

# The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

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YSU ROCK CLIMBERS REACH GREAT HEIGHTS



## CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

PHOTOS BY CHRIS COTELESE / THE JAMBAR

### Projects ahead of schedule, near completion

Josh Stipanovich  
NEWS EDITOR

As students, faculty and the Youngstown State University community walk through campus, many "Restricted Area: Authorized personnel only" signs can be seen.

With an array of construction going on as a part of the YSU Centennial Master Plan, the university may look like a war zone in certain spots, but as the spring semester progresses, so will these projects, said Associate of Planning and Construction Rich White.

"So far [the Williamson College of Business] is on schedule, and it's going to be opening for the fall of this year," White said.

Other jobs under way include the Tod Hall renovation, the Flats at Wick, Coffelt Hall and the east gateway entrance reformation along University Plaza and Wick Avenue.

"Basically what we're trying to do is mirror that over to the other side where the Butler [Institute of American Art] is so it's a more formal entrance coming into University Plaza," White said.

The Tod Hall renovation that began in the fall is still under construction and will be completed in April, White said.

Director of Campus Planning and Community Development Hunter Morrison said Coffelt Hall is "near completion" and should be done this spring.

The Flats at Wick, which is ahead of schedule, will consist of four housing complexes for upperclassmen and the first building should be ready in June. Once the first building is completed, the next phase is scheduled to begin.

*"We feel good about the progress of the building, and the somewhat of a mild winter has contributed to us being ahead of schedule at this point."*

-Dominic Marchionda

President of U.S. Campus Communities Dominic Marchionda is in charge of the project, and said they wouldn't be in this position if it weren't for the weather.

"We feel good about the progress of the building, and the somewhat of a mild winter has contributed to us being ahead of schedule at this point," Marchionda said.

As current construction continues, other jobs are being lined up to begin.

Morrison said the Watson and Tressel Training Site (WATTS) proposal, which was announced in the summer of 2007, has recently been sent out for bidding. The indoor training facility's main purpose will be to allow YSU football and all of the athletic department to train during the winter months.

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## Discontinued art and tech courses dismay some upperclassmen

Dan Pompili  
ASSIST. NEWS EDITOR

Some Youngstown State University art students have found themselves in transition during their final semesters. Those who declared majors or minors in the Arts and Technology program have found at least four upper-division courses no longer available.

Digital AV Production (ART 3792), 3D Computer Animation I: Modeling (ART 3791), 3D Computer Animation II: Animation (ART 3793) and Advanced Studies in Arts and Technology (ART 4893) have been discontinued since 2007.

However, these courses remained in the list of available courses, causing some confusion and frustration for students who required these credits to graduate.

Senior theater major Ryan Bissett, a minor in the Art and Technology program, became frustrated when neither he nor his adviser in the theater department could discern why the classes he needed were not opening up for registration.

Bissett then consulted the art department to learn that the curriculum was no longer available to minors or majors. Some of the introductory classes are still available through the graphic design program.

Dr. Michelle Nelson, assistant professor in the art department, has been advising students in their transition out of the program.

Nelson said the program saw a drop in enrollment when students determined that it was not what they expected. Enrollment dropped from over 100 students to approximately 20.

She said students believed the program to be centered around animation and 3D graphic design, but that those were not the intended goals of the program.

Due to the drop in enrollment, some of the technology and software required for the program became irreconcilable with the department's tuition revenue. They also began to lose faculty as a result of professors not achieving tenure or simply leaving the university for other positions.

Nelson said the program now has only three student majors remaining: one senior, one junior and one sophomore. All of them have been directed toward other classes that are relevant to the coursework.

Bissett, who has nine credit hours remaining in the minor, is taking three of them this semester in a class called Web as Art. He is presently working with new art professor Dr. Dana Sperry to determine the final work necessary to complete his degree.

"[Professor] Sperry was very helpful to me," Bissett said.

One option for Bissett may be an independent study that could count for as many as six hours.

Nelson said independent studies are one option the department is employing to help the transitioning students complete their degrees. It is being used, specifically, in lieu of Advanced Studies (ART 4893).

The Digital AV class is being taught in a different format, as a selected topics course.

Nelson said the 3D computer classes have not been taught in her more than five years at YSU because of the cost of the software. Additionally, no more than one student at a time has been eligible for the class.

She said the classes remained on the list because the university is required to keep the program open until all students enrolled graduate. Because of the high cost of the required technology, however, those students are forced to take other relevant courses to complete their degrees.

Nelson said Sperry has been hired to head a new program that will replace the old one. She said its title is more indicative of the goals of the course, and therefore students will not be misled. Arts and Technology, she

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## Free H1N1 vaccines at YSU Student Health Services

Juliana Hull  
REPORTER

Youngstown State University's Student Health Services is offering free H1N1 vaccines to students, faculty and staff from Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Since November, YSU's Student Health Services has given out 550 free H1N1 vaccines; half were to students, while the other half were to faculty, staff and visitors. YSU's Health Clinic also gives out the free vaccines to family members of students as long as they are over 18. However, the medical staff said these numbers are far too low and more students need to be vaccinated.

Dr. Lisa Weiss, YSU medical director, strongly encourages students to get vaccinated because of their age.

"Young people for whatever reason do not have any immunity to this particular strain. They have found that young people get sicker from this particular strain of flu," Weiss said.

Many students are scared to get vaccinated because of the

risk of side effects. However, Dr. Muna Prasad from The Ohio State University Medical Center said this risk is minor.

"I tell my patients that the risk from the virus and the illness is far greater than any risk posed in the vaccine," Prasad said.

Weiss and her staff agree with Prasad's statement, and said that out of the 550 people vaccinated at the Health Clinic, there were "no reported side effects from the vaccine."

Weiss said the H1N1 vaccine is very similar to the regular

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PHOTO BY NICK YOUNG / THE JAMBAR

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Final presidential candidate to speak today**

Dr. Cynthia Anderson, Vice President for Student Affairs at YSU, is the fourth and final presidential candidate to host a day of forums. Anderson will speak in the Board of Trustees room in Tod Hall for a faculty forum at 2 p.m., hold a forum for SGA representatives at 3 p.m. in Kilcawley Center, and close the day at 4 p.m. for an open community forum back in Tod Hall. The Board of Trustees hopes to have a candidate chosen for the position by mid-February.

