginning of the speech, with its emphasis on manufacturing, was clearly aimed at Midwest swing states," Sracic said.

## Former and present deans collaborate on scholarship

Marissa McIntyre  
 ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

With the amount of money it takes to maintain his clarinet, freshman Josh Hill said he could use some help.

"Personally, as a clarinet player, we have reeds that can cost anywhere from \$25 to \$40," Hill said. A new mouthpiece can cost around \$300.

Hill and his classmates at the College of Fine and Performing Arts have inspired Dean Bryan DePoy to start a "unique" scholarship, known as the Reaching for Tomorrow's Stars award.

Students can use the scholarship toward their tuition, textbooks, instrument repairs, art supplies, technology expansions and any other financial burdens.

"We had no general umbrella scholarship," DePoy said. "This scholarship is a picture of what we are as an institution."

DePoy said the college wanted to attract the best and the brightest students to the institution, satisfy the staff by working with students and help students make progress in their degrees.

DePoy is working with two former Fine and Performing Arts deans, Joseph Edwards and George McCloud, to endow the scholarship.

Catherine Cala, interim chief development officer, is working with DePoy to develop the scholarship. She said the suggested level for starting an endowment is \$10,000. She said they have a goal of \$100,000.

"Most scholarships are made in memory of a loved one or started by individuals who hold a certain area of study in high esteem," Cala said.

In the case of the three deans, they see a need for the scholarship in their institution.

DePoy, Edwards and McCloud have provided \$10,000 to start the endowment. They plan on reaching out for donations to reach the \$100,000 goal. DePoy said he hopes that he can lead by example and encourage others to donate.

DePoy and Cala each said the scholarship is progressive.

"This is a scholarship students will be able to use throughout their academic career," Cala said.

SCHOLARSHIP PAGE 7



## Come and get it Athletics department to host rummage sale

Josh Medore  
REPORTER

The athletics department will host a rummage sale before Saturday's basketball doubleheader.

Fans will be able to buy authentic apparel from their favorite teams beginning at 3:30 p.m. and ending at either halftime or when apparel is sold out.

Rick Love, associate director of athletics, said fans would be able to buy items such as jerseys.

"We'll have things from football, soccer, volleyball, baseball and basketball," said Trevor Parks, YSU's sports information director. "The football jerseys won't be last year's. They'll be four or five years old."

Love and Parks said that every item would be reasonably priced, with most items be-

tween \$5 and \$10.

"We just want to give fans the opportunity to get gear from their teams," Love said.

All proceeds from the sale will go back to the athletics department. Last year's sale generated around \$1,000, Love said.

Parks added that the sale has been planned for the past few years.

Love said the sale takes place when apparel from the equipment room needs cleaned out.

"We held a sale last year, and we already need to make more room," Love said.

Both agreed that the rummage sale is all about the fans.

"It's a really neat thing to do. We've had a lot of fans for a long time. ... It's just neat to give them the chance to get authentic YSU team gear," Parks said.

"This is more about fans getting gear than anything," Love added.

## Campus Connection

In what ways do you recycle?



"I don't recycle, but my mom does. She reuses grocery bags when she goes shopping."

-Brandon Richards, freshman



"I put the bin out to the sidewalk when it's full. I also throw bottles in the bins on campus."

-Pano Tiliakos, junior

## Navy SEALs rescue 2 held captive in Somalia

McClatchy Newspapers  
(MCT)

American commandos dropped into Somalia on Tuesday night to rescue two aid workers who were held hostage, including an American, the Pentagon announced Wednesday.

The news of the raid came hours after President Barack Obama's State of the Union speech Tuesday night. While Obama made no mention of the rescue mission, he was seen telling Defense Secretary Leon Panetta before the speech, "Good job tonight."

Members of Navy SEAL Team 6 — the team that led the operation last May that killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan — were part of the mission, Pentagon officials said. Arriving by helicopter, the special forces troops killed nine Somali kidnappers. They then rescued the American woman and Danish man whom the Somalis had been holding since October.

The hostages, Jessica Buchanan, 32, and Poul Hagen Thisted, 60, were working for the Danish Demining Group, which clears land mines and unexploded munitions in conflict zones. Two truckloads of gunmen kidnapped them as they were en route to an airport in the central Somalia town of Galkayo on Oct. 25, the U.S. military said.

Pentagon officials said they thought the hostages had been held as part of a growing problem in Somalia of kidnapping for profit, not as an act of terrorism.

Somalia is also home to a violent Islamist insurgent group, al-Shabab, but U.S. officials said that group wasn't involved in the kidnapping.

Although the kidnappers were widely described as Somali pirates, the Defense Department referred to them as "criminal suspects."

"The United States will not tolerate the abduction of our people, and will spare no effort to secure the safety of our citizens and to bring their captors to justice," Obama said in a statement. "This is yet another message to the world that the United States of America will stand strongly against any threats to our people."

Last week, U.S. officials learned that Buchanan faced health issues, heightening urgency for a rescue mission.

"We wanted to act," Vice President Joe Biden told NBC News.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said that Obama decided to launch the raid about 9 p.m. Monday after a briefing from his counter-terrorism adviser, John Brennan. The president received updates throughout the day Tuesday and was told at 6:43 p.m. — about two hours before he was to give the State of the Union message — that the hostages were "safe and in U.S. hands," Carney said.

No Americans were harmed during the operation, the U.S. military said.

The news prompted Obama to congratulate Panetta as the president entered the House of Representatives chamber to deliver his speech Tuesday night,

Pentagon spokesman George Little said. That drew a broad grin from Panetta.

After the speech, the president called Buchanan's father.

"Thanks to the extraordinary courage and capabilities of our special operations forces, yesterday Jessica Buchanan was rescued and she is on her way home," Obama said in the statement. "As commander in chief, I could not be prouder of the troops who carried out this mission, and the dedicated professionals who supported their efforts."

Somalia has been without a functioning government for more than 20 years, and the central region, where Buchanan and Thisted were abducted, is a notorious haven for pirates and criminal gangs that have operated with impunity for years. The groups routinely target foreign aid workers and vessels for capture and reportedly earn millions in ransoms for their safe release.

"This is not a new problem, unfortunately, which is why we have to be vigilant and have to be prepared to do the kinds of operations like we saw last night," State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said.

The Danish Demining Group, a unit of the Danish Refugee Council, is one of the few international aid agencies operating amid Somalia's violence and lawlessness. In a statement on its website, the group, which has worked in Somalia since 1998, said that Buchanan and Thisted were "unharmful and at a safe location."

## Deluge of campaign ads, calls, mail engulfs Florida voters

McClatchy Newspapers  
(MCT)

The winner of Florida's bruising Republican presidential primary probably will be the candidate who uses traditional mass-marketing tools such as advertising, robo-calls and mailings most effectively.

The intimate town-hall meetings that marked campaigning in Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina have little impact in a state of 19 million people with 10 media markets and an electorate as diverse as the nation.

Florida is "not a state built for old-fashioned campaigning. It's built for a media campaign," said Aubrey Jewett, an associate professor of political science at the University of Central Florida.

"What works is an effective message, and there is evidence that an effective negative ad can move people more than a positive ad," said Stephen Craig, a professor and the director of the political campaigning program at the University of Florida.

