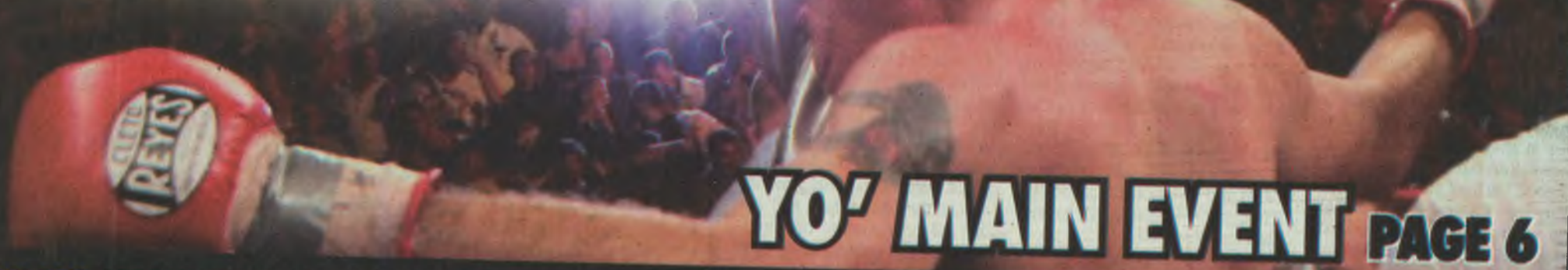


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COMPUTER CRUNCH

IT services work harder to meet growing technology problems

Lamar Salter
REPORTER

With technology growing around college campuses, Information Technology services and support has become a commodity for students and staff alike.

Web services like WebCT and hardware maintenance are playing major roles in the classroom, requiring technology services to expand to meet accommodations.

Campuses like Cleveland State University have developed call centers to better handle incoming problems, while colleges such as the Ohio State University offer 24-hour support lines.

Ohio University offers weekend help for repair and equipment pickups, while Kent State University provides contact lines even through holidays.

However, at Youngstown State University, the tech desk works throughout the week to provide service to many computer-related problems across campus. While they may not offer a full 24-hour line or call center, the desk works constantly to solve numerous computer and technology problems.

Located on the fourth floor of the Maag Library, the tech desk covers everything from network connection errors to hard drive malfunctions.

The tech desk manages three full-time staff and ap-

proximately five part-time student staff at a time during work hours. They also work with support partners around campus such as network services and electronics maintenance services.

"We try to work closely with all of our partners to provide the best support for our students and staff," said Hrishenko, director of IT services.

As far as expansion, Hrishenko said the desk extended hours in spring 2005, and are looking closely for more ways to handle the workload.

"While we are not able to provide 24-hour support with our staff, we are paying close attention to find options to provide more support," Hrishenko said.

University takes technological leap with Center of Excellence

Emmalee C. Torisk
NEWS EDITOR

Representing Ohio's 17th Congressional District, Congressman Tim Ryan will present \$1.6 million to Youngstown State University for the development of a Center of Excellence on Friday. This federal appropriation for the district will be used toward industrial metrology and 3D imaging research.

The presentation will commence at 10 a.m. in Kilcawley Center's Jones Room on the YSU campus. Invitees include YSU President David Sweet and Tom Presby of the Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber. YSU faculty Peter

"This is a partnership between YSU and those industries and companies to advance technology."

Ron Cole, manager of news and information services

Kasvinsky, Allen Hunter and Pat Gaughan will also be in attendance.

As defined by Ron Cole, manager of news and information services, metrology is the science of measurement, and is often used in manufacturing.

Traditional tools, including tape measures and calipers, have become too slow, imprecise and burdensome to keep up with the demands of modern manufacturing.

EXCELLENCE page 2

Contagious: Viral diseases spread on campus

Sheridan Sullivan
CONTRIBUTOR

This semester, doctors at Youngstown State University's student health services have their hours booked solid due to the sheer number of viral infections on campus.

Biology professor Diane L. Fagan blames the winter weather. Viral infections are notorious for becoming prevalent as the weather breaks. Additionally, large numbers of people in close quarters are ideal for the proliferation of viruses. Examples of such situations include dormitories, large family homes, single-building schools, hospitals, prisons and, of course, college campuses.

However, once symptoms appear and students seek treatment, the virus is already the better part of the way through their system. Symptoms occur as one's immune system attacks the body's own cells. Viruses are most infectious, at their outset, when people are not yet aware of them, Fagan said.

Also, it's the time of year when many students want to know when it is necessary to stay home because of illness. However, the answer, even from professionals, is surprisingly uncertain.

"It's really up to the student," said Keisha Tyler Robinson, director of the public health program in the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services. "I mean, you know your own body."

Robinson recommended staying home only if the symptoms become "uncontrollable." Sometimes "good common sense" suggests the need to self-quarantine.

Additionally, Robinson alluded to the stigma that, "We have this feeling that we're going to get behind or suffer by not being somewhere," because of an illness. Communication is key, Robinson said. No professor encourages students to "come in with the flu," and most are sensitive to a student's needs.

The rub, however, is determining honesty. Midterms and finals can induce stress and weaken the immune system, causing marked absences, particularly in the spring semester. Also, check every syllabus and have attendance policies at the ready should symptoms develop. However, it is helpful to keep in

mind that many professors deliberately toughen their make-up exam, so, symptoms permitting, spend some sick time studying.

Regardless, the number one method of coping with viral infections is practicing preventive strategies, Robinson said.

The first, and most important, strategy is hand washing. In lieu of non-voiding trips to the restroom, Robinson recommended carrying a small bottle of antibacterial hand gel. The simplest precautions, added nursing professor Louise A. Aurilio, are often the most neglected.

Robinson also suggested coughing into the crook of your arm, rather than into your hands. The inner elbow is less likely to make contact with things other people must encounter, such as doorknobs or computer keyboards.

Additionally, sanitizing your personal environment is usually the best thing one can do to prevent infection, Robinson said. She recommended investing in a good cleaner or bleach, and suggested reading the bottle's label, which often contains instructions on how to best use the detergent, along with a brief description of the viruses or bacteria it kills.

Aurilio said mononucleosis is one of the biggest viral threats to students. Its transmission by saliva is particularly hazardous to common college situations; Sharing a soda, a water bottle, or a cup of coffee, as well as taking a hit from another's cigarette, are common methods of transmission. These are most likely to take place during a shared lunch or late-night exam cramming session; they are tied for second place behind transmission by kissing.

Aside from mononucleosis, the most common campus viruses include upper respiratory infection, influenza, gastroenteritis and conjunctivitis, according to <http://www.eCampusTours.com>.