**Mayor to speak at STEM Awards Dinner**

Mayor Jay Williams will be the keynote speaker at the second-annual STEM Awards Dinner scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 18 at 6 p.m. in the DeBartolo Stadium Club. The event, sponsored by the STEM College, the Youngstown Business Incubator, the Advanced Manufacturing Initiative and partially supported by the Dominion Foundation, will honor distinguished alumni, students and STEM community leaders. The cost is \$15 and registration is limited to the first 150 people.

**POLICE BRIEFS**

**Lost Keys in Lyden House**

An officer responded to a call at Lyden House regarding missing keys. The victim said she placed her keys on a desk in the computer lab in the basement. The victim said she left the lab, and remembered she left her keys at the desk and when she came back she discovered her keys were missing.

**Verbal Arguments in Christman Dining Commons**

A student went to Christman Dining Commons last Thursday to discuss a job interview that had been cancelled. The student was told that the job vacancy was no longer there, and the student got into a verbal altercation with the executive chef, and left the building. The student returned half an hour later, and confronted a female employee, but the female employee felt threatened, and the student was told to leave.

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## Hybrid classes gaining popularity

Lindsey Shaffer  
REPORTER

Youngstown State University has found a way to incorporate its student body's love for technology into more classes in upcoming semesters.

Dr. Gary Salvner, chairman of the English department, said several English courses, including ENGL 1550 and 1551, are being transformed and will soon be offered as either online courses or hybrid courses with Web support.

A hybrid course involves meeting in person for the majority of class sessions, but parts of the course such as tests, quizzes and discussions may be set up and assigned through the Web. Since a great number of English classes are based on writing, this is an area that is being expanded onto the Web.

Assistant professor Dr. Barbara Nykiel-Herbert is one of the many teachers who volunteered to incorporate distance learning in her classroom to promote a hybrid course environment.

"A hybrid classroom lets me see what works and what doesn't," she said.

Through a trial-and-error mentality, the classes are monitored and students are able to have a part in deciding how the courses should work, Nykiel-Herbert

said. YSU junior Maegan Bellino is taking her first hybrid course this semester.

"I actually was unaware that it was a hybrid course prior to going to class. It was kind of a pleasant surprise because so far I'm actually enjoying it," she said.

Bellino said Web-based courses have several advantages over typical classes.

"Being a full-time student and working 30-40 hours a week, it's likely that I'm doing schoolwork at 8 in the morning or 11 at night, then I post my material online when I can," she said. "I find it very convenient to work at this pace because my schedule is so demanding."

With the added flexibility for students, Nykiel-Herbert thinks that offering online and Web-based courses is a good way to increase enrollment.

"YSU is set in an urban area, and we have many non-traditional students. Offering more online classes allows students flexibility, and it may attract more students who are not local," she said.

Nykiel-Herbert is in the process of developing ENGL 2651, Introduction to Language, into an online course, and wants to have it ready by fall.

"The faculty who want to teach online are being offered training in the use of our new distance-learning platform, and the Media and Academic Computing office

provides assistance with any technical issues," she said.

Several additional courses are being worked on in hopes of making them available online to students in the near future.

"Another faculty member is looking at transforming the ENGL 2631 mythology course to a Web-based course, but that won't be ready by fall," Salvner said. "The [Professional Writing and Editing] program is looking at offering some of its classes online, probably starting with ENGL 4849. Those are the current initiatives, and we'll probably be expanding from there."

Nykiel-Herbert encourages her students to share their thoughts and is willing to adjust the course to fit the needs of her students. She said student feedback plays a big role in developing a hybrid course.

Bellino said the course would be "a good learning experience."

"The way the class is set up, people in the class get to work in groups with one another, communicating mostly online through forums and discussion boards on Blackboard," Bellino said. "It's nice to be able to do work online in a longer time frame opposed to having only an hour and 15 minutes to complete an assignment."

Bellino also said she's glad the class is not entirely online, since "face-to-face communication is beneficial as well."

## SGA meeting concentrates on proposal to help Haiti

Andrea DeMart  
REPORTER

The Youngstown State University Student Government Association meeting held Monday quickly turned to a proposal for assisting the relief efforts in Haiti.

SGA Vice President Abbie Twyford proposed a fundraiser called "Hoops for Haiti." The proposed fundraiser would take place during a YSU men's basketball game, and involve a raffle. Proceeds would be donated to a relief organization like the American Red Cross.

An ad hoc committee was created to handle the organization of the event; the committee will contact the athletic department and some community members for time or monetary assistance.

Old business consisted of an update on the search for a new e-mail system at YSU. SGA Vice President of University Affairs Jack Daugherty said YSU is working with Hotmail to establish a new way for students to use the YSU e-mail network. SGA is also working with Gmail on the same topic. YSU and SGA will compare and contrast the two systems to determine which would be simplest for students.

SGA President Zach Brown said the YSU Banner system is "not easy to use," but that "this is not something that will be solved in the next 12 weeks."

Additionally, the meeting included a reminder about the campus blood drive, which will be held today and Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room. All blood donated will stay in the community and help remedy local blood shortages.



## What are your plans for the Super Bowl?



*"Don't know yet. Either hanging out with the brothers or my girlfriend."*

Patrick Sheldon, sophomore



*"I don't care who wins. I just want free food."*

Julius Thomas, freshman



*"Either go out with friends or hang at home."*

Steve Hodge, senior

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YSU is also in negotiations with two architecture firms for the Kilcawley Center and Wick-Pollock Inn renovations, Morrison said.

WTW Architects of Pittsburgh has been chosen for the Kilcawley Center renovation, while Faniro Architects in Youngstown and Chambers, Murphy and Burge of Akron would be working together on the Wick-Pollock Inn renovation.

"There's a lot of stuff happening ... a lot of vests flying and more vests to barn," Morrison said.

**H1N1** page 1

flu vaccine and that students should not be worried.

"Getting the H1N1 vaccine is like getting the flu vaccine. It's made exactly the same way as the flu vaccine. If the H1N1 strain had appeared in the population earlier, it would have been put in the regular flu vaccine, but the regular flu vaccine was already in progress so they couldn't add the H1N1 strain in," Weiss said.

Weiss said the H1N1 strain will likely be put in the regular flu vaccine in November and that "people should not fear the H1N1 vaccine."

Before receiving the H1N1 vaccine, those interested must print and fill out a form available at <http://www.healthclinic.ysu.edu>.

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said, was never intended as an animation program.

The new program is titled Interdisciplinary Digital Media. Nelson said it is designed to give visual arts students, such as those majoring in photography, an opportunity to add digital media and video to their studies.

"The landscape of art has changed dramatically," she said. "Traditional artists need an understanding of digital media."