Negative messages are everywhere. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney is running TV ads charging that former House Speaker Newt Gingrich "cashed in" on the nation's housing crisis, while his backers run ads saying Gingrich has "more baggage than the airlines." Gingrich supporters are firing back with robo-calls aimed at painting Romney as a moderate who once backed abortion rights.

Romney was the only candidate who was running ads in the state until this week. Since Gingrich won Saturday's South Carolina primary, however, the airwaves are filled with them.

"At this point you can't avoid them," said Susan MacManus, a professor of government at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

Former Pennsylvania U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum is virtually invisible on the airwaves, as is U.S. Rep. Ron Paul of Texas.

It's a two-candidate ad war. Accord-

ing to NBC/Smart Media Group Delta, which tracks ads, Florida spending so far includes: Romney, \$5.7 million; Restore Our Future, a pro-Romney "super" political action committee, \$8.7 million; Gingrich, \$145,000; Winning Our Future, a pro-Gingrich super PAC, \$1.8 million. Candidates and their campaigns are not permitted to have contact with super PACs, the independent groups that have mushroomed since a Supreme Court ruling in 2010 permitted corporations and others to donate and spend unlimited amounts on a candidate's behalf.

Winning Our Future, buoyed by donations from casino magnate Sheldon Adelson and his wife, Miriam, is expected to get another \$5 million from Miriam Adelson this week. It has run ads linking the 2010 federal health care plan, which Republicans tend to hate, to the 2006 Massachusetts plan that Romney signed into law.

MacManus sees a common denominator in the messages. "If you're not reaching someone with an economic message in Florida, you're not going to be effective," she said. "The economy is dominant; nothing else comes close, and it hasn't since 2008."

Yet voter anger at Washington is popular, too. "Gingrich is cleverly positioning himself as the guy who's going to take it to big government, big media," she said. "And Romney plays up the business experience."

Romney's camp promotes his resume as a former corporate executive and governor, and paints Gingrich as an unstable Washington influence peddler. One hard-hitting Romney ad — tailored for Florida — tries to link Gingrich to the housing crisis that's crippled the state's economy. It cites his consulting work for mortgage giant Freddie Mac, and notes that Gingrich once claimed that he was retained as "a historian."

"While Florida families lost everything in the housing crisis, Newt Gingrich cashed in," it says. The video

skeptically quotes Gingrich saying he was a "historian" for Freddie Mac. "A historian?" the narrator asks. "Really?"

It also notes that Gingrich was "sanctioned for ethics," a reference to his 1997 reprimand by the House of Representatives after he was accused of violating tax law and misleading the House Ethics Committee about it. He is the only speaker in history so sanctioned.

Another ad from Romney backers says Gingrich keeps admitting that he made mistakes in the past, and asks, "Haven't we had enough mistakes?"

Gingrich, who lacks Romney's money and organization, is slowly entering the media fray. He's been most fiercely engaged in a battle of Spanish-language ads.

Romney released his own Spanish-language radio attack ad Wednesday, saying "Gingrich profited from Freddie Mac, one of the reasons for the mortgage collapse that has caused so much damage in our community."

Robo-calls also are bombarding voters. Romney's backers have been reminding voters to vote early and telling them how. About 215,000 already have cast ballots.

Gingrich supporters call with the candidate's chief point: "Be on the lookout for moderate Mitt Romney.

He's desperate and armed with half-truths. Having lost twice, he'll say anything to cover his trail." It says that as Massachusetts governor, "Mitt was pro-choice, anti-gun and he nominated liberal judges."

It's hard to measure these messages' impact. Voters

often are reluctant to admit that such influences matter, but they do say the ads lead them to learn more.

Jane Wall, a Space Coast retiree, said she barely listened to the ads and did her own research. She visited the Holiday Inn Express in Cocoa on Wednesday afternoon to hear from Gingrich.

"I want to hear for myself what they're saying," she said.

In Orlando, when Venita Dimmick, a homemaker, saw Romney's ads about Gingrich and Freddie Mac, she said, "I did look into that. There was definitely a conflict of interest to do what he was doing." She's for Romney.

Bob Knoerzer, a Winter Springs computer consultant, found the messages helped create a positive image of Romney. "I like the family stuff, the American values," he said.

Spencer Meadows, an Orlando physical-therapist recruiter, appreciates knowing more about Gingrich's record. "People may not have known the things he did 20 years ago," he said.

So it appears that the messages are getting through. History shows time and again, said Sarah Rumpf, a conservative blogger and consultant, that "they get inside people's heads."

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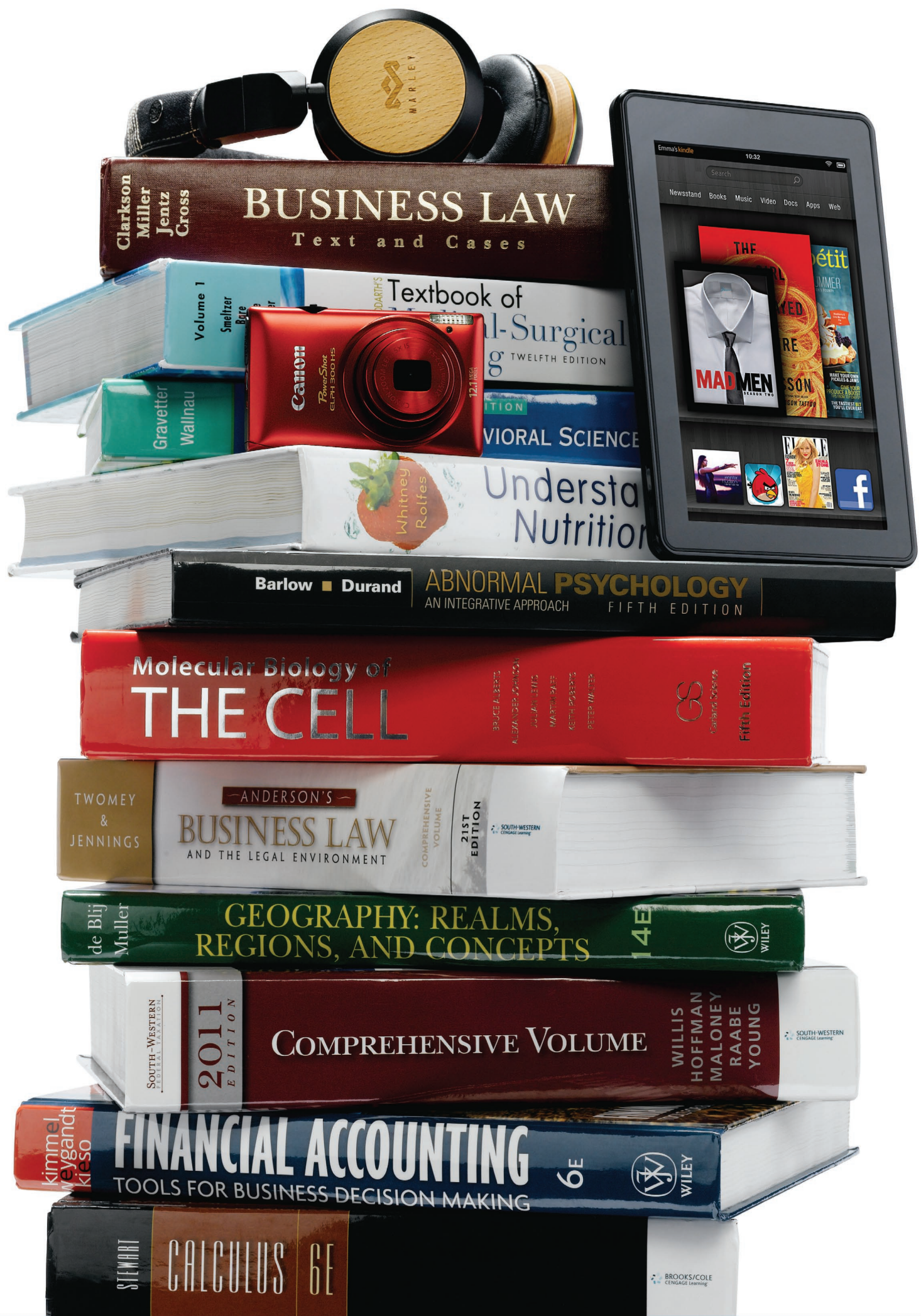
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**NEWS BRIEFS**

