

The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

PAGE 8

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CLUB AIMS TO CLIMB TO NEW HEIGHTS

ROUGH RANKINGS



Ohio cities called out on Forbes' misery list

Dan Pompili
ASSIST. NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown was named to another list last week. This time, Forbes Magazine ranked Youngstown number 18 on its list of "America's 20 Most Miserable Cities."

Four other Ohio cities found their way onto the list: Namely Akron (12), Canton (9), Toledo (15) and Cleveland, which claimed the number one spot.

The article and list, composed by Forbes senior editor Kurt Badenhausen, loosely bases the criteria on the "Misery Index" designed by economist Arthur Okun.

Forbes designed its own derivative called the "Misery Measure," which scores cities on nine different criteria including unemployment, sales and income tax rates, commute times, violent crime, and even the success of regional sports teams.

The pool was expanded this year from 150 to 200 cities, all with minimum populations of 245,000.

Cleveland was the only city to rank in the bottom fiftieth percentile in all categories, justifying its number one "most miserable" ranking.

Based on statistics cited by Badenhausen in a telephone interview, Youngstown's rankings would indicate relatively how bad Cleveland's scores must have been.

On a scale of 1-200, with higher numbers (100-plus) indicating a worse ranking, Badenhausen provided six of nine items that contributed to Youngstown's number 18 spot.

Commute times: 72; unemploy-

ment: 186; corruption: 181; weather: 189; taxes 167; and sports: 169. The caption attached to Youngstown's picture in the online photo album cited corruption as one of the primary reasons for Youngstown's appearance on the list, including a reference to recently-released former U.S. Rep. Jim Traficant.

What was not cited was Youngstown's "violent crimes" score, a factor that has contributed to the city's notoriety in past decades.

Badenhausen said that the misery index "roughly tracks the sentiment ... but we're trying to look at broader characteristics."

Dr. John B. Russo, co-director of the Center for Working Class Studies at Youngstown State University, said the Forbes ranking "reflects the high levels of unemployment, especially in manufacturing cities, along the northern tier of Ohio."

"I think it has the feeling of blaming the victims," Russo said. He later referred to the list as "intellectually dishonest."

Other prominent figures associated with Ohio and the Mahoning Valley provided comments on the list.

Youngstown mayor Jay Williams forwarded The Jambar a copy of an e-mail he sent to Forbes. The e-mail concisely began, "Dear Forbes Magazine:" and proceeded to list links to 18 different news articles which laud the city's character and its efforts to succeed in spite of economic and social obstacles. The e-mail concludes with "Want more? Just call. -Jay Williams."

FORBES page 3

MAKING THE LIST

TOP 10 U.S. CITY TO START A NEW BUSINESS 2009-2010
Entrepreneur Magazine

TOP 10 METRO AREAS FOR BUSINESS EXPANSION 2009
SITE Selection Magazine

AMERICA'S DOWNSIZED CITIES, 2009, NO.1
Forbes

TOP 10 AMERICA'S FASTEST-DYING CITIES
Forbes

TOP 25 MOST DANGEROUS CITIES, 2006, NO.9
Morgan Quitno Press



"Economist Arthur Okun's 'Miserable Index' is about as useful to the average American as Mr. Blackwell's 'Best Dressed' list."

-TIM RYAN

Snow creates trouble in YSU residence lots

Krystle Kimes
REPORTER

Although the recent winter weather initially forced campus commuters to deal with tricky parking situations, these problems have also spread to residential lots.

Four residential parking lots and numerous mixed lots are available for students who live on the Youngstown State University campus to park their vehicles. Students parking in both types of lots have faced similar problems, including not enough parking spaces and ticketing.

The residential lots hold approximately 576 parking spots, plus those in the mixed lots. Still, campus residents want to park their cars close to their residences, but enough spaces are not available. Students have been ticketed for creating their own spots.

"When we have snow like last week, we lose spaces," said Daniel O'Connell, director of Support Services. "If the lot is full they have to go to different lots. [An option is] to go to the mixed lot by Wick-Pollock if they live by Kilcawley House or Buechner Hall."

With all the snow it's been difficult to see parking lines. When it snows and lots fill up, students are still required to park in legal spaces, parking supervisors said.

"Parking across campus stinks ... not just resident. Even in the deck I think it's bad because people don't know how to park in the lines," said Sarah Louk.

Louk, a Buechner Hall resident, received a \$100 ticket for parking in a special permit spot. She said enough parking wasn't available.

O'Connell said students need to be familiar with campus parking violations. This information can be found on the YSU Parking Services Web site. Additionally, O'Connell said he's pleased with the groundskeepers plowing the snow on campus.

"They try to open additional spaces as best they can with the weather," O'Connell said. "Don't mess with Mother Nature."

Brittany Thomas used to live in Buechner Hall. She has received seven parking violations from parking in the R-4 lot, and was forced to pay two \$25 tickets in the summer because of a lack of parking spots. Thomas said she appealed all of the tickets immediately.

"They need to put a parking deck at Buechner for residents," Thomas said.

If a student believes he or she was ticketed with an incorrect violation, an appeal process is available. The first level is to fill out an appeal form online or talk with an administrative assistant in parking. If the appeal does not pass during the second level, the student can meet with O'Connell and review the tickets.

YSU students gain hands-on experience with international medicine

Josh Stipanovich
NEWS EDITOR

In early January, members of the Ohio Medical Clinic Missionaries assisted five Youngstown State University students and two faculty members of the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services on a two-week journey through the African jungle and into the village of Dikenafai in Imo State, Nigeria where they served nearly 1000 patients.

The study abroad expedition had two goals in mind: encourage diversity and comprehend international perceptions.

"We had a clinic with some people

who have never received medical care before, and they have never seen people from the United States," professor of nursing Dr. Pamela Schuster said. "They just rolled out the red carpet for us, and there was dancing and all types of cultural types of activities ... so the students had an excellent clinical experience as well as the cultural global perspective."

Schuster, one of the two faculty members who went to Nigeria, said the experience also gave the group an opportunity to relate with people who are essentially so poor they cannot afford health insurance, which has led to an average life expectancy of 47 years.

"The people that we saw [are] very poor. The people there, they have absolutely no medical health care, and

[they] have never been seen by a doctor or a nurse, and through our efforts, we were able to provide medicine to many of the people," Schuster said.

But medical health insurance isn't the only issue these Nigerian people have to live with every day, Schuster said. She recalled one major problem they are currently facing that Schuster thinks the entire YSU community could assist with.

"Their well dried up, where they would be supplying water to everybody in the village, and so now they have to go down the side of a mountain, probably a quarter mile, to get water from the bottom of a waterfall," Schuster said. "Then they lug the water up on their heads."

After getting back to Youngstown,

"There was an 11-year-old boy who was pressed up against the medical van crying. It really broke my heart and made me want to go back at the same time."