Nelson said the confusion and frustration felt by some students raises the point that faculty need to advise students to seek mentors in the area of their minor, since only someone in the art department understands the rotation of the curriculum.

**Students find healthy food options on campus**

**Joe Giesy**  
JAMBAR REPORTER

Wake up, grab a coffee and go to class. Class ends, and it's time to run across campus to another class. Stomach grumbles, grab a snack and go to yet another class. For many Youngstown State University students, this is a typical day on campus. No wonder it's so hard to eat healthy at YSU. Or is it?

Zara Rowlands, registered dietitian and coordinator of the Didactic Program in Dietetics, said eating healthy is all about planning ahead and knowing the difference between what's healthy and what's not.

"One way to eat really healthy, especially if you're on the run, is to bring stuff with you," she said.

Some of her suggestions are cereal and granola bars and crackers. She also recommends dried fruit and fruits with skins, since they aren't easily bruised when put in a backpack.

This is good information

for someone like junior Cory Hinzman. Although Hinzman likes to eat healthy at home, he finds it difficult while on campus because of time constraints.

Joe Scafuri, another YSU student, said he also has problems finding "healthy food choices at school. He attributes this to "too many greasy, fast food places, [and] not enough healthy options."

Rowlands said some fast food restaurants are making healthy improvements, however.

"They're getting the message that they need to at least offer some things that are healthier," Rowlands said. "They've gotten a lot better than they used to, and it's from the backlash of people talking about fast food being a bad choice."

Rowlands still warns against excessive fast food consumption since one meal could potentially contain a whole day's worth of calories.

"If you get just the sandwich, it's enough and it doesn't have to be as bad," she said.

"It's when you abuse fast food that it becomes a problem, but if you're in a rush and it's not an everyday thing, it's OK."

If there is time to sit down and eat, Rowlands said soup is always a good choice.

"If you combine that with a sandwich, you have almost a heavy meal. Sometimes the soup alone is enough if you get it with something like a whole grain bagel," Rowlands said.

Yogurt is another healthy option, Rowlands said.

"Yogurt has a lot of protein in it, has a lot of calcium and it's got vitamins," Rowlands said.

She recommends having a variety of foods in your diet and suggests protein "to tide you over" because it will usually last longer.

"Everywhere that you go, you can make healthy choices. It's just thinking about what you're getting and making sure that you're covering all your bases," Rowlands said. "We look at food and we say, 'This is bad food and this is good food,' and it might be the same thing."

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## 2010-2011 Financial Aid Awareness Week

Stop by one of our tables for information on financial aid for the 2010-2011 academic year. The priority deadline to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on the Web and the YSU Institutional Aid Application is February 15, 2010.

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:

Tuesday, January 26, 2010	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Wednesday, January 27, 2010	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Thursday, January 28, 2010	10 a.m.-3 p.m.

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

## CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF YOUNGSTOWN

PART-TIME ASSISTANT SECRETARY/LEGAL STENOGRAPHER II - YOUNGSTOWN  
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION - \$15.71 PER HOUR.

This position entails general secretarial and office management duties for a department head or supervisor of the municipal government. Incumbent employees must exercise independent judgment in resolving varied problems which do not involve major deviation from established policy or procedure. **DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:** Graduation from high school, including supplemental course work in business practices or any equivalent combination of experience and training. Technical (paralegal), associate, or bachelor degree desirable. Familiarity with internet based legal research or docketing programs desirable. Considerable secretarial experience including some office management experience. Familiarity with Ohio criminal law, police or criminal procedure highly desirable. Applications accepted at the Youngstown Civil Service Commission Office, 7<sup>th</sup> floor, City Hall, Youngstown, Ohio, from January 19, 2010, through January 29, 2010. City Hall will be closed Monday, January 18, 2010 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Hours: 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Examination will be given on Saturday, February 6, 2010, starting at 10:00 A.M. at Youngstown State University. To qualify for Veteran's Bonus, submit a copy of DD-214 when application is filed.

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## QUEST 2010

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\*\*\*\*\*

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OUR SIDE

## Snubbing student approval

The Jambar  
EDITORIAL BOARD

Today is the final day for the short visitations by finalists for the open presidential position at YSU, a position that Dr. Sweet will vacate by July. After the process is complete, it wouldn't be out of line for the portion of the student body that actually cares about who the next president is to feel a little slighted.

Let's rewind to September of last year when the Storbeck/Pimentel & Associates, LLC independent consulting firm visited campus for two days to ask faculty, students, community and alumni to describe the perfect presidential candidate. Information gathered from the forums created the ad that was placed in the Chronicle of Higher Education as well as national print media to encourage those qualified to apply for the presidential position.

After preliminary interview processes, four candidates were found to be the best fit. Over the past two weeks, these four candidates have visited YSU to be introduced to the university community in three separate forums with target audiences: faculty, SGA representatives and open community.

It seems like the process took more time to gather the ad information than to present its results. The lack of an open student forum, not just for SGA reps, is hard to overlook.

The next president of YSU will be the employee of the entire student body, and to not openly present the four potential employees to the employer is just bad form. Is the university telling us that our input is good enough to justify their costs, but not important enough to seek our approval?

The next president at YSU should not be shocked to be just as unknown as an incoming freshman in the fall.



