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**WEATHER**

Today	☀️	33° 28°
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Saturday	☁️	21° 9°
Sunday	☀️	17° 9°
Monday	☁️	21° 16°
Tuesday	☁️	26° 20°
Wednesday	☁️	26° 17°

Remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar.

## A NEW ERA



## Students gather to watch ceremony

Sam Marhulik  
REPORTER

When Barack Obama made history Tuesday as the first African-American to be elected president, the campus community at Youngstown State University conducted its own celebration in the Chestnut Room in Kilcawley Center.

From the boards with the congratulatory messages written to Obama to the vast amount of people in attendance, one thing was clear: Obama was officially the new president and people were excited to be witnessing history.

Graduate student Jennifer Hanuschak said she was excited to be at the ceremony to witness an important step in American history.

"I am disappointed that more people didn't come to the ceremony, but I was proud to be here. As a history graduate student I feel like America makes history every day, but today I feel like we made it right," said Hanuschak.

While the ceremony was intended to celebrate the inauguration of Barack Obama, teaching assistant Bryan Jenkins said he wasn't entirely sure of how the process worked.

"It was kind of shocking to realize that the [president-elect] becomes the president before he even gives his speech. I had never paid close enough attention to a ceremony before, so it was pretty interesting to learn something that I didn't know before," he said.

"I'm excited to know that I was a part of the voting procedure and it's nice to know that I had something to do with history being made in America," Jenkins said.

## Obama's Cabinet picks approved by most, polls say

Emmalee C. Torisk  
NEWS EDITOR

Despite the ethnic and political diversity of President Barack Obama's Cabinet picks, not everyone is completely satisfied with his choices, for various reasons.

The president's Cabinet — the team Obama has assembled to help him fulfill his presidential goals and objectives — consists of five women, four African-Americans, three Latinos, two Republicans and two Asians. Some say Obama picked the most qualified people for the job, regardless of race or gender.

A national poll released in early December indicates 75 percent of Americans approve of the majority of Obama's Cabinet choices. Twenty-two percent disagree with his picks, yet his approval rating is 16 points higher than those who favored Bush's Cabinet choices in 2001.

The CNN/Opinion Research Corp. survey also shows 71 percent support his choice to appoint former presidential contender Hillary Clinton as secretary of

## Millions watch as first African-American president takes office

Josh Stipanovich  
REPORTER

Despite the cold, frigid weather, millions of people from all over the country traveled to the nation's capital to witness the inauguration of Barack Obama, the first black president in American history. Harold and Marvaline Marrow, who grew up on Youngstown's south side and now live in Cleveland, were excited to have the chance to see this historic moment first-

hand. They said they were proud and knew that Obama would make important changes while in office. Marrow said he believes the economy will be one of the first issues Obama will resolve.

"Once he stabilizes the economy, everything else will fall into place," Marrow said.

Like the Marrows, everyone had certain reasons for attending the historical event; many of them were personal, others economical.

The recent downfall of the American economy has hurt

many Americans in different ways, but some are optimistic Obama will bring a real, positive change to the nation.

"The economy is back already," said Michael Hairston of Norfolk, Virginia. Hairston said he feels blessed because Obama is the country's new president.

By Hairston's side were his three children: Da'Quell, Gerard and Javon. All three are members of Blacks Under the Youth of America, or B.U.Y.A. Their message is to get kids off the street and get

math into their minds. Hairston and his children stitched B.U.Y.A. patches of different sizes, colors and styles onto stocking hats, and sold them to people on the street.

The crowded streets were filled with numerous vendors selling anything they could to promote the first black president of the United States of America. T-shirts, pins, hats, cardboard cut-outs, and even Barack Obama cologne were available to buy.

## News Briefs

### YSU-Cleveland State Basketball Game to be aired on ESPNU

Friday's basketball game against Cleveland State will be ESPNU's college basketball game of the week. The game will begin at 9 p.m. with gates opening at 8 p.m.

The first 2,500 people through the doors will receive a YSU pom-pom, and the first 750 YSU students will receive a T-shirt. Tickets must be bought by 5 p.m. on Friday.

### Opening Night For 'Almost, Maine'

"Almost, Maine" will premiere tonight at the Spotlight Arena Theater in Bliss Hall. The show will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday and at 3 p.m. on Sunday. A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society and Alpha Psi Omega for Relay for Life.

### Financial Aid Week begins

In order to better help students during Financial Aid Awareness Week beginning Monday, advisers will be available to talk Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on the first floor of Kilcawley Center.



Hundreds of Hamas supporters gathered in Gaza City for a "victory demonstration" following the 22-day conflict with Israel. MCT Campus photo.

# Israel and Hamas declare cease-fire after three weeks

Kelli Phillips  
REPORTER

Just hours before Barack Obama was sworn in as the 44th president of the United States on Tuesday, Israel began to pull its military troops out of Gaza. Israel and Hamas each declared a cease-fire in the region, ending the three-week conflict that killed more than 1,200 people and injured more than 5,400 people.

Chaya Kessler, professor of Hebrew languages at Youngstown State University, said with the cease-fire comes the hope that both sides will enter into a discussion and develop agreements.

