

# The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

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## YSUPD chief's career comes to an end

John Gocala, chief of Youngstown State University's police department, spent his last day on the job Tuesday. His career comes to an end after 40 years of service to the Youngstown area. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

Jordan D. Uhl  
NEWS EDITOR

Growing up, John Gocala idolized police officers. With a family in law enforcement, it's no surprise that he ended up following suit. Now, after a career of more than 40 years in the field, it's coming to a close.

Tuesday is Gocala's last day as head of the Youngstown State University Police Department.

"For the past few months, I've been kind of lost," Gocala said.

The bittersweet goodbye is dwarfed by the extensiveness of personal and professional accomplishments at both the YSU Police Department and the Youngstown Police Department, where he began his career.

Gocala began as a vice narcotics unit officer in 1971, where he combatted organized crime gambling rings, underage liquor sales and a city rife with prostitu-

tion. "It was exciting," Gocala said. "We brought down Mr. [Joey] Naples."

Gocala was recognized with officer of the year honors for the gambling ring bust.

A change in administration led him to the uniform division where he was promoted to sergeant.

"We'd drive around in the master cruiser, break up bar fights if people got rowdy," he said.

In 1980, Gocala was promoted to administrative aide to the police chief, where he oversaw the budget and the purchasing of police cruisers. He remained in the position until 1991.

"I knew I wouldn't get a chance [to be chief] in the city because I didn't live in the city," Gocala said.

It was then he applied for and was



CRETELLA

awarded the position of YSU Police Department chief.

The ensuing years weren't easy for the new chief. He dealt with limited space for his staff in the 2,400-square-foot Carriage House on Spring Street.

Shortly after his hiring, several members of his already small force faced retirement. He saw an opportunity for restructuring and reorganizing.

The excess funds from retiring lieutenants were used to hire more beat cops.

Soon after, the department found a new home on Fifth Avenue, across from the Mahoning County Jail. The station, once bleak, is furnished with state-of-the-art equipment that entices regional task forces to rent the department's

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Alumni, Greek  
Life recognized at  
Phantoms game

NEWS 2



Acta has  
Indians  
believing in 2012

SPORTS 8



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## STEM reaches out to Chaney High School

Marissa McIntyre  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Martin Abraham, dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, said that today's job market provides numerous job openings for STEM graduates — but that the community lacks the workforce to fill those positions.

With 11.3 percent of Youngstown's population holding a bachelor's degree in 2009, the city ranked last among 95 metropolitan areas in terms of higher education attainment, according to the Brookings Institution.

As a way to prepare students for skilled jobs, STEM has teamed up with Chaney High School and area employers to create the STEM Outreach Initiative.

AT&T has also partnered, putting a \$20,000 grant toward the initiative.

Abraham said high school students typically take only the required math and science courses and are not prepared when they get to college.

"Part of the challenge for us is to help the high school students become properly educated graduates so that when they come here we have properly educated freshmen," Abraham said.

The STEM Outreach Initiative would allow select students from Chaney to work with area employers during a summer internship program.

Sherri Hrusovski, coordinator of STEM student professional services, said students would be selected through an interview process.

The initiative would also help students build their resumes and develop interview skills.

"The idea is to give them full experience from beginning to end," Hrusovski said.

Abraham said STEM decided to collaborate with Chaney for three reasons: the school's curriculum, its location and the high percentage of underrepresented minorities in Youngstown.

"We want our best kids staying here," Abraham said.

The STEM Outreach Initiative is also a recruiting tool to attract more STEM students to

STEM PAGE 4



Thomas Felix, supervisor of SBM Site Services, cleans graffiti off of a restroom stall in DeBartolo Hall on Thursday. Photo by Christopher Kochera/The Jambar.

## Writing on the walls

YSU tries to keep restroom graffiti to a minimum

Christopher Kochera  
REPORTER

The phrase, "I left you a present," brands a restroom stall in DeBartolo Hall. An arrow underneath the phrase points to the toilet.

Phone numbers and vulgar phrases adorn the wall of the second-floor restroom.

Sophomore Rick Mercer has

noticed the graffiti and said it gives Youngstown State University a bad image.

"Honestly, you have nothing better to do with your time than write on walls while you're in the bathroom?" he said.

Thomas Felix, supervisor of Somers Building Maintenance Site Services, YSU's cleaning company, said that he's seen more restroom graffiti in DeBartolo Hall

than anywhere else on campus.

"This was [the] only place I've heard of the graffiti being vulgar," said SBM manager Jonathon Winston. "All the other buildings, we really haven't had many issues, and we're cleaning every night."

Winston and Felix notice more graffiti during winter.

"It got worse when it got cold-

GRAFFITI PAGE 4



YSU President Cynthia Anderson drops the opening puck alongside Zemgus Girgensons of Dubuque and Mike Ambrosia of Youngstown. The Phantoms won, 3-2, on YSU night. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

## Dropping the puck

### Alumni, Greek Life recognized at Phantoms game

Kevin Alquist  
NEWS REPORTER

Members of Greek Life at Youngstown State University were recognized at the drop of the puck at Friday night's Youngstown Phantoms game for their fundraising efforts.

About \$1,200 was raised from sales of \$10 Phantoms tickets, with \$5 from each ticket going to Greek Campus Life.

The money will primarily fund Greek Sing, which takes place on April 7.

"Greek Sing helps the Greek system not only financially, but it brings attention to the philanthropic efforts and positivity of the Greek system as well," said Miranda James, GCL co-chair and a member of

the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority.

YSU President Cynthia Anderson was present at the ceremonial puck drop alongside James and Michael Koziorynsky, GCL's other co-chair and member of Alpha Phi Delta fraternity.

"They continue to amaze me," Anderson said of their fundraising efforts. "They do so much good for the community and are phenomenal members of the YSU family."

Anderson said she noticed a lot of red and white in the stands and hopes to see the fundraiser become an annual event.

"I think our community really appreciates what these students do, and the number of participants increased significantly from last year," Anderson said.

Koziorynsky said he likes to see members of Greek Life out in the community.

"It's nice that YSU is so instrumental in the community at a place of business like the Covelli Centre that is a big part of the city of Youngstown," he said.

Alumni from the fraternities and sororities showed up to provide support for their fellow Greeks.

Sigma Tau Gamma alumnus Phil Rauscher said he was happy to see the university and Greek system supporting local groups like the Phantoms.

"Members of the Greek system already represent some of the best leaders that YSU has to offer," Rauscher said. "We should not just represent YSU, but the community as a whole."

Zeta Tau Alpha alumna Marissa Cullen, now attending graduate school for pharmaceutical studies, traveled back to Youngstown for the event.

"Events like these help to get more people involved and increase activity on campus," Cullen said.

## Penguin Productions planning ahead

Shannon Watson  
REPORTER

Wiz Khalifa appeared at the Covelli Centre in the fall, selling out all student tickets. Penguin Productions was the team that planned, advertised and created the show.

Penguin Productions is a student organization that helps create and organize shows for Youngstown State University and the community.

Student board members, like Erin Sendiak, are at the center of operations, for they oversee production of the shows, along with advisory help of department board members.

Sendiak, a marketing major, said organizing events and advertising for Penguin Productions may prove invaluable when looking for a job after college.

"It's a huge help to put on a resume that I've written contracts and marketed different bands," Sendiak said.

The volunteer-run organization is tuned in to the entertainment business.

"Everyone has a really good perspective of what is going on in the music industry," said adviser Mike McGiffin.

He compared the organization to an internship that provides hands-on experience.