-Terri Liller

Schuster said she wasn't able to get this image out of her mind, and since then she's been trying to devise a plan, which would require each student to donate \$1. She said if each student would be willing to do this, a new well could be constructed in Dikenafai.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Sweet to be recognized during symposium

A symposium in recognition of Dr. David C. Sweet will be held Friday. Sweet is set to retire as YSU's president on June 30. The symposium will take place at 8:30 a.m. in Kilcawley Center, and will feature a discussion of the university's involvement in Youngstown's 2010 plan.

Undergraduate mathematics conference set for Saturday

On Saturday, Pi Mu Epsilon and the mathematics department will host an undergraduate mathematics conference that is open to faculty and students from YSU and surrounding schools. The conference will be held in Cushman Hall, and registration will begin at 9 a.m. Registration information is available on the YSU mathematics department Web site. The conference will conclude at approximately 3 p.m.

POLICE BRIEFS

Intoxicated woman in M-2 parking deck

On Wednesday, two YSU police officers responded to a report of an intoxicated female walking around the M-2 parking deck. The subject was found on the first floor of the parking deck; she was stopped for questioning. She had been drinking with friends at University Pizzeria, and was trying to find her way to her car to get home. She was then taken to the police station and was picked up by her mother.

Pedestrian struck on Lincoln Avenue

On Feb. 16, a YSU Parking Services employee, driving in the Parking Services truck on Lincoln Avenue between Phelps and Elm streets, spotted a pedestrian. The pedestrian suddenly appeared from between two parked cars and was directly in front of the truck. The employee applied brakes, but could not stop in time. He struck the pedestrian on the left side, knocking him to the ground. The employee immediately got out of his truck to check on the victim, who said he was OK.

SGA meeting discusses the future of Student Internet Radio Program

Andrea DeMart
REPORTER

The Youngstown State University Student Government Association met as a whole Monday with Adam Earnhardt as the speaker.

Dr. Earnhardt was speaking on behalf of the Student Internet Radio program, which was initiated through student and faculty request. The radio program is joining forces with the Youngstown Business Incubator to turn the program into a reality. The YBI is providing the space and technical expertise needed to get the Internet radio program going. The proposed Internet radio program will follow the model of Black Squirrel Radio already being used at Kent State University.

Over the next few weeks, contests will be held for naming the station and also for the station logo. Prizes will be handed out for the best suggestions. The creation of a student advisory board will also take place. Students will have say over the programming offered on the Internet radio.

The Student Internet Radio is planning to have a soft launch in late Summer with the kick-off happening around Homecoming during the Fall semester.

The ad hoc committee created for Haiti relief has finalized the date of the banquet event for April 1. Big-ticket items have been secured through the Athletic Department. Location and ticket price are still being negotiated.

Election petitions for 2010-11 are currently available on the SGA Web site or in the SGA office. SGA elections will be held April 7 and 8.

National Eating Disorders Association working to raise awareness about eating disorders and body image issues

Joe Giesy
REPORTER

This week, the National Eating Disorders Association is working with a collection of organizations and individuals to raise awareness about eating disorders and body image issues.

Dr. Albert Pondillo, a psychologist and part-time faculty member at Youngstown State University, said two of the more common types of eating disorders seen on college campuses are anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa.

According to the NEDA Web site, anorexia nervosa is "characterized by self-starvation and excessive weight loss," and bulimia nervosa is "characterized by a cycle of recurrent bingeing and compensatory behaviors such as self-induced vomiting designed to undo or compensate for the effects of binge eating."

Pondillo said other types of bulimia include the abuse of laxatives and excessive exercising; the latter is a very common type of eating disorder for men.

Approximately 90 to 95 percent of people affected by eating disorders are women.

"They generally affect the ages between 14 and 18," Pondillo said, adding that the eating disorder can continue into young adulthood.

One of the causes Pondillo stated for anorexia nervosa is how culture dictates the way that women should look.

"The ideal perception of the female is to be very thin," he said. "If you were to look at Playboy centerfolds from the '50s to now, you will notice that they have become increasingly smaller, and smaller, and smaller."

Another cause is family pressure, Pondillo said.

"We see these young women come

from families who have very, very high expectations of them to achieve," Pondillo said. "Over time, we have a person who feels she has very low control over anything in her life, except for what she can put in her body."

There are many reasons why a person may develop an eating disorder. Every person's case is different.

Pondillo said the actual eating disorder often starts with dieting. For anorexics, they often limit bad foods at first and continue this while their choices become narrower and narrower. For bulimics, throwing up or exercising can be seen as a good way to get rid of the calories they just consumed.

Some of the health risks involved with anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa include heart complications and organ failure.

"When we stop eating, our bodies go into a famine mode," Pondillo said. "If we are not consuming the correct amount of protein, then the only other source of protein we have is our own muscle tissue. We literally begin to use our muscle tissue to stay alive."

NEDA's Web site said anorexia nervosa is the leading cause of death for women between the ages of 15 and 24. Pondillo said that "somewhere in the neighborhood of 2 to 6 percent of anorexics will die from complications of the disorder."

Pondillo said treating eating disorders is a multidisciplinary approach. The first step is to bring the person back to health, and then address the underlying causes.

Michelle Edenfield, a licensed professional clinical counselor with the Center for Behavioral Health, said some of the therapies used to treat eating disorders today are cognitive behavioral therapy and dialectical behavioral therapy.

"CBT has been used extensively with [anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa]," she said, adding that it has been proven

effective.

Edenfield said DBT has been recently incorporated into treatment and shown to be effective with the anorexic population.

Some of the signs that a friend may be suffering from anorexia nervosa are dry skin, brittle hair that breaks and falls out easily and drastic weight loss. Other signs can include the growth of fine, downy hair called lanugo all over the friend's body and amenorrhea, the loss or stopping of menstrual periods in women. Warning signs a person suffering from bulimia nervosa may present are more subtle.

"Bulimia is a very secret behavior," Pondillo said.

He said people suffering from bulimia nervosa are often of average weight and sometimes even overweight. One of the things he suggests paying attention to is a friend who goes to the bathroom alone for long periods of time after every meal, or a friend who spends an excessive amount of time working out. Another subtle clue, most often caught by dentists, is the decaying of tooth enamel due to vomiting.

Edenfield warns that eating disorders are not something to be taken lightly. She said talking with a friend who has an eating disorder can be very difficult, but it is not something to shy away from.

She suggested when talking to a friend believed to have an eating disorder, do so with a "gentle manner while expressing concern." Attacking or accusing the person of having an eating disorder can cause him/her to be especially resistant to admitting it.

"You are challenging a very strong belief," Edenfield said.

There are many resources available for people who suffer from eating disorders and want to seek treatment. The Eating Disorder Advocates of Ohio's Web site lists many treatment and support facilities around Ohio.

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Forbes just named
Youngstown a miserable city;
what are the best and worst
parts of living here?



"I love it here. I live in the [University] Courtyard [Apartments], so bars like Mickey's and Downtown 36 are really close. The nightlife here is great. I like to go sledding in Mill Creek Park."