"Nobody wants to see their cities bombed, their children hurt. Nobody wants to live under that pressure," Kessler said.

Kessler, who was born in Russia and raised in Israel, still has most of her family in

Israel. Her brother lives in the city of Ashqelon, one of the many places that have been under rocket fire.

"[I] immediately look at the Israeli news for information and updates," she said of watching out for her relatives. The news is updated every hour.

When the red alert sounds off, "you have fifteen seconds to find hiding," Kessler explained. Many people are able to find refuge in shelters, but more serious injuries occur with vehicle and pedestrian traffic as there is not always enough time to seek safety. Constant bombardment challenges basic physical living conditions and places emotional stress on the community.

"There are many casualties, but even more psychological casualties," she said.

"[The conflict] is affecting everybody who has family there, whether they are Pales-

tinian or Israeli," said Kessler. "[Israelis and Palestinians] are more similar than different in our worry for our families."

While YSU has Palestinian students enrolled, according to the Center for International Studies and Programs, there are no Israeli students on campus.

With Obama now in office, "there is more emphasis [placed] on finding a resolution," Kessler said. "We need to work on rebuilding trust relationships on both sides."

However, according to Keith Lepak, associate professor of political science, it is anticipated that the United States international policy "will be a continuation of the previous administration's [policy]."

"What candidates say on the campaign trail is not policy. The current policy has not been reviewed [and] will take three to six months to review. All Obama has said is that he is pro-Israel," said Lepak.



Posters like the one pictured above were spread across downtown Washington D.C.

### OBAMA page 1

The longer the lines, the more eager people were to get into Washington Square to watch Obama get sworn into office. Pushing and shoving were just small problems everyone had to deal with while waiting to get to the ceremony location.

"Security was another concern for many who were able to get into Washington Square.

The Secret Service and the Transportation Security Administration were among those who ensured the safety of all in attendance. Backpacks and strollers were among the items not allowed past the checkpoints to Washington Square.

After being sworn in, Obama spoke to the estimated two million people in attendance and to millions more

who watched the address on TV.

"Our challenges may be new. The instruments with which we meet them may be new. But those values upon our success depends — hard work and honesty, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism — these things are old. These things are true," Obama said.

## Classifieds

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# Senate confirms Clinton as secretary of state

William Douglas  
MCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

The Senate confirmed Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., to be President Barack Obama's secretary of state by a 94-2 vote Wednesday after nearly a half a day of debate for an outcome that was never really in doubt.

Some Senate Republicans, including several who voted for her confirmation, raised concerns about potential conflicts of interest stemming from the international activities of former President Bill Clinton's William J. Clinton Foundation.

The foundation, which works on HIV/AIDS, climate change and poverty, has accepted more than \$131 million from foreign governments, including Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Norway.

Shortly after her nomination, Bill Clinton released a list of donors to his foundation. At the start of her confirmation hearing last week, Hillary Clinton agreed to measures designed to monitor the Clinton Foundation and assure transparency in the foundation's fundraising.

That wasn't enough to satisfy Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

"I remain concerned that senator, soon-to-be Secretary of State

*"She has to know, and so does former President Clinton, that the big light will shine on them forever and ever."*

Sen. George Voinovich, R-Ohio

Clinton's diplomatic work will be encumbered by the global activities of the Clinton Foundation under these circumstances," Cornyn said.

Still, in the end, Cornyn voted for Clinton. Sens. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., and David Vitter, R-La., were the lone "no" votes. Clinton didn't vote, nor did Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., who was still recovering from a seizure he suffered Tuesday.

Sen. George Voinovich, R-Ohio, said that Republicans voiced

objections earlier to send a message to Hillary and Bill Clinton.

"She has to know, and so does former President Clinton, that the big light will shine on them forever and ever," he said. "And so, if she doesn't do what she said, it's going to interfere with her ability to be a good secretary of state. And if she doesn't do it, every time she comes up here, she's going to get kicked in the shins."

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., urged his Republican colleagues earlier in the day to drop their objections.

"I pay attention to the president's approval ratings. Very high," McCain said. "But more importantly, I think the message that the American people are sending us now is they want us to work together and get to work. I think we ought to let Senator Clinton, who obviously is qualified, and obviously will serve, to get to work immediately."

Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., said GOP concerns about Clinton's nomination smacked of partisan politics.

"They may be trying to rally their base," said Bayh, who endorsed Clinton in the Democratic primaries. "Bashing Bill and Hillary Clinton is something of a cottage industry for the far right. I believe it's out of step with the times."

# Air pollution changes increased life expectancies, study finds

Alan Bowley and  
Karen Dillon  
MCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Take a deep breath and enjoy the fresh air a little longer.

Americans have on average an extra five months to live, thanks to environmental regulations that have been cleaning up air pollution.

Between about 1980 and 2000, reductions in fine-particulate air pollution have helped add that much extra time to the average life expectancies of people living in 51 cities nationwide, a new study finds.

In cities that were the most polluted and were cleaned up the most, life expectancies were boosted by about 10 months, according to the study, published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

"It's nice to look back on our clean-air efforts and see, wow, it really is working," said C. Arden Pope III, a Brigham Young University epidemiologist who worked on the study with researchers from Harvard University. "It's amazing that these results were as robust as they were."