"Everybody is really eager to learn in a very positive environment," McGiffin said.

Plans for the spring involve an event with a festival feel, albeit in a more intimate gathering spot.

Penguin Productions has its sights set on national acts, but hasn't released names yet.

Another event planned is May Day on May 3. This will be a large-scale event off campus.

Penguin Productions wants to cater to students' wants and welcomes their suggestions. Suggestions may be given via their Facebook page or their website, <http://www.penguinproductions.com>.

## Liberalism spreading among college freshmen, survey finds

Contra Costa Times  
(MCT)

Already inclined toward liberalism, college freshmen are leaning even farther left on key political issues, a nationwide survey of first-year students has found.

An all-time high of 71.3 percent of the new students support same-sex marriage, 6.4 percentage points higher than in 2009, according to the annual survey of more than 200,000 freshmen conducted by UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute.

Nearly 43 percent of conservative freshmen said gays and lesbians should be allowed to marry.

Opinions on abortion, marijuana legalization, immigration and affirmative action also grew more liberal in 2011, according to data released Wednesday. The 270-school survey — the country's largest sampling of college students — was first used in 1966.

"It's not so much that liberal students are becoming more liberal," said Linda DeAngelo, one of the report's authors. "It's that students who describe themselves as conservative are becoming more progressive."

A little more than 22 percent of respondents described themselves as conservative or "far right." About 30 percent said they were liberal or "far left," while 47.4 percent called themselves "middle of the road."

Despite the apparent liberalization, political advocates hoping to recruit students to their causes need to realize the survey is more reflective of young people's tolerance on social issues, not enthusiasm, said Ange-Marie Hancock, a political science professor at the University of Southern California.

"They're not like ATMs, where you can just withdraw their support," she said. "You have to cultivate them as voters."

Conservative students in the Bay Area said they weren't surprised by the shift to the left. In a region that gave birth to California's gay-marriage push, political views are not always black and white, students said.

"My time is spent more on fiscal issues," said Mark Luluan, a 24-year-old Cal State East Bay graduate student and chairman of the campus College Republicans chapter. "Over the past four years, we haven't really dealt with traditional socially conservative issues. Students are more concerned about

getting a job after graduation."

The same is true among San Jose State University conservatives, said 19-year-old sophomore Mark Williams, chairman of that school's College Republicans.

"I think the conservatives in our club are not as focused on social issues," he said. "We're not really for or against" same-sex marriage.

At the University of California, Berkeley, where liberal politics have long been the cultural norm, several students said Wednesday they rarely discuss politics with their peers and they rarely come across students who are outwardly conservative.

But being conservative would not earn a Cal student a scarlet letter, said 18-year-old freshman Alex Mangels.

"I don't think being conservative would be a huge problem," said Mangels, who said he did not yet know how to describe his political beliefs. "They're not going to hate you for it."

The survey also revealed that alcohol consumption dropped to an all-time low in 2011, with 35.4 percent saying they drank beer as high school seniors.

Just less than 58 percent of respondents said they were attending their first-choice college — the lowest number since 1974 — and more high school students took advanced-placement courses and studied longer than in the past.

"I think high school students are stressed about getting into college," said DeAngelo, of UCLA. "There's an increased pressure to perform."

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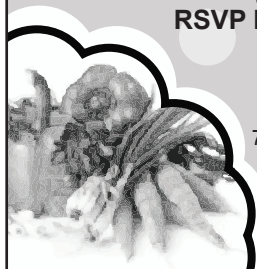
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## NEWS BRIEFS

## WCBA offers free tax prep

The Lariccia School of Accounting & Finance in the Williamson College of Business Administration, along with trained business students and professional volunteers, will once again offer free tax preparation services through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. VITA will begin on Saturday and run through April 7; the program will be held in computer labs on the first floor of Williamson Hall. Walk-ins are welcome, but to set up an appointment, or to receive additional information, call 330-941-3084. Taxpayers should bring wage and earnings statements (Form W-2) from all employers, interest statements from banks (Forms 1099), a copy of last year's tax return if available and other relevant information about income and expenses. VITA is offered Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Feb. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Feb. 13 from 3:30 to 6 p.m., Feb. 19 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Feb. 25 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Feb. 28 from 3:30 to 6 p.m., March 3 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., March 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., March 20 from 3:30 to 6 p.m., March 24 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., March 31 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and April 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Convicted felon to speak on campus

The Williamson College of Business Administration has planned a lecture from Sam Antar, a convicted felon who was a former certified public accountant and the former chief financial officer of Crazy Eddie. Antar will present "Lessons about White-Collar Crime from a Master Criminal" at 7:30 a.m. on Friday in Rooms 3422 and 3423 of Williamson Hall. The presentation is free and open to the public. To make reservations, visit <http://www.yzu.edu/wcba> and use the Williamson Symposium link. Alternatively, call Christine Shelton at 330-941-3068. Antar will speak again at 12:30 p.m. as part of an Ethics Conference presented by the WCBA. This presentation is open only to YSU students.

## McDonough welcomes artist's lecture

Hasan Elahi, an associate professor of art at the University of Maryland, will present a free lecture on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the McDonough Museum of Art. The lecture will focus on his work, which examines issues of surveillance and simulated time. Elahi gained fame after he was mistakenly added to the federal government's watch list in 2002 and detained. Elahi responded by posting thousands of photographs of his life.

## POLICE BRIEFS

## Police stop man without license

On Thursday evening, YSU Police stopped a 19-year-old male driving a maroon car on Lincoln Avenue after running the vehicle's plates and discovering an Ohio registration that expired on Jan. 5. Police stopped the car on University Plaza near Kilcawley House and discovered that the driver didn't have a license. The vehicle was towed for safekeeping.

## Two students report chest pains

On Thursday at 11:47 a.m., a university police officer reported to the Student Health Clinic in response to a student who claimed to be having difficulty breathing and experiencing chest pains. An ambulance arrived, ran tests and stabilized the student, who was transported to St. Elizabeth Health Center for further evaluation. About two hours later, the same YSU police officer was called to Cushwa Hall in response to another student having chest pains. An ambulance arrived and transported him to St. Elizabeth Health Center.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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## STEM PAGE 1

Youngstown State University.

Hrusovski said that if students complete the program and decide to further their education at YSU, a scholarship would be available.

Abraham said the initiative would also help boost the university's student population of minorities and first-generation college students.

"The intent is to give them real work experience and give them an idea of what type of jobs are available," Abraham said.

Abraham said he hopes that the program will become self-sustaining and be able to reach out to more high schools.

"There are high school students out there who may think, 'Well, I could be an engineer, or I could be a nurse,' and we hope that this opportunity could show these students what opportunities are out there," he said. "We want them to understand that it's a lot of hard mental work."

Hrusovski said the interview process will begin in the near future.

She added that YSU students will have the opportunity to tutor and mentor the Chaney students involved with the initiative.

"I think this program will do a lot for the students who want to learn," Hrusovski said. "I believe that especially in college we should be learning something new every day."

## GOCALA PAGE 1

training room.

The facilities have drawn highly trained police enforcement counterparts from across the country, including the FBI.

"His knowledge and contacts in law enforcement field have made our jobs a lot easier," Lt. Michael Cretella of the YSU Police Department said. "It's offered [the officers] an opportunity to attend a lot more training."

Gocala was more proud of the fact that all the upgrades were funded by drug forfeiture money.

"The dopers lost their money, and we used it," Gocala said.

But Gocala's biggest challenge is combating Youngstown's bleak reputation, one besieged by high

crime rates. He met this obstacle with rigid ferocity.