*Free noon concerts begin*

YSU's Dana School of Music and the Butler Institute of American Art are offering free Music at Noon concerts on Wednesdays until May 2. All concerts will be held in the museum at 12:15 p.m. and are open to the public with free parking available at the Butler. For more information, contact the Dana School of Music at 330-941-3636.

*Diversity awards deadline approaches*

Wednesday marks the deadline to make nominations that will be presented in March at the Diversity Leadership Recognition Celebration. Nominees should be leaders who have demonstrated a commitment to the promotion and engagement of race, ethnicity, religion, culture, gender, disability, language, sexual orientation and organizational membership. Categories are Leaders of Tomorrow, Campus Leadership and Community Leadership. Nominations can be completed online at [ysu.edu/div\\_ysu/](http://ysu.edu/div_ysu/). For more information, contact the YSU Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity at 330-941-3370.

**POLICE BRIEFS**

*Three books stolen from bookstore*

On Monday, a YSU Bookstore cashier observed a student putting a book inside of his jacket. When approached by campus police, the suspect turned away and headed toward Fifth Avenue. After crossing the street, the suspect stopped running and did not show his hands when asked. The officer placed the suspect on the grass and handcuffed him. As he was being handcuffed, three books fell out of his jacket. The suspect was charged with resisting arrest, theft and criminal trespass.

*Fire alarm goes off in Lyden*

On Sunday, a university police officer was dispatched to Lyden House after a fire alarm went off. Upon arriving, the officer spoke to the residents, who said they had accidentally set off the alarm by spraying Lysol. Maintenance reset the alarm.

*Student found with alcohol in Cafaro*

On Sunday morning, a resident assistant spotted a student pouring a bottle of liquor into cups. The RA immediately took the bottle and the student's YSU ID and called campus police. When police arrived, the student verified what had happened and voluntarily went with them to the YSU Police Department. The student was charged with underage possession of alcohol.



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**YSEARC PAGE 1**

rights and protecting the environment.

"A lot of my friends are vegans, and I am very interested in helping to protect the environment in any way possible," he said.

Geer said he expects to join the group at some point and wants to become actively involved in any volunteer opportunities that may arise.

YSEARC was originally founded in fall 2000 by then-student Dan Kuzma.

Kuzma, who now serves as the organization's adviser, also heads YSU's recycling program. He said he started YSEARC because he wanted to increase awareness of environmentalism and animal rights on campus.

He said he decided to become a vegan after conducting research and being shocked at the gruesome depictions of factory farms and their processes.

**'Sugar Babies' seek friendship ... and help with tuition**

*McClatchy Tribune*  
MCT

MIAMI — Let's face it: Getting a college education, even at an in-state public university, isn't as cheap as it used to be. Florida students are increasingly being forced to work long hours, or borrow substantially, to pay for their degrees.

There is another financing option out there, however. It's one that many find morally repugnant, but at least hundreds of Florida students are doing it, according to one website.

It's called "sugar" dating — instead of footing the bill for those credit hours yourself, you find a quite-wealthy, somewhat-older "Sugar Daddy" or "Sugar Mommy" who is interested in both dating you and giving you a monthly stipend. The arrangement typically involves a mature gentleman (who is sometimes married) and a younger woman.

"It's all about communicating up front about what you want out of a relationship, and what you expect out of the other person," said Brandon Wade, founder and CEO of SeekingArrangement.com, a leading sugar dating website.

Others call Wade's business nothing more than thinly veiled prostitution.

For the women on SeekingArrangement.com, what they're seeking is often dollar-specific: as much as \$10,000 a month, or more, to date a certain well-heeled man.

College students make up about 40 percent of the Sugar Babies on Wade's site, and when he compiled a list of the 20 colleges that represented the biggest source of signups in 2011, three Florida schools were among those to bask in this somewhat-dubious honor.

The University of South Florida led in-state schools at No. 7 (a total of 93 signups last year), followed by the University of Central Florida at No. 14 (67 signups) and South Florida's own Florida International University at No. 20 (59 signups). Administrators at all

three schools had no comment. New York University occupied the No. 1 spot.

Sugar Baby profiles on the website rarely, if ever, list a specific college or university, but a search for Miami-area college students turned up results ranging from racy to pseudo-romantic. One 22-year-old woman boasted "I love Victoria's Secret and you will love the way my body looks in it," while a 21-year-old wrote she was pursuing a master's degree followed by a doctorate, and was hoping for "travels, friendship and help with tuition."

Within the subculture of so-called "sugar" dating websites — and there are lots of them — SeekingArrangement.com is one of the best known. The site claims more than a million worldwide members and has been profiled by numerous national media outlets, including ABC's "20/20" earlier this month. As college students have become a larger share of its customer base, Wade stepped up his courtship of this demographic through targeted advertising and by tracking the number of users who join with college-based ".edu" email addresses.

It is from that email tracking that SeekingArrangement.com compiled its list of the schools with the most 2011 signups. Wade admits the list doesn't account for those students who join under their personal email address, such as a Gmail account. But Wade still calls the list a reliable barometer, as many college students in fact use their .edu email accounts because doing so grants them perks such as a free premium membership upgrade, and certification as a "College Sugar Baby" on their profile. Profiles with that official college certification receive three times as many inquiries, Wade says.

FIU students who were asked about their school's No. 20 ranking were uniformly dismissive of ever using that type of dating site, though some female students said income is usually — and appropriately — a factor when they are as-

sessing a dating partner.

"That reflects upon ambition, smarts ... you're looking for someone who's going to be stable," said Leyana Quintero, a 19-year-old international relations major.

Senior Yuleni Pulido, 24, agreed, while insisting that there's a huge difference between noticing what kind of car your guy drives and joining a "sugar" website.

"In a relationship, there's still feelings and emotions and integrity involved," Pulido said. Sugar dating, she said, seems "like a formal transaction."

Wade rejects the notion his website functions like a glorified escort service — escorts, in fact, are specifically barred from joining. A steady stream of prostitutes still try to become members anyway, however. Wade says about 10 to 20 escorts are removed daily.

Membership is strongest in big cities, as opposed to college towns, Wade said. Wade speculated this could be due to the higher cost of living in metropolitan areas, or the more-sizable supply of wealthy Sugar Daddies living there.

Andy Jeanthenor, who is finishing up his degree at FIU after attending Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, offered another theory. Seeing wealth, he said, makes people covet wealth.