Ashley Rossero, sophomore



"I seriously hate Youngstown so much. There is nothing here. All my friends like Gossip, but I don't. I only live here because my parents do."

Ali Lessick, sophomore

got an opinion?

Send letters to:
thejambar@gmail.com

FORBES page 1

Senator Sherrod Brown's office provided a response saying that Brown is "disappointed with Forbes Magazine's listing."

The statement cited several of Brown's collaborative efforts with YSU and Youngstown business interests and social programs, concluding with the assertion that "all of these efforts are making Youngstown anything but miserable."

Deputy Communications director Allison Kolodziej issued a statement on behalf of

Gov. Ted Strickland:

"Governor Strickland challenges Forbes magazine to come to Ohio and spend time in our cities ... they'll quickly see that Ohioans are resourceful, resilient and innovative people, and we have pride in our cities."

U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan added a light-hearted jab at the list.

"Economist Arthur Okun's 'Miserable Index' is about as useful to the average American as Mr. Blackwell's 'Best Dressed' list," his statement read.

NIGERIA page 1

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences Dr. Christian Onwudiwe was also among the faction who journeyed to Africa, and going there was especially personal for him, Schuster said.

Onwudiwe is from Nigeria, and he played a vital part in scheduling the trip.

Last June, the local university in Nigeria, Imo State University, wrote in response to Onwudiwe and expressed their interest in a collaborative agreement with Youngstown State University.

"He wanted to schedule the study abroad experience to be with people from his hometown ... so while we were on this trip, we were able to have people that he knew from his hometown arranging all of our activities ahead of time," Schuster said.

While the experience may have been personal for Onwudiwe, Schuster said she also learned a lot about a culture some may only witness and learn about on a broadcast basis rather than a hands-on one.

"This was the first time [YSU] ever collaborated in a very extensive way with the community, and so we collaborated with six to 10 doctors each day, and we collaborated with 20 nurses, and none of us had ever been to this clinical site before," Schuster said.

Because of this, working with numerous government officials and neighboring medical facilities was essen-

tial, Schuster said.

That camaraderie proved to be perceived in a positive manner.

"We became so close with [the Nigerian doctors], and they're so interested, that they're coming to our university in April, and they're going to be helping us with the medical clinic that we're going to be doing in Mexico," Schuster said. "I am like wow [and] thrilled beyond belief that we've got these sorts of collaborative processes going ... and it's just been so exciting to be a part of that."

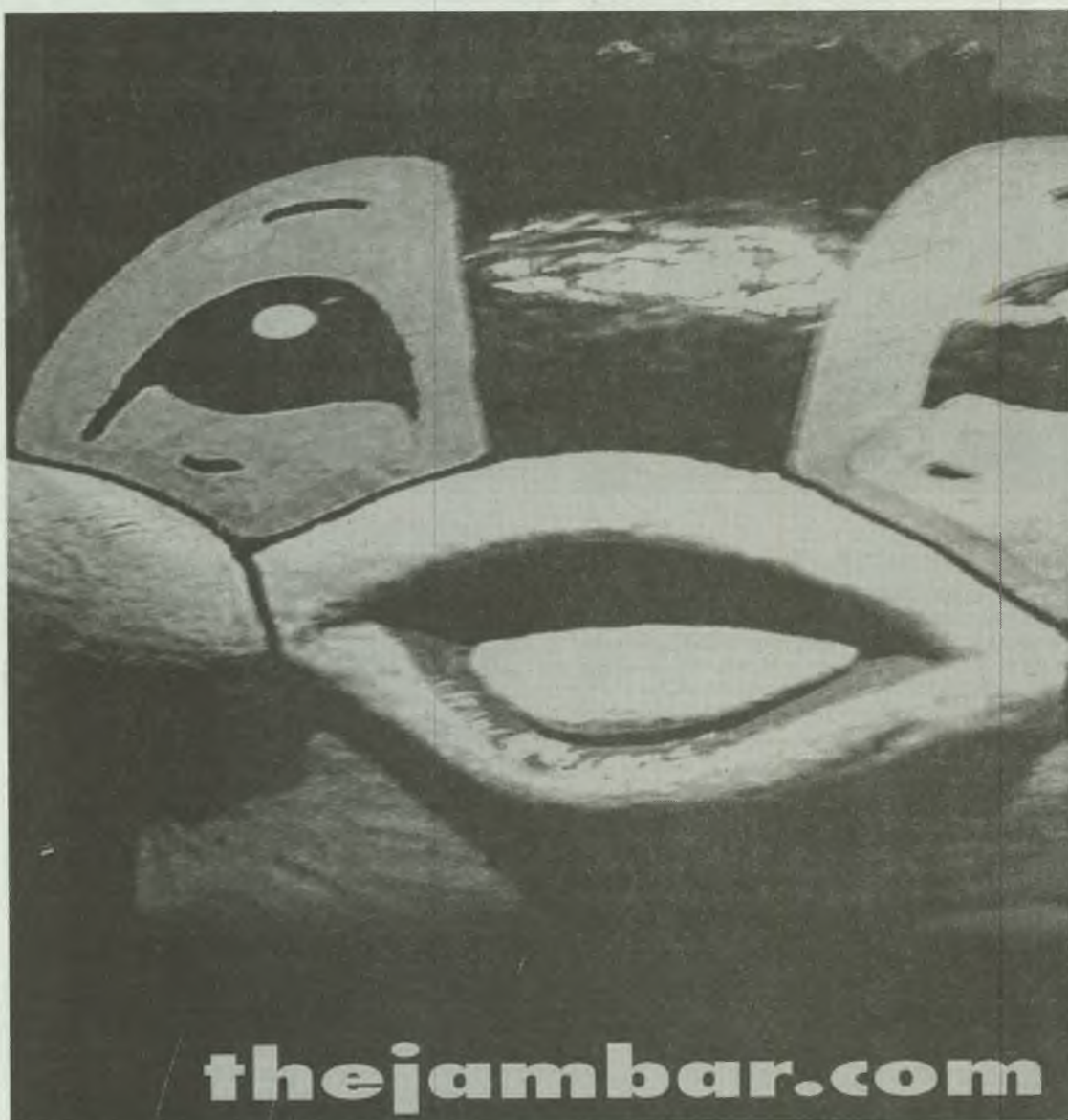
Although the journey had to end, the friendships they made did not, social work student Terri Liller said.

"It was very difficult to leave, especially on the last day of the clinic. They really did not want us to go," Liller said. "There was an 11-year-old boy who was pressed up against the medical van crying. It really broke my heart and made me want to go back at the same time."

Liller worked at the eyeglasses clinic, where she was able to give every person in the village a sense of hope.

"Some people were so happy to be able to read print, [and] after they tried on the glasses, they clapped," Liller said. "That was an emotional and rewarding experience in itself."

Along with going to Mexico in April, Schuster said they would be going back to Africa as well.