Campus crime statistics indicate that violent crimes have declined over the past five years, with theft the only remaining nuisance.

"The biggest problem is opportunity theft," Gocala said, adding that students leaving backpacks or laptops unattended cultivate an environment for thieves to thrive.

Larceny and theft numbers remain high, but motor vehicle theft has decreased, with only one car stolen in 2010.

Gocala said he feels a greater police presence on campus wards off potential criminals, and Cretella said he believes this was one of Gocala's greatest contributions to the station.

"[He's increased] the number of officers we currently have, increased the size of the department," Cretella said. "It's an overall benefit to the department and the university."

Cretella will serve as interim chief while a committee continues to search for a replacement. As the next highest-ranking official in the department, some would assume Cretella was poised to take the position full time.

"I didn't even apply," Cretella said. "I'm only going to be here so much longer. You have to think what's in the best interest for the station."

Ron Cole, director of university communications, said a replacement will likely be named in the next four to six weeks.

## GRAFFITI PAGE 1

er," Winston said. "I think it's because more people are hanging out inside."

Student Government Association President Elyse Gessler said that restroom graffiti is an unsightly distraction for anyone on campus.

"It's a shame," she said. "DeBartolo has a lot of history because of its age. For someone to do something like that to a great university like YSU speaks volumes about that person's character."

Lt. Michael Cretella of the YSU Police Department said there have been situations in which campus police have been called because of restroom graffiti.

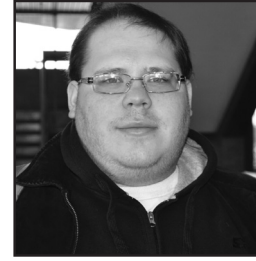
"We want to see what it is," he said. "If we feel that it is something that may be gang related or criminally related, we contact the appropriate agency."

Removing the markings quickly will help to keep the campus clean, Cretella said.

"We want to get it removed as soon as possible," he said. "If you remove it, eventually people will get the hint that it's not going to last,

## Campus Connection

What's the weirdest graffiti you've seen in the DeBartolo Hall restrooms?



"It was a combination of two of them. The Crookit symbol that's everywhere, and under it, it said, 'Sucks like a newborn.'" — Chuck Wilfong, senior



"I've seen someone doing derivatives before. Or homework help." — Anthony Ly, junior

and they'll stop doing it."

Cretella said individuals who deface campus property will face charges.

"They're getting arrested," he said. "There's no slap on the wrist. The message we're trying to get across is that that behavior is not tolerated on this campus."

Perpetrators can be charged with destruction of

university property, resulting in a referral to the university judicial system.

Gessler encourages students to report any graffiti on campus to janitorial services or building maintenance. Cleaning staff checks the restrooms for graffiti nightly.

"We want to encourage students to take pride in and respect our campus," she said.

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## California community colleges prepare to ration their offerings

McClatchy Tribune  
MCT

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Now in his third year at Yuba College, a year he once hoped to spend in Chico or Davis, Robert Bond said every student he knows has struggled to get the classes they need.

"My first semester here, no math classes were open, so I couldn't get a math class," Bond, 20, lamented on the Yuba campus quad, decked in a sweatshirt and shorts on an unseasonably warm afternoon. "Basically it took me two years until I could get a math class, college-level Math 52. So I'm like way behind."

Faced with state budget cuts since the recession — annual funding is now 12 percent below its 2008-09 high-water mark — community colleges have pared back course offerings. Yet demand remains sky high as costs at four-year universities shoot upward and unemployed Californians seek retraining.

Community college leaders say it has become necessary to ration classroom seats like water in a drought. They plan to impose statewide rules that prioritize students working toward a degree, certificate or basic academic skills. To meet that end, students who make little progress or take classes for enrichment purposes will move to the back of the line.

The hope, says California Community Colleges Chan-

cellor Jack Scott, is that new students won't get locked out. State leaders want to increase the percentage of students who graduate or transfer to universities, which suffers when students can't register for classes.

"It was never my wish to ration attendance at community colleges, but this was forced upon us by the very severe budget cuts," Scott said. "The reality is, we just can't offer everything to everybody."

State lawmakers two years ago required the California Community Colleges to address low completion rates, and the colleges' Board of Governors this month approved a 22-point Student Success Task Force plan. Lawmakers will evaluate the proposal Wednesday, some aspects of which could be in place this fall.

Estimates on community college completion differ. A 2007 study by Sacramento State's Institute for Higher Education Leadership & Policy (IHELP) found that less than 25 percent of degree-seekers completed a transfer, degree or certificate within six years. The task force said 53.6 percent of degree-seeking students ever achieve at least one of those goals, a figure it called "a cause of concern."

Besides prioritizing access for degree-minded students, some of the changes include designing a uniform diagnostic test across all 112 campuses, working with K-12 schools to improve college prepara-

tion, restricting fee waivers, and requiring students to declare a program of study early on.

In the Sacramento region, the Los Rios Community College District has reduced its course schedule by 8.5 percent over the last three years, said Chancellor Brice Harris. "Higher education in American has protected for a long time the idea that students ought to be able to experiment until they find out what they want to be," Harris said. "Now when you get into rationing, we want to give you some opportunity to try things, but we also want you to set a goal, complete it and move on."

When students can't get the classes they need, they may register for courses of little use to them. Some do so because they know the registration system rewards students who accumulate units.

"Rationing has gotten so bad that a lot of students are taking classes right now solely to gather units to advance in priority registration," said Scott Lay, president and CEO of the Community College League of California. "They know the system, and have no better choice. It's irrational rationing."

Despite recent fee hikes, the state's community colleges remain among the nation's most affordable and have prided themselves on offering open access. The system serves 2.5 million students,

down from 2.7 million three years ago as campuses have cut back.

The proposed changes have raised questions of fairness and sparked debate about what role community colleges should play.

Besides serving degree-seeking students, the colleges help students catch up on remedial skills they never attained in high school. More than 7 in 10 students are underprepared for college-level work, according to the task force report.

While the plan includes ways to help those students, some may also be at greatest risk under the plan.

Karen Saginor, president of the Academic Senate at City College of San Francisco and a vocal critic, said it is more difficult for low-income students to navigate the higher education maze. Those who don't commit to a program of study — akin to a major — or take too many units without graduating would lose registration priority and fee waivers. At the same time, colleges have cut counselors that could help those students stay on track.

Saginor also said the plan ignores students who may benefit without a degree or certificate: "They're here to learn some specific things, then go out into the workforce and get a job. This system doesn't have them in mind and doesn't count them as successes."

## Talk is cheap

The Jambar  
EDITORIAL BOARD

The state's 2011 fiscal budgets, as reported by the National Association of State Budget Officers, ranks Ohio at 44th in higher education expenses. Only six states spend less on education as a percentage of their total expenses.

Less than 3 percent of the federal budget is dedicated to education, of which student financial aid for college is 0.58 percent, according to the White House's website.

And the future looks bleak for the country's college-going students who racked up \$100 billion in student loans last year and surpassed national credit card debt for the first time ever.

Outstanding student loan debt totaled \$975,733,341 ... as of 7:43 p.m. Monday.

So President Barack Obama's call to increase Perkins loans from \$1 trillion to \$8 trillion annually was welcomed with wary ears.

Increasing student loans is as good of an idea as engineering subprime mortgages. We need grants and scholarships, not a longer rope.

In a polarized election year, we wonder how much of this sympathy for college students is merely hot air and rhetoric. We'll hear a lot of promises in the next 10 months, but none should be taken for granted.