Viruses are not "living" organisms per se. Rather, they are small sections of DNA or RNA, often encased in a protein envelope, that "hijack" the metabolic power of existing cells, said Heather Lorimer, of the biology department.

Usually, they are difficult to treat directly because the proteins protecting them are slightly different than human proteins. Drugs that specifically target these proteins are customized for a specific virus, and are therefore

VIRAL page 2

Dangers of ecstasy side effects create decrease in usage

Michael Bury
REPORTER

The United Kingdom's Advisory Council on the misuse of drugs released a recent study showing the long-term effects of the drug ecstasy, and their findings might not be what some would expect.

In the study — the biggest of its kind — the ACMD studied the long-term effects on people who started using the drug nearly 20



years ago. They concluded that the drug mainly led to minor difficulties with depression and memory loss, but these rarely translate into major problems in

people's lives.

There are many other dangers associated with ecstasy use, too.

For instance, with the illegal nature of ecstasy, it is nearly impossible for users to be sure what they are taking. Unscrupulous dealers have been known to trick their buyers with other types of drugs that cause similar effect, causing user to overdose.

John Bitinas, director for drug education at Narconon Arrowhead rehab in Arrowhead, Okla., said there are 700-800 known chemical compounds of

the drug.

"A lot of people don't know that ecstasy is in the same family as methamphetamine," Bitinas said.

In addition to this, many ecstasy users become dehydrated because of the drug, which has led to many deaths.

Bitinas said the drug reacts with the dopamine levels in the user's brain, causing the memory loss and depression. In addition, ecstasy impairs motor skills, reaction time and slurs speech.

Doug Wentz, community

services director for Prevention Partners, said ecstasy isn't as popular as it used to be.

Wentz said the problems that are caused by ecstasy are from mixing two types of drugs.

"Since you are mixing a stimulant and a hallucinogen you can do long-term harm," Wentz said.

Wentz said the main problems that face residents of the Mahoning Valley are opioids, heroin, crack, marijuana and alcohol.

"More college kids die from alcohol every year than anything else," Wentz said.

- SPORTS**
Final farewell for seniors Liles and Niemi 6
- Win and in for hockey squad 6
- WEATHER**
- Today 25° 18°
- Friday 27° 20°
- Saturday 31° 20°
- Sunday 25° 18°
- Monday 30° 19°
- Tuesday 37° 28°
- Wednesday 35° 28°

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News Briefs

Business Luncheon held in Ohio Room

YSU business students can refine their networking and etiquette skills at the American Marketing Association's sixth annual luncheon on Feb. 27 in the Ohio Room of the Kilcawley Center. Professionals from various northeast Ohio businesses will be present at the luncheon to meet and network with YSU students. Students must fill out a reservation form by Feb. 20. Forms can be found in the marketing department of the Williamson building.

Penguin Bowl

YSU is set to host the Penguin Bowl, a division of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl for high school students from Ohio, Pennsylvania and Kentucky. The event will take place on Feb. 21. The 15 teams will compete in an all-day event where students will answer questions about the oceans and Great Lakes. The winning team will advance to the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History's Ocean Hall in Washington, D.C., where they will compete in a regional championship.

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EXCELLENCE page 1

More modern tools, such as laser trackers, structured light systems and coordinate measurement machines, have since been developed, according to the press release. A Youngstown company, M*7 Technologies, has been at the forefront in the use of some of these new, cutting-edge technologies. Thus, the National Institute of Standards and Technology has designated M*7 Technologies as the National Test Bed.

"This is a partnership between YSU and those industries

and companies to advance technology," Cole said.

The proposed project will begin the creation of a Center of Excellence in the technologies of industrial metrology and 3D imaging. According to the press release, the "upcoming robotic age" will revolve around these technologies. Additionally, this project, designed to assist regional companies, will generate jobs in the near future and ensure the continuation of "innovation-driven growth in the next few years."

VIRAL page 1

expensive and rare. They are usually not pursued for common, low intensity infections.

Many people, however, demand treatment from their physician, Lorimer said. It is usually best to let the virus "run its course" and be defeated by one's immune system. Despite this, doctors will sometimes prescribe antibiotics to meet their patient's demand.

This problem, and a subsequent lack of antibiotic availability to those with bacterial infections, is the leading cause of drug-resistant strains of bac-

teria. These "hardier" bacteria cells are over-producing, and therefore heavier, slower and initially at a disadvantage in the "herd." They are more likely to survive an antibiotic attack, though.

When a person stops taking their medication before the bottle is empty, these cells survive, reproducing asexually, proliferating as a stronger, more resilient bacterial strain. In short, if antibiotics are prescribed, take all of the pills in the bottle.

Students Wanted for survey on Mental Health issues

Earn a chance to win a \$100 Best Buy Gift Card for answering 10 minutes of anonymous questions.

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Survey conducted by The University of Akron (One drawing per campus)

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Youngstown State University



African American History Month Celebration 2009

Proverb of the month: "If you understand the beginning well, the end will not trouble you." Ashanti of Ghana

Wednesday, February 4
 6:30 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center
Sherkea: The Black Heritage Festival
 This celebration of many aspects of black culture, recognizes traditions and talents rooted in South American, African, Caribbean, and American cultures. The event will include poetry readings, a gospel choir and mime performances, Harambee and step dancers, and foods of various cultures. This event is co-sponsored by the Office of Housing & Residence Life. (Sherkea is Swahili for Celebrate.)

Friday, February 20
 7:00 p.m., The Ohio Room, Kilcawley Center
Lecture: African Architects of Egyptian Civilization
Anthony Browder

Mr. Browder is a cultural historian on Ancient Egypt, an author, publisher, artist, and educational consultant. He is a graduate of Howard University's College of Fine Arts and has lectured extensively in the United States, the Caribbean, Africa, Japan, and Europe. He is the founder and director of Cultural Resources and has spent 28 years researching ancient Egyptian history, science, philosophy, and culture. He is author of publications that include *Nile Valley Contributions to Civilization, Egypt on the Potomac, and Densel Egyptian Architecture and Symbolism*. Mr. Browder's books will be on display and he will be available for book signing after the lecture.

Thursday, February 5
 7:00 p.m., The McDonough Museum of Art
Reception: 5:00 p.m., Bliss Hall Gallery
Panel Discussion 6:00 p.m.
Art Exhibition and Panel Discussion "Recreation: Green Art Forms"

Christine Bethea is a nationally renowned artist and arts educator from Pittsburgh, PA. Although she commonly refers to herself as "The Accidental Artist," her works have been featured in a national best selling quilt book, *A Communion of the Spirit: African-American Quilters, Preservers, and Their Stories*, by Roland L. Freeman. Ms. Bethea has received numerous awards as an arts administrator, curator, and supporter of the visual arts. She recently co-founded Passports, an art diversity project which promotes the work of artists of all backgrounds in southwestern Pennsylvania. Her art will be on display at the Bliss Hall Art Gallery, College of Fine and Performing Arts, throughout the month of February. This event is co-sponsored by the College of Fine & Performing Arts.