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YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

2010

Proverb of the Month:
"The way a donkey expresses gratitude
is by giving someone a bunch of kicks."
- From the Swahili

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6
THE AFRICAN MARKETPLACE

Noon-6:00 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center
The African Marketplace offers a wide range of dazzling sights, sounds, and objects to view, appreciate, and purchase, including art objects, jewelry, Afrocentric writings and literature that are scarce and hard to find in regular stores. The entire inventory of goods, products and people represent the creative genius of people of African descent. Dance and musical entertainment will be presented by the dynamic and multi-talented Harambee Youth Group.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9
DIVERSITY ROUNDTABLE

8:00 p.m., The Ohio Room, Kilcawley Center
A discussion and evaluation of diversity initiatives and progress at the University, involving administrators staff, faculty and major stakeholders and constituents, including the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, the University Diversity Council, the Africana Studies Program, Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA), Office of Student Diversity, and others. Panelists will include deans, department chairs, and other administrators.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11
PANEL DISCUSSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN CONTEMPORARY ART: "TRUTH AND FEAR"

7:00 p.m., The McDonough Museum of Art Auditorium
A panel discussion on contemporary African Art featuring Ronald D. Clayton and Julius Lyles. Through their art, Clayton and Lyles provoke the critical dialogue and mental transformation toward social reconstruction and a new approach to cultural diversity.

Ronald Clayton is a mixed-media artist and painter from Cleveland Heights, Ohio. He was accepted into the Art Students League of New York in 1962. Clayton's experience in the Vietnam War has shaped his ideology and understanding of humane practices. Julius M. Lyles III, a curator and artist from Richmond Heights, Ohio, began studying art at the age of eleven at the Cleveland Institute of Art summer workshops and later studied graphic design at Kent State University, and photography at Cleveland State University. His innovative work has been featured in several galleries throughout the East and Midwest.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12
LECTURE BY DARYL DAVIS: "KLANDESTINE RELATIONSHIPS"

7:30 p.m., Presidential Suites, Kilcawley Center
A lecture by Daryl Davis on the activities and the inner workings of the Ku-Klux Klan and how best to disable it. Davis gained insight into the KKK through rare contact with members in a courageous attempt to unmask its dangerous myths, assumptions, and strategies. His lecture is based on his book on the subject, which has been featured on major media outlets CNN, CNBC, Good Morning America, and National Public Radio.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18
LECTURE: "MIRACLE INVENTIONS BY MIRACLE PEOPLE"

7:30 p.m., The Ohio Room, Kilcawley Center
Greg Mills, writer, comedian, poet and former news reporter, presents a multi-media program about known and not-so-well-known African American inventors and scientists throughout the history of the United States.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24
BLACK HISTORY STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST FINALS AND COMMUNITY POETRY COMPETITION

7:30 p.m., The Gallery, Kilcawley Center
African American students at Youngstown State University are invited to submit essays related to the African American experience. The deadline for submission of five-page essays that follow appropriate guidelines and documentation, is Tuesday, February 23 by 5p.m.

Faculty and staff at YSU and the community at large are invited to submit original poems on subject matter or themes related to the African American life, including slavery, the Civil Rights Movement, religion, politics and leading African American figures in the shaping of American democracy. Deadline for submissions is February 19. Prizes will be awarded the three top winners of both competitions. Co-sponsored by the Black Faculty Staff Association (BFSA).

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26
THE BLACKACADEMIC CHALLENGE

6:00-9:00 p.m. The Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center
The Blackacademic Challenge is trivia contest aimed at challenging students' knowledge of Black history. Throughout the month of February, teams of four YSU students will represent their class, student club, or organization in answering a series of questions related to African American history. The championship round will take place on February 26. Categories to be covered include Black Firsts, Inventors/Science, Authors/Literature, Ohio Black History, Sports, Youngstown Black History, Art, and Politics. Co-sponsored by the Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) and the College of Fine and Performing Arts.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27
COMMUNITY OUTREACH: CLOTHING AND FOOD ASSISTANCE DRIVE

12 noon - 3:00 p.m., The Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center
Throughout the month of February, beginning with the African Marketplace on February 6, citizens in the African American community and the community at large are invited to bring gently worn clothes and canned foods to designated locations in each of the colleges to assist those who need help during these hard times. At the end of the drive, the clothing and food will be distributed to community organizations that serve the neediest among us. All donations will be brought together in the Chestnut Room from different locations for distribution. Major participants include members of the Black Faculty and Staff Association (BFSA) and faculty members of the Advisory Committee of the Africana Studies Program.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27
MOVIE: "CONTRADICTIONS OF THE HEART" BY WALTER ALLEN BENNETT, JR.

8:00 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center
The movie presents subtle and least-understood aspects of loving relationships in the African American community. Starring Clifton Powell, Yvonne Williams, and Christopher B. Duncan, the highly acclaimed film invites the audience to go beyond frequently exaggerated stereotypes. After the preview, the audience will be able to interact with the film's creator and director, Walter Allen Bennett, Jr.

Bennett has written and/or produced more than 200 episodes of series television, beginning with the Bill Cosby Show and Norman Lear's 704 House Street. He went on to produce the hit comedy In the House was executive producer of The Steve Harvey Show.

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 Fifth Avenue.

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National Entrepreneurship Week

Tuesday, February 23
"Selling the Scream: Becoming a Successful Entrepreneur"

Robert Fishbone
Thomas Entrepreneur In Residence
President, On The Wall Productions
Three sessions: 9:30 a.m./12:30 p.m./2:00 p.m.
Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center
Robert Fishbone is an artist-entrepreneur known for his creativity and innovative solutions. His clients range from small organizations to Fortune 500 companies.

Wednesday, February 24
Entrepreneurship Fair - Chestnut Room/Kilcawley
"Resources for Starting Your Business"
10:00 a.m. - Panel discussion with Youngstown Business Incubator, Ohio Small Business Development Center at YSU, Garden Club Angels and Monus Entrepreneurship Center

Keynote with Robert Fishbone
11 a.m.-12 noon
Small Group Discussions 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
For more information call 330-941-3385 or dmwalsh@ysu.edu.



Robert Fishbone is an artist-entrepreneur, known for his creative approach to everything he does, from public speaking to music and storytelling, from public art to product designing. His methodology is unique, and he draws upon his vast and varied experience to craft innovative solutions to the 'problems' he is presented with. He invented the infatigable Scream and over 150 other art and music related gift items sold in museums and music stores in 20 countries.

Youngstown
STATE UNIVERSITY



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Meet the Employers Day



**Job Tips for
Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics Majors**

Thursday, February 25, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

**Ohio Room
Kilcawley Center**

Come join us and find out what employers are looking for in job candidates. Ask questions and get feedback from a variety of employer panelists from the following companies and organizations:

- Ansaldo STS USA
- Avrem Technologies
- Eli Lilly
- Fed Ex Ground
- Fireline, Inc.
- Nationwide Insurance (Actuarial Services)
- Student Conservation Association (SCA)
- Timken Co.
- V & M Star

No Pre-Registration Necessary
For more information, please contact
Joanne Gallagher, Coordinator, 330-941-3569
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Career & Counseling Services

OUR SIDE

Don't believe the hype

RELATED STORY

FORBES, page 1

It seems that every year Youngstown is on another list.