As part of the "blueprint" that Obama laid out in the State of the Union address, Pell grants would increase from \$5,500 to \$5,975 by 2013 and remain locked in at that amount until 2017.

Yet we remember only last year when the Pell grant was cut in half.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money has run dry, and state contributions aren't far behind.

The bottom line: The money they promise today won't be there tomorrow. We'll see austerity measures in the next four years, regardless of who wins the election.

After a few jokes about meeting Denard Robinson in the president's address at the University of Michigan on Friday, Obama said, "College is the single most important investment you can make in your future."

He failed to mention that it's also the most costly.

He went on to say how "proud" he was that we are making that investment.

Well, we'll be proud when he keeps his promises.

### 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.

### OUR SIDE POLICY

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



Jordan D. Uhl  
NEWS EDITOR

You know, four years ago, when President Barack Obama hadn't even been elected yet, let alone earned the nod from the Democratic Party to run for president. He was still in a heated contest with Hillary Clinton.

Regardless of the facts, Republican nominee hopefuls are already using this in their group effort to beat Obama in November.

Poor approval ratings, high unemployment numbers and adding on to the national debt are all used as campaign fodder against the president.

But since they're asking, let's evaluate.

George W. Bush's approval rating for January 2008 was 34 percent, according to a Gallup Poll.

During that same time frame in 2012, Obama sits at 45 percent.

Bush's average approval rating is skewed by a 40 percent spike the week after 9/11. This wasn't because of anything he did; it was just human nature.

"Since we don't have king or an emperor, presidents fill in when needed in

the role of national leader," said Paul Sracic, chairman of the political science department at Youngstown State University. "So when we perceived that we are being attacked as a people, our natural inclination is to rally to our country's defense. The only person capable of leading us is the president."

The financial crisis struck large in October 2008, just a month before the election.

At the end of the month, Bush's approval rating was an embarrassing 25 percent.

Republicans can point to low unemployment rates under Bush, but close scrutiny exposes the truth.

In October 2006, the national unemployment rate was 4.4 percent. It bounced between 4 percent and 5 percent before preliminary signs of the economic downturn began raising levels to around 6 percent in early 2008. By October, the levels began rising rapidly, going from 6.8 to 7.8 in January 2009.

Bush somehow evades blame for the 56 percent unemployment spike over his final two years.

While unemployment is higher today than it was in early 2008, it has been

trending downward. New unemployment applications, too, have been decreasing, with January's numbers being the lowest since April 2008.

Obama can do only so much with the feeble hand he's been dealt. Republican opposition has been more than just a hindrance; it's been a two-year roadblock.

Meanwhile, Bush's dismal legacy seems to be escaping the criticism and blame it deserves, with Obama inheriting it. Exiting office, he received the second lowest approval rating since polls of the type were composed.

Now, consider this: If your parents rack up thousands of dollars of debt throughout their lives, then pass away, should you be held at fault? Not only that, but would it be fair if you were immediately labeled a "failure" for not instantaneously paying off their bills, which matched or exceeded your annual salary?

Gross domestic product in 2011 was roughly \$14.5 trillion. Did critics really expect the Obama administration to forego all mandated expenses and commit it all to economic recovery? Even those to the far left can agree some defense spending is necessary.

A stimulus package, albeit exorbitant and disproportionately appropriated, was a modest assuagement.

Two wars, unemployment spikes created by the financial crisis and the housing bubble burst created a need for government spending.

Bush also perpetuated spending for wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, one of which Obama was just recently able to sever from next year's budget.

Bush, on the other hand, inherited a \$128.2 billion surplus from Clinton's term, then turned it into a \$458.6 billion deficit by the time he exited office.

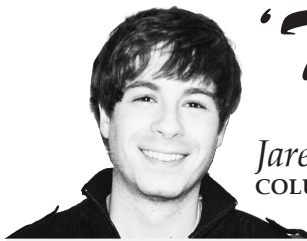
Now I'm not an Obama apologist, but, similar to credit, blame is owed where it's due.

Bush cut the red tape allowing for risky banking practices and initiated the foolish spending, and the banking executives awarded the bonuses with their recovery funds. While Obama has perpetuated the spending, a great deal of it went to salvaging the economy.

While it appears we are worse off now when strictly looking at numbers, they are deceptive. Charts and graphs mask the explanation. Don't fall prey to the politicians' snare.



Cartoon by Paris Chrisopoulos/The Jambar.



Jared Buker  
COLUMNIST

## 'The Big Picture'

### Why college students should support Obama

Until now, I have never used my column as a haven for my own political interpretations.

But the State of the Union address last week changed my mind. I believe those who watched it witnessed one of the best speeches ever delivered by the best speaker of our lifetime.

He ended his speech by saying: "Each time I look at that flag, I'm reminded that our destiny is stitched together like those 50 stars and those 13 stripes. No one built this country on their own. This nation is great because we built it together. As long as we're joined in common purpose, as long as we maintain our common resolve, our journey moves forward, our future is hopeful, and the state of our union will always be strong."

Teleprompter or not, Barack Obama's speaking skills are outweighed only by his ability to hire speechwriters. And impressionable college students looking to sink their teeth into politics have a leader who can inspire them with words.

And, as college students, I think we have a lot to be thankful for with the Obama administration at the helm.

He encouraged postsecondary education by simplifying the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. Now, the application requires only the information that the IRS asks for when citizens file taxes, effectively eliminating 20 financial questions.

Also, questions about our parents' finances were cut for students 24 or married, and questions about selective service were eliminated for males over the age of 26.

As someone who filled those forms out before and after the Obama overhaul of FAFSA, I can tell you the difference is night and day.

He eased the burden of student loans by lowering payments from 15 to 10 percent of the borrower's discretionary income.

That plan will make some of us eligible for loan forgiveness 25 years from now. It is a step toward young people viewing their futures in terms of what they really want

to do and not just how much it will set them back financially.

He is the reason students can remain under their parents' health insurance until the age of 26, when previously children as young as 19 could be removed from their parents' coverage.

Obama stated in his State of the Union address that, in the last 22 months, businesses have created around 3 million jobs, a majority of which are not low-level retail jobs, as many skeptics tend to suggest.

Obama offered tax breaks for small businesses to offer every employee health insurance and enacted penalties for large companies who don't offer it. Either way, we can feel medically secure in a job market that will certainly prove to be dog-eat-dog for us.

He also described in his speech a "blueprint for an America built to last." In it, he hopes to create more construction and manufacturing jobs for Americans who desperately need them, as well as save companies as much as \$10 billion a year on lower energy bills.

I know I want my children, and my children's children, to grow up in a cleaner world.

Senior Alex Neville is a staunch liberal who agrees that Obama is on the side of the college student.

"[Obama] has done more for college students than anyone," he said. "He's making investments for colleges to do research and then rewarding those colleges who make breakthroughs, and he is promoting a tax deduction for college students to help them out. I don't see how a college student wouldn't support Obama."

But sophomore Evan Beil said he feels our country is headed in a "scary" direction, though he says it isn't entirely Obama's fault.

"Barack Obama does remain extremely popular among college students. He's a younger president, a smooth talker, he plays basketball, hangs out with celebrities and by some accounts is a pretty handsome guy," Beil said. "Sure, I'm a Republican, but I'd rather drink a beer with Obama than with Mitt Romney any day."

That said, Beil is not a fan of Obama's policies, saying he has "sidestepped" the U.S. Constitution on multiple occasions.

"Putting a program that gives students the opportunity to take out federally subsidized loans sounds great at face value," he said. "However, nothing is being done to reign in the cost of tuition nationwide."