The researchers took life

expectancy factors and Environmental Protection Agency air pollution numbers from the late 1970s and early 1980s and compared them to data from the late 1990s and early 2000s.

During that period, when clean-air regulations were implemented, Americans' life expectancy increased on average by 2.72 years.

Using statistical techniques that took into account changes in such factors as income, education and smoking rates, the researchers calculated that cleaner air contributed to about 15 percent of that increased lifespan — five months.

Stephanie Cole, associate regional representative for the Kansas Sierra Club, said the study showed the link between human mortality and particulate pollution. Stricter controls are needed, she said.

"While progress has been made from reducing pollution from vehicles and power plants, this study provides us with reason to continue to make improvements in air quality," she said. "The study shows we are on the right track."

The connection between air pollution and health is easy to find, said Kansas City Health Department director Rex Ar-

cher. "On heavier pollution days we have more ambulance runs and trips to emergency rooms," he said.

Fine particulates are particles of dust, soot, coal fumes and other pollutants that are small enough to avoid getting trapped in the nose or breathing passages.

The particles work their way down into the lungs, where they cause inflammation and aggravate asthma, emphysema and other respiratory diseases, said William Barkman, a lung specialist at the University of Kansas Hospital.

Particulates also are suspected of contributing to heart attacks.

"It's an inflammatory process (in the lungs) that sets off a cascade of effects in your blood that can affect your heart," Barkman said.

Cities that cleaned up their air the most showed larger increases in life expectancies, said Pope, the study's lead researcher. That suggests further cleanup efforts even in cities with relatively clean air "will bring further increases in life expectancies. That's fantastic," he said.

## CABINET page 1

state, while Democrats unanimously agree. Republicans are split on his choice, and two-thirds of independents support this decision. Many also strongly agree with his decision to retain secretary of defense Robert Gates.

However, many argue Obama's Cabinet too closely resembles that of the Clinton administration. With several repeats from the Clinton era, some are disappointed with a lack of fresh faces in Washington. Even so, many defend his choices and argue that there are a limited number of people adequately qualified for critical Cabinet jobs.

Jim Shaw, president of the Youngstown State University College Republicans, said he was surprised by Obama's willingness to repeat Cabinet members from Clinton's terms, mainly because of his campaign's emphasis on change.

"I found it kind of ironic he picked some holdovers from the Clinton administration," Shaw said, adding that while Obama's decisions were not his ideal choices, they were decent for the president's purposes and plans.

"For his stated goals, they were solid picks," Shaw said.

Paul Sracic, political science

professor, also said some were concerned there would be too much of Clinton's influence on Obama's presidency, preventing him from making a distinct mark. Even so, Sracic said his choice to bring back former Clinton Cabinet members made sense strategically.

Others, especially women's groups, believe Obama should have selected more women for some of these key roles. According to exit polls, Obama won 56 percent of women voters in the general election; statistically, this makes women some of his strongest supporters. Now, some

women feel as though they've been slighted and denied enough representation within the administration. Both Clinton and Bush had a similar number of women in their Cabinets, yet a few women's groups are disappointed because they had hoped for greater progress.

Joni Koneval, president of the YSU College Democrats, said Obama made good choices in the selection of his Cabinet members, even though it does not contain an equal number of men and women. According to Koneval, Obama chose those who were best for the job; in this case, gender doesn't

have to be a main consideration. Koneval also admitted that if she were president, a primarily female cabinet wouldn't necessarily be implemented. To Koneval, and to perhaps to Obama, the choice depends solely on who is most qualified for the position.

"He chose people who are experts in their field to advise him on important issues," Koneval said. "They can help him reach the goals he has set."

Additionally, some are concerned about ethical issues involving certain nominees, especially prospective attorney general Eric Holder. Of all the

nominees, Holder has been the most controversial, primarily for his role in several disconcerting incidents during the Clinton administration.

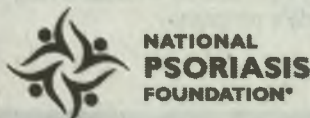
According to Sracic, even though some Obama appointees have encountered disapproval from political peers and citizens alike, the Cabinet member approval process, for the most part, is unfolding "pretty smoothly."

"The ones we hear about are the ones with problems," Sracic said. "This is the nature of politics."

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## Financial Aid Awareness Week

Stop by one of our tables for information on financial aid for the 2009-2010 academic year. The priority deadline to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on the Web and the Institutional Aid Application is February 15, 2009.

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:

**WHERE TO GET HELP**

**Monday, January 26, 2009**

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Kilcawley Center - 1st floor across from bank

5 p.m. - 6 p.m. Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships

**Tuesday, January 27, 2009**

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Kilcawley Center - 1st floor across from bank

**Wednesday, January 28, 2009**

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Kilcawley Center - 1st floor across from bank

**Thursday, January 29, 2009**

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Kilcawley Center - 1st floor across from bank

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## 'Almost, Maine' to open tonight



"Almost, Maine" opens tonight at 7:30 p.m. and runs through the 25th with a Sunday matinee at 3 p.m.