Monday, February 23
 7:00 p.m., The Gallery Room, Kilcawley Center
Lecture: Africanist Value-Centered Education in the Global Village
Dr. Yvonne Brown is a Canadian educator who has done extensive research on the link between colonialization and globalization. She has sponsored international service-learning projects in Africa and Canada. In her position as manager of international initiatives for the faculty of education at the University of British Columbia, she has analyzed and interpreted the university's internationalization policy and weighed its implications for education. Papers and articles she has written include "Green Paper on Internationalization" in the *Faculty of Education* and "Education's Global Journey in Teacher Education."

Saturday, February 7
 Noon-6:00 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center
The African Marketplace

The Marketplace offers a wide range of dazzling sights and objects to view, sample, and purchase, ranging from art objects, jewelry, and Afrocentric writings to creations that are rare and hard to find. The variety of goods and products represent the creative genius of Africans and African Americans. Entertainment will be presented by the dynamic Harambee Youth Group.

Tuesday, February 10
 6:30 p.m., The Gallery, Kilcawley Center
Location of Displays: Maag Library
Black Faculty Research Showcase and Panel Discussion

Selected African American faculty will display their publications in Maag Library and participate in a panel discussion on their current and future research projects in the Gallery, Kilcawley Center.

Friday, February 13
 5:45 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center
A Play: Boys, Pull Your Pants Up

This theatrical performance is based on a new book by Akron novelist Jewelene Banks. It satirizes the current style among African American youth of wearing their pants below their waists. The impact of negative hip hop styles and videos is closely scrutinized. Banks' message is quite simple: appearances matter, and first impressions mean everything, especially to talented youth.

KEYNOTE LECTURE: BY THE SKEGGS LECTURER

Thursday, February 26
 7:30 p.m., Stambaugh Auditorium
Dr. Cornel West

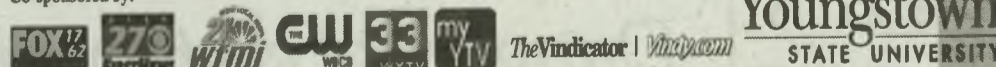
Professor of Religion and African American Studies at Princeton University

Dr. Cornel West is one of America's most preeminent and prolific public intellectuals. He is a much sought-after speaker in universities across the country addressing a wide variety of topics across disciplines to various audiences. He is the recipient of over 20 honorary degrees and a National Book Award. His numerous books include *Prophesy Deliverance: An Afro-American Revolutionary Christianity, Race Matters, Democracy Matters, and Hope on a Tightrope*. Dr. West is a longtime member of the Democratic Socialists of America.

For further information, call the Africana Studies Program at 330-941-3097

Event parking is available at the Lincoln Deck and lot M24, next to McDonald's on the Fifth Avenue.

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403(b) Annuity Fair

Attention All YSU Employees

Thursday, February 26, 2009

10:00am - 3:00pm

Ohio Room - Kilcawley Center

With the changes in the IRS 403(b) annuity regulations, YSU is hosting an Annuity Fair to help those employees whose company is no longer an approved provider as well as those employees who are new to the world of annuity investment.

Vendors from our 403(b) Approved Provider list will be on hand to answer your questions about what their company has to offer.

Among the vendors scheduled are:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| AIG VALIC | Lincoln Financial |
| Ameriprise Financial | Pacific Life |
| First Investors Corp. | TIAA-CREF |
| ING Financial company) | Ohio Deferred Compensation (a 457(b)) |

For more information call Bernie at x3475.

Tuesday, February 24:
A Party before Lent!

Pancake & Sausage Dinner
\$2

6:00 pm

St. John's Episcopal Church,
Across Wick from Jones Hall

Entertainment:

YSU's The Sam Blakeslee Trio

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Thinking Christians

3:00, Mondays, Peaberry's Café

Church Services:

Morning Prayer, Tuesday & Wednesday, 10 am
Sunday Eucharist, 8 & 10:30 am



Tough times may influence tearful tunes

Alicia Patillo
REPORTER

According to a recent, soon to be published study, a link may exist between trying times and somber music.

In the study, socioeconomic conditions throughout the past few decades were compared to Billboard No. 1 songs from 1955 to 2003. Then, researchers Terry Pettijohn II and Donald F. Sacco Jr. discovered that when the times were tough, tunes with "more meaningful themes and content were most popular," Pettijohn said in a Dec. 2008 interview with Rolling Stone magazine.

For instance, Danny and the Juniors' 1958 hit "At the Hop," reflected the light, upbeat mood of the prosperous 1950s. Likewise, 2003's "In Da Club" by 50 Cent is essentially "a modern-day version of 'At the Hop,'" Pettijohn said. Events can also affect an era's music. For example, "Hey Jude" by the Beatles was a chart-topper in 1968. Although the economy was fine, the song was mostly serious. Pettijohn attributes this to late-60s turbulence, including the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy.

However, the science isn't always perfect. In 1996, "Macarena" was No. 1, while inflation was on the rise. Additionally, T.I.'s "Whatever You Like" was the biggest song of 2008, despite a frivolous nature. This can be attributed to the simple fact that music hasn't yet caught up to the faltering economy, or the idea that people want to escape from their problems.



Local Youngstown rapper Kenny Ali says sometimes when times are bad, people create music to make people feel good; in this sense, music is used as an escape. Even so, Ali said his experiences are reflected in his music.

"The music that I write is a collection of everything I experience, from personal beliefs to the economy disaster," Ali said.

Some Youngstown State University students feel similarly. Freshman James Baker, an aspiring rap artist, said his music has been more depressing lately, but he has tried to make more uplifting records.

"I make music that everyone can relate to; if I feel some people are going through a bad time, then I will make a record that can relate to what they may experience," Baker said.

Senior Chris Henderson said music is a big part of his life and sometimes gives him an escape

from reality. "This era is so depressing," Henderson said. "The economy is really bad right now, so I listen to music that I can have fun to, and it makes me feel good."

Likewise, freshman Alissa Fisher doesn't let music impact her life, but also doesn't think many artists make music to reflect the times.

"People have made sad music when the times weren't bad. Artists just make music that they feel will be hot, no matter what the era may be," Fisher said.