Obama addressed that issue during his speech, saying, "If you can't stop tuition from going up, the funding you get from taxpayers will go down."

Considering he has already done so much in terms of concrete policy change within the college environment, I believe his threats to cut federal funding for colleges who elevate tuition should be taken very seriously.

Paul Sracic, chairman of the political science department at YSU, said the approval of college students could go both ways.

"The president clearly said some things about college education that I believe college students should be interested in," he said. "But college is also a time where students look into their future, so are they worried about the debt?"

We should be afraid of the debt; it will prove cumbersome for us as we enter the real world and face very high tax rates.

But those high rates will not only help us bounce back from the current financial crisis, but they will also help millions of Americans in need.

Will it cost those of us living comfortably a little money? Sure. But college is also the time where we all manifest our goals and dig deep down inside ourselves to find what it takes to achieve them.

Before you decide that helping struggling Americans is not on your list of ideals — that this country should continue to consist of haves and have-nots — reread the quote above from the State of the Union address.

If his words don't trigger your sense of compassion and responsibility for others, then nothing will.

Students: Remember this when you vote in November.

## Are you better off than you were four years ago?

## The men behind women's basketball

Steve Wilaj  
REPORTER

When assistant women's basketball coach John Cullen sought to improve on last year's 6-24 season, he thought of the challenges he faced while coaching boys basketball at Canfield High School for 28 years.

Cullen tracked down three male players to join the women.

They don't suit up on game days, but they may be an integral part of the team's success this season. Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday afternoon, Anthony DeFelice, Eduardo Mateo and Zach Matisi match up against the women's basketball team at Beeghly Center, helping the women prepare for their upcoming opponents.

At Poland Seminary High School, DeFelice was a standout guard who went on to play basketball for Westminster College. Mateo played for Hickory High School in Pennsylvania, while Matisi battled in the low post for Lowellville High School.

Described by head coach Bob Boldon as "a great group of guys," each player possesses certain skills and characteristics that intrigued the coaching staff.

"We had some criteria that we were looking for, and these guys fit that criteria," Boldon said. "It wasn't just whoever wants to do it. We went through a process."

The process has produced three talented Youngstown State University students on the scout team whose basketball abilities challenge the women.

"They can do things that



Eduardo Mateo defends Penguins guard Kenya Middlebrooks as she dribbles up court during a practice inside Beeghly Center. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

our players cannot do," Boldon said. "Yet it's things we have to guard on Thursdays and Saturdays. I think they're a big help."

Senior guard Kenya Middlebrooks agrees with Boldon's assessment.

"Their skill level is great," she said. "They're above to what we're playing as far as women. They're a lot quicker and faster, and they can jump a lot higher than what the women do."

Mateo said he realizes what he's able to bring to the women's team.

"I'm not saying I'm the greatest basketball player, but I'm a lot taller than anyone else," Mateo said. "If I wasn't

there, they wouldn't be able to get that test of playing against someone taller. And the other two guys bring their own aspect. I'm sure the girls practicing with someone who brings these different abilities helps them out."

Boldon said that while the Penguins run an offense distinctive to the rest of the Horizon League, he doesn't have to waste time teaching his players an opponent's offense they'd never use.

"Our offense is very unique," Boldon said. "It would be a waste of time to teach our kids an offense we have to prepare for because they do things we do not. In particular, teams

that ball screen, we don't ball screen. Teams that have a low post game, we don't throw it in the low post. Most of our play is on the perimeter."

A typical practice begins with the scout team being taken aside and having their roles explained to them by the coaches. Each player is told exactly what kind of skills to possess and the type of tendencies to perform.

"Sometimes they're drivers; sometimes they're shooters. We'll ask them to only drive left or drive right. We'll ask them to play defense and not allow a certain player to touch the ball," Boldon said. "One day, Anthony might be a shooter, and the next day or week, he might be

the best driver. They just do a great job of doing whatever role they're playing that week."

That type of cooperation is why Boldon describes the guys as "fantastic to work with." They have no problem setting their egos aside and doing whatever it takes to help out.

"They're good guys overall," Middlebrooks said. "They're really here to help us out and make us better as a team, and they're willing to do whatever it takes."

It's hard to measure their impact, but the team has already exceeded its win total from last year. Boldon said the guys have helped "immensely."

"I think it's great for our kids and has helped us be a little more successful and a little bit more prepared," he said.

As for a taking pride in seeing improvement and success from the team, Mateo believes it is only natural.

"I obviously get happy when they win because I feel like Anthony, Zach and myself have helped them do that," he said. "Each girl is a great basketball player, and I have a lot of respect for them ... and the coaches, of course."

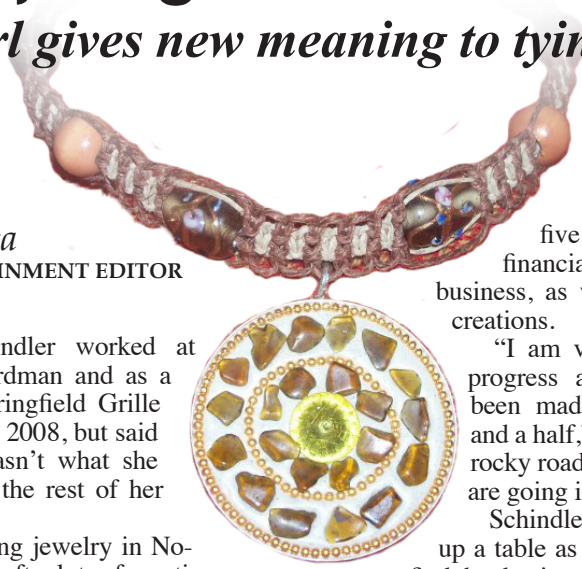
Boldon says both sides are gracious and appreciative. He sees it each time DeFelice, Mateo, and Matisi volunteer their time. By NCAA rule, the guys can receive no reward other than a pair of shoes and some practice gear.

But it's not like Mateo minds.

"I enjoy practicing with them. I don't need compensation," he said. "I just like playing basketball."

## Hemp, hugs and hard work

Local girl gives new meaning to tying the knot



Chelsea Telega  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Courtney Schindler worked at Movies 8 in Boardman and as a hostess at the Springfield Grille after graduating in 2008, but said she knew that wasn't what she wanted to do for the rest of her life.

"I started making jewelry in November 2009, and, after lots of practice, decided to start an online store," Schindler said.

Schindler, a Youngstown resident and former Youngstown State University student, sells handcrafted hemp jewelry and polymer clay bead creations at music festivals.

In August 2010, Schindler started her own business, HempHugs. Her main goal is to represent individual creativity and style.

"I saw people making hemp jewelry at various music festivals and online, but it was always with the plain, thick hemp and same knotting patterns," Schindler said. "So I decided to do all colorful pieces, something unique and different that sticks out."

Schindler has attended music festivals since she was 17 years old.

"Once I started going, I really got into the music and art I saw at the vending stands and wanted to do my own thing," she said. "To be able to set up and sell my stuff at different shows and festivals is basically combining all my favorite things into one. It's the perfect job."

Schindler also sells her designs on etsy.com and has 141 items available.

She is not afraid of a challenge, though. Schindler accepts any order, and looks forward to designing things outside of the box.

"Once I got better, I started making ashtrays, incense burners and other things," she said. "Aside from jewelry, I also make headbands, belts, keychains, hair clips, lighter and ChapStick holders, dog leashes and collars, and whatever other ideas I can come up with to make out of hemp."