We've been notorious for crime, corruption, unemployment, bad weather, you name it.

The problem with these lists is the lack of a standard. The sources of publication are varied and the judgment criteria are never consistent.

Gov. Ted Strickland's response to Forbes Magazine suggested that Ohioans are "resilient." Still, everybody's feathers are ruffled when Youngstown meets another piece of bad press.

Valley residents do not need outside media sources to inform us of Youngstown's shortcomings. We are all too aware of them.

Negative attitudes and comments are common. An idea was voiced at some point many years ago, maybe in the 1970s, and somehow it not only stuck but it snowballed.

Propaganda works like this: a statement is made, then spread far and wide until it becomes a kind of common knowledge. The common knowledge then becomes the justification for the statement's acceptance as truth. Like so:

"Youngstown stinks."

"Says who?"

"Hey, man, everyone knows that."

"Oh, OK."

Then external reinforcement buttresses the concept, and it becomes assumed that the whole world — or at least the country — knows that Youngstown stinks.

We should not be suckered in by this age-old psychological pitfall. We should keep one fact in mind: Nobody knows Youngstown like we do.

There has been plenty of bad press, but Youngstown is alive and well. New industrial and technological businesses are taking root. The university is emerging into a positive new era, adopting a greater sense of purpose. Natives return here because nowhere else in America possesses the same unique culture as Y-Town.

The rest of the world may not have received the memo yet, but we shouldn't lose sight of what this city means to us.

Youngstown's image and future is very new.

It's the propaganda that is old.

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

Want real health reform? Let the states take the lead

Robert Moffit
MCT

The vast majority of Americans want health-care reform. They just don't want the monstrous telephone-book-size bills now before the House and Senate.

They don't want to be ordered about like medieval serfs, being told what they can and cannot do; what they must and must not have. They don't want to be insulted by arrogant politicians who claim to know what's best for the public and their families. And one more thing: Americans don't want to be told repeatedly things that are transparently untrue that, for example, they'll be able to keep the health plans they like and have now, or that Congress is a powerhouse of fiscal conservatism and is going to bend the health care spending curve downward. In an open society, where a free and increasingly angry people can still read, write and vote, there is still the slim possibility that these distant representatives will finally "get" it.

So let's bank on that slim possibility. Instead of trying to ram through a massive spending and entitlement bill, chock-full of mandates, taxes and fines or trying to chop it up and smuggle the bits and pieces outside of the congressional budget process why not enlist the creativity of the states? The states are 50 laboratories for reform. Congress could provide grants funding, technical assistance and waivers from federal law and regulation to let them experiment with bold ideas. Lawmakers could tie funding or assistance to some commonly agreed-upon national goals, such as lowering the uninsured rate, reducing health care costs and improving the health sector's quality of services.

Liberals and conservatives in Congress and elsewhere can agree on these basics. Then they can see what works. In some instances, states have already taken the lead. States as ideologically different as Massachusetts, with a health-insurance coverage rate of 97 percent, and Utah are embarking on consequential and far-reaching reforms. It's hard to imagine two more different places within the same country. One might love or hate the Massachusetts or the Utah approach to health reform, but one can always pursue something entirely different. States could plow ahead with serious reforms that already resonate with the American people: capping medical malpractice lawsuit awards; reforming the health insurance markets; and improving the safety net so that the sickest and poorest Americans are better able to obtain affordable coverage. Let's look at the medical malpractice issue. President Barack Obama has given lip service to it with promises of pilot demonstrations. But these pilot programs would lack teeth and would fail to curb the litigious incentives for trial lawyers to bring cases that seek a lottery payout.

States could enact protections for patients' rights while assuring physicians that they won't be forced out of medicine because of skyrocketing liability premiums. Additionally, states should take the lead in reforming the broken health insurance markets. They should guarantee portability of coverage from job to job and access to affordable coverage for those with pre-existing medical conditions. States also can enter into interstate compacts with each other, expanding the geographical and population size of their insurance pools, and inviting more robust competition. While Congress can set some conditions on state experimentation with federal funds, they should recognize that state markets differ radically. That's why home-grown reforms tailored to the prevailing conditions in the states make the most sense. This approach also gives Congress and the voters the best chance to see how various health-care models stack up against each other. It's a lot better than, say, imposing a Massachusetts model on the entire country, as some politicians want to do. Everyone knows there are problems with the health care status quo.

That's why Washington politicians insult us when they insist it is their way or the status quo. That's a false choice. Let's allow states to compete in the arena of health policy ideas, and see which ones best achieve the nation's universal health-care goals.

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Eva Markvoort and Organ Donation

Melissa Mary Smith
COLUMNIST

Ever since I can remember, I've been an organ donor. Standing in line at the DMV, even well before I got my license, I've always been asked if I'd like to remain an organ donor. The answer has consistently been yes.

Religious or not, I'm aware that some people have their reasons for not wanting to give away their organs after they've died (or while alive), and this is not a means of lambasting them.

Recently, I happened upon the extraordinary story of Eva Markvoort, a 26-year-old woman afflicted with cystic fibrosis.

When Markvoort, who lives in Vancouver, British Columbia, was informed of the need for a double lung transplant in 2006, she was fearful but understood that the operation was vital to her survival.

Thanks to organ donation, Markvoort received her lung transplant in 2007.

What is powerful to me is that although cystic fibrosis is a fatal disease, Markvoort has remained positive and hopeful, even when presented with the daily reality that she could die at any time.

According to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, cystic fibrosis is an inherited chronic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system of about 30,000 children and adults in the United States (70,000 worldwide). The Web site states that, "A defective gene and its protein product cause the body to produce unusually thick, sticky mucus that: clogs the lungs and leads to life-threatening lung infections; and obstructs the pancreas and stops natural enzymes from helping the body break down and absorb food."

Markvoort's struggles with the disease and the uncertainty of receiving a new set of lungs is thoroughly documented in her LiveJournal, "65 Red Roses," which contains pictures of her and her family, thoughts and poetry.

Her second chance at life was ultimately made possible because an individual decided to be an organ donor.

Organ donation has even helped those in my family; my cousin, Tabitha, received a heart transplant in 2008. You might find that, at some point, disease and the need of an organ transplant might hit you close to home.

So, if you have no sort of qualms about what is done with your body and organs after you've died, think about all of the people that could benefit from your contribution, including men, women, children and babies.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
SEND US AN E-MAIL
THEJAMBAR@GMAIL.COM

got an opinion?

Send letters to:
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Cocoa Mocha welcomes LGBT teens, family and community

Gary S. Angelo
FEATURES REPORTER

On the third Friday of every month, from 7-10 p.m., the First Unitarian Universalist Church in Youngstown hosts a coffee social. The event, known as Cocoa Mocha, is an effort organized by the Welcoming Congregation to support teens, young adults and families of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders. This

monthly program offers open mic nights, guest speakers, films and self-defense classes.