Even though freshman Jennifer Logan can recall a lot of songs that have "lifted her up during bad times," she does not think music has any influence on the era in which we live.

"I don't feel that the music that artists come out with is at all related to this era or eras in the past; artists just make music appealing to their audience."

IMAGE COURTESY OF MCTCAMPUS.COM

Spring guide to future flicks

Melissa Mary Smith
REPORTER

Like winter, summer and fall, spring is often jam-packed with upcoming movies for the eager public. This spring, the box office is full of anticipated films ranging from action to horror, from comedy to romance.

March

March 6: The highly publicized film adaptation of the graphic novel, "Watchmen" will be released. The action/drama film centers around a group of superheroes in their investigation of the murder of a former superhero colleague.

Week of March 13: Director Dennis Iliadis remakes the 1972 Wes Craven horror film, "The Last House on the Left." The film follows a group of prison escapees who abduct and attack two young girls and attempt to wreak the same havoc upon the survivor's family.

March 20: John Hamburg, best known for "Along Came Polly," directs "I Love You, Man." Lacking any friends, Paul Rudd tries to find a friend to be potential best man for his upcoming wedding. When he finds his male counterpart in Jason Segal, it is met to the dismay of his fiancée, Rashida Jones.

March 27: DreamWorks computer-animated "Monsters vs. Aliens" tells the story of a woman (Reese Witherspoon) who faces a harsh reality when she is hit by a meteorite and turns into a monster. After being placed in a government facility with others like herself, she teams up with her fellow monsters to defend the planet against alien attack.

April

April 3: The fourth installment to the action/car movie series "Fast & Furious," directed by Justin Lin reunites enemies Brian O'Connor (Paul Walker) and Dominic Toretto (Vin Diesel). While their archenemy relationship hasn't changed, the two join forces to go up against a mutual foe.

April 10: Jody Hill, director of the 2006 comedy "The Foot Fist Way," presents "Observe and Report." Judd Apatow darling Seth Rogen portrays a bi-polar mall security guard, Ronnie Barnhardt, who tries to stop a flasher from ruining the shopping experience. When Barnhardt's attempts fail, Detective Harrison (Ray Liotta) is called in to investigate.

April 22: "Earth," a documentary narrated by Patrick Stewart, chronicles the migratory paths of four animal families.

May

May 1: "The Ghost of Girl-friends Past" is a romantic comedy starring Mathew McConaughey and Jennifer Garner. The Mark Waters-directed film follows the main character, Connor (McConaughey) who is haunted by past and present former girlfriends while at his younger brother's wedding.

May 1: The box-office smash of the X-Men series has birthed "X-Men Origins: Wolverine," which focuses on the past and present of James Howlett/Wolverine (Hugh Jackman) and the history of his one-time friend, now enemy, Victor Creed/Sabretooth (Liev Schreiber).

May 8: "Star Trek" is a look at the origins of the characters of the USS Enterprise before they achieved their later glory. The film, directed by JJ Abrams stars Chris Pine as Captain Kirk, Zachary Quinto as Spock and Karl Urban as Dr. Leonard "Bones" McCoy.

May 22: "Terminator Salvation" chronicles the futuristic struggles of John Connor (Christian Bale) against SkyNet and its legion of Terminators. The McG film also stars Anton Yelchin as Kyle Reese and Bryce Dallas Howard as Kate Connor.

Spring Break

Expenses make or break student travel plans

Samantha Cavalier
REPORTER

Around this time last year, many students were busy discussing spring break trips and plans. However, this year, talks of extravagant spring breaks have diminished, but surprisingly, due to the recession, most prices for travel seem to be cheaper than in years past.

For instance, airline tickets are, on average, slightly lower during the week of spring break compared to other surrounding weeks. Additionally, this year, vacation agencies are slightly lowering their prices to fit the needs of their struggling consumers, especially college students.

Paradise Parties, a travel agency out of Peabody, Mass., has observed the differences in spring break travelers this year and has planned accordingly.

"We have a lot more availability for our cheaper trips this year. People still want to go on spring break, but more students are going for the cheaper options," said owner Matt Scriven.

Aside from Paradise Parties, Sun Splash Tours out of Jersey City, N.J., is also seeing the need to lower prices this year.

"Prices are relatively lower than last year, just as other agencies are doing," said director Sven Lapiner, adding that their cheapest trips are those that substitute the plane ride for a car ride.

"A lot of people are driving down to

save money. That's the way the economy is going," Lapiner said.

Despite relatively low travel prices, many students are choosing to stay home for spring break and do their own inexpensive things.

Sophomore Lynn Hehr has several reasons for heading home this spring break.

"I guess the major reason I'm not going is because it's just too expensive," Hehr said. "I spend enough money on school stuff, gas and groceries, and there is little money left for a huge trip," Hehr said. Freshman Donnie Jakovina agreed with Hehr's statements; he's also not going anywhere for spring break.

"I'm broke," Jakovina said. "I work three jobs and I still can't afford to go anywhere."



STUDENTS SPEND SPRING BREAK BUILDING HOME

Tracilyn Tsarnas
REPORTER

Along with 13 other Youngstown State University students, sophomores Ashley Jones and Megan Cartwright are making plans for a spring break they'll always remember. This year, they are traveling to Jacksonville, Fla., for a Habitat for Humanity trip, where they will be participating in a large building project.

Despite their enthusiasm, the girls have never built anything before and didn't have any of the suggested tools to take with them on the trip.

"We weren't even allowed to carry anything for move-in crew," Cartwright said.

Instead, they were given jobs at a welcome table. Luckily, the whole group will experience a one-day orientation in order to equip them with the necessary skills to help build a home.

Even though the trip isn't for a few weeks, the girls are preparing in advance for their journey. For instance, they need to bring air mattresses since the team will be bunking down in local churches. Additionally, they will be breaking up into three smaller units that will take turns cooking, cleaning and having the night off.

These girls are in for a long week and are planning to work long days on their week off

from school. As a treat, they have evenings off work and will be stopping at the beach for an afternoon.

Both girls, who are special education majors, are experiencing mixed emotions about their upcoming trip. Clad in pink fuzzy slippers, Jones tucked her feet up under her.

"I can't wait," she said. Cartwright admitted to being "a little nervous," but was still excited.

"We have a really good group," Jones said. "Five of us are all going together."

These Lyden House resident assistants found out about this 8-day trip by hanging promotional flyers throughout their hallways in the dorm.

"We hung the flyers and now we are the only ones going," Jones said.

However, it's not too late for those students who want to donate their time over break. Volunteer agencies like HandsOn Volunteer Network of the Valley are willing to work with individuals or groups to plan service opportunities.