The items sold, on average, range from \$5 to \$25, but it depends on the cost of supplies that go into the product, and the amount of time it takes Schindler to construct it.

"I try to keep my prices as reasonable as possible," Schindler said. "I also do wholesale prices for people and businesses that want to sell my items in their shop."

Richard Steger, Schindler's boyfriend of

five years, helps with the financial end of the self-made business, as well as with the clay creations.

"I am very proud to see the progress and success that has been made over the past year and a half," Steger said. "It was a rocky road to get here, but things are going in the right direction."

Schindler and Steger try to set up a table as often as they can, but find that business is more prominent in the spring and summer months. However, Schindler is always prepared.

"My boyfriend and I try to do a lot of traveling during the colder months, and I'll bring my jewelry along in case we see a show or concert," Schindler said.

Steger said the sky is the limit for the dynamic duo.

"We have friends who want to start silk screening," he said. "Courtney is about to start sewing classes, and we are going to keep our options open, as well as our minds, for suggestions."

Steger said that one of the best parts of the business is the delight of selling the creations and seeing Schindler's excitement.

"From a third-person perspective, it is awesome to see the sheer joy shared between artist and buyer," Steger said.

The young artisan's designs are a part of a fundraiser opportunity for her 25-year-old cousin Tina, who has battled cystic fibrosis her entire life.

Help Tina is a foundation Schindler created to raise money for her cousin's double lung transplant. Schindler sells jewelry and accessories, and the proceeds go directly to the cause.

"Thankfully, just a few days before Christmas 2010, our prayers were answered and she got her new lungs," Schindler said. "It's extremely expensive, however, so our family got together and had numerous fundraisers for her, including a spaghetti dinner last March."

"I started making purple hemp jewelry to spread awareness about cystic fibrosis as there is no cure. I donate half the profits from my purple CF awareness jewelry to her medical expenses."

Schindler said that her central influence is other artists that create things for a living.

"To me, it's about the love. When you truly love doing something and you can put that love into your work, it shows," she said. "When my work puts a smile on someone's face, that's what it's about."

## YSU celebrates African-American culture

Kacy Standohar  
FEATURES EDITOR

Youngstown State University will celebrate African-American History Month, beginning Saturday.

The African Marketplace kicks off on Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. in Kilcawley Center.

The African Marketplace will host vendors from African cultures. It will involve creative art, artifacts from Africa and the African Diaspora, books, clothing and jewelry.

Victor Wan-Tatah, director of African studies, said the marketplace is the main event of the celebration.

"It is a major showcase for what we can offer YSU and the community," he said. "These are products of diversity and creativity for people who have an interest in the eccentric nature."

He added that the items showcased at the African Marketplace are not items one would find in a typical store.

"It is a place for social networking and an opportunity to exchange goods," Wan-Tatah said.

Bliss Hall hosts a reception of "The Art of Louis Borroughs," an African-American art display, on Feb. 9 at 5 p.m.

Following the reception will be a panel discussion at 6 p.m. in the McDonough Museum of Art. There, the artist's exhibit will be discussed, along with his experience through a story of enslavement, struggle and oppression.

An African fitness and dance class takes place on Feb. 11 at 11 a.m. The class will be in St. Andrews A.M.E. Church at 521 Earle Ave. Eboni Bogan will lead the class with hopes of raising breast cancer awareness.

A keynote lecture titled "The Biracial Mixed Experience" features New York Times best-selling author Heidi Durrow. Durrow's lecture begins on Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Jones Room of Kilcawley Center.

She will speak about her book "The Girl Who Fell From

the Sky," which is based on parts of her life growing up in Portland, Ore.

Durrow said she wrote the book because she wanted to show the mixed experience.

"We have so many identities — northern, western and even international — but the most well known is the authentic southern experience," she said.

Durrow has been touring and speaking to students across the country and is excited to meet YSU students, faculty and staff. She said she hopes she and members of the YSU community can start up thought-provoking conversations.

"It's my way to talk about all the ways we inhabit African-American identity," Durrow said. "It's been able to give me a national stage to talk about it."

On Feb. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley, New Jersey-based dance troupe Prospect Theatrics will present "The Faces of Black History."

The group, which features American history contributions made by African-Americans, will perform a tribute to Michael Jackson and the Tuskegee Airmen.

The month's events also include a "Blogging While Black" lecture by Shawn Williams on Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Gallery Room of Kilcawley Center.

The events close with an evening of gospel jazz. Students perform on Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. in the Chestnut Room.

The event is open to the public and free of charge. A special guest will be revealed that evening.

Senior Candiss Owens and her fellow Delta Sigma Theta sorority sisters will celebrate African-American History month with a movie night and informational tables on Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

The sorority focuses on empowerment of community, women's rights and black history.

Delta Sigma Theta is also hosting a Valentine's Day event, "Celebrating Black Love: The Delta Dating Experience," on Feb. 13 in the Presidential Suites.

# For ambitious students, giving it the old college try is getting more cutthroat

*The Dallas Morning News*  
MCT

Scoring perfect SATs, landing class valedictorian and mastering the violin don't cut it anymore.

Now it's about priming resumes in middle school, turning science projects into patented inventions and dissecting your life's achievements in 500 words or fewer. In the battle to entice big-time universities, good is no longer good enough.

The college admissions process has morphed into a focused fight to prove individual exceptionalism and convey unparalleled drive. And it may only get more intense. Colleges nationwide have seen swelling numbers of early applicants this year, fueled by an industry pushing college readiness and the growing influence of online marketing.

This could breed a generation that works harder and achieves more in its early ages, but it also threatens to promote those who can afford a competitive advantage and punish those who can't.

"Sorry, I'm an average middle-class American and I've never done anything life-saving," said Rachel Brooks, a senior at Frisco, Texas's Liberty High who shoulders five advanced placement classes,

plays in the marching band, and edits the school newspaper. She also skipped her junior year. The 16-year-old was denied early admission to Northwestern University.

"It seems unfair," she said, "that you have to have all these superhero requirements to get into an Ivy League."

Admissions officers blame the aggressive mentality on the HYP — Harvard, Yale, Princeton — effect. Spots continue to dwindle in the nation's most renowned universities, yet the majority of schools still accept about half their applicants.

But as the college-bound pool broadens, the stakes rise for everyone.

The charged atmosphere stems partly from demand. High school graduates topped 3.3 million in 2009, bolstered by kids of baby boomers — who themselves came from more educated backgrounds than their parents — and today's pressing need for a college degree.

The University of Texas at Austin received 35,000 applications for the coming school year, its highest yet. About three-quarters of colleges have seen application increases each year for the past decade, according to the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

Even the time when stu-

dents apply has crept up. Rice University, Texas's most prestigious college, had an 18 percent increase in early decision applications for the coming year. Baylor University received 2,000 more early applications than last fall. In the past two years, Texas Christian University's early applications have gone up by half.

"It's a good news, bad news kind of thing," said Ray Brown, Texas Christian University's dean of admission. "I'm delighted people are taking this more seriously, but the flip side is they are taking it way too seriously."

College advisers attribute the spike to myriad factors, among them the enhanced accessibility provided by technology, a more streamlined application process and a belief that early interest will grant students an edge.

"Colleges are recruiting more people from all over the world," said Katherine Cohen, famed for her college consulting business that primes students for top-notch universities. "Schools are trying to attract a more diverse student body, and they are going to great lengths to do so."

Cohen's company, IvyWise, charges an average of \$6,775 for consultations.