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ABOUT THE JAMBAR

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

OUR SIDE POLICY

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

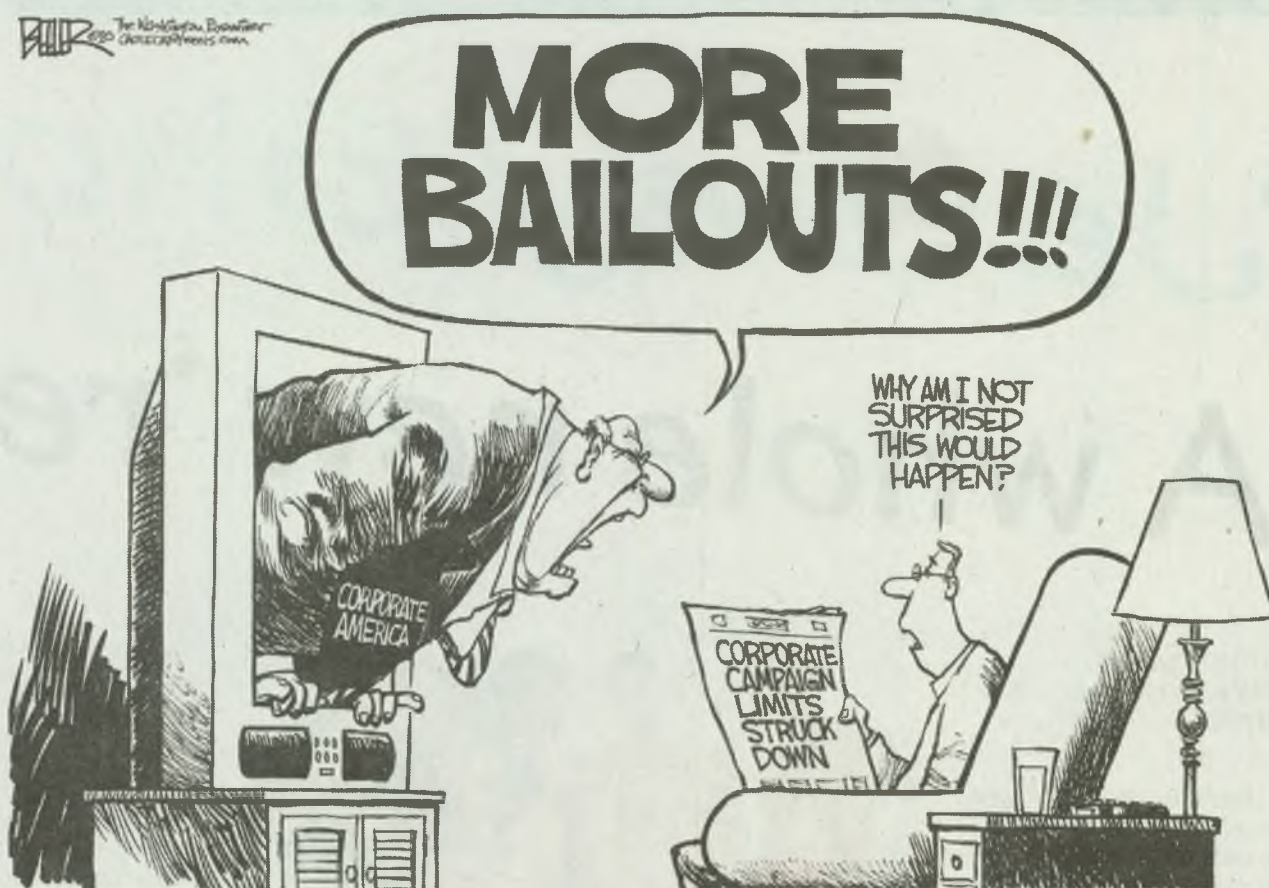
YOUR SIDE POLICY

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

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

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

The National Business Roundtable  
and  
The Chamber of Commerce



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

## Letter to the Editor

I don't imagine that it's gotten any less expensive to be a college student since I graduated two years ago. This no-brainer is reinforced by the fact that with our drained economy, money is even harder to come by and keep in your pockets for whatever future you want to pursue. All this considered I would see it as advantageous for anyone enrolled in YSU to begin taking an extremely close look at the health care debate rolling around in D.C. right now. To put it frankly, remaining detached from the issue is only going to leave you reeling in the future.

Anyone knows that going to see a doctor is damn expensive, and keeping a weaselly insurance company from not abandoning you when sickness actually does occur is a task fit for Hercules on creatine. Being already in debt can only add to the frustration of dealing with these professionally trained grifters. That is why I believe this insurance reform bill to be so crucial for managing finances in the future, whether you're in academia or not. The legislation in procedural limbo right now does a lot to level the playing field between you and the corporations running the show. And while it is true that the bill is becoming a shadow of its past self more and more, the reality is that its failure to reach passage would be tragedy with a precedent in 1993 under Clinton. Tedious as the now closed-door debate can be it really is the crisis that has throbbled steadily for this country's poor and unemployed for decades. Getting distracted or cynical about this issue can only exacerbate an already splintered system.

So I would end this by stating that your level of interest is the life-blood of this debate. Forget the matter and it will grow more watered-down, more prone to GOP taint (gross as that can be interpreted). And how can someone that is intrigued by this debate manifest their curiosity into something useful? Do anything you can. Write your senator, throw a support rally (even if it's just you!), debate the skeptics and above all show that this matters to you somehow. We are at the forefront of finishing the first step in something long awaited, and at last beginning to move towards a system less concerned with profit and more aware of the down-trodden.

I'll be relieved when this is done, but until that time a steady focus on the action in Washington is of the utmost importance. Keep your eyes on the prize, penguins.

Robert Heltzel

## Wall Street dodges the blame

Miami Herald  
MCT

More than two years after the onset of the economic collapse, some of the nation's leading bankers remain in denial about their role in bringing about one of the biggest recessions in U.S. history.

That much was evident from the first hearing of the special committee trying to figure out what happened and why. The first witnesses called last week by the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission featured leaders of four big Wall Street banks, who spoke in numbing, technical detail about the collapse, as if boring their listeners to death might absolve the bankers of any blame.

Lloyd C. Blankfein, chairman and CEO of Goldman Sachs, didn't want to talk about how his institution was fleecing its customers by enthusiastically promoting securitized mortgages as good investments even as it made hugely profitable side bets that those investments would fail. Instead, he suggested that it was just, you know, kind of an act of God, likening the financial crisis to a "hurricane."

His colleague from JP Morgan Chase, Jamie Dimon, agreed that these things just happen every five to seven years or so. "Why is everyone so surprised?" he asked.

At no time did he or Blankfein or any of the other witnesses suggest that they had a responsibility to ensure that the products their institutions were peddling were worthwhile investments.

"We regret the consequence that people have lost money," Blankfein said, but he stopped well short of expressing genuine contrition. As a group, the witnesses displayed a deplorable lack of candor or accountability.

Philip Angelides, a former state treasurer of California who heads the commission, says its principal mission is to gain understanding of the economic debacle and its causes.

If so, the panel is off to a slow start, thanks to the stonewalling of Wall Street's leading lights. They refused to make the connection between the risky investments they were offering and the big bonuses the executives stood to gain no matter how the investments turned out.

Fortunately, Angelides didn't drink the Kool-Aid. "Acts of God we'll exempt," he said. "These were acts of men and women."

His panel faces an uphill fight as it tries to figure out how to prevent another economic meltdown, and it won't get much help from industry leaders. They've deployed an army of lobbyists to fight reform.

After Round One of the hearings, it's obvious that Wall Street's leaders still haven't learned their lesson.

## Petting Zoo



### I don't like flakes, not even Frosted Flakes

Melissa Mary Smith  
COLUMNIST

Why do people feel the need to be flaky?