Program director Maureen A. Drummond believes the network can and should "match people with their passion." Call [330] 782-5877 for more information on developing a service project. Alternatively, visit the YSU satellite location on the second floor of Williamson Hall in the Center for Non-Profit Excellence.

Great Deals for Spring Break

Paradise Parties is sponsoring two discounted spring break trips, starting at \$349 per person. One is a cruise from Fort Lauderdale, FL to the Bahamas and the other is to Panama City, FL. For more information, call 1-877-467-2723.

Sun Splash Tours is sponsoring a special Jamaica All-Inclusive Stimulus Package, which runs for \$699 per person. For more information, call 1-800-426-7710.

Studentbreaks.com is running a special that takes \$300 off any regularly-priced vacation package.



Alternative spring break in the Mahoning Valley

Tracilyn Tsarnas
REPORTER

Not everyone is going away for spring break this year. Students planning to spend their week of freedom here in the Valley still have plenty of options for both fun and educational activities. These tips are sure to help plan a great alternative spring break week.

Not going to the beach this year? Students can still get their fill of nature by attending the Mill Creek MetroParks' photography exhibit.

This exhibit features the

work of local artists. It will be open Tuesday through Saturday, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in the Weller gallery at Fellows Riverside Gardens. For more information, call the Ford Nature Center at [330] 740-7107.

Not getting into a bathing suit this year? Get in shape anyway. Plan on running in the Mill Creek Distance Classic 5k on Sunday, March 8. The registration fee is \$15; visit active.com to register.

Not getting all dolled up for the bars and clubs this year? Bored with drab winter colors? Bring out the inner artist by visiting All Fired Up! pottery studio in Akron.

Studio visitors choose pieces of unpainted pottery from racks lining the walls. Paint, decorate and jazz up a piece of pottery. Prices range from \$5 to \$50.

All Fired Up! is located at 1686 W. Market St. in Akron. For more information, call [330] 865-5858.

Feeling sad not to witness the circus that happens when college students drink? Go see a real show. The Chevrolet Centre will be hosting Cirque du Soleil Sunday, March 8 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Tickets run between \$28 and \$90.

Sick of homework? Get a dose of education that's fun. Visit the Carnegie Science Cen-

ter in Pittsburgh. Directions can be found online at carnegiesciencecenter.org. This fun spot is open Sunday-Friday, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. For more information, call [412] 237-3400.

Want some more fascinating facts? The Youngstown Historical Center features the Museum of Labor and Industry, where an "overview of the impact of the iron and steel industry on Youngstown and other Mahoning Valley communities" can be seen. Admission for adults is \$7 and the center is open Wednesday through Friday, from noon until 4 p.m.

Missing the on-campus din-

ing? Get a taste of service. Visit the Rescue Mission of Mahoning Valley and volunteer to serve meals. The Rescue Missions serves three meals a day, every day. Contact Rae Kish at [330] 744-5485 to sign up for a time to serve.

Want to shed the stress of this semester? Pamper yourself. The Casal Aveda School in Austintown offers full spa services for reduced prices. Let the students, supervised by licensed instructors, massage all cares away.

School hours run Tuesday-Saturday, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

ABOUT THE JAMBAR

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

OUR SIDE EDITORIAL

Defending the title and our image

RELATED STORY

PAVLIK, page 6

THE JAMBAR EDITORIAL BOARD

When Kelly Pavlik defends his title in Youngstown this weekend, it will be both a positive and a negative thing for the city.

It will be inarguably positive for local businesses. When fans flock to the Chevrolet Centre for the event, which is going to be broadcast nationally on pay-per-view, they will spread their money around the city. They are likely to patronize local bars and restaurants, which will give the local economy a temporary boost.

Establishments that carry the fight will experience a rush of customers who were not able to get tickets. The fight will give Youngstown residents a sense of community and civic pride, which it can certainly use.

There is a downside, though.

In cultivating his tough image, Pavlik's Youngstown roots are often a central theme.

We are always shown footage of the worst, most blighted neighborhoods in the city before every fight. We hear announcers rehash the downfall of the city and discuss the hard times that Youngstown has been through.

Unlike the one-night-only economic boom the city will experience, the image of a dead city is lasting.

Every time the worst of the city is embraced by its residents, the disgust outsiders have for it is reinforced.

We should not run away from our dark side, but there's no reason we ought to embrace it.

While it's acceptable for us to be proud of our town's grit, an obsession with it on our part creates a license for others to stunt Youngstown's growth with a stereotype.

OUR SIDE POLICY

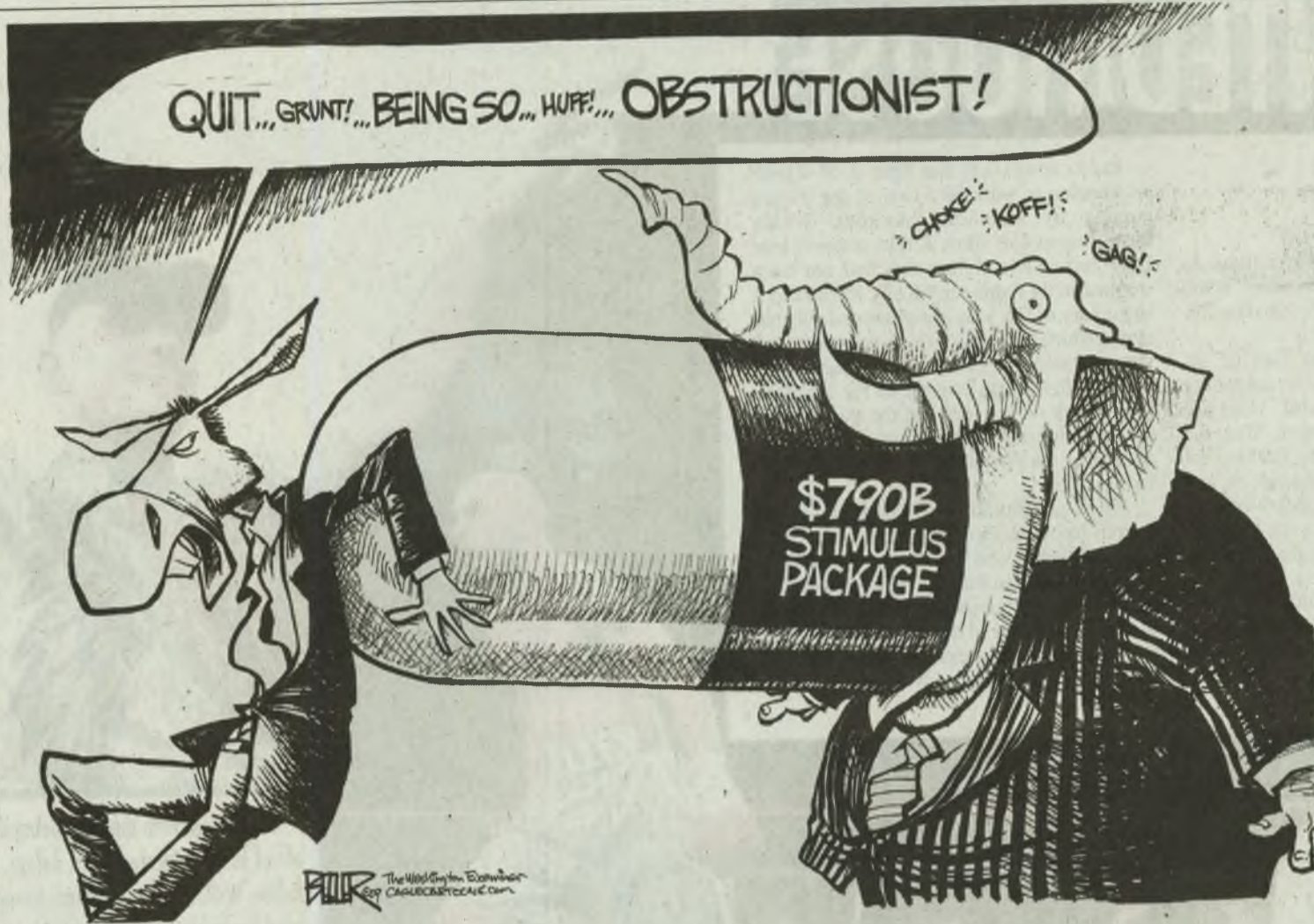
The editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor and news editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and draw on the opinions of the entire writing staff. The Jambar's business manager and non-writing staff do not contribute 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 are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The Jambar does not withhold the names of writers of letters or guest commentaries.