The industry that sprouted to support interest in college

preparation has also helped drive the demand. But at what cost, said David Hawkins, director of policy and research at the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

"In an environment where students without resources are already disadvantaged, the expenditure of money, which amounts to influence peddling in worst cases and preparation and coaching in the best, exacerbates the access problem we have," he said.

The entire process disgusts Tracy Begland. But she still shelled out \$60 an hour last summer so her daughter could take private SAT tutoring classes.

"It's hard not to be sucked in," the Coppell, Texas, mother said. "You're not competing up there with your peers if you don't do some outside things."

Colleges have tried to lessen disparities by providing hefty amounts of financial aid. The University of Texas automatically takes nearly the top 10 percent of high school classes. And a greater number of applicants suggests more young people than ever see the value in higher education.

Admissions teams echo the buzzword "holistic" to describe how they mitigate for a financial leg up.

"Someone may have ex-

traordinary test scores and academic performance, but maybe not recognize how what they accomplished has distinguished them," said Chris Munoz, vice president for enrollment at Rice University, which accepted 21 percent of applicants last year. "So don't always assume that the student who is able to travel abroad and do these other things necessarily gives them a reasonable advantage over another student."

Marcus Alvarez doesn't. The Irving Nimitz High School senior stays for after-school tutoring even though it means he'll walk the two miles home. He doesn't have a laundry list of extracurricular activities, choosing to play drums in the band and volunteer at a law program that works with troubled teenagers. He'll be the first in his family to go to college. He's also first in his class.

Alvarez's college essay focused on self-made opportunities. He finished his applications at 11:59 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

"A lot of questions are about overcoming obstacles," Alvarez said. "And I was thinking if I didn't have any challenges, I wouldn't have anything to write about. My experience is you do what you love and everything falls into place."

He wants to go to Harvard.



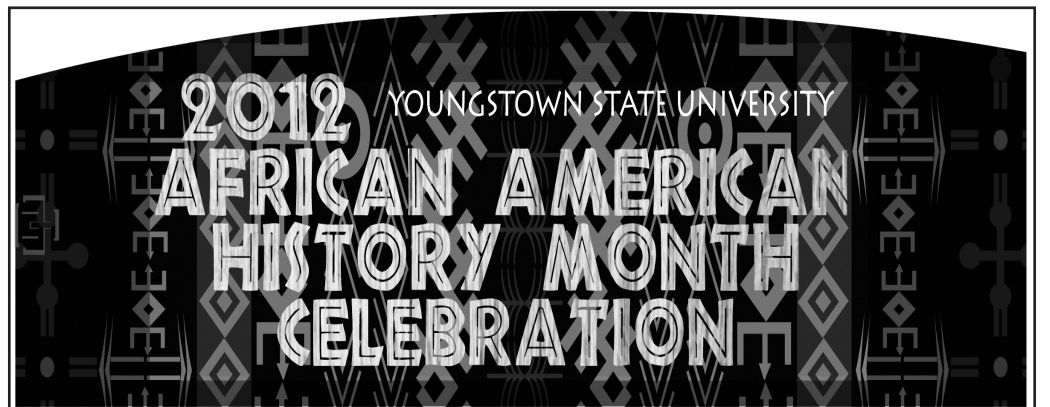
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**got an opinion?**



**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.

**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**  
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 Educe Group Inc., under the leadership of Eboni Bogan. Its goal is to raise awareness in the fight against breast cancer. Donations are \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth.

**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.

**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 a tribute to Michael Jackson and a salute to the Tuskegee Airmen.

**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.


**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.

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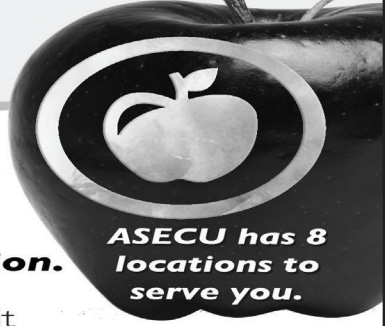
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# Penguins prep for three-game road trip

Joe Catullo Jr.  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team is looking for answers after falling to Cleveland State University at YSU's Beeghly Center on Saturday, 67-47, in front of the fourth-largest crowd in school history (6,313).

The Penguins (11-9, 6-4) rank fourth in the conference,

while the Vikings (18-4, 8-2) have a half-game lead over Valparaiso University for first place.

In the game, the Penguins shot 30.9 percent and 16.7 beyond the 3-point line. They rank first in the conference in 3-point percentage at 38.1 and fourth in scoring offense with 66.2 points per game.

Head coach Jerry Slocum said in Saturday's post-game conference that the loss would

not break the season.

"We are gone from classes for a full week," Slocum said. "We have a lot of work to do in this league. This is one basketball game that we will put in our rear-view mirror real quick."

The Penguins face the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Tuesday. The Panthers (14-9, 7-4) rank third in the conference and are coming off a loss to second-place Val-

paraiso University on Saturday (55-52).

Junior guard Blake Allen said via text message that the Penguins must remain focused against the Panthers.

"It's going to be a tough game, and we need to play with a lot of intensity," Allen said.

The Panthers have lost three of their last four Horizon League games, including a loss to the Penguins, 68-66, on Jan.

20.

After Tuesday, the Penguins remain on the road for battles with the University of Illinois at Chicago on Thursday and Loyola University Chicago on Sunday.

UIC (6-15, 2-9) ranks ninth in the HL, while Loyola (5-16, 0-11) stands alone in last place. The Penguins defeated the UIC Flames on Jan. 5, 68-64 in overtime, and the Loyola Ramblers on Jan. 7, 71-50.

# Acta has Indians believing in 2012

Joe Catullo Jr.  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Cleveland Indians began the 2011 season with little hope of making any impact in Major League Baseball.

Many predicted them to finish as one of the worst teams in baseball, including Tony Bosma of the Grand Central Sports website, who said they would be fourth in the American League Central Division.

But, through May, the Indians' 30-15 record was the best in their division.

"Baseball's a tough game, and if it was that easy to predict, I wouldn't be working for a living. I would be in Vegas making lots of money," said Indians fan John Adams.

Adams has attended Indians games with his drum since the Aug. 24, 1973, game at Cleveland Municipal Stadium. On April 27, he attended his 3,000th career game, a number that doesn't include those without a drum.

Over the 38 years, Adams missed only 38 games. At Progressive Field, he sits in section 182, row Y, seat 29 in the bleachers, while the drum rests in seat 28.

Adams was part of the Tribe on Tour bus that visited the Summit Mall in Akron on Saturday with manager Manny Acta, players such as Jason Donald and Vinnie Pestano, and broadcasters.

Since last year's All-Star break, the Indians began to fade, and the Detroit Tigers won the division title. The Indians finished 80-82, well for second in the Central.

The attendance increased from 2010 to 2011 with 5,546 more fans, the highest in baseball last year. The Tribe's season was full of new memories, Adams said, including the return of Jim Thome.

When designated hitter Travis Hafner went down with a strained right foot, Thome was acquired off waivers from the Minnesota Twins on Aug. 26.

Thome, a member of the 600-home run club, hit .296 with three home runs and 10 RBIs in 22 games with the Indians in 2011. This offseason, the Philadelphia Phillies signed him as a free agent. This is Thome's second stint with the Phillies.

When Thome returned, Adams said many fans were thinking about the "glory days" of Indians baseball.

"That's the excitement; that's the electricity when everybody in the park is sharing something," Adams said. "They all have different memories, and they're all these baseball memories, and that is when you can feel the energy."