Program founder Marita Emmert started Cocoa Mocha in January 2009. Her mission was to establish the program as a monthly youth group to support LGBT teens and families, but also welcome members of all communities. Most importantly, Emmert wanted to construct a program where LGBT youth and young adults can communicate with their

peers about issues they are experiencing. The program also helps bring parents of LGBT teens closer to their children and better understand their concerns.

"The Welcoming Congregation and I are concentrating on youth of all ages, giving LGBT youth a safe place to hang out during the weekend," Emmert said.

Marguerite Felice, co-founder of Cocoa Mocha and Welcoming Congregation, views the program as a safe haven for LGBT teens and young adults, as well as their parents. Felice is vice president of the local chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and is working to help schools formulate gay-straight alliances. PFLAG is a national effort to secure the rights and well-being of individuals in the gay and lesbian communities.

"I wanted to create a family friendly event for the LGBT community. There is huge representation of high school students, as well as adults. Many of our participants and regulars are students from the YSU Early College," Felice said.

Felice hopes to expand the Cocoa Mocha program, and views it as a means of creating awareness. She mentioned that the program celebrates the Day of Silence, which is a day established by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network. Since 1996, the Day of Silence has been held every April, and features students taking a day-long vow of silence to represent the silencing of members of the LGBT community.

"I am happy to see there is a comfortable space for the



Members of the Cocoa Mocha program dress up in masks during a coffee social. The organization supports LGBT of all ages. Images courtesy of the Cocoa Mocha.

children who have had difficult times coming out to their families. It's a must for teens and young adults who need support," Felice said.

Felice mentioned that even though diversity is embraced, sometimes parents of gay and lesbian children still have a lot of misperceptions. Felice wants to help adjust those barriers.

Susie Beiersdorfer, a Cocoa Mocha organizer and Welcoming Congregation member, said the program is vital to the community. She stated that the Cocoa Mocha program began as a way to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Matthew Shepard's death in October 2008.

"The Welcoming Congregation and I wanted to make a monthly youth gathering program for LGBT teenagers and young adults that is a perfect alternative to bars," Beiersdorfer said.

Emmert hopes to expand the program, allowing the

youth group to participate in some community work.

"We originally started as a community activity program to welcome the community into the First Unitarian Universalist Church, but we have expanded," Emmert said.

YSUnity President Javonne LaFontaine, also a member of PFLAG, said she feels part of a larger whole by participating in the Cocoa Mocha monthly series.

"I am part of the community that plans the events. I love hanging out with my friends here. Cocoa Mocha started out as a coffeehouse for teens. Now it is a monthly event and hangout," LaFontaine said.

LaFontaine mentioned that each month features different events, including drum circles and sock hops. To LaFontaine, the Cocoa Mocha program is the ideal combination of fun and togetherness, but most importantly, the program increases awareness.



DOWNTOWN DINING

Local restaurants offer different food varieties

Jennifer Tomerlin
REPORTER

Downtown Youngstown is not only known for its nightlife but for its many different dining experiences. The restaurants located on West Federal Street give students at Youngstown State University different dining options for all hours of the day.

The restaurant Overture is connected to the DeYor Performing Arts Center. The food is prepared by Chrystal's Catering and the restaurant is open for lunch Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Owner Jeff Chrystal explained that students can receive a nicer atmosphere without the added cost.

"We offer a nicer lunch with white table cloths, full soup and salad with every meal, and fresh food that is flown in daily," Chrystal said.

The menu features American cuisine with specials that change daily. The menu includes dishes like Chinese grilled chicken salad with ginger rice vinaigrette and a grilled marinated skirt steak sandwich on homemade bread with artichoke hearts, onions and Muenster cheese.

Prices range from \$5.95-8.95. The restaurant services a full takeout option for its patrons.

Another restaurant that boasts a fine dining atmosphere is Rosetta Stone, featuring menu items at reasonable prices with healthier options.

"We have really good lunch prices. You can eat and drink for under 15 dollars," said Amie Holko, a waitress at Ro-

setta Stone since its opening two years ago.

Holko describes how the atmosphere adds to the experience eating at Rosetta Stone.

"It is a classier atmosphere, with nice music that is very relaxing," she said.

The lunch menu, prepared by Chef Stephen Horvat, includes options like a fire grilled teriyaki ribeye salad served with fresh fruit, goat cheese and a garlic roasted red balsamic vinaigrette or the Rosetta combo: a bowl of soup and grilled cheese sandwich.

"Our menu features a little bit of everything. If you want something more high class they have it; If you want something like spaghetti they have that too. There is more range," Holko explained.

For restaurants opened all hours of the day and night there are the Lemon Grove and Tomasino's Pizza.

The Lemon Grove is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 a.m., with weekend hours from 5 p.m. to 4 a.m. The cafe menu options feature coffee, espresso, alcoholic beverages, food and a juice bar.

There is a special on Mondays that offers free coffee to YSU students, faculty and staff with a valid ID. Also with an ID, students can receive 10 percent off menu items excluding alcohol and daily specials.

The cafe includes Wi-Fi services for late night studying, a variety of live entertainment, and a menu that is accommodating to both meat eaters and vegetarians.

Operations manager Allison Brenner explained how the Lemon Grove's menu provides a healthier late night option.



Tomasino's is just one of the many choices available along West Federal Street for the hungry downtowner. Photo by Adam Rogers/The Jambar

"Instead of going to McDonald's and Taco Bell, come to the Lemon Grove!" she said.

Tomasino's pizza has been open for six years. Started by John Thompson and his mother Pat, the restaurant meets lunch hour demands, as well as late night hours on the weekend. During the week, Tomasino's open until 9 p.m., but on the weekend stays open until 3:30 a.m.

"They [the late-night crowd] are really appreciative, they don't have to hurry up and drive to Taco Bell," Thompson said.

The menu includes New York and Sicilian style pizzas, pepperoni rolls, calzones, salads, and homemade sand/wedges."

The restaurant will deliver to campus and any other downtown location.

"Four miles in any direction of our location, I'll deliver," said Thompson.

Although Thompson does not serve alcohol, he said is not opposed to the BYOB option.

"We don't have a liquor license, but you're welcome to bring your own alcohol. If you're old enough, you can drink here."

May Day band selection still up in the air

Jared Buker
REPORTER

In the past month, Penguin Productions had students vote on four bands that could have potentially played during the May Day celebration, but as of now, none of the four have plans to play at Youngstown State University.

Last year, the May Day celebration featured performers Ryan Cabrera, Josh Kelley and the Kin. The acts for this year's event are undecided, but Joy Polkabra-Byers, assistant director of Programs and Special Events, said signing live acts is no easy task.

"There are a lot of variables that contribute to who we book," Byers said. "The bands have to be available, the venue and campus have to be prepared and the band's references have to pass through the police to ensure the safest environment."