Photo courtesy of Joel Stigliano.

**Melissa Mary Smith**  
REPORTER

Opening tonight at Bliss Hall is the Black Box production "Almost, Maine," by John Ciani.

"Almost, Maine" director Joel Stigliano said he fell in love with the romantic-com-

edy play while working for a publishing firm in New York.

"I was sent out to cover this play for my job and was sort of very surprised by how complicated it was," Stigliano said.

Stigliano said that when he first saw previews for "Almost, Maine," he thought it was going to be banal like many other romantic comedies.

"What ensued was sort of a touching, warm and fuzzy feeling that even the most bitter and jaded heart such as mine sort of enjoyed," Stigliano said.

The play, set in the fictitious Almost is comprised of nine scenes and broken up into a series of vignettes.

"Love can be great, won-

derful and exciting and new and terrifying and painful and caustic and all of these things, and that's kind of what 'Almost, Maine' is about," Stigliano said.

Because of the university theater and YSU's holiday schedule, Stigliano said that "Almost, Maine" was put together in about two and a half

weeks; it is a short amount of time compared to the more lengthy main stage productions of six to ten weeks.

The four-person cast that includes Nathan Beagle, Roxanne Hauldren, Shawna Jones and Patrick McGuire has each actor playing an impressive 19 characters each.

Stigliano is positive about

how the local area and YSU students will receive the play.

"I think that there's enough in there for all of the audience members to be able to associate with their own lives and their own perception of what love is and what love isn't," Stigliano said.

## Panzer Talk rolls out to the Royal Oaks



Photo courtesy of megan vincentelli

**Gary S. Angelo**  
CONTRIBUTOR

Panzer Talk's self-titled disc on San Francisco's experimental garage punk label, On/On Switch Records, features romantic dream-pop guitar backed by a warm acoustic embrace.

The band performs at The Royal Oaks on Jan. 23, and includes Kenny Halbert III on vocals, guitars, Katie Joy on vocals and percussion, Adam Berry on drums, Jeff Phillips, on guitars, vocals, and keyboards and Jon Butterly on bass.

Panzer Talk captures early '90s wistful noise pop with the Americana approach of Crazy Horse-era Neil Young. The band has been a collaborative effort of Halbert and Phillips for the last five years. They have been playing together in bands for about 16 or 17 years, Phillips added.

Though Halbert and Phillips now remain bolted to their home turf in Youngstown, the duo has played in bands between moves

to San Francisco, Key Largo, Kent and Columbus.

Growing up, Halbert and Phillips had a great musical chemistry, tuning into staple American garage punk bands such as Mudhoney, The Stooges and Blue Cheer. A keen interest in American west coast/British punk rock was what kept their musicianship vibrant when Halbert and Phillips were young.

Panzer Talk draws diverse spheres of influences in their music that span beyond psychedelic idioms alone. They tie in the mid '70s soft rock ethic of the Allman Brothers sprinkling it with Frank Zappa-flavored experimentalism.

"We all love music and don't like to be defined by anything," Phillips said.

The band has some newly recorded songs and is possibly planning to embark on a west coast tour during the spring and summer months. Phillips adds, "The newer songs have more of a psychedelic approach as opposed to acoustic guitar and stripped down country."

For a listen check out:  
[www.myspace.com/panzertalk](http://www.myspace.com/panzertalk)

## Campus looks to expel squirrels

**M.S. Enkoji**  
MCT

If your life centered on foraging for nuts and neat places to hide them, wouldn't the woodsy confines of a placid college campus seem divine?

No natural enemies to speak of for miles around. Lots of trees to scurry up and down.

Occasional tasty handouts from people, just for swishing your bushy tail and looking cute.

That's what about 400 Eastern fox squirrels must be thinking as they make themselves at home on the rambling campus of the University of California, Davis.

"The population is exploding," said Sal Genito, the school's director of buildings and grounds.

UC Davis has a scientific project under way to reduce the population -- the squirrels, after all, are pests -- and it won't involve either firearms or poison.

"Nobody gets hurt; everybody's happy," Genito said.

The squirrels, unlike the Western gray squirrel, are not natives of the campus; they're not even native to the West, hence the name Eastern fox. In the past few years, on the Davis campus, they've multiplied so that they've worn out their welcome.

On occasion, some of the emboldened varmints will saunter into campus buildings, causing a stir. One apparently zoomed across the path of a bicycle going full tilt, causing a nasty spill.

In the summer, the squirrels will be recaptured. Some will be injected with a hormone to stop reproduction, and others will get a placebo. If the hormone works without problems, the squirrel population will taper off and a new method will be born to use on other mammal pests.

Genito, whose duties make him something of a park director, is familiar with every creature on campus.

A fifth of the 5,000-acre campus is essentially parkland, complete with streams, meadows and, of course, nut-bearing trees.

Stopping before a thick-waisted redwood, he pointed out deep furrows in the bark caused by squirrel traffic.

He passed under heavy branches where, at times, some of the culprits would peer down, watchful, but relaxed.

Clearly, they're too comfortable in their adopted home, Genito said.

So are bats, rabbits, mice, rats and feral cats.

They could be next.