Out of all the poor qualities people can possess that drive me crazy, flakiness tops the list.

Does it stem from apathy, or just selfishness?

I've always seen myself as a reliable person. You call me, I call you back. You send me a message, I send a response. And in a timely fashion, no less!

Unfortunately, not everyone practices these basic principles of common courtesy.

I refer to these people as flakes. I've lost many a friend because of his or her flakiness.

A lesson in flakiness from my past can be seen in a former "best friend" calling to wish me a happy birthday. Two weeks after the fact.

I'm not saying that I give a damn about my birthdays or anything, but there's a special and happy feeling I get when people simply remember me and the fact that I'm one, stupid year older.

In other areas of life, it really irks me when I make plans with someone to meet at say a bar or cafe. When I get to said destination, they never show up or even have the decency to cancel on me.

As I'm sure many of you have experienced when confronting the person about his or her flakiness, understandable excuses are sometimes provided.

"I had a flat tire."  
"My mother was in an emergency."

In those cases, I would never have the courage to challenge their explanations.

Bottom line: If someone is being flaky to you, doesn't return your messages or phone calls or ditches you frequently without providing logical explanations, forget it.

There's been too many times in which I've related my worth to the incidences of being ditched and flaked on. The most important thing to keep in mind is that it's not you; it's them.



# 'Jersey Shore:' A whole new 'reality'

Lamar Salter  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT  
EDITOR

Here's the situation: "Jersey Shore," the popular, if not controversial, MTV reality series just ended its first season, and with it comes a new insight into culture and the world of reality television.

Since its inception in December, the show has broken records in ratings as cameras followed eight adults spending a summer on the New Jersey Shore.

The point of the series is the portrayal of a young Italian-American culture. The cast members live and breathe the New Jersey stereotypes of big hair, pounds of makeup, fake tans and bad attitudes. The audience watches as these unique "characters" engage in various circumstances, including fights and random hookups, all with perfectly conditioned hair.

Cast member Michael Sorrentino regularly refers to his abdominals as "The Situation" while Paul "DJ Pauly D" DelVecchio bathes himself in hair products for almost a half an hour.

While the show pales in comparison to a Shakespearean performance, the appeal it carries can be traced back to an intense human fascination with humor and drama.

That's because the show, while probably a legend in its own modern sense, has



The Cast members of MTV's reality show: Jersey Shore. Photo from MTV.com

accomplished what hundreds of other reality shows failed to achieve: retaining a large amount of viewership, at least one million per episode, all while being a heavily controversial program.

The altercations the cast members get involved in alone are uncommonly over the edge for cable television. Almost every episode involved some sort of physical confrontation with cast members.

Cast member Ronald "Ronnie" Ortiz-Magro was arrested after getting in a fight with a resident of the city while walking home, a case that is still under investigation. Another incident involving Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi was so controversial that MTV wouldn't

even show the entire footage. Brad Ferro, a physical education teacher from New York, punched Snooki in the face during an argument in a club. The case ended with Ferro facing a suspended six-month sentence and \$500 fine.

Youngstown State University freshman Valerie Dragos found that specific episode unsettling.

"I saw the guy punch a girl and didn't think it was appropriate to be on TV," Dragos said.

In addition to acts of violence, the show has been scrutinized for its stereotypical profile of Italian-Americans and the use of the word "guido," described as a usual derogatory remark reinforcing

negative stereotypes.

The National Italian-American Foundation (NIAF) filed a formal complaint against MTV for its portrayal of the culture and the use of the term, citing the program as "alarming in that it attempts to make a direct connection between guido culture and Italian-American identity."

Residents of the New Jersey Shore also complained about the violent outlook of the city by the show as it followed a group of people who did not even live in the city.

MTV has stood by the show, citing in a press release that "Jersey Shore" represents "an aspect of youth culture," and is in line with the network's attempts to highlight a various amount of subculture in America.

Of course, selling conflict is common, especially among reality programs.

Dr. Amy Crawford, assistant professor of telecommunications, talked about the show's appeal.

"I think [controversy] is encouraged," Crawford said. "It's what the people want to see."

Crawford also talked about the appeal of reality shows to networks like MTV.

"They're cheap and quick to develop," Crawford said. "They don't have to worry about unions, either."

But controversy isn't just welcomed; it's implanted.

Crawford talked about how far a behind-the-scenes team would go to capture a story.

"They have scriptwriters on that show," Crawford said. "They basically create scenarios and instigate."

Crawford referred to certain situations including the famous confessionals that involves cast members talking about other members, spawned by the production team revealing details that the members say in private.

This concept of attracting readership has been argued to brandish against what is described as reality television, a concept Crawford agrees with.

"They're creating their own stories and editing what they want to us to see," Crawford said.

She compared reality television to scripted programs.

"In a sense, these people on the show are characters themselves and that's what the network wants," she said.

But regardless of what reality is, whether defined by society or the media itself, one simple point remains: people like controversy. People like big hair and "douchebag"-like guys. People like "Jersey Shore," so much so that the network is planning a second season with the original cast members who are appropriately asking for a large pay raise.

MTV will more than likely dish out the money to appease the fans and to continue their record-breaking numbers.

That alone deserves a fist bump, bro!

## What's Your Jersey Shore Nickname?

We clicked over to the "Jersey Shore" Nickname Generator at [www.unlikelywords.com](http://www.unlikelywords.com) and added some notable YSU officials. Here's what we found:

Dr. David Sweet: YSU President

Tan Jovi

Zach Brown: SGA President

The Bicep

Eric Wolford: Head Football Coach

Juice Springsteen

Jerry Slocum: Basketball Coach

J-Train

## Majestic working-class indie hums: 'The Emily Rodgers Band'

Gary S. Angelo  
FEATURES REPORTER

On Saturday at the Lemon Grove Cafe, charismatic songwriter Emily Rodgers of Pittsburgh will soothe the stage with her folk and Brit pop-influenced act, the Emily Rodgers Band.

Musically, the band's sound is akin to the mid-'80s to '90s indie folk sounds of Mazzy Star, the Red House Painters, Throwing Muses and Zuzu's Petals. Rodgers also draws inspiration from the alternative sounds of R.E.M. and Nirvana to the modern indie pop sounds of Jason Molina from Magnolia Electric Co.

Although the group's existence stems from Rodger's

start in 2003 as a solo singer and songwriter, it has expanded to include Erik Cirelli on guitar and lap steel guitar, Allison Kacmar on bass and Paul Smith on drums. Rodgers sings and also plays guitar.

