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PAGE 4

WHISKEY DAREDEVILS SET TO ROCK CEDAR'S

MBAR .



FEATURE Bowling club looks forward to ITC sectional

tournament4

NEWS

FEATURE

Hidden hurt: Domestic violence leaves its mark4

Headlamp shines light on dark mornings......4

EDITORIAL

OPINION "Playing the Sophist



Parents say MMR vaccine linked to autism

Dan Pompili REPORTER

On Feb. 12, a U.S. Claims Court ruled against a group of parents of autistic children who filed lawsuits against Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The parents were asking for damages because they believed that vaccines against measles, mumps and rubella caused autistic symptoms in their children. The court declared that there was no evidence to link the vaccines to the neurological disorder.

HHS issued a statement in support of the court's decision: "The medical and scientific communities have found no association between vaccines and autism."

HHS also said that it "continues to support research to better understand the cause of [autism] and develop more effective ... treatment."

The ruling by the court and the statement by HHS may come as a blow to anti-vaccine activists. They compound the damage already done by a London Times article four days earlier. The Times reported that Dr. Andrew Wakefield, a formerly renowned authority on the Autism-vaccine link, manipulated his research and falsified records in his initial 1998 study.

and falsified records in his initial 1998 study. Following Wakeman's report, MMR vaccination levels in Britain fell from 92 percent to less than 80 percent within the year. This caused MMR cases to rise steadily in the U.K.

Wakeman made American news on Feb. 10, when Keith Olbermann of MSNBC listed the doctor as the "Worst Person in the World."

Renee McConnell, associate director at Youngstown State University's Rich Center for Autism, is not sold on the court's ruling.

OR: What cynics and cowards do best"5

Meeting the dropout challenge......5



SPORTS Crucial road trip ahead for penguins6

WEATHER

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Study finds beer pong increases herpes transmission

Emmalee C. Torisk News EDITOR

Beer pong players beware: a night of drunkenness might not be all that results from playing this ubiquitous college drinking game.

From fraternity houses to rec rooms, beer pong is common on college campuses nationwide. Played on a table with several beer-filled cups set into a triangular shape on both ends, the object of the game is to toss a ping pong ball into the opponents' cups. If the ball lands in a cup, a player from that side must drink the cup's contents. When one side obliterates all the other's cups, they win.

GAME page 2

"You start off cleaning the balls every time. When you get drunk, it doesn't matter anymore."

Gabe Maine, sophomore

Classroom laptop misuse is in hands of students

Lamar Salter REPORTER

Ð,

While cell phones are usually part of a "shut off" policy in a typical course syllabus, a new form of technology is starting to become banned in some college classrooms: laptops.

Many universities, including Youngstown State University, offer a wireless network, which provides students and staff with Internet availability around the entire campus. However, several instructors, such as professors from Yale University and the University of Michigan, have voiced complaints about students using laptops in class for "It is a problem when students are on Facebook or playing solitaire and they make it seem as though they are taking notes."

Jeff Tyus, professor of communication

uses unrelated to school. Surfing the Internet, instant messaging and visiting Web sites like Facebook have essentially prohibited laptops in class.

At YSU, some faculty members have specific policies regarding laptop use in the classroom. Assistant coordinator of math 1501 Corrine Ruby does not allow cell phones or laptops in her classroom, as they can be used as calculators during class. Ruby, however, does not mind laptop use during lab sessions.

LAPTOPS page 2



President Barack Obama addresses a joint session of Congress in the House Chamber of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. MCT Campus photo.

Campus responds to Obama's economy speech

Suncica Tatic & Samantha Cavalier THE JAMBAR

At the forefront of President Obama's Tuesday address to Congress was the economy, especially the issues responsible for the economic downturn and how they will be addressed during his term.

Throughout the speech, President Obama outlined his plans for the future, including the economic recovery plan, job creation, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the perception of the U.S. abroad and also recognition of people who, due to their accomplishments and example, could rightly be called heroes.

Youngstown State University political science professor David Porter said President Obama's speech was "very well done," and said he favored his goals and articulation.

"However, whether he will be able to achieve his goals is a challenge," Porter said.

Porter also said many of the president's plans are ambitious, including a sweeping reform of the health care system. Even so, the president acknowledges that any results will undoubtedly be hard won.

Overall, many of those who saw the speech agree that President Obama achieved a very important goal, which is to present his administration as fundamentally bipartisan and willing to face difficult issues. Additionally, putting focus on resolving those issues, rather than politics, is significant.

OBAMA page 2

and the second s	EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Sarah Sole
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tive" exhibit.