## 'Secret Diary of a Call Girl' introduces actress to a new audience

**Rick Bentley**  
MCT

How do you hide a pregnant prostitute?

On a television show, you use photographic magic.

Billie Piper stars in the Showtime cable series "Secret Diary of a Call Girl," which is about a high-priced London prostitute. Piper was six months pregnant while shooting the second season of the series.

"We have a good director of photography. Then there were times we used body doubles. I just didn't feel like doing the scenes. My body was changing every day," Piper says during an interview at the Television Critics Association tour.

More head-and-shoulders shots helped hide her evolving pregnancy. In the end, she was photographed with many of the often-used methods: big sweaters or coats when the weather is obviously cold, sitting behind desks or carrying packages, and, as she mentioned, a body double.

On the show, Piper plays Belle, a working girl who has developed a deep philosophy about the world's oldest profession. She shares her thoughts with viewers through on-screen monologues.

And that makes her more nervous than the nudity in the show.

"You have to break the fourth wall all the time. And that is a hard concept for me to get my head around. You are taught never to do that. Then suddenly you are going against all the rules of acting," Piper says between sips of a

cup of English tea with loads of milk and one big lump of sugar.

"I get through it. But sometimes I just keep doing it, and they have to say 'Billie, don't look at the camera.'"

But those confidential moments are designed to invite the viewer to be more of a participant in the story than just being a voyeur, which makes the show less lurid and more embracing.

Piper plays the role as an attractive girl next door, someone anyone might know. That kind of fits with how her show-business career has unfolded.

She's only 25 years old, but has had a huge fan base for 10 years through her early career in music.

She signed a record deal at 15 and had three No. 1 hits in Britain including "Because We Want

To."

Piper didn't start out to be a singer. Her dream from age 8 was to be an actor.

But the music career came along and delayed her dream. Now, she's happy the music career came first because she says it helped her deal with fame.

That experience came in handy after she was cast in the BBC television series "Doctor Who," a popular science fiction show that began in the 1960s.

Piper spent three seasons, 2005-2008, alongside the galaxy-hopping science fiction icon.

Her turn as Rose Tyler is considered by many "Doctor Who" fans to be the best of all the Doctor's traveling companions.

"Doctor Who" fans are the most intense fans. That is just a whole other world of fanatic. I

don't think I have cared as much about a TV show as these people. It is fascinating. They are a funny, sweet bunch," Piper says.

She has seen something of a downside to fans accepting her as Belle after knowing her as a singer and on "Doctor Who."

It is certainly a mature story. Mostly, though, since "Secret Diary" started airing, Piper has seen a dramatic change in the way men react to her.

"Men don't come anywhere near me anymore," Piper says with a Cheshire cat smile. "They seem so threatened by me now. They also just stare for ages. Like I'm going to do something wild and raunchy."

"Much to their disappointment, it never really happens. And lots of guys ask me questions, sex-based questions for

their own sexual accounts. So it's kind of -- it's an interesting place to be."

Piper is not certain if this latest phase in her career will widen the variety of roles she is offered.

She's not worrying about that right now. The baby she was hiding during the filming of season two, a boy, is now 3 months old. (She is married to Laurence Fox.)

Piper's getting ready to start a nine-week filming schedule to shoot season three.

"This is really the perfect job," she says. "We shoot about an hour away (from her home). And when we are done I will have plenty of time to be a mom."

And she will be able to shoot the next season without trying to hide a pregnancy.

**OUR SIDE EDITORIAL**

## The wait is over: put rhetoric to action

**RELATED STORY**

INAUGURATION, page 1

THE JAMBAR  
EDITORIAL BOARD

President Barack Obama's moment in history is now just that. The United States has inaugurated the first black president, a milestone that has been delayed for far too long.

Obama's shelf life as a moment in history will be short-lived, however, if he does not make good on the rhetoric of his inaugural address. Campaigns based in soaring rhetoric work, but presidential administrations must be grounded in the actualization of the message.

In his speech, Obama went to great lengths to ensure Americans of virtually all-political stripes that they would not be boxed out of his administration. He spoke of uniting Americans behind a common cause to restore a common greatness. He reached out to liberals with his statements about addressing global warming and regulation of the free market. He reached out to conservatives with his promises to eliminate programs that are deemed inefficient. He cited Christians, Muslims and non-believers. It was the kind of speech that a nation suffering a crisis of confidence needed to hear.

We, along with the rest of the nation, will be watching to see how he can navigate the murky waters ahead. If he reaches too far to the left, he will alienate the centrists whose support put him over the top. If he governs too closely to the center, he will take a political hit with many in his base. To govern effectively, he will need to strike a delicate balance between these. There will undoubtedly be policy fights along the way, but as Americans, we wish him the best of luck, and offer our sincere hope that his administration will be a force for good for all Americans, regardless of their political ideology.

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

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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.

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IN ORDER TO ENFORCE THEIR \$25 REFILL POLICY, ARBY'S HIRED A HILLBILLY TO GUARD THE SODA FOUNTAIN.



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

**COMMENTARY**

# The miracle of change

Leonard Pitts Jr.  
MCT

It begins before the sun does.