In Tallahassee, Jeanthenor said most of his classmates were broke, and Mercedes-Benz sightings were rare. As a result, the big shots on campus weren't those with fat wallets, but folks like the class president, members of the right fraternity or players on the football team.

In Miami, he said, there's "that lure of money and fast cars and all that stuff." Though his major of computer engineering offers the promise of a healthy future salary, Jeanthenor wishes the women he dated cared less about his earning power and more about his personality.

"I guess it's just the society we live in now," Jeanthenor said. "The values are mixed up."

Send letters to: [thejambar@gmail.com](mailto:thejambar@gmail.com)

got an opinion?

**2012-2013 Financial Aid Awareness Week**

Stop by one of our tables for information on financial aid for the 2012-2013 academic year. The priority deadline to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on the Web and the YSU Institutional Aid Application is February 15, 2012.

The following is a list of places, dates and times when staff from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships will be available to distribute forms and answer questions:

Monday, January 23, 2012	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Tuesday, January 24, 2012	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Wednesday, January 25, 2012	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Thursday, January 26, 2012	10 a.m.-3 p.m.

\*\*All dates are in the Kilcawley Center-1st floor across from Candy Counter

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## A lame-duck government

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OBAMA PAGE 1

President Barack Obama received uncharacteristic ovations from Republican legislators, including Speaker of the House John Boehner, when emphasizing American ideals and national security, but the sticking points that may well determine his re-election in November are the economy and jobs.

While the president touts marginal gains in decreasing America's jobless rate, he failed to mention that we are far from where we were when he entered office in 2008.

Since then, the unemployment rate has jumped from 5 percent to 8.5 percent. In Obama's defense, the unemployment rate peaked at 10 percent in October, less than two years into his presidency, and has steadily — albeit slowly — declined since.

Nearly 2.4 million jobs have been added since unemployment peaked in 2009. But even the president admits that wages remain "stagnant." Aside from coveted gains in the automotive industry, the bottom has all but fallen out of the manufacturing base that supports a healthy GDP.

He may be on target to hit his modest 8 percent unemployment goal, but the recent demise of his jobs plan and narrowly avoiding a credit downgrade because of heated federal budget negotiations illustrate the difficulties he faces, and perhaps inspires, from his staunch partisan views.

The president calls for bills that he can sign immediately. He argues that much can be done in the turbulent political environment leading up to November. But the bills he hopes to see in the Oval Office lack support in the Republican-held House of Representatives, and he knows that.

As a politician, Obama played his cards masterfully on Tuesday night. He called for Congress to act. And any inaction will be seen as a political victory for Obama in the fall.

While the payroll tax cut extension is expected to garner bipartisan support, the same cannot be said for adjusting the capital gains tax and raising tax rates for millionaires.

As the election approaches, Obama will drift further toward his liberal base and further from making the compromises and agreements needed to foster legislation aimed at alleviating unemployment.

### JAMBAR POLICY

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 the first summer session. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. The first copy of The Jambar is free. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.

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### YOUR SIDE POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Email 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 are 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.

"MR. SPEAKER, MR. VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS AND FELLOW AMERICANS":

AS DICTATOR OF THE UNITED STATES, HERE ARE SOME NEW LAWS OF THE LAND WE SHALL ALL ABIDE BY...

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WILL NOW BE CALLED "KIELBASA PARADISE."

THE NEW FORM OF CURRENCY SHALL NOW BE POKEMON CARDS.

THE NEW NATIONAL ANTHEM IS NOW "SHE WOLF" BY SHAKIRA.

SUSPENDERS ARE NOW ILLEGAL IN 38 STATES.

FROM NOW ON, CATS WILL BE KNOWN AS BATS, AND BATS WILL BE KNOWN AS CATS.

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THE NATIONAL BIRD WILL NO LONGER BE THE BALD EAGLE, BUT THE PTERODACTYL.



Paris Chris

Cartoon by Paris Chrisopoulos/The Jambar.

## Not all jobs are equal

Los Angeles Times  
(MCT)

Politicians bickering over private equity's impact on jobs and how to bring down the high unemployment rate are entirely missing the point about the crisis facing working Americans. The predicament we face isn't simply that there are too few jobs; it's also that an increasing number of workers don't have the kind of job that can pay the bills.

While productivity has grown by more than 80 percent over the last 30 years, wages have effectively been flat for 80 percent of Americans. So, although we're making stuff faster and more efficiently, the benefits of that hard work have not trickled into the pockets of the people who do it.

Let's turn first to the intensifying debate over Mitt Romney's role as a private equity manager. It's of course ludicrous that Newt Gingrich and Rick Perry — two veteran advocates of a vehemently anti-union, free-market agenda that laid the foundation for the newly coined "vulture capitalism" — condemned those principles while campaigning in New Hampshire and South Carolina.

But equally absurd is Romney's defense that, at the end of the day, his company, Bain Capital, created more jobs than it destroyed. Even if he's telling the truth by some measures, the fact is that private equity buyouts often enrich those who arrange them by sharp cost-cutting, including dismantling pay and benefits for most of the workers who remain or new hires who join the more "efficient" enterprise. It's simple math: To service the huge debt taken on in virtually every buyout, workers take cuts. And the new jobs aren't necessarily a path to the American dream.

Take Staples, which Romney trumpets as one of his successes. The company certainly pays some of its employees well: Staples Chairman and Chief Executive Ronald L. Sargent received a to-

tal pay package of more than \$15 million in 2010. But jobs in retail — one of the fastest-growing job sectors in recent decades — tend to pay poorly, and Staples jobs don't seem to be an exception to that rule.

Although the company doesn't publish its wage scale, the website glassdoor.com, which allows workers to post their salaries anonymously to try to give a picture of wages at a company, suggests that the average Staples sales associate or EasyTech associate makes less than \$9 an hour. An employee working a 40-hour week, 52 weeks a year at that rate would make significantly less than the 2010 federal poverty level threshold for a family of four of \$22,314. So, although Romney likes to claim credit for creating jobs, he needs to be asked how many of those jobs were ones that allowed employees to make ends meet.

And even that question doesn't get at another issue: the number of jobs that were lost as the growth of Staples and similar companies drove mom-and-pop stationery shops and office supply stores across the country out of business.

Republicans, though, aren't alone in muddying the waters. A few days ago, the president held a political photo op, praising several companies for bringing back jobs from overseas: so-called in-sourcing. But he did not address two ugly truths — and the uninformed, lazy news media did not demand he do so.

First, companies are coming back to the United States because wages here are dropping, in real terms. At the same time, lower-wage corporate nirvanas such as China are no longer as cheap an alternative as they once were, partly because the sea of people who worked for next to nothing for so long have had enough and are rising up in protest.

Second, most of the jobs coming back are not high-wage, union jobs with full healthcare and pensions. In fact, with concerted efforts by Republican governors in the Midwest to eviscerate union

rights, times have never been better for corporate leaders seeking to lower labor costs. With labor costs in the U.S. dropping relative to those in the Third World, the president's offer of tax incentives to other companies that in-source is unnecessary. As Citizens for Tax Justice points out, using a 2007 Bush administration study, corporations based in the United States already have plenty of tax incentive to locate here because "the United States takes a below-average share of corporate income in taxes compared to other developed countries."