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The event is a lot of work for

The SMARTS Center does

both of the organizations, but

that it well worth it, Brothers

have other fundraisers that are

held throughout the year. There

will be an opera on May 6 in the

Ford Family Recital Hall, and

an all-music concert on May 12.

The SMARTS Center also takes

part in the Summer Festival of

the Arts with the SMARTS store

and hands-on activities for chil-

the largest fundraiser. Keck said

it requires over six months of

Still, Mad about the Arts is

Police Briefs

Student passes out

An officer was dispatched in reference to a student passing out at the Meshel Hall bridge on Feb. 23. The victim stated that she felt dizzy and had been receiving chemotherapy for the past nine months for hepatitis C. They transported the victim to St. Elizabeth's Emergency Room.

Intoxicated student taken to hospital

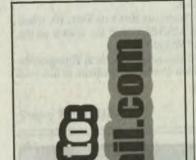
A female resident of the Lyden House was taken to St. Elizabeth's hospital in regard to intoxication on Feb. 21. The female victim said she consumed nine glasses of wine before her resident assistant had checked in on her. The resident assistant then spoke to an officer working detail who had her taken to the hospital.

Police find weapons during search

Officers were advised to assist at 945 and 946 Delaware on Feb. 21 in regard to a 6-year-old victim. When police searched the houses, they found numer-ous weapons. The crime scene was secured after crime lab, the coroner's investigator and YPD officers investigated.

Incident in bathroom

On Feb. 20, a man was approached by a student who was pricked in the hand by a thumbtack that was pushed through the soap dispenser lever. The student disinfected the wound with alcohol and required no medical attention.



50

Mad Success for McDonugh and SMARTS

Britney Perkins REPORTER

Over 500 people attended the annual Mad About the Arts celebration was held this past Friday at the McDonough Museum.

This year's Mad about the Arts event included wine tasting, hour d'oeuvres and live entertainment with bands Brady's Leap and The Second Avenue Band, who provided a mix of rhythm and blues, swing and top 40 music.

Leslie Brothers, director of the McDonough Museum, said the event on Friday was the most

GAME page 1

However, according to the Center for Disease Control, beer pong can do more than promote collegiate binge drinking. A new CDC study claims that playing beer pong can actually encourage the transmission of numerous viruses, including herpes. In fact, among people ages 17 to 21, reports of the herpes virus are up 230 percent from 2007, according to the CDC. A great deal of this stems from sharing cups.

As one of the most common viral infections, Herpes Simplex Virus-1 manifests itself most frequently as cold sores or fever blisters, which usually appear on or around the lips or in the mouth, according to the CDC web site. Simply coming into contact with another's infected saliva can spread HSV-1, which is shared - indirectly - by beer pong partners in each game.

Additionally, it is estimated that approximately nine of 10 people have been exposed to herpes, but are unaware, mostly because of an immediate lack of symptoms, according to www. skinsite.com.

The CDC also warns that beer pong can assist the spread of mononucleosis and influenza, or the flu. Again, like HSV-1, these illnesses and viruses are consider the game's cleanliness telli said some of her friends had do it until it hits home."

Other faculty members place the

idea of laptops in the classroom

in a positive light, including

communications professor Dan-

in the classroom," O'Neill said,

adding that they are a good re-

source for answering questions.

Jeff Tyus said he was "half-

and-half" about laptop use in

the classroom, and said that he

would allow it only for course-

Communications Professor

"I like laptops

LAPTOPS page 1

iel O'Neill.

successful in its history.

"I think everyone just really needed a party to go to," she said. The event is a fundraiser for both the McDonough Museum and the SMARTS center.

Becky Keck, director of Students Motivated by the Arts, agreed.

"More tickets were sold than ever before and the crowd was bigger than ever," she said.

Keck said that the center has a history of raising one third of the lease for the SMARTS center through this event. The exact amount that was raised this year will not be known for sure for the next few weeks because it takes some time to total up the

factor. By mid-game, the ping

pong balls have traveled all over

the room, bounced over every

inch of the floor, rolled in dust

and been transferred from hand

to hand, only increasing the

amount of germs in play. Even

the infamous "clean water cup"

doesn't do much to thwart the

dents use preventive strategies

way, a self-proclaimed "germo-

phobe," said she always plays

with cups filled with water,

instead of beer. Thus, no one

is ever actually drinking out of

the cups. This way, she said, is "pretty safe." Otherwise, it's

Freshman Frank Loffredo

agreed with Rodway. However,

he said playing beer pong is

dependent on the environment

and the players. For instance,

once he went to a party where

the host had a cat. Throughout

the game, the ping-pong ball

became covered in cat hair. Lof-

fredo said nothing, including the

clean water cup, could make that

said even with these risks, peo-

ple - especially college students

Junior Danamarie Donatelli

experience any less gross.

related work.

correlation."

opinions.