"The band began as a backing band, but over time the project has become much more collaborative," Rodgers said.

Kacmar, who is a 2006 Youngstown State University alumna, said the band has helped Rodgers provide a well-rounded musical platform for her music.

In 2005, the Emily Rodgers Band released its debut disc, "Emily Rodgers & Her Majesty's Stars." The band completed "Bright Day" in October 2009. This album

was the band's first release on Misra Records, a national indie label.

"We traveled to Athens, Ohio, for three intense two-day sessions," Rodgers said.

"Bright Day" was then taken to legendary indie rock producer Mark Kramer for the final mixing. Kramer played in the legendary punk band Shockabilly, and then the '60s acid-influenced act Bongwater. Kramer has produced recordings from art punks Half Japanese, White Zombie and the Butthole Surfers.

The Emily Rodgers Band is ambitious in promoting and supporting the release of "Bright Day." The band is doing a series of mini-tours in support of the album, and in November, successfully

gigged across the east coast from Lancaster, Pa., to Providence, R.I., to New York City.

The band is working on recording some new material, which will be released on Misra Records.

The band is excited about performing in Youngstown and reuniting with friends. Kacmar is looking forward to returning to her hometown. For Rodgers and the rest of the band members, this will be their first taste of Youngstown.

The band plans on putting on a show full of heartfelt visceral musical energy at the Lemon Grove Cafe.

"Crowds can expect to hear vocals akin to Beth Orton, with a backing band that is reminiscent to R.E.M. and

Crazy Horse-era Neil Young along with quieter material," Rodgers said.



Photo Courtesy Of Emily Rodgers



# Scholastic artists paint their way to awards

Krystle Kimes  
REPORTER

For some young people, the best way to express themselves is through the creative approach of art. Youngstown State University has kept this idea growing for young artists for 48 years with locations on campus, including the McDonough Museum of Art. The museum is exhibiting the Annual Regional Scholastic Art Awards.

The McDonough is the regional franchise for the National Scholastic Art Awards exhibition sponsored by educational publisher Scholastic Inc. The exhibit runs until Feb. 5. The awards showcase exceptional works of art from 480 area students from 54 participating schools with over 570 works in the categories of paintings, ceramics, drawings,

*“I encourage the kids to dream big; the economy has shrunk but there is still vibrant creativity to fix that way.”*

Johanna George

graphic design, digital art, mixed media, photography, printmaking, sculpture and a new category, video games. The students must be in grades seven to 12 from Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana or Ashtabula counties to be eligible.

Scholastic coordinator Johanna George, who graduated from YSU with a bachelor's degree in Studio Art, entered the competition when she was

in high school and won gold and silver keys. She is now a part-time employee at the museum.

“Art is a different way for these kids to express themselves,” George said. “I encourage the kids to dream big; the economy has shrunk but there is still vibrant creativity to fix that way.”

The McDonough is one of the few venues to host this program, which displays all the

work submitted by art teachers from nearly 90 schools. Angela DeLucia, the museum's assistant director, deals with all of the affiliate fees, paperwork and any rule changes in the program to make this event possible. Five jurors and a Scholastic committee decide the awards.

“It's a big undertaking, very special, and we want it to continue. We are looking for everyone to support it,” George said. “The Scholastic committee encourages students to participate and put a lot of work into it to help.”

The program is a selfless effort for the McDonough staff.

“This is the most complicated and time consuming thing we do every year,” said Leslie Brothers, McDonough director and art department chair.

The museum relies completely on outside funding to

cover costs so the program can be free. If it weren't for the partial support of Akron Children's Hospital this year, the art show would not have survived. So far, the McDonough does not have funding in place for next year and needs support.

The Scholastic Art Awards connect with YSU at a private awards ceremony in Kilcawley Center for the families of student artists on Saturday. Dean Bryan DePoy of the College of Fine and Performing Arts will speak along with Brothers, the Scholastic Committee, jurors and a dignitary from Akron Children's Hospital.

“For YSU to miss out on this wonderful opportunity to connect to several thousand students, parents, family members and friends through this program would be a tragic loss,” Brothers said.

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publication of  
The Jambar

## TODAY

**Creek Games**  
Jan. 26, 8 p.m.  
Up a Creek Tavern

**Open Mic Night**  
Jan. 26, 8 p.m.  
Slammin' Sam's

**Drunken Trivia**  
Jan. 26, 9 p.m.  
Cosmo's Tavern and Grillery

**Shedd Hobbs Xperience**  
Jan. 26, 9 p.m.  
Cedar's Lounge

## WEDNESDAY

**Dance Lessons**  
Jan. 27, 7 p.m.  
Dusty Armadillo

**Salsa Fiesta Night**  
Jan. 27, 7 p.m.  
Rosetta Stone

**Garage Rockin' Wednesdays**  
Jan. 27, 9 p.m.  
Cedar's Lounge

**Theme Night**  
Jan. 27, 9 p.m.  
The Lemon Grove Café

**Simply Ed Karaoke**  
Jan. 27, 9 p.m.  
Buffalo Wild Wings - Downtown



**Richard McCormack**  
Editor & Publisher  
Manufacturing & Technology News

Manufacturing & Technology News is read by executives in industry, government and academia on five continents. McCormack has spent 22 years in Washington, D.C., as a journalist covering science and technology, industry and government. Mr. McCormack has won numerous journalism awards for investigative, analytical and interpretive reporting. He has appeared on C-SPAN, CNN and PBS.

Thursday, January 28

## The Future of Manufacturing and Public Policy

Williamson Symposium  
Williamson College of Business Administration

Morning Session 7:30-9:00 a.m.

DeBartolo Stadium Club in Stambaugh Stadium-YSU  
To make a reservation, please call 330-941-3068 or cgmhelen@ysu.edu.

## Working-Class Communities and the Future of Manufacturing

Sponsored by the Center for Working Class Studies/YSU

Evening Session 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Chestnut Room in Kilcawley Center-YSU

No reservation is required.