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



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

Meeting the dropout challenge

Robert Balfanz & John Bridgeland
MCT

Good news is rare these days. Home foreclosures, a credit crunch, and rising unemployment have sent ripples of fear through the American economy. Youth unemployment is approaching levels seen during the Great Depression. The nation could use a ray of hope, and progress is being made on one issue that deepens unemployment and poverty — the high school dropout epidemic.

The landscape in our nation's public schools is now familiar. Each year, more than 1.2 million students do not graduate with their incoming freshman class. In many communities, dropping out from high school is as likely as graduating, often triggering unemployment, poverty, incarceration

and single parenthood.

Fortunately, the nation is responding in large cities as well as rural communities.

This week, we will release a report examining progress in raising graduation rates in all 50 states. Some states and communities are graduating more students in the thousands, even as graduation requirements mount. Eight states have seen graduation rates increase by five or more percentage points.

The percent of minority students attending high schools in which nearly all students graduate has doubled, and 300,000 fewer students across America attend high schools in which as many students drop out as graduate. A growing number of elected officials believe attacking the dropout crisis should be one of their priorities. Both the governor of Colorado and the mayor of Philadelphia have pledged to cut the dropout rate in half dur-

ing their terms in office, and dozens of other officials are showing similar leadership.

Now is the time for coordinated action at all levels. America's Promise Alliance is leading the charge with 105 "dropout summits" in all 50 states over the next few years.

The alliance released a comprehensive guide on how communities can increase high school graduation rates by collecting accurate data, implementing school reform and community supports, and sustaining those efforts over time. Governors will continue to play a critical role, as they build systems to track graduation rates, set ambitious graduation and college readiness goals, and raise compulsory school age laws with new supports for struggling students. Congress should pass the Graduation Promise Act to improve or replace the 15 percent of high schools that produce over half of all dropouts, as well as the

Serve America, Success in the Middle and Keeping Pace acts. The federal government will save \$45 billion per high school class in extra tax revenues and lower costs when the dropout rate is cut in half among 20 year olds, representing critical savings as government costs mount for stimulus.

The perspectives of dropouts too give us hope most see the value of a high school diploma, are confident they could have graduated with the right supports, and long for a more engaging and challenging curriculum.

Parents of students trapped in low-performing schools are the most likely to see the importance of a rigorous curriculum, and their own involvement, as critical to their child's academic success.

Our nation has finally woken up to its dropout challenge, and with youth unemployment soaring to new heights and an economy in deep recession, it is not a moment too soon.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor,

I am writing this letter in response to the ad that was recently printed several times in the paper. This particular ad that I am referring to was written by a man named Bradley R. Smith. His article claims that the Holocaust did not actually happen. This ad was distasteful and offensive. I feel that it should never have been considered for print and then to have actually printed it is disappointing.

The argument from The Jambar staff, justifying why this ad was printed, is that it was allowed because of the right to freedom of speech. There is not one American that will argue against the fact that free speech is an amazing right to have, however it should be monitored and properly used.

A single person cannot control another person however an organization, such as your newspaper, has the power to control what they subject people to. This newspaper allowed Smith's ad to affect an entire university. If YSU would have turned him down for print, I'm sure he would have moved on to the next newspaper, magazine or Web site without thinking twice about it. In fact, that's probably what he did, anyway. From what I understand, several other university newspapers turned Smith down for print.

Again, I understand free speech and everyone has right to their own opinion but The Jambar offended and disappointed many students, faculty and staff. A college newspaper is not a place to put and ad such as Smith's. As a new student to YSU, I am absolutely upset about reading Smith's ad in The Jambar. A person doesn't have to be Jewish, Catholic or any other type of person who suffered during the Holocaust to be undoubtedly disgusted by it. This was an event in history that affected the human race as a whole. We lost millions of human lives because of one single person.

You don't need to be directly affected, related to or know someone who was directly affected by the Holocaust to be able to feel even a fraction of the pain as what the Holocaust victims and their families have gone and are still going through. This should have been considered when this ad was printed over and over again. The newspaper needs to better filter what is allowed for print.

Shelby Carr
Student

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor,

The Youngstown State University Jambar has been the student voice for more than 77 years, but has struck a controversial chord with the acceptance of Bradley Smith's article of 'A Question for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.' In this article, he challenges the Holocaust legitimacy asking for proof of one person that died in Auschwitz's gas chambers.

Many people are wondering why ask such a foolish question, but I believe it's a question worth asking. America appears to be a morally good country at first glance, but from the beginning hypocrisy has been prevalent. The settlers came to America speaking peace, but in their hearts was war.

From the very beginning of America as we know it, settlers

came shedding blood, stealing land and selling humans as though they were no more than common livestock.