Not yet 5 a.m. and there is at a suburban Metro station a line of people going out of the station and up the escalator and around the corner and down to the far, far end of the parking lot. In town, it's worse.

They crowd into this city, into their capital, like ants crowd atop a sugar mound, for the new president's inauguration. They have come in numbers that make it impossible, sometimes, simply to move. They have come from dining room tables where bills are stacked beneath pink slips. They have come from sick rooms where loved ones have died, literally, of poverty. They have come from a dawning realization that they were sold a war they didn't need to wipe out weapons that didn't exist. They have come from bar stools and church pews, from classrooms and factory floors and from mansions. Beyonce is here, Denzel Washington is here, Jay-Z and Diddy are here. And Motown poet Smokey Robinson is here to see, as he puts it, "the arrival of

the real meaning of the United States of America."

They have come out of a growing sense, shared now by the vast majority of Americans, that the country is fast moving in the wrong direction. In poll after poll in recent months, Americans have been found depressed and pessimistic about their country.

But the genius of America is that here, unlike in Cuba or North Korea, the people are empowered, when they don't like a thing, to change it. Try something and if that don't do, try something new. Every four years, America gets the option of reinventing itself. You wonder if Americans really appreciate what a miracle this is.

Maybe this year, they do. Maybe in this crisis moment, with the economy broken, with war on two fronts, with palpable fatigue of the lies, alibis, incompetence, and tolerance of incompetence that have characterized the last eight years, they have a renewed appreciation for their ability as Americans, when displeased, to choose something new.

Maybe this, along with the history being made here, is why they have come to their capital in numbers that beggar description, an ocean of people stretch-

"And if that don't do, then I'll try something new."

Smokey Robinson

ing west, farther than eyes can see.

When the outgoing president appears, they boo him, taunt him with an iconic chorus: "Na na na na, na na na na. Hey, hey, hey, goodbye."

When Barack Obama arrives, when he takes the simple, ancient oath that makes him president, they erupt with something more than joy, some pent up something relief, perhaps that bursts out of them like water.

His speech is workmanlike, with few of the rhetorical frills for which he is known. He offers implicit, surprisingly pointed, criticism of the president he replaces, promising a rebirth of American leadership on the world stage, a restoration of science, and an end to petty, partisan politics. He rejects as false "the choice between our safety and our ideals."

And he calls upon Americans to embrace responsibility. He urges them to look to

the past to find confidence for the future. "Starting today," he says, "we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America."

Smokey Robinson, who is 68, looks on with his chin elevated and something proud and distant in his eyes.

And if there is a subtext to Obama's words, it is as profound as it is simple: we start fresh now, and there is a new sheriff in town. For those who have crowded into the capital, it seems enough. They disperse in huge, slow-moving crowds down the broad avenues and side streets, talking excitedly as vendors move among them, hawking T-shirts, caps and calendars bearing the name and image of the 44th president of the United States.

It is a clockwork miracle, Americans, trying something new.

**COMMENTARY**  
**Dierkes deliberated**



## The End of Hying, the Beginning of the Beginning

Doug Dierkes  
COLUMNIST

It's finally happened. Barack Obama has officially been sworn into office. Even if you ignore all the campaign promises and boundless optimism, the transition from President-elect to President will do more to put America on the right track than five terms of Chuck Norris' leadership followed by Stephen Colbert being declared Supreme Chancellor of the United States.

And yet, there are still people who are not happy with the change in leadership. Let's find out more about these people who weren't at our inaugural party in Kilcawley Center.

**REPUBLICANS**

Right now, all but the most stalwart of conservatives are starting to see that electing John "Dubya 2.0" McCain and his barely-qualified friend Sarah Palin might not have been in the best interests of the country, much less the Republican Party. Even so, they still have plenty of reasons to be disappointed. They lost the election by both the popular and the electoral vote by such a wide margin that it would raise red flags everywhere if McCain was declared the winner. And if I know Republicans like I think I do, there's more than a few sore losers over this election. Some of them don't even have shows on Fox News!

**FOREIGN FEAR INDUSTRY**

I'm not talking about the American scaremongers who tell us to be afraid of anyone "not from 'round these parts." Instead, I am referring to anyone outside the country who gets influence, money, or sadistic pleasure by screaming "death to America" on international television. Having a friendly face who wants frequent, open dialogs with those in power makes it a little harder to keep spitting venom at the White House.

Also, burning Obama in effigy could possibly lead to the use of America's most potent weapon: Reverend Al Sharpton.

**COMEDIANS**

Even though most of us in the political comedy arena are glad to finally have a president that we can't make fun of, we're also pissed at the lack of material for our humor. Eight straight years of comedy at our leader's expense are now about to be washed away in a tide of hope and commemorative merchandise.

Then again ... I could probably write a whole act about the Obama coin set.

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

got an opinion?

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

# Question mark about Obama: Can he deliver?

Myriam Marquez  
MCT

The seniors at the University of Miami watched the 44th president's inauguration with the tempered hope that comes with the wisdom of age.

These weren't 20-something students facing a new world of promise with a new president in the White House. These were senior citizens, many of them children during World War II, a few who fought in World War II, all of them committed to lifelong learning.