In Thome's 13 years wearing a Cleveland uniform, he compiled 337 home runs (making him the Indians' all-time leader), 937 RBIs, and 1,008 walks (also a team best). The Indians won six division titles and made two World Series trips, in 1995 and 1997, with Thome on the roster.

As for last season, Adams said the Tribe "left nothing on the field."



Cleveland Indians manager Manny Acta signs autographs for fans at the Summit Mall in Akron on Saturday. Acta is in his third season managing the Indians and went 80-82 last season. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

"I try to tell people, 'Remember, half of this team was in the minor leagues the year before or that year,'" Adams said. "What made it special is they gave everything that they had, and they were focused on every game."

Adams added that he saw a lot of potential in the Indians that may correlate with the upcoming 2012 season.

Radio broadcaster Tom Hamilton said the Tribe must stay healthy.

"If you can't stay healthy, it's going to be tough to win, and I think especially for teams like the Indians," Hamilton said. "The margin for error isn't as great, so those injuries last year were really devastating."

Players such as Grady Sizemore, Michael Brantley and Jason Kipnis caught the injury bug at one point or another.

"I know it's an excuse that a lot of teams make, but they truly were hurt badly by injuries," said broadcaster Jim Rosenhaus. "In some seasons you can overcome that, but for some reason the Indians could not last year."

The Indians had seven players on the 60-day disabled list along with multiple 15-day and day-to-day injuries.

One of the players was pitcher Alex White, a former first-round pick by the Indians in 2009. Fans got a chance to see White during the early months of last season before he went down with right middle finger soreness.

White was traded to the Colorado Rockies on July 30 for Ubaldo Jimenez, who finished last year with a 4.68 ERA, 10 wins and 180 strikeouts. He finished with a 5.10 ERA and 62 strikeouts in 11 starts with the Indians.

Jimenez is slated to be the Indians' 2012 Opening Day starter.

"I think it's just him trying to get ad-

justed to Cleveland," said starting pitcher Josh Tomlin.

Jimenez and Tomlin will be in the starting rotation before the season begins. Justin Masterson and new addition Derek Lowe will also be in the mix.

Lowe heads into the 2012 season after one of his worst seasons. He finished with a 5.05 ERA, his highest since 2004, and 17 losses with the Atlanta Braves.

Hamilton said he's curious about what Lowe has left in his 39-year-old arm.

"He did not have a good year last year with Atlanta, and I think he's pitching in a much tougher league than the National League," Hamilton said.

While the Indians have four starters ready to go, they are looking for somebody to fill the fifth spot in light of the Fausto Carmona scandal. He was arrested on Jan. 20 in the Dominican Republic.

They accused Carmona of using a false identity to try to obtain a U.S. visa. Carmona's real name is Roberto Hernandez Heredia, and he is 31 years old. The Indians' roster had Carmona born on Dec. 7, 1983, making him 28 years old.

Heredia left jail on bail, but he is not allowed to return to the Indians until further notice.

The Indians recently traded for veteran right-hander Kevin Slowey from the Rockies. He finished last season with a 6.67 ERA, the highest in his career, and a 0-8 record in 59.1 innings pitched with the Twins.

Hamilton said Slowey is not guaranteed the fifth spot, mentioning David Huff, Jeanmar Gomez and Zach McAllister as other possible candidates.

"I think Kevin Slowey, because of what he's done in the past, would be the favorite, but he had a bad year last year, so it will be interesting to see if he can

bounce back," Hamilton said.

Rosenhaus said Slowey and Lowe could chew up some innings.

"You need to replace some innings there, and Derek Lowe certainly will," Rosenhaus said. "Kevin Slowey has the potential to. It will be interesting to see what happens to that fifth spot in the rotation."

Rosenhaus added that first base is probably the biggest position to fill. Matt LaPorta was the team's starter throughout most of last season, but underachieved. He batted .247 with 11 homeruns and 53 RBIs in 107 games.

Catcher Carlos Santana, third baseman Jack Hannahan and outfielder Shelley Duncan can play first as well.

"First base is a big question mark because you're just not sure about the progress of Matt LaPorta," Rosenhaus said. "I think between now and the start of the season, I still believe we're going to see an acquisition, a fairly substantial acquisition, to fill that spot."

Free agents still on the market include Derek Lee and Casey Kotchman. Carlos Pena returned to the Tampa Bay Rays, Albert Pujols signed with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim and Prince Fielder signed with the Tigers.

Hamilton and Rosenhaus said they would also keep their eyes on the outfield. Brantley, Sizemore and Shin-Soo Choo are scheduled to be the starters, but were all injured last season.

"I think a lot of it is you did have those growing pains from some of the younger players that were brought up to replace some of the injured players," Rosenhaus said.

The Indians picked up Fred Lewis and Felix Pie to add depth to the outfield roster with Duncan and Ezequiel Carrera.

# Track and field earns five victories

Nick Mancini  
SPORTS REPORTER

Five athletes from the Youngstown State University track and field teams won their events at the YSU Invitational on Friday at the Watson and Tressel Training Site.

It was the second event YSU hosted at the WATTS. The other was the YSU Invitational on Dec. 2.

Head coach Brian Gorby said it was a great event for the Penguins.

"Overall, it was really neat to see the teams like Kent State," Gorby said. "I never thought in a million years that Kent would be down here. They actually canceled their meet because ev-

eryone was coming our way."

In the men's field events, sophomore Dorian Davis and freshman Dan Skiba were the top two finishers in the long jump, both leaping into the school record books.

Dorian Davis' jump of 7.01 meters was the second highest in school history, and Skiba jumped 6.83 meters, good for fourth place in school history.

Junior Michael Davis outran the competition in the 60-meter dash, finishing in 6.98 seconds. He also placed second in the 200-meter dash with a time of 22.30 seconds.

Junior Tarelle Irwin also ran the 200-meter dash and placed sixth with 22.53 seconds.

In the mile race, sophomore Eric Rupe finished second for

the Penguins, running a time of 4 minutes, 17.82 seconds. He was joined by freshman Austin McLean, who finished fourth, running 4:24.16, which was his personal best.

Gorby said getting the wins was a good start for the team.

"I mean, you have people like Anna Pompeo winning the 5,000-meter and Mike Davis winning the 60-meter dash," Gorby said. "It was fantastic for us in the meet and lots of wins, lots of personal bests."

On the women's side, three athletes finished first in their events.

Sophomore Anna Pompeo won the 5,000-meter run with a personal best of 18:08.66, which is eighth best in school history. Freshman Katie Heney

finished fifth in the same event, also running her personal best at a time of 18:45.42.

In the 60-meter hurdles, senior Laura Kosiorek and junior Nicole Rymer took the top two spots. Kosiorek finished first, running 8.85 seconds, with Rymer right behind with a time of 8.95 seconds.

In the high jump, sophomore Katrina Rettburg won the event with a jump of 1.68 meters. Freshman Leanna Hartsough's personal best of 1.64 meters was good for third in the event.

The women's team also won the 4-x-400 meter relay race. The team of junior Nicole Pachol and sophomores Ciara Jarrett, Alexis Washington and Alteecka Vanwright ran a time of 4:01.27.

Junior Samantha Hamilton finished second in the mile run, running two seconds short of her personal best with a time of 4:58.01.

Gorby said the growth from the first home meet to the past one was most impressive for him.

The Penguins will be back at the WATTS on Friday and Saturday for the YSU National Invitational.

"We have a more elite group of teams coming in this week, and we are going to focus on more of our individual events," Gorby said. "This past week, we kind of worked on our off events. Now, we will work on more of our main events and look to start climbing to standards and school records."