Byers said that money was not one of the factors influencing the selection of the bands.

Ryan Kallok, senior representative of Penguin Productions, denied rumors that the All-American Rejects would be performing, but said the list has been narrowed down to two other bands of similar stature and fame.

Additional information about performers will be released soon. Although the chosen performer may not end up being one of the musicians voted on by the students, Emily Wollet of Penguin Productions said that the choice would certainly reflect the campus' wishes.

"A campus survey was sent out at the end of the fall through mass e-mail," Wollet said. "We are in the contract stage right now, so not everything can be released."

Wollet also said that other May Day festivities are still being discussed.

Penguin Productions is the primary orchestrator of the May Day celebrations. Kallok said he is very excited about this year's celebration.

"I think that YSU has a lot to offer, a lot of hidden gems that go without recognition," he said. "I personally am excited when we bring large acts to Youngstown, especially YSU, since there is a great demand for such events to happen here."

Kallok said that this year's May Day celebration will be held inside Beeghly Center to avoid bad weather, which is a departure from last year's outdoor festival theme. Another change, he said, is that this year's event will be open to the public, though tickets will be made available to YSU students first. Student organizations will again be permitted to set up tables during the event.

The exact date and time of May Day will not be finalized until the musicians are booked, but it will fall some time at the end of April.

"This upcoming May Day will be the third and, by far, the largest to date," Kallok said. "I think that this will be fun because it will be open to the community and those not familiar with YSU, especially high school students who are considering a college to attend."

Scorsese makes audiences "Shutter"



Shutter Island

Director: Martin Scorsese
Starring: Leonardo DiCaprio,
 Mark Ruffalo, Ben Kingsley,
 Michelle Williams.

B-

Tyler Landis
 CONTRIBUTOR

The premise of "Shutter Island" is simple: a violent female inmate has escaped a prestigious prison located on an inescapable island. The film takes place in 1954, and as the film begins, two U.S. Marshalls are on their way to the island to investigate the disappearance. DiCaprio and Ruffalo play the Marshalls. They're welcomed to the island but something is definitely wrong. They do their standard questioning and hunt for clues, but even the staff is acting odd, and patients are imploring for DiCaprio's character Teddy to leave.

The novel "Shutter Island" was written by Dennis Lehane, and now adapted into a film by legendary American filmmaker Martin Scorsese.

This is Scorsese's first full-length film since "The Departed" in 2006. The film plods along at its own deliberate pace; it's filled to the brim with exposition and plot twists that try to muddle and distort the big twist from the viewer for as long as possible. We soon learn that Teddy has his own motives for being on the island, and that there

may or not be secret psychological testing going on, under which everyone on the island knows about. Teddy isn't a stable man; DiCaprio plays him with the right amount of jittery brilliance. We see flashbacks of his violent tour in WWII, and of his dead wife played by Michelle Williams. DiCaprio has starred in three Scorsese films before this one. Their trust for each other has to be potent since DiCaprio is the vessel for Teddy's off-balance, guilt-laden protagonist, he does just enough in this role and is usually good at playing these types of guys.

"Shutter Island" is successful in all of its atmospheric aspirations. There's a gothic tone and a feeling of muted dread running through the film. Teddy's flashbacks are filled with haunting yet beautiful imagery.

The film was shot by Robert Richardson, who also shot 2009's "Inglorious Basterds." The problem that the film has is infusing the balance between good filmmaking and a plot worth caring about. Teddy is the closest character to sympathize with, but even he leaves us cold throughout the picture.

The rest of the cast is quite good; Ben Kingsley and Max von Sydow play seedy higher-

ups that don't make things easy for Teddy and his partner. Jackie Early Haley, who also played Rorschach in "Watchmen," plays an eerie inmate who Teddy seems to know. There is no problem with the acting in this film; all of the players are doing a good job of portraying their characters to the fullest. Kingsley is particularly strong as Dr. Cawley, whom we aren't sure of until the last act. Emily Mortimer and Patricia Clarkson pop up as two versions of the same character. They each have their one scene, and do quite well in their allotted screen time.

"Shutter Island" does its best to keep the audience on a different playing level.

It tries to stay one step ahead of its viewers, but the so-called "twist" is easily identifiable. It's a well-intentioned noir thriller, with a handful of strong scenes, but in the hands of Scorsese the film should have amounted to more.

Even the audience that I watched the film with grew restless as the film wore on, as I mentioned earlier, it's a long slog where the journey is supposedly greater than the end place. By the end, I'd stopped caring.

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Are you looking for real experience to help land that real job?
 Then look at *The Jambar!* Applications are now being accepted for the upcoming 2010 summer and 2010-2011 academic year [August-May] student positions. All positions receive a paid stipend. Applicants will be interviewed by the Student Publication Committee in mid-April.

Who should apply?

To apply for a paid position you must:

- (1) be enrolled in YSU's spring 2010 semester.
- (2) be in good standing.
- (3) be registered for 12 or more hours for spring 2010 semester.
- (4) and you must have completed course **ENG #2622 News Reporting** or be currently enrolled in **ENG #2622**. (Also listed as **JOURN #2622**).

**Applications
 Now Being
 Accepted**

If you do not meet all four of these requirements you will not be considered for a PAID Jambar position; however please do e-mail the Jambar for VOLUNTEER staffing opportunities at thejambar@gmail.com.

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■ Advertising and sales positions require an outgoing personality, phone skills, and reliable transportation. Completion of Eng #2622 is not required for this position.

■ Jambar design positions require having successfully completed initial design or related photography courses.

Where to pick up an application:

Jambar applications are available from Lynn Haug in the Kilcawley Staff Office located on the upper level of Kilcawley Center. Pick up an application and simply check the positions that most interest you.

Application Deadline: 1pm, Thursday, April 1, 2010

**APPLICATION
 DEADLINE:**

1 p.m. Thursday, April 1, 2010.

Interviews will be scheduled for mid-April.

Outdoor Adventure Club aims to climb to new heights

Chelsea Miller
SPORTS REPORTER

As soon as the snow melts, Travus Dusz and his friends will be outside scaling mountains and backpacking in the woods. A senior physical therapy major and adventure buff, Dusz is part of the Outdoor Adventure Club at Youngstown State University. The club participates in several activities around the Youngstown area such as hiking, rock climbing and kayaking.

Dusz, who started the club five years ago, formed it for his love of the outdoors.

"I started the club because of my interest in the outdoors and trying to have different opportunities for students in the area," he said.

Dusz said the club, which averages about 10 members at any given time, started as a rock-climbing club, but mor-

phed to fit others' interests. Members of the Outdoor Adventure Club currently backpack in the Allegheny Mountains and rock climbs at McConnell Mills Park, in Portersville, Pa. They also kayak and canoe in the Mill Creek Park wetlands and in the Mahoning River.

The club is not funded through the university, but through the students involved in the club.