And their biggest fear at least, the one expressed most by several at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UM is whether President Barack Obama's fix will amount to runaway inflation and

even fewer jobs and retirement earnings should the federal government spend a trillion dollars to stimulate the economy.

Let's compare Franklin Roosevelt's presidency to Obama's challenge in the midst of the worst economy since the Great Depression, plus two wars.

Consider that in his first year in office, FDR called a special session to deal with the banking crisis, and 100 days later emerged victorious on virtually everything he sought. A Democrat-controlled Congress revamped the banking system so that banks could open again; cut salaries across the board for public employees (it bought FDR credibility with conservatives); set up price supports for crops; opened up homeownership by offering 30-year mortgages

at low interest rates; established the Civilian Conservation Corps, which created three million jobs; got rid of the gold standard so that trade would flow overseas; and set a minimum wage.

Can Obama deliver such an audacious agenda?

It's not 1933. FDR had the luxury of a willing Congress and a passive press. I know, I know. You might think Obama enjoys these same perks, but this is a 24/7 world.

People don't sit around today to listen to a fireside chat from the president or read a newspaper at leisure. They tweet and blog and have a gazillion news channels to give them information and analysis, often conflicting and agitated. Citizens can e-mail en masse to members of Congress and de-

mand a stop to whatever is in the works. And they do, as happened with immigration reform proposed by former President George W. Bush.

In his somber style, Obama said the economy "calls for action, bold and swift."

"What the cynics fail to understand is that the ground has shifted beneath them that the stale political arguments that have consumed us for so long no longer apply," he said. "The question we ask today is not whether our government is too big or too small, but whether it works whether it helps families find jobs at a decent wage, care they can afford, a retirement that is dignified. Where the answer is yes, we intend to move forward. Where the answer is no, programs will end."

Call me a cynic, but I can't imagine that this Congress, which is even less popular than Bush, will cut government workers' pay or make their Cadillac healthcare plans comparable to that of the average nongovernment worker lucky enough to have insurance.

I agree that the ground has shifted. But overcoming the fear of change in a broken economy will take more than an impressive speechmaker. It will take a leader willing to call his own party on its excesses. Can he?

Many seniors in the classroom smiled as they watched Obama deliver his speech on TV. Having lived through a world war and seen our country become the leader of the Free World, they know firsthand what awaits the next generation if Obama does nothing.

# Penguins battle Vikings on ESPNU

Keith Langford Jr.  
SPORTS EDITOR

Coming off a less-than-stellar two-game stint in Wisconsin, the Youngstown State University men's basketball team has to regain their groove as they entertain the Cleveland State University Vikings in a nationally televised game Friday on ESPNU.

YSU students are excited that YSU will be on showcase to a national audience Friday night.

"I think it's a good thing. It will be a memorable and exciting experience for the team," said junior Julianne Popovec. "Relatives from out of town can watch the game if they can't make it to Youngstown."

The Penguins are in a state of inconsistency as they have lost three straight games after winning four of their previous six games. When they play the Vikings, the Penguins will be at the start of an eight-day, four-game home stand. If the Penguins want to win against the Vikings, they are going to have to start making shots. In the two games in Wisconsin against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, the Penguins shot below 34 percent from the field in each contest. In the Penguins' 78-61

loss against Green Bay, the Penguins allowed them to shoot a sizzling 51 percent from the field.

Even with four straight home games, the Penguins are only 3-5 at Beeghly Center. They want to give the country a good show and give the hometown fans their money's worth.

Head coach Jerry Slocum has only good things to say about the opposing team.

"Cedric Jackson and J'Nathan Bullock are among the top players in the league," he said. "They are a team that has struggled in conference play and I'm sure that they are going to come in really desperate ... we know we will get their best shot." Slocum said.

Cleveland State boasts a record of 13-7 overall and a solid .500 mark of 4-4 in the Horizon League. The Vikings are only 1-3 in the Horizon League on the road, so perhaps the Penguins can capitalize on the Vikings' poor conference road record.

The Vikings ride into Youngstown with a two-game losing streak after losing to UW-Milwaukee and UW-Green Bay. Before their recent two-game skid, the Vikings enjoyed a stretch of three straight wins over Horizon League opponents University of Detroit-Mercy, Loyola University and University of Illinois-Chicago.

For YSU to be successful on the

big stage, the Penguins' shooters have to start knocking down jumpers. The Penguins average three more points per game than the Vikings but allow their opponents to score three more points per game. The Penguins need to play better defense if they want to win this game and for the rest of the season.

The Penguins have to contain J'Nathan Bullock in order to have a chance in the game. Bullock bullies opponents to the tune of 15.8 points per game and chips in 6.7 rebounds for spare change. Bullock rains in field goals made at a respectable 38 percent, so he is a deep threat the Penguins need to pay attention to.

Mahoning Valley native sophomore D'Aundray Brown can be an X-factor for the Vikings in this game. Brown will most likely want to provide his family with a good game so he can be a threat for the Penguins. He pitches in just under eight points and slightly above five rebounds per game for the Vikings.