Recent conventional wisdom holds that the president's re-election chances may have slightly improved because the unemployment rate has inched down to 8.5 percent. But that is a deceptive number. The true unemployment rate is over 15 percent if you include what the Department of Labor calls "all persons marginally attached to the labor force, plus total employed part time for economic reasons." In English, that translates into people who want to work but are not looking right now along with people who don't have full-time work, many of whom would like to.

If you add those people to the people who have full-time work at or just above the minimum wage, at least 1 in 5 Americans — 30 million people — does not have a decent job. Which explains why, according to the Census Bureau, 46 million people — or about 15 percent of Americans — live in poverty, the highest percentage since 1993.

There is a serious discussion we need to have about American jobs that takes into account not just the quantity but also the quality. But that isn't a conversation leaders of either party are interested in having.

We need to face up to the reality that the economic principles that have been promoted for decades are an abject failure, at least if you measure success by whether people who work hard can support their families and make ends meet.

## Recess isn't the time to play

McClatchy-Tribune  
News Service  
(MCT)

How dare Republican senators criticize several critical recess appointments made recently by President Obama as being unconstitutional?

Where was their outrage when, for example, President George W. Bush ignored similar objections by Senate Democrats in 2005 and appointed firebrand conservative John R. Bolton ambassador to the United Nations.

Presidents of both party persuasions have been making recess appointments for centuries. The practice dates back to George Washington. Theodore Roosevelt once made 160 recess appointments in the moments between two sessions of Congress.

Bush made 171 recess appointments and President Bill Clinton made 139. That's what happens when you have Congresses so wound up in partisan combat that they ignore the right of a president

to choose philosophical companions in making administrative and judicial appointments.

One may argue over the proper process that should precede a recess appointment, but the Constitution clearly allows for them when necessary.

And necessity dictated Obama's appointments to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the National Labor Relations Board. Without these appointments, those agencies could not function at full power.

There was no quorum at the five-member NLRB, rendering it incapable of resolving disputes between unions and employers. The consumer bureau, created by Congress to prevent another financial collapse, needs a chief on board before it can regulate non-bank financial institutions, including payday lenders.

Recess appointments may last only until the Senate's next session, so Obama's appointments last week of Richard Cordray to head the CFPB and of Sharon Black, Terence Flynn, and Richard Griffin

to the NLRB will expire in 2013. Each nominee is well qualified, but the objections to their appointments have nothing to do with their credentials.

The challenges to their appointments are thinly veiled objections to the roles their agencies play. Republicans have been trying for months to reduce the CFPB's clout. Likewise, they would rather see the NLRB founder without a quorum than issue directives they describe as pro-union and antibusiness.

The critics are now taking issue with whether the Senate was actually in recess when Obama made the appointments on Jan. 4. Senators who didn't leave Washington for the holidays theatrically gavelled the Senate into session for a few minutes every few days. That same trick was used by the Democrats when Bush was president.

What a sorry state of affairs. No wonder Congress is held in such low esteem. Its partisans are all too willing to obstruct government to force their philosophical view. That agenda hardly benefits the bulk of Americans.



## 'Scarface on steroids' Spotlight Arena Theater presents 'Riff Raff'

Chelsea Telega

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Sophomore Breyton Stubbs and senior Cheney Morgan will be dealing with guns, drugs and hustlers this weekend.

Youngstown State University Theater's Blackbox Productions will perform Laurence Fishburne's drama "Riff Raff" in Bliss Hall's Spotlight Arena Theater from Thursday through Sunday.

The play illustrates two swindlers, Mike "20-20" and Billy "Torch," trying to run from local drug dealers. The brothers steal 3 kilograms of heroin and hide out in an apartment, plotting a good time to make their escape.

The language in the play is raw, boldly depicting life on the streets for urban hustlers in the '90s.

Morgan, who plays "Torch," said this is exactly what attracted him to the play.

"I decided to do this because it is completely different from anything I've ever done before," he said. "I've always played the real nice guy."

Senior William Grant is directing the play and said he chose it because it is applicable to the area.

"It represents part of the city for different reasons," Grant said. "It's supposed to represent what would happen if someone was in this kind of situation. It makes you ask, 'If you had to betray your best friend, would you do it?'"

Grant said this play is the first of its kind for YSU's theater department, and he hopes it produces a wholesome reaction.

"Nothing has come to this extent," Grant said. "We wanted the audience to experience it well before the play even starts. If we capture them in their seats, we'll definitely capture them on stage."

Because of the amount of foul language, Grant has con-

structed a nickname for the show.

"I always call it 'Scarface on steroids,'" Grant said. "I've heard the F-bomb dropped so many times in this play that it's like it blanks out itself now."

Stubbs said he "pre-warned" his family and friends about the graphic nature of the performance so they were prepared.

November's auditions attracted many newcomers to the theater department, including Stubbs.

"Riff Raff" will be Stubbs' first performance. His character, Mike "20-20," is one of the lead roles.

"My main reason for doing this is to learn about acting on stage and improve my skills within the craft," Stubbs said. "I want to bring my character to life because this isn't something that usually comes to YSU."

The artwork and backdrops for the show were constructed and decorated by YSU students, the theme of which was "fight for survival."

Junior Hector Gonzalez painted a scene that will be used throughout the play. The backdrop portrays a young man, holding a gun, fighting off a fictitious monster that is protruding from the wall.

"The characters are all monsters at some point; they're all a victim," Gonzalez said. "I was pretty much thinking that everyone in the play gets backed into a corner at some point."

Gonzalez said this was the first time he was approached to do art for a student production, but he would do it again because it was a lot of fun.

Grant said the painted phrase "increase the peace" most embodies the message of the play. Audience members see it as soon as they walk in the door.

The graffiti-filled wall showcases names of impactful people in the students'



In this scene from Laurence Fishburne's drama "Riff Raff," produced by Youngstown State University Theater's Blackbox Productions and opening Thursday, Anthony Genovese, Breyton Stubbs and Cheney Morgan portray a survival scene. Photo courtesy of Anna Marie Ruscitti.

lives. Jamail Johnson is also honored on the wall.

Johnson's life was taken on Feb. 6 during an off-campus shooting.

"I think it's a positive message. We're basically paying respects to not only him, but people we've loved and lost as well," Grant said.

Grant said theater helped him find his confidence.

"I wouldn't trade my experience here for anything," Grant said. "The theater department has saved my life. I could be working a 9-to-5 job. Being in this department is like a close-knit family."

Grant's hope is that everyone has a positive, life-changing experience.

"I think this play can reach out to any generation, but

the thing about theater is that you can't always expect to see 'Oklahoma,'" Grant said. "We wanted to go outside of the box with this play."

He said he wants people to know how much work the students put into the performance.

"We entertain people, and I consider it a blessing to be in this position," he said.

## Married accounting students put business to the test

Kacy Standohar

FEATURES EDITOR

For George and Jennifer Dimos, time management is crucial. Like most married couples, they've got bills to pay, a house to maintain and work to do.

But the Dimoses have added a little more to their plate: They own and manage Tanfastic Tanning Salon, which is located in Boardman at 813 Boardman Poland Road, while studying accounting at Youngstown State University.

George Dimos, 30, former owner and president of Elite Marketing Essentials Inc. in Howland, sold his company two years ago. He attends YSU in hopes of earning his bachelor's degree in accounting.

His wife Jennifer, 28, received her undergraduate degree in accounting at YSU in 2006 and has returned as a graduate student. She is also a corporate accountant at Stoneridge Inc. in Howland.