They professed to be Christians, however, Jesus said the theft comes not but for to steal, kill and to destroy, but I have come that you might have life and that more abundantly. What is an American citizen supposed to do?

These professing Christians look more like devils to me. Take a moment and think. If a person invites another person in their home, they welcome him or her in warmly, then the guest deceptively kills them and their family and places the survivors of their family on reserved plots of land. That's cruel if I have ever seen it. Would you trust this person any longer? America needs to repent. This country was built on a crooked foundation. If my

people, which are called by my name, should humble themselves and pray, seek my face, turn from their wicked ways then will I come and heal their land.

The country still has not turned from its wickedness. In this perspective, Bradley R. Smith has the right to question the legitimacy of the Holocaust. Nobody can trust a liar. I believe that the Holocaust did happen, but I didn't see it with my own eyes. Neither have I done a significant study of its legitimacy in my spare time.

This is one occurrence I have just accepted at face value because of what I have learned. America is blessed. I'm an American and I am thankful. I don't believe I would want to live anywhere else.

Nahum Graham
Student

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the paid advertisement placed in your newspaper by Bradley R. Smith on Feb. 5. I was very disappointed to see that this advertisement was accepted for publication.

Upon reviewing the parameters for submission of my letter, I noted that The Jambar will not accept letters that are "libelous, threatening, obscene, or indecent" in nature. I wonder if the same guidelines apply for publication of paid advertisements. In my opinion, Mr. Bradley's challenges are both threatening and obscene in nature.

Could the reason that Ameri-

can academics are not responding with proof be that his question is both preposterous and offensive in nature and should not be dignified with a response? The fact that the Holocaust occurred is not a debatable question as far as I am concerned. Mr. Bradley should be more concerned about preventing future travesties, not questioning whether they actually occurred. Genocide will only begin to be truly eradicated when the citizens of the world all accept the fact that they have occurred and start to shift their focus on a solution.

Heather Gessler

Editor,

Many people may have been offended by a previously run advertisement by Mr. Bradley Smith. He acknowledged the curiosity burrowing in him of the Holocaust and whether it actually happened. I do not disagree with the printing of such an article. Unlike some other readers, I had a completely different interpretation of his article: history and how it is told. I am a young African-American male and at first glance, this question to history made me wonder about the acts involved in slavery. What other types of people suffered greatly from these heinous act against humanity? Why do so much of these facts go unwritten in American history?

It barely even acknowledges the existence of slavery before the modern era, as if the Romans and the Greeks, times were great philosophers dwelled, weren't accompanied by slavery and a slave trade. The fact is American history sugar coats much of what we learn. Pertaining to the Holocaust, how many other races suf-

fered from the atrocities of that such time, but are they actually spoken of?

And on another note, what was the Americans real involvement with the Holocaust and World War II? We as Americans fail to question what we learn and take it completely as word. I see Bradley Smith as questioning the history and how it was written. The truth is old, white America takes to the grave the inhumane acts they have once committed themselves and completely twist them to glorify themselves in American history, without question by the people subject to learn it in our public schools, colleges and universities.

We are in a day in age where much proof is needed to justify actions and situations. Bradley Smith, in my opinion, is simply asking for proof of the United States' involvement, their participation and the acts they committed to be proven with tangible facts.

Mike Williams
Youngstown

Editor,

I am writing in regard to Bradley Smith's paid advertisement. When it was first brought to my attention, I was shocked The Jambar would run something that would undoubtedly cause some controversy, but I held back any personal beliefs that would cause me to think less of The Jambar out of respect for the newspaper staff. The Holocaust is a sensitive issue and I was somewhat impressed by the decision of the staff to not censor a man, whom I knew very little about, for asking questions about one of the most well-known events in history.

The fact that the Holocaust had never occurred to me as being a debatable issue left me intrigued, and I decided to look a little more into Mr. Smith.

Now, I am no authority on the Holocaust, and I admit that I lack the knowledge to argue for

or against any of the stances that Smith states on his website.

However, although he gives the impression that he questions the authenticity of certain events that occurred during World War II to encourage free thinking among students like myself, a few statements of his that I found made that hard for me to believe.

He said at a 1987 presentation that he aims his argument at students because they "are superficial."

They are empty vessels to be filled," and at a conference is 2004 that his questions are "set it up in a way that could not really be debated."

I am offended that this man really expects us to believe that he wants an "open debate," when clearly he is just trying to push his personal beliefs on those most eager to question and learn.

As if that were not enough to

discourage me from paying Mr. Smith any more attention, on his blog this January he blamed "Jewish greed," and "Jewish monomaniacal self-regard," as being a reason the Holocaust is not questioned. I don't see how I can even consider contemplating any of the issues Mr. Smith has brought up when he states his discriminatory beliefs so blatantly.

I ask that The Jambar discontinue running Mr. Smith's advertisement, not to encourage censorship of this sensitive issue, but because I find his approach insulting to all students.

I am ashamed that The Jambar has been a medium for Mr. Smith's attempt to mold our thinking so that it agrees with his prejudices.

Elizabeth O'Malley
Student

HAUNTED HOUSE

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Kelly "The Ghost" Pavlik returns to the ring Saturday against mandatory WBO number three contender Marco Antonio Rubio at the Chevy Centre.

Pavlik comes off the first loss of his professional career — a loss to legendary middleweight veteran Bernard Hopkins, who won by unanimous decision. With the non-title fight at 168 pounds, Pavlik kept his middleweight titles even though he lost the fight. Pavlik fights as a middleweight, a 160-pound limit, and looked very sluggish and slow with the extra weight when up against Hopkins. Pavlik returns to his normal weight against Rubio Saturday.

Pavlik has a record of 34-1 with 30 knockouts. Pavlik will have to look forward and not dwell on his loss; instead he must simply focus on the Rubio fight.

Rubio comes into the fight at 43-4 with 37 knockouts with only two of the 37 not coming by technical knockout. Within those impressive wins, Rubio stopped Jose Luis Zertuche, a fighter that had not been stopped in 24 fights until Kelly Pavlik did it in January of last year in eight rounds. Rubio stopped him in seven. "I think he was a good stepping stone. It gave me more legitimacy in my skills. I was brought in for Zertuche to get back on his feet, but the win opened the doors for me," Rubio said of his win, as quoted on the Web site <http://www.MyBoxingFans.com>

Pavlik and Rubio share a common opponent in Jose Luis Zertuche. However, Rubio took one less round to dispose of Zertuche than Pavlik did. In Rubio's fight against Kofi Jantuah who possesses a mean left hook, Rubio got planted in the first 22 seconds of the fight. Pavlik possesses a mean left hook and jab Rubio should be aware of.