The Penguins, however, will counter with their own players. Former Horizon League player of the week junior Kelvin Bright leads the Penguins with his 14.2 points per game. Senior Jack Liles is a double-double threat in the post and sophomore Vytas Sulskis shoots the 3-pointer at a solid 35 percent this season.



Sophomore Tom Parks

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTS INFORMATION

*"Cedric Jackson and J'Nathan Bullock are among the top players in the league ...*

*They are a team that has struggled in conference play and I'm sure that they are going to come in really desperate ... we know we will get their best shot."*

Jerry Slocum, head coach

## Breaking Records

Seven Penguins set personal bests or Youngstown State records at Doug Raymond Invitational

Keith Langford Jr.  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Youngstown State University men's and women's track and field teams had a solid meet at the Doug Raymond Invitational on Saturday.

Seven Penguins had career days as they broke school and career-best records.

Penguins who broke records were seniors R.D. Goodright, Micheal Perri, and Shayne York, junior Lauren Blase, sophomore Jerrill Hall and freshman Kiplinsad Tisia.

Blase completed in the 3,000-meter run and ran a time of 10:24.41. Blase improved on her personal best time by a staggering 11 seconds and won the event in the process. Witmer placed second in the 5,000-meter run with a time of 18:15.45, which ranks sixth in school history.

Placing fifth, Goodright ran a career-best time of 4:15.99 in the mile. Tisia also ran a personal best time of 4:14.46 in the mile and placed second overall in the mile.

Hall broke his own personal mark in the 60-meter hurdles as he ran a blazing time of 8.29 seconds. Perri ran a time of 48.69 in the 400-meter dash, which placed him in second place at the meet.

York completes the list of Penguins who had career days. York placed second in the long jump and third in the triple jump. York's length of 6.87 m in the long jump and 13.95 m in the triple jumps were personal bests. The two lengths of 6.87 in the long jump and 13.95 m in the triple jump rank York at second place all-time in YSU history.

Junior middle distance Jennifer Roman is confident in the women's track and field team.

"I think we are going to be really good this year. We are going for it [the Horizon League championship] this year and you just have to win with that," Roman said.



Senior R.D. Goodright set a personal best mark in the mile as he ran a time of 4:15.99 at the Doug Raymond Invitational on January 17th.

## YSU women continue losing streak with loss against Cleveland State

Keith Langford Jr.  
SPORTS EDITOR

The woe-filled season continues for the Youngstown State University women's basketball team as they fell 60-51 to the Cleveland State University Vikings at Beeghly Center on Saturday.

The Penguins shot just 31 percent from the field while allowing the Vikings to score the nets at a 56 percent clip as the Vikings pulled away in the second half.

The Penguins made only seven out of 30 shots in the first half of the game but improved in the second half making 13 for 34. The loss dropped the Penguins to 2-14 overall with zero wins in the Horizon League.

The Penguins have two road games this week, facing the Wright State University Raiders tonight and the University of Detroit Mercy Titans on Saturday. The team ranks last in the Horizon League in points scored per game (51.8) and points allowed per game (73.7).

## Penguins swim team defeats St. Francis (Pa) on Senior Day

YSU Sports  
Information

The Youngstown State swimming and diving team defeated Saint Francis (Pa.) on Saturday afternoon at the Beeghly Center Natatorium to send seniors Olivia Arnold, Natasha Bray and Jessica Front out winners in their last home meet.

YSU won nine of the 13 events as Arnold won the 1,000-yard freestyle and the 200-yard breaststroke while Bray won the 500 free. Arnold also placed second in the 400-yard IM finishing just .02 behind Saint Francis (Pa.)'s Jessica Dunn.

The Penguins started the meet strong winning the 200-yard medley relay in time of 1:52.33.

Arnold followed with her win in the 1,000 in time of 10:38.34.

For YSU, Hillary Barrett finished fourth and Katie Wolf was fifth.

In the 200-yard free, YSU took second through fourth as Caitlin Cook (1:59.69), Kirstin Walker (2:00.63) and Front (2:03.79) took those spots.

Nishiani Cicilson placed second in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 25.56 seconds while Alana Kane was third at 25.75 seconds.

Arnold placed second in the 400 IM with a time of 4:49.02 while Bray was fourth and Barrett was fifth.

Cook earned a victory in the 200-yard butterfly in time of 2:11.78 while Megan Rupe picked up a win in the 100-yard freestyle in a time of 54.65 seconds. Kane was third in the 100 free.

Ashley Williamson placed third in the 200 backstroke in a

time of 2:16.69.

Bray won the 500 free in a time of 5:17.76 while Walker was third at 5:27.84.

Arnold's time of 2:31.69 earned her first place in the breast while teammate Jen Johnstone was third.

YSU closed the meet winning the 200-yard freestyle relay with a winning time of 1:41.34.

Amanda Carpin posted a career-high score in the one-meter competition finishing with a score of 218.75. In the three-meter event she finished with a 221.10, also a personal best.

The dual against the Red Flash was YSU's first competition since the end of November. The Penguins return to action next Saturday when they travel to Cleveland to face Horizon League foes Cleveland State and UIC in a triangular.

Don't forget to buy your tickets by 5 p.m. on Friday for the YSU vs. Cleveland State basketball game.