"We were looking for something to start up, and it was just the right time and the right place," George Dimos said.

He added that his wife previously managed a tanning salon and has the experience.

"We really complement each other and make a great team," he said. "She handles the accounting, and I deal with more of the logistics."

The Dimoses bought the tanning salon in November. Since taking over, business has been good.

"It was better than what we projected," George Dimos said. "The revenue



George Dimos assists customers while his wife, Jennifer Dimos, searches through the appointment book at Tanfastic Tanning Salon in Boardman. Photo by Kacy Standohar/The Jambar.

is up 50 percent from 2010."

Jennifer Dimos said the salon is receiving a lot of business despite the slower winter season. She added that their best season is usually spring or summer.

The couple said they altered the look of the salon because the interior was outdated.

"We wanted to make it more long term and upscale," George Dimos said. "But the prices have stayed the same, and we kept all of the staff on board."

The Dimoses said customer service and cleanliness are the salon's main priorities. They agreed that these two aspects help drive overall success.

"Our goal is to not only meet the customers' expectations but to exceed

them," he said.

YSU students can get a month membership for \$25 when they bring their YSU ID. The Dimoses will be passing out backstage passes for discounts on lotion and tanning packages in Kilcawley Center later in the semester.

They said they cater to students because they are students themselves.

"We understand wanting to prep for spring break, and we understand budgets," George Dimos said.

Tanfastic is also planning to open another location in a plaza on Boardman Canfield Road so customers can choose to tan at either or both locations.

The Ohio Small Business Develop-

ment Center at the Williamson College of Business Administration assisted the Dimoses in the development of their business.

SBDC graduate assistant Sarah Stafford said she and co-worker Danielle Sweat advised the couple with cash flow statements, press releases and news involvement.

Stafford added that the SBDC helped plan Tanfastic's grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on Dec. 13.

"We also generally work on marketing research, loan proposals and focus groups if a client needs a non-biased evaluation of their product," Stafford said.

The SBDC's services are open to the public and free for students. The startup seminar is the only service with a \$10 fee. However, the fee is waived for students.

Jennifer Dimos said the SBDC really helped her and her husband get started.

"It's definitely a challenge to balance everything. I try not to allow one thing interfere with another and focus on completing specific tasks for each hour of each day," George Dimos said.

He also said that being an accounting major makes the entire experience interesting.

"There are many things that are covered in class that are applicable to what I do every day with the business and vice versa," he said. "Having the business experience allows me the opportunity to better interpret some of the material we cover in class."

"We're really excited about this," Jennifer Dimos said.



**SCHOLARSHIP PAGE 1**

"It's also designed to retain and ensure they can progress in their degree programs," DePoy said.

DePoy said the scholarship would not be limited to only undergraduates.

"We're also hoping to use this as a tool to expand our graduate program," DePoy said.

Requirements for the scholarship include the student's pursuing of his degree under the disciplines contained within the college. The student must also be in good standing and show progress toward a degree.

DePoy said he hopes that the scholarship can be used as a recruitment tool as well.

"To bring in the best students, we often have to seek them out. The extra scholarship dollars could make a difference in their decision," DePoy said.

Junior Denny Monroe said he is excited that this scholarship will be used to bring in more passionate students.

"People often choose a path at college they're less passionate about," Monroe said.

He said he understands that as tuition increases, any financial burden that can be relieved from a student's pocketbook can be helpful.

The number of students who receive this scholarship, and the amount of money that will be paid out, will vary depending on the students who stay on track toward their degree and on the number of students being recruited.

"We need all the help we can get," said senior Matt Ohlin. "We not only have tuition and fees, but maintaining instruments is costly."

"I'm thankful to Joe and George for their willingness to finance and develop this scholarship with me," DePoy said.

# Netflix earnings beat dire predictions

L.A. Times  
MCT

LOS ANGELES — Netflix Inc. is headed back up again.

The Los Gatos, Calif.-based subscription video company on Wednesday reported better-than-expected earnings and a return to subscriber growth in the fourth quarter, beginning a promised turnaround after a dreadful third quarter, during which it lost subscribers and its stock price plummeted.

Investors were pleasantly surprised by the company's latest results, driving Netflix's stock up 13 percent in after-hours trading. Since the end of 2011, Netflix stock has been on an upswing, rising 37 percent to a closing price of \$95.04 on Wednesday. That's still far below its high of \$295.14 in July.

Net income was \$41 million, down 13 percent from a year earlier. Revenue rose 47 percent to \$876 million. Both were slightly higher than Wall Street analysts had expected.

Netflix added a total of 610,000 U.S. subscribers in the last three months of 2011, nearly making up for its loss of 800,000 in the third quarter. The company now has 24.4 million domestic customers.

From July through September, Netflix reeled from the negative public response to a surprise price increase and aborted plan to separate its DVD-by-mail business into a separate brand called Qwikster. The effects of those missteps seemed to wane by December, when Netflix said it "returned to strongly positive net streaming additions," driven by fewer cancellations than expected.

The company still added fewer subscribers than in the fourth quarter of 2010, when 2.7 million net new customers signed up. But in the current quarter, which will end March 31, Netflix Chief Executive Reed Hastings and Chief Financial Officer David Wells said they expect to match the company's performance in its streaming business during the same period last year by adding 1.7 million net subscribers.

Netflix expects to lose an additional 1.5 million DVD customers, however, after losing 2.76 million in the fourth quarter. The company also expects to continue seeing a migration of its customer base from DVDs-by-mail to digital streaming.

It added 380,000 customers in Canada and Latin America, where it operates streaming video businesses, bringing its total international customers to 1.86 million. In Latin America, where it launched in September, Netflix said it ended 2011 with about 500,000 subscribers. That's similar to the number it added in 2010 during its first four months in Canada, even though there are about four times as many households with broadband access in Latin America. Netflix attributed its problems there to a number of factors, including high piracy and low credit card usage online.

This month, Netflix launched its streaming service in Britain and Ireland. So far it is adding customers faster than during the first month in Canada, the company said.

In the current quarter, Netflix expects to report a net loss for the first time since 2005 because of its increased investments in content for its international services, particularly in Britain and Ireland. Hastings and Wells told investors the company will lose \$9 million to \$27 million on \$842 million to \$877 million in revenue.

Both are in line with analysts' expectations.

**CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF YOUNGSTOWN—ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, DIVISION OF WASTEWATER, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: \$61,179.82-65,535.08.** The Assistant Superintendent is responsible for supervising and coordinating the activities of plant operators, maintenance, and other personnel in accordance with general policies and guidelines established by the Superintendent on an around the clock basis and administering and reporting for the City's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS EXAMINATION AS ESTABLISHED BY THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN ARE AS FOLLOWS:** State of Ohio Class III Waste Water Operators certification is required. Applicants must be able to obtain a State of Ohio Class IV Waste Water Operators certification as issued by the OEPA within two (2) years of appointment. A minimum of fifteen (15) to twenty years (20) years experience in the operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment plants, pump stations, and sewer systems is desired. Voluntary Laboratory Analyst license Class IV is desired. Twenty years (20) of progressively responsible experience in the wastewater field with at least fifteen (15) at a management level is desirable. **EXAMINATION INFORMATION: TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE EVALUATION:** Applicant's grade will be determined based on Education and Experience found in the application and resume. Each applicant is required to submit a detailed resume of his/her education and experience at the time of filing application, supplemented by proof of educational attainments, training and experience (original transcripts required). All candidates for employment with the City of Youngstown must be a resident of Mahoning County or an Ohio County that is adjacent to Mahoning County at time of hire. Application must be made on the regular application form available at the Office of the Civil Service Commission, 26 S. Phelps Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor City Hall, Youngstown, Ohio. Applications will be accepted from 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 through 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 27, 2012. Applicant's applying for City Resident Bonus Credit must show proof of residency by providing the following: Driver's License, Bank Statements, Utility Bills, Mortgage Release/Lease, and/or Insurance Statements. In order to be considered applicants must submit four (4) different proofs of residency from one (1) year ago and four (4) current proofs of residency. **APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER 4:00 P.M. ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2012.**



Proverb of the Month: "Rising early makes the road short." Wolof proverb, Senegal

**Saturday, February 4**  
Noon-6:00 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center  
**THE AFRICAN MARKETPLACE**  
The Marketplace is one of the popular attractions of African American History Month at YSU. In the tradition of an African weekly market, vendors from the community and neighborhoods near and far beyond Ohio bring goods, artistic creations, clothing, books, jewelry and ancient artifacts from Africa and the African Diaspora. The festive and social atmosphere is enlivened by the music and dance performances of the versatile and dynamic Harambee Youth Group.

**Saturday, February 18**  
7:30 p.m. The Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center  
ENTERTAINMENT BY GROUP FROM NEW JERSEY  
**THE FACES OF BLACK HISTORY**  
The Prospect Theatrics of Newark, New Jersey is a drama group that has been performing all over the nation, bringing to life on stage the major contribution of African Americans to America from slavery to the first African American President of the United States. This live musical show salutes many well known celebrities, personalities and history makers in an entertaining and educational format for all ages. In an eclectic musical mix, this year's production includes tribute to Michael Jackson and a salute to the Tuskegee Airmen.

**Thursday, February 9**  
5:00 p.m. Reception, Bliss Hall Art Gallery  
6:00 p.m., Panel Discussion, The McDonough Museum of Art  
**RECEPTION AND PANEL DISCUSSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTIC DISPLAY THE ART OF LOUIS BURROUGHS**

**Tuesday, February 21**  
7:30 p.m. The Gallery Room, Kilcawley Center  
**LECTURE BY SHAWN WILLIAMS: "BLOGGING WHILE BLACK"**  
With the rise in visibility and popularity of a black presidential candidate in Barack Obama in 2008, African Americans learned quickly to communicate their concerns through blogging. Bloggers who were not used to seeing African American bloggers often misunderstood black bloggers' message, while others downplayed the significance or urgency of their concerns, while others perceived them as generally antagonistic. "Blogging While Black" conveys the experiences of the speaker and other online bloggers and provides tips for journalists who want to make inroads in their use of the social media. Shawn Williams is an outstanding journalist who has contributed to major newspapers around the country and participated in numerous bloggers' roundtable discussions. Williams is a graduate of Texas A&M University and a recipient of a President's Achievement Award for 1992-1996.

Louis Burroughs' art is motivated by current events and what he calls "the nation's obsession with religion, sports and global domination." Influenced by the paintings of Jean Michael Basquiat and Robert Colescott as well as the forms and shapes of African masks and sculptures, his art is rooted in the African American experience, dating from the sixteenth century to the present. The narrative represents the struggle of African Americans against oppression, servitude, subjugation and enslavement of any type.

**Saturday, February 11**  
11:00 a.m. St. Andrews A.M.E. Church, 521 Earle Avenue, Youngstown  
**AFRICAN FITNESS DANCE CLASS**  
Dance for a Cure is the initiative of Educare Group Inc., under the leadership of Ebony Bogan. Its goal is to raise awareness in the fight against breast cancer. Donations are \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth.

**Sunday, February 26**  
6:00 p.m. The Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center  
**AN EVENING OF GOSPEL JAZZ**  
The precious gems of jazz and gospel, both of which are profoundly rooted in the rich heritage of the African American cultural experience, have been around for a long time. Join us as we explore these rich traditions through some of our most gifted and talented YSU students—and a special guest to be revealed that evening. This event is free and open to the public.

**Monday, February 13**  
7:30 p.m. Jones Room, Kilcawley Center  
**KEYNOTE LECTURE BY HEIDI DURO: THE BIRACIAL/MIXED EXPERIENCE**  
Heidi W. Barrow is a New York Times best-selling author of The Girl Who Fell from the Sky, a coming of age story of a young, biracial girl growing up in the 1980s in Portland, Oregon. Based loosely upon elements of Duro's own life, the story has captivated readers across the nation, landing on the Indie Bestseller List and receiving an NAACP Image Award nomination. In 2008, The Girl Who Fell from the Sky received the Bellwether Prize for literature of social change. Ms. Duro is a graduate of Stanford University, Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism, and the Yale Law School. A book signing and reception will follow the lecture.

For more information contact the Africana Studies Program at 330-941-3097.



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# Student-athletes share HL honors



**Joe Catullo Jr.**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Men's basketball coach Jerry Slocum walked into Youngstown State University's Beeghly Center early Sunday morning. While he showed up in preparation for a conference clash against the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay that afternoon, he wasn't the only one in the building getting ready.

Slocum noticed the sound of a basketball hitting the Dom Rosselli Court over and over again. He walked through the gymnasium doors and witnessed junior guard Blake Allen shooting, dribbling and shooting some more.

Allen scored a career-high 27 points in a win over the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Friday. On Sunday evening, he led the Penguins with 16 points in a 30-point victory over the Phoenix.

Allen was rewarded for his 43-point weekend with the Horizon League Player of the Week title, the fourth YSU men's player to win the award this season.

Slocum said in a press conference on Monday that Allen has spent more time in the gym than has ever been asked of him.

"There is nobody in our program and nobody that I've coached that works harder than Blake," Slocum said. "I'm very happy for Blake because what you put in you take out in life, and that guy has put a lot into basketball."

During the press conference, Allen said with a huge smile that he was happier winning the two games.

"I'd take the two wins over any indi-

vidual accolade any day, but I think that just goes to speak for the depth that we have on our team," Allen said. "We have a lot of guys that can be really, really good on any given night."

Allen became the seventh YSU student-athlete to earn the HL award. Teammates senior Ashen Ward, junior Damian Eargle and senior DuShawn Brooks won the award in the previous weeks.

"I think it says a lot that we're getting the recognition from the league," Slocum said. "All four guys that have won it have all been deserving."

A voting panel determines the HL Player of the Week. Each team's sports information director selects one player from each sport.

Nomination deadlines are Mondays by 10 a.m. The award is based on an individual's performance during the week.

Ward won for the week of Jan. 2-8 after scoring 43 combined points that influenced two victories. Being a first-time winner, Ward said it was nice to see people notice his game.

"I never really felt my game was respected in the Horizon League, but to win player of the week, it means that people around the league really notice my game and the way I play it," Ward said.

Eargle won at the beginning of the season after compiling 20 points and 10 rebounds at Cleveland State University on Dec. 31. He also ranks first in the HL and fourth in the NCAA with 4.2 blocks per game.

Eargle said winning the award was a good feeling because he helped the Penguins snap a four-game losing streak.

"After that win, it seemed like we all grew together because they are one of the

best teams in this conference," Eargle said.