Prediction: With the fight being in Pavlik's hometown and coming off of his first professional defeat, the news does not fair well for Rubio. With the home crowd strongly supporting Pavlik, it will be hard for Rubio to beat him.

Pavlik has a chip on his shoulder — in the Hopkins fight, many boxing heads felt "The Ghost" got exposed as a one-dimensional fighter who just comes straight at his opponents.

Pavlik will not disappoint: I predict he will stop Rubio in the fifth round.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TERRY O'NEIL

Bars Showing Pavlik vs. Rubio

YOUNGSTOWN SPORTS GRILLE: No cover charge, the back door will be open, and tents will be set up outside with big screens showing the fight. Some specials include 100 wings and case of beer for \$60, 100 wings and large sandwich for \$60, 50 wings and full rack of ribs for \$50.

BW3'S: All of the local Buffalo Wild Wings restaurants will be showing the fight. There will not be a cover charge. Austintown location will be showing the fight on seven big screens. Boardman location will also be showing it on all of their big screens. They will be opening their extra rooms for more capacity. Youngstown location will begin their tailgating festivities at 5 p.m. with performances by the band, The Rage. They will be setting up a heated tent along with live radio broadcast from Y-103.

INNER CIRCLE: The Niles location will be showing the fight with no cover charge. Food and drink specials have not been advertised.



UNDERCARD BOUTS

Four-round lightweight
Zach Thomas (2-0, 1 KO)
vs. Terrance Crawford
(5-0, 3 KOs)

Four-round lightweight
Leroy Newton (6-13, 3
KOs) vs. Mark Salser
(8-0, 8 KOs)

**Four-round super
lightweight**
Michael Suarez (pro debut)
vs. Jake Giuriceo
(pro debut)

**Six-round super
featherweight**
Angel Rodriguez (3-2, 2
KOs) vs. Hector Marengo
(5-0-1, 3 KOs)

Six-round welterweight
Ruben Galvan (27-13-3, 10 KOs) vs.
Brian Camechis (17-2, 8 KOs)

Six-round welterweight
Willie Nelson (10-0-1, 6 KOs) vs.
TBA

Final farewell for seniors Liles and Niemi



Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Senior night comes once a year and it means the end of the road for an athlete's collegiate career.

Senior men's basketball athletes Jack Liles and Mikko Niemi will face the dilemma of their last regular season home game Saturday against non-conference opponent St. Peter's in an ESPN bracket buster contest.

Liles has been a constant force in the lineup for the Penguins all four years he has been part of the program. Liles has lettered all three years leading up to this his final season.

The senior shined in the biggest stage as he led the Penguins in the game covered by ESPNU against conference and in-state rival Cleveland State. Liles scored a team-high 18 points and grabbed six rebounds, showing his senior leadership in the Penguins biggest game this season. He had several put-back dunks, which electrified the large crowd of over 6,000 people. Liles has started in all 25 games for the Penguins this season while averaging 8.2 points and 5.6 rebounds per game.

Niemi, on the other hand, has been everything from a starter, to six-man, to a motivator in

the huddle. Niemi has started in games in the past but this year has mostly come off the bench in some crucial spots. Even though the Penguins lost against the Detroit Titans in overtime on Jan. 31, Niemi played 32 huge minutes since starter junior DeAndre Mays left the game with an ankle injury.

Niemi's junior season was his best as a Penguin. He started 10 games and managed the floor game as the point guard. He's the first Finnish player to play for the Penguins since Kimmo Henionen did in the 1991-1993 seasons.

The Penguins opponent on senior night comes from the state of New Jersey. The Peacocks are 9-17 overall and play out of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Association and are currently 6-10 within their conference. The Peacocks are 1-4 in non-conference road games. The Penguins main concern for the Peacocks should be leading scorer Wesley Jenkins. Jenkins steadies the Peacocks' attack with a smooth average of 15.4 points per game.

The Penguins have been playing outstanding basketball as of late and look to continue to edge their way closer to the end of the regular season and into the Horizon League postseason. The Penguins' game against the Peacocks will be their last home game before they hit the road for two games against Butler and Valparaiso.

Win and in for hockey squad

Josh Stipanovich
SPORTS REPORTER

A lot is at stake heading into the final game of the 2008-2009 regular season for the veteran Penguins.

The Youngstown State men's hockey squad can clinch their second playoff spot in their three-year history with a win over Washington & Jefferson College Sunday afternoon.

The Penguins, who lost to W&J earlier this season, 4-1, will use their win over nationally ranked Michigan-Dearborn last weekend as a momentum boost along with the fact that they have never beaten W&J. Since YSU started a hockey

club in 2006, the Penguins are 0-6 against the Presidents.

The Penguins currently sit in fifth place in the CHMA conference and are only two points ahead of the Presidents coming into this weekend's match up. YSU is competing with W&J and Slippery Rock for the final two-playoff spots. The Penguins hold their destiny in their own hands, but if the Penguins lose, they will find themselves watching and waiting to see if their season will prolong into March for the 2009 CHMA playoffs.

W&J currently has 11 points in the CHMA standings, and Slippery Rock has 12. The Penguins would be able to make the playoffs if both of these teams

do not earn at least 13 points in the standings.

W&J would need to win their final two conference games to clinch a playoff spot, and Slippery Rock would either have to win their final game against Duquesne this weekend or hope that W&J lose one of their two final conference games.

Slippery Rock still has one game remaining, while W&J has four games including the game this weekend against the Penguins.

Not only are the playoffs at stake, but also senior night will be among the pregame festivities Sunday afternoon. The puck drops at 1:30 p.m. for the Penguins final home game of the regular season.

Intramural dodgeball begins

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

They are stuck in overhanging bleachers and inside nets above the basketball court. They whiz past students' heads.

Dodgeball intramurals have begun at Youngstown State University.

"Man, there's balls flying everywhere and I don't know which one to grab," junior Ryan Novotny said about the intensity of

the game. Novotny's team, The Meat, is of the top teams in the dodge ball league.

Though an unlimited amount of players can be on an intramural dodgeball team, only seven can play at any given time. Intramural rules are similar to the rules used in grade school gym class.

Intramurals have a shot clock at three minutes per game. Teams must win three out of five games to claim the win. The team with the most players remaining after three minutes wins. If a team

dominates and takes all of the players out before the three minutes are up, the team wins as well.

Student intern Ben Dooley thinks intramural dodgeball has improved from years past because there are more women on teams. "It's better in the co-rec game because there are double the teams from last year. The best 15 players from the league will travel to Kent State University and participate in the KSU tournament where the group intramurals took last year placed third.