"We fund everything ourselves. We do things that aren't too costly," Dusz said. "The Rec Center has been very generous in letting us borrow their equipment."

In addition to outdoor activities, the club participates in community service by picking up trash in Mill Creek Park, an area where the group frequently hikes.

Dusz said the club caters to many different interests and is open to any student who would like to join.



Junior Breanne Romeo is one of the female athletes on the women's track and field team who will be counted on to win the Horizon League Indoor Title.

PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

HORIZON LEAGUE

- 1 #15 BUTLER
- 2 WRIGHT STATE
- 3 GREEN BAY
- 4 VALPARAISO
- 5 CLEVELAND STATE
- 6 MILWAUKEE
- 7 DETROIT
- 8 LOYOLA (IL)
- 9 YOUNGSTOWN STATE
- 10 UIC

NCAA TOP 25

1. KANSAS (61)
2. KENTUCKY (4)
3. PURDUE
4. SYRACUSE
5. DUKE
6. KANSAS ST.
7. VILLANOVA
8. WEST VIRGINIA
9. OHIO ST.
10. NEW MEXICO
11. GEORGETOWN
12. PITTSBURGH
13. BYU
14. MICHIGAN ST.
15. BUTLER
16. VANDERBILT
17. WISCONSIN
18. GONZAGA
19. TENNESSEE
20. TEMPLE
21. TEXAS
22. TEXAS A&M
23. RICHMOND
24. BAYLOR
25. NORTHERN IOWA

PENGUIN SPOTLIGHT



RACHAEL MANUEL

POSITION: Forward
YEAR: Senior
HOMETOWN: Grayslake, Illinois
PPG: 7.2
RPG: 5.5
BLK: 0.7
FG%: .330

SCHEDULES

MEN'S BASKETBALL

- Feb. 25 WRIGHT STATE
- Feb. 27 DETROIT
- Mar. 2 Horizon League Tournament First Round
- Mar. 5 Horizon League Tournament Quarterfinals
- Mar. 6 Horizon League Tournament Semifinals

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

- Feb. 25 WRIGHT STATE
- Feb. 27 DETROIT
- Mar. 4 @ Green Bay
- Mar. 6 @ Milwaukee
- Mar. 8 Horizon League Tournament First Round

SOFTBALL

- Mar. 5 @ South Carolina State
- Mar. 7 vs. Indiana State
- Mar. 7 vs. Penn
- Mar. 8 vs. Sacred Heart
- Mar. 8 vs. Fairfield
- Mar. 10 vs. St. Louis
- Mar. 10 vs. South Dakota
- Mar. 11 vs. Wagner
- Mar. 11 vs. Bryant
- Mar. 12 vs. LaSalle
- Mar. 12 vs. Florida A&M

SWIMMING & DIVING

- Feb. 24-27 Horizon League Championships

INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

- Feb. 27-28 @ Horizon League Championships
- Mar. 5-6 @ Alex Wilson Invitational
- Mar. 13-14 NCAA Track and Field Championships

INTRAMURAL PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Samantha Rovník

Samantha Rovník was nominated by intramural coordinator Joe Conroy this week. Her performance for her dodgeball team Word earned her the nod. Conroy said Rovník is a very good player who got a lot of guys out. Rovník is an engineering major.

Sports-minded students find jobs as intramural referees

Ralph Lewis III
REPORTER

Their black and white striped collared shirts stick out like a sore thumb in nearly every sports venue. They are heckled, praised and most importantly given the power to potentially decide who wins or loses the game.

The Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center provides several intramural sports, including flag football, dodgeball and basketball. At these sporting events, referees are needed to help officiate the games so there is a fair outcome. This is where Youngstown State University students come into play.

Becoming a referee may be easier than most assume and nearly anyone can do it. Joe Conroy, the intramural coordinator, is going into his sixth year as head of the program.

"This is a great environ-

ment for any student who loves sports," he said.

To become an official for intramural sports, a student has to first fill out an online application that can be found on the YSU Web site. After this is submitted, a student is required to provide a resume and cover letter. Students can choose what sport they are most interested in and receive extensive training in that area. Like most campus jobs, a 2.0 grade point average is required to be considered for employment.

Conroy said students can work around their class schedules when trying to become an official. Being an official offers 20 hours of work a week, \$7.50 an hour and a work environment that is close to campus. Several officials are recognized by the state's high school athletic training program, which allows them to referee high school and middle school games as well as intramural games.

Track and field teams must step up intensity in championships

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

With the Horizon League Indoor Championship around the corner, the Youngstown State University track teams will have a chance to continue their recent dominance.

Last season at the indoor championships, both the men's and women's teams came in second place, just behind the vaunted University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panthers. The Panthers are always right there to battle the Penguins for conference superiority in track and field events.

Coach Brian Gorby points out that this season is a little different from past seasons heading into the championships because of the lack of depth and experience his teams have.

"We have a lot of freshmen and the other teams have a lot of seniors, so it's going to be tough for us," Gorby said. "Experience is something you can't replace."

Along with being young and inexperienced at certain events, the Penguins have a lot of good performers either injured or sitting out this indoor season to preserve them for the next.

Gorby said athletes like seniors Alisha Anthony, Adam Kagarise and Alexis Hall, who were all key contributors to the Penguins' success at past championships, are sitting out this indoor season. Anthony has two years of eligibility left in the outdoor season, but has just one for the indoor. Gorby strategically kept Anthony out of this indoor season to save her for next indoor season, as well as the outdoor season that follows.

The same can be said about Kagarise. Kagarise is out this indoor season to preserve him for the next indoor season. Hall has one year of eligibility in both the indoor

and outdoor seasons.

Other athletes are either injured or sick, such as sophomore Kiplangat Tisia and senior Lauren Blase, both distance runners. Gorby said Tisia has a rare type of kidney disorder and will be unavailable for the upcoming indoor championship. The news is better for Blase as she is coming off of strep throat, but has gotten better and should be ready to go this weekend.

Gorby doesn't want to look at the situation as a rebuilding process, but more as a reloading process. Gorby said his teams have always faced some type of adversity, but have always performed up to and beyond their abilities when the pressure is on.

As far as the competition goes, Gorby said the team to beat is the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

"We have been right there with [Milwaukee] the last six or seven years," Gorby said. "It's going to be a tremendous challenge to take the top spot from Milwaukee."

Gorby expects the women's team to place in the top three and expects the men's team to place in the top five. However, Gorby said his teams always rise to the occasion and he wouldn't be surprised if both teams finish first or second.

Gorby said freshmen, as well as upperclassmen, have to step up, such as freshman Michael Davis, freshman Tarelle Irwin, senior Aaron Merrill and senior John Pallini on the men's side and senior Lauren Blase, senior Robyn Ray, freshman Samantha Hamilton and junior Breanne Romeo of the women's team.

Gorby points to these athletes as key factors to success, but ultimately needs the whole team to step up their level of intensity to succeed.

"It's going to be a team effort at the end of the day," Gorby said.