Youngstown  
STATE UNIVERSITY



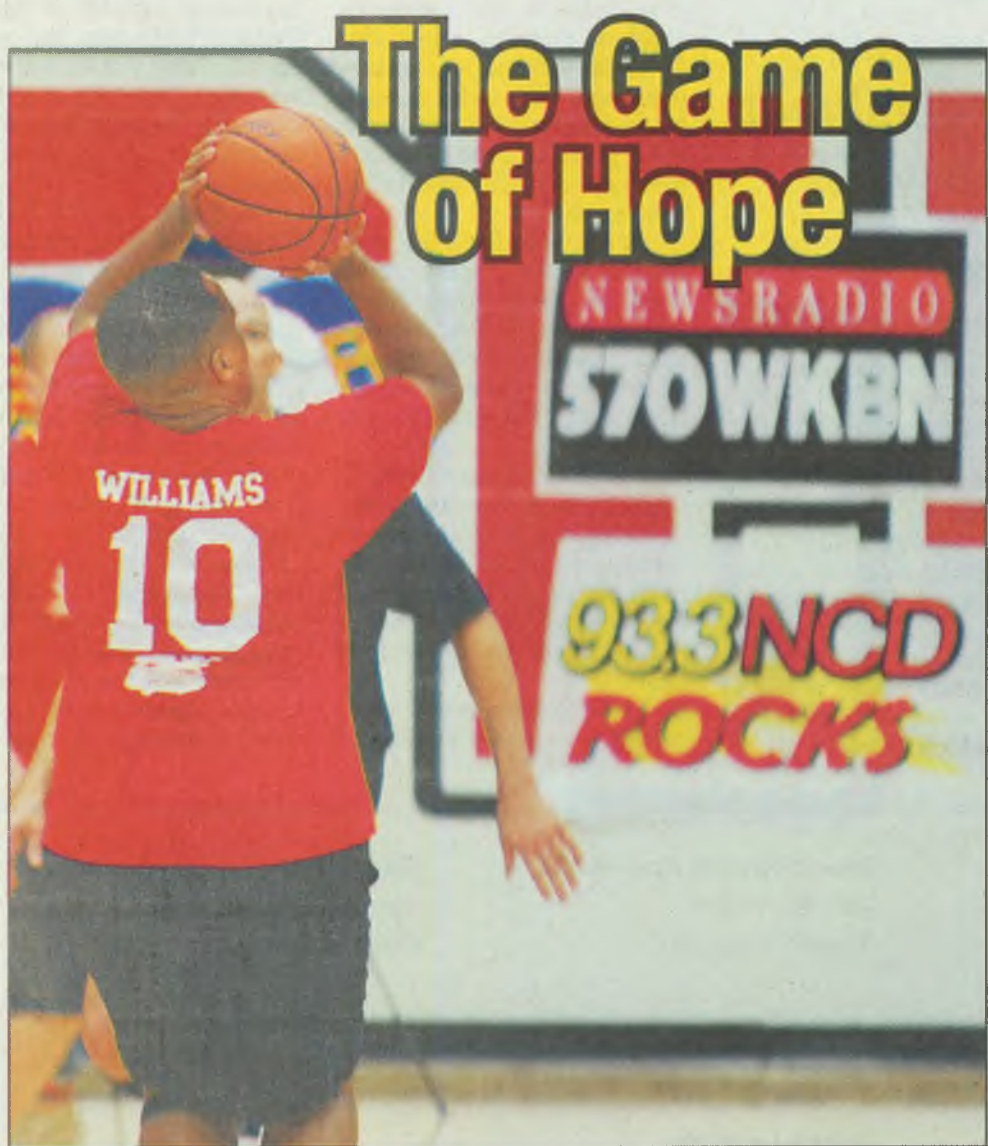
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Mayor Jay Williams get his shoulders square for a jumper in The Game of Hope. Other players included Mahoning County Auditor Michael Sciortino, Mahoning County Commissioner John McNally and Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray.

## YSU rock climbers reach great heights

Jared Buker  
REPORTER

The University Bouldering Series made a stop at the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center on Saturday for the second of six rock-climbing tournaments held at colleges around the area. The 53-foot wall was filled with anxious competitors from Youngstown State University, University of Akron, Kent State University, University of Pittsburgh, West Virginia University and Slippery Rock University.

The competition, divided into beginner, intermediate and advanced difficulty levels, was a success, boasting the highest attendance and sponsorship in YSU's history. Contestants attempt to conquer a specific path on the wall, requiring technique, strength and precise movements, without ever climbing higher than around 15 feet.

Matt Virostek, a rock wall employee and competition participant, said it was difficult to get the program started.

"In the beginning we only had a few people, but now we have two big tournaments a year here," Virostek said.

Ohio has seen a growing popularity in rock climbing; Wright State University, located in Dayton, now holds an annual Adventure Summit that is attended by climbers from across the country.

In the men's beginner division, YSU students Ryan Shields and Alex Bechtold took third and second place, respectively. First place in the intermediate division was YSU's Johnny Copley. The women's beginner division was swept by YSU, with Jocelyn Steiner taking third, Lindsay Salen taking second and Briana Camaret winning first place.

"The people who work there did a really good job coming up with routes," Bechtold said. "Even though I climb so often, it really was pretty difficult for me. Hopefully I will do better in the upcoming competitions."

The success of the competition is in part due to the efforts of Virostek and his colleagues in promoting the activity and seeking sponsorship.

"Everyone who came on Saturday left with something," Virostek said. "That's all because of support from YSU, the Adventure Recreation Program and companies who were willing to help."

Michael Bowman, administrative assistant for the Adventure Recreation program and aquatics, is proud of what has been accomplished at the rock wall.

"I think climbing is their passion, and that's what shows. That's why we're gaining such a turnout," he said.

The University Bouldering Series will continue its circuit in Kent on Friday, in Akron on Feb. 6, at SRU on Feb. 13 and at WVU on Feb. 20.

### HORIZON LEAGUE

- 1 BUTLER
- 2 GREEN BAY
- 3 DETROIT
- 4 WRIGHT STATE
- 5 VALPARAISO
- 6 CLEVELAND STATE
- 7 MILWAUKEE
- 8 LOYOLA (IL)
- 9 YOUNGSTOWN STATE
- 10 UIC

### NCAA TOP 25

- 1 KENTUCKY
- 2 KANSAS
- 3 VILLANOVA
- 4 SYRACUSE
- 5 MICHIGAN STATE
- 6 TEXAS
- 7 GEORGETOWN
- 8 DUKE
- 9 WEST VIRGINIA
- 10 PURDUE
- 11 KANSAS STATE
- 12 BRIGHAM YOUNG
- 13 GONZAGA
- 14 TENNESSEE
- 15 TEMPLE
- 16 WISCONSIN
- 17 PITTSBURGH
- 18 MISSISSIPPI
- 19 CONNECTICUT
- 20 OHIO STATE
- 21 VANDERBILT
- 22 GEORGIA TECH
- 23 NEW MEXICO
- 24 BAYLOR
- 25 UAB