Brooks was the first men's player to win the award in late November.

He averaged 20.5 points per game from Nov. 28 to Dec. 4 on the road and made nine 3-point field goals as the Penguins defeated the University of Detroit Mercy but fell to Wright State University.

The two games helped Brooks break out of a 12-51 shooting performance through the first five games.

"It was exciting because before that week I was shooting the ball pretty badly, but I was playing well defensively," Brooks said. "Coming into that game, I was just more focused on trying to get my shots go in and not worry about anything else."

The only men's basketball player remaining is sophomore Kendrick Perry, who ranks fifth in the HL with 14.4 points, third with 4.3 assists and second with 2.2 steals per game.

Eargle, Brooks, Ward and Allen said they are not worried because his time will come.

"Obviously, he's been tremendous all year for us, and I wouldn't be surprised at all if he won it every weekend for the rest of the year," Allen said.

In women's basketball, sophomore Kenya Middlebrooks won for the week of Dec. 12 when she collected a career-high 27 points and scored 13 of the team's final 16 in a win at the University of Akron.

Middlebrooks said she doesn't think too much about it.

"The team just basically gave me the ball, and I just hit some crucial shots towards the end of the game," she said.

"Helping the team out is basically what it means."

Women's head coach Bob Boldon said he wants to postpone celebrations until the season's end so that the team won't be distracted, but he is happy nonetheless.

"For me, I'm just happy with the kids because you watch especially Ken put the work that she's put in," Boldon said. "To see a kid like that put in the work she's put in, you like to see them rewarded for their work."

The other women's basketball player to win an HL award this season is junior Brandi Brown with the conference pre-season player of the year.

"I think any of my teammates can be named player of the week," Middlebrooks said. "I think they're all great players in that sense."

Outside of basketball, three other YSU student-athletes won the award at one point or another this year.

Samantha Hamilton won for the week of Jan. 9 after placing first in the 3,000-meter run at the Akron Open. She finished with a time of 9:53.58, which is a school record.

Hamilton said the award is a way to identify an athlete's accomplishment.

"It recognizes the different accomplishments that all the runners do, and it's not always about who ran the best that week or who posted the fastest time," Hamilton said. "It's just a way to recognize, like, some of the better athletes like every week."

Senior diver Casey Hill leads all YSU weekly award winners with three. Freshman Ashley Dow also won the award this week alongside Allen.

## Women's tennis looks for improvement

**Nick Mancini**  
SPORTS REPORTER

Head women's tennis coach Mark Klysner said he is excited about getting his team back on the court after a "pretty good fall."

"We are a very young team and are still adapting," Klysner said. "The fall was a good indicator of what we needed to work on over the break."

The Penguins open the season Feb. 3 against Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

"We have a full slate of games in the spring, which is great," Klysner said. "I am very optimistic that we can have a good season."

Sophomores Carolyn Jesko and Gimena Puppo teamed up three times in doubles action in the fall, winning all three matches.

Jesko said the team had a productive winter.

"Coach had us do a lot of conditioning drills over the winter," Jesko said. "We just want to go into the spring and maintain what we built in the fall."

Klysner thinks the team will continue to build chemistry going into the spring and said everyone on the team has improved.

Puppo echoed Klysner's thoughts.

"We get along really well," she said. "We have been trying some new doubles partners and that has been going well."

Klysner is also looking for improvement from freshman Marta Burak, who was just 15 years old during the fall season.

"With Marta being so young her first year, I thought she did great in the fall and in the classroom," Klysner said. "To be



Sophomore Gimena Puppo practices at the tennis courts outside the WATTS, prepping for the spring season. Photo courtesy of YSU Sports Information.

able to adapt as a 15-year-old like that is great."

Jesko, who reached the doubles final with Burak at the Martha Thorn Invitational in Morgantown, W.Va., said the experience would help in the spring.

"We can learn from the fall," Jesko said. "It was our first time playing with Marta, and with the fall under our belt, I think that will be a lot of help."

Individual workouts were a part of winter break, and Puppo said those went well.

"We worked on our serves and hitting, things like that," Puppo said. "Just things to make us better."

Jesko also worked out a few kinks.

"For me, I worked on just hitting through the ball. That was a main focus of mine over the break," Jesko said.

Although the team is still very young, Puppo expects improvement.

"Hopefully we can get some more wins," she said. "If we can improve on some of the things from fall, I think we can do it."

Jesko thinks the team will be better as well and said it is ready for the season to start.

She is also looking forward to playing close to her hometown of Boardman.

"We are just excited for the season in general," Jesko said. "It will be nice to play at the Boardman Tennis Center. We can have some family and friends come watch."

Klysner said he won't put too much pressure on the team.

"This is kind of a rebuilding year since we are pretty young," Klysner said. "I would like us to focus on just getting better and uniting as a team."

## Second place in Penguins' sight

**Joe Catullo Jr.**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Cleveland State University will visit Youngstown for Saturday's clash at Beeghly Center, looking to avenge Youngstown State University's Dec. 31 victory.

The Vikings (17-4, 7-2) rank first in the Horizon League with Valparaiso University, while the Penguins (11-8, 6-3) share third with Butler University and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The Penguins defeated the Vikings, 73-67, on New Year's Eve and shot 58.1 percent from the field (50 percent from beyond the 3-point line).

Head coach Jerry Slocum said in a press conference on Monday that the Vikings have defensive wrinkles to smooth.

"We, offensively, up there put it on them pretty good," Slocum said. "I'm sure they're going to pick up their pressure on us. They're very, very good defensively."

The Vikings rank first in the conference allowing 59.6 points per game, first with 8.7 steals per game and third in defensive field goal percentage (42.6).

"It's going to be a war, point blank, period," said YSU junior point guard Blake Allen.

"We're going to have to compete for 40 minutes," added Allen, who was honored as this week's Horizon League Player of the Week. "We're going to have to be ready for their pressure, and I'm excited. I think we're going to be up for the task. We're just going to approach it like every other game."

Allen ranks first in the HL, shooting 46.3 percent from beyond the 3-point line, eighth with 13.6 points and ninth with 3.1 assists per game.

Before the win at CSU in

January, the Penguins were on a four-game losing streak. They have won five of their last seven since.

The two losses were at Valparaiso and Butler before returning home last week where they defeated Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay. Slocum said it went from a minor setback to a major comeback.

"Proud of the way our guys bounced back, proud of how hard they played [and] proud of how good our basketball IQ was," Slocum said.

The Penguins prepare for Saturday's game focused more on defense than offense. They rank sixth in the conference in scoring defense (64.9 points per game) and tied fifth in defensive field goal percentage (42.9 percent).

"I think the thing that's been great about the four conference games that we've played at home right now is that we've guarded really well, and we've done a great job defensively," Slocum said. "I think our defense has led to more productive offense."

The Penguins rank third in the HL, scoring 67.2 points per game, and first in 3-point percentage (39.2).

Slocum said his team has the conference's most unique starting five.

"We can put numerous guys on the floor, and it's shown that that's clearly one of our strengths," Slocum said. "I think you play to your strengths. This group's put in a lot of time shooting the basketball. It's been very consistent for us."

Slocum added that he's looking at Saturday's game and the HL standings. The top two teams ranked at the end of the season receive first-round byes.

"That's where our mind is," he said. "We've obviously beat them on their floor. It should be a fun night for the community. We're excited about it."