### PENGUIN SPOTLIGHT



#### MACEY NORTEY

**POSITION:** Guard  
**YEAR:** Sophomore  
**HOMETOWN:** Long Beach, Calif  
**PPG:** 8.3  
**RPG:** 2.7  
**APG:** 4.8  
**FG%:** .287

### SCHEDULES

#### MEN'S BASKETBALL

Jan. 27	<b>NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL</b>
Jan. 30	@ Cleveland State
Feb. 4	@ Loyola
Feb. 6	@ UIC
Feb. 11	<b>BUTLER</b>
Feb. 13	<b>VALPARAISO</b>
Feb. 15	@ Milwaukee
Feb. 20	@ ESPN BracketBuster
Feb. 25	<b>WRIGHT STATE</b>
Feb. 27	<b>DETROIT</b>
Mar. 2	Horizon League Tournament

#### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Jan. 28	@ Detroit
Jan. 30	@ Wright State
Feb. 4	<b>LOYOLA</b>
Feb. 6	<b>UIC</b>
Feb. 11	@ Butler
Feb. 13	@ Valparaiso
Feb. 20	<b>CLEVELAND STATE</b>
Feb. 25	<b>WRIGHT STATE</b>
Feb. 27	<b>DETROIT</b>
Mar. 4	@ Green Bay

#### SWIMMING & DIVING

Feb. 6	@ Cleveland State/ UIC
Feb. 7	<b>YOUNGSTOWN DIVING INVITE</b>
Feb. 24-27	Horizon League Championships

#### INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

Jan. 30	@ Tom Wright Classic
Feb. 5-6	@ Notre Dame Meyo Invitational
Feb. 5-6	@ New Balance Armory Invitational
Feb. 12-13	@ Akron Invitational
Feb. 19	@ Zips Invitational
Feb. 20	@ Kent State Tune-Up
Feb. 27-28	@ Horizon League Championships
Mar. 5-6	@ Alex Wilson Invitational

## Experience and knowledge main ingredients for football success

Chelsea Miller  
SPORTS REPORTER

The departure of coach Jon Heacock has left Youngstown State University in a state of confusion as to what would happen to the football program. Recently it was put in the hands of newly hired head football coach Eric Wolford who will have the difficult task of pulling together the new coaching staff he named last week.

Sports Information director Trevor Parks said the staff should be a good fit for the university.

"They've been a bunch of go-getters," he said. "They spend a ton of time on the phone talking to student athletes ... and brought a lot of good ideas that I think will help us in the long run."

One of the new staff members is Tom Sims, who will be assistant head coach and defensive line coach and currently has nine years experience coaching at Division I schools.

Sims graduated from the University of Pittsburgh and spent two seasons playing college football for Western Michigan University before transferring to Pittsburgh where he put up 142 tackles and 12.5 sacks for the Panthers in two campaigns.

Sims then broke into the National Football League for seven seasons playing with Kansas City, Indianapolis and Minnesota. During this time, he played in 47 games, finishing with 60 career tackles and four sacks.

The Penguins' new defensive coordinator and linebacker coach is Rick Kravitz, who has 20 years experience as a defensive coordinator.

Kravitz graduated from Troy University where he played defensive end and defensive tackle. During his senior year, the Trojans were 8-1-1, winning the Gulf South Conference Championship.

He first began his coaching stint in 1979 at Lakewood High School in St. Petersburg, Fla. From there, he coached at several colleges including Florida A&M University, West Alabama University, Univer-

sity of South Florida, North Carolina State University and Western Michigan University.

Special teams coordinator and running back coach this year is Louie Matsakis.

Matsakis graduated from Emporia State University a three-year letterman as place-kicker and punter. While there, he held the single-season record for extra points with 47.

At the beginning of his career, Matsakis was a special teams intern at Texas Tech University. From there, he continued to coach at Texas State University and assisted in game planning and operations at Kansas University.

Offensive coordinator this year will be Shane Montgomery, who has over 20 years of coaching experience.

In college, Montgomery was a three-year starting quarterback at North Carolina State University where he was Offensive MVP and second team All-Atlantic Coast Conference. He finished his career completing 421-746 passes for 5,298 yards and 31 touchdowns and still holds their record for most passing yards in a game with 535.

During his coaching career, Montgomery coached several football greats including Ben Roethlisberger at the start of his career at the University of Miami Ohio. He also guided Miami to four of its top six offensive seasons, based on yards per game.

Phil Longo will be the wide receiver coach and the recruiting coordinator.

Longo was a quarterback at East Stroudsburg University and running back at Rowan University before beginning his coaching career at a number of different high schools and colleges.

During his career, he oversaw an offensive unit that established 29 school records and finished first in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference. He also received several awards during his tenure such as the Daily Record Coach of the Year Honors and the Sportsmanship, Ethics & Integrity Award by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

Named tight end coach was Andre Coleman.

Coleman graduated from

Hickory High School where he was named Pennsylvania State Player of the Year. He continued his football career playing in the NFL as a wide receiver for San Diego, Seattle and Pittsburgh. He was named Special Teams Player of the Month four times, named to NFL All-Rookie squad as a kick returner, and established eight Super Bowl records including a 98-yard kickoff return.

Carmen Bricillo will coach the offensive line under Wolford. A native of Pennsylvania, he attended Duquesne University and Akron University. Bricillo played as a center at Duquesne where he earned first-team-all-conference honors twice, in 1995 and 1996.

He coached at Duquesne, Akron University and the University of Illinois before joining the staff at YSU.

Ron Stoops, Jr. will coach the secondary and was also awarded the position of Director of High School Relations, a newly created program this year.

Stoops, an alumnus of YSU, spent the past nine years as defensive coordinator and running back coach for Cardinal Mooney High School. The Cardinals had a 90-27 record while under his direction. Stoops also coached at Boardman High School and Canton Central Catholic.

Secondary coach will be Frank Buffano, a Cardinal Mooney graduate who was part of the team that won the Division II State Championship in 1987.

Buffano, who formerly coached at Arizona University with Wolford, said the decision to come to YSU was an easy one.

"I'm from the area, so it was a chance to come back home. I know the rich tradition of Youngstown State and I know what the program is capable of doing," he said.

Buffano said that a strength he brings to the table is a "passion for the game" and believes that the coaching staff this year is a strong one.

"We all work hard," he said. "[Our goal is to] put the program back where it was and our main focus is to start winning championships."