'disgusting."

to avoid these beer pong risks.

However, some YSU stu-

Sophomore Jennifer Rod-

transmission of disease.

"More tickets were sold than ever before and the crowd was bigger than ever." Becky Keck, director of SMARTS

revenue and the expenses, but last year the total amount that was raised was \$14,335, which was split equally between the McDonough museum and the SMARTS Center.

This event is the only fundraiser for the McDonough. In addition to this they raise money through grant writing and foundation support. Without this event, the Mc-Donough museum would truly not be able to operate, Brothers said. This fundraiser makes it possible for the museum to bring in large traveling exhibitions like the recent "Agency: Art and Advertising" exhibit, and last year's "Graphic Impera-

AUTISIM page 1

"We feel that the jury is still out," McConnell said. "There has not been enough research to justify that."

McConnell cited a 2008 drug court case, which found that a metabolic disorder caused a child's bad reaction to a vaccine, immediately after which the child began exhibiting autistic symptoms.

The specific substance accused of causing the symptoms is Timerosol, a mercury based drug additive in the vaccines.

Sheila Blank, RN on staff at the Rich Center, explained that the substance can cause neurological damage if given in excess. "Some kids can handle it, some can't," said Blank.

McConnell said that the Rich Center never councils families to not receive vaccinations. In-

assifie

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stead, their policy is to refer the families back to their own. doctors, and to inquire aboutalternate vaccination scheduleswhich may reduce the amount of. mercury that the child is exposed to at one time. She also said that preservative-free vaccines areanother option the Rich Center recommends.

McConnell also mentioned that Ohio does not currently provide insurance for families with autistic children. The Rich Center is lobbying the state senate to pass House Bill 8, which would provide such insurance.

McConnell says that the Rich Center shares the opinion of the Autism Society of America.

"Our hope is that they'll continue to research this topic vigorously until we know better," McConnell said.

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read about the dangers of the

game, but played anyway. "They think they can't get it because they know the people," Donatelli said, adding that she doesn't play because she was raised not to share cups and food. "It's really easy to have your own cup with your name on it off to the side. You can be

safe if you want to." Sophomore Gabe Maine said although safety begins as a concern, as the game progresses, it becomes less and less important

"You start off cleaning the balls every time," Maine said. "When you get drunk, it doesn't matter anymore. College students are retards when it comes to alcohol. Most who play beer pong are underage and just happy to get it. You rarely see beer pong at parties where everyone's 21 and over."

Junior Ralphie Rich said although he's played beer pong a handful of times, he never realized the health risks associated with the game. Even though Rich said he would be more likely to play with water-filled cups, he doesn't think many other college students would be willing to do that.

You can't sterilize been

on the keyboard," Solanki said,

explaining that he uses his lap-

top in some classes when the

teacher talks too fast for him to

Solanki also said that it is

"It's their loss," Solanki said.

only the students who are to

"It's not the professor's fault if

students do not want to pay at-

tention in class. They still get

blame for laptop misuse.

paid regardless."

write.

- will still play beer pong in the transferable by saliva. Also, traditional, unsafe way. Dona-

"It is a problem when stu-

dents are on Facebook or play-

ing Solitaire and they make it

seem as though they are taking notes," Tyus said. "When I see

their low grades and test scores,

it's obvious that there is a direct

Students such as freshman

"I find it a lot faster to type

Kruba Solanki also shared their

pong," Rich said. "People won't

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OBAMA page 1

President of College Democrats Joni Koneval was one of those who thought President Obama gave "a very good speech" outlining his hopes and plans for the next year, as well as the next four years.

"It was a very good, very effective speech, regardless of what Republicans in congress or Republican officials are going to say. He outlined a lot of good things," Koneval said.

As for the controversial economic stimulus package, Koneval said it is a "necessary evil."

"We're in an economic crisis that isn't born out of one cause," Koneval said. "We have to remedy it now."

Sophomore Drew Kensinger agreed and thought President Obama did "really well."

"I agree with the stimulus plan completely," Kensinger said.

Freshman Kelli Young said during the speech, she was most

interested in President Obama's plans to provide better-quality education.

"Hopefully everything that he says is going to make a difference in everyday life," Young said. "I like that he's helping schools. I wish that he would have been around when I was in high school. I think college students deserve more money than high school students."

However, freshman Corey Hicks was a little more cautious in his praise of the president's address.

"Mostly, it's just nice he wants to do all these things over the next couple of years and create all these jobs. He needs to focus on states that need jobs, like Ohio," Hicks said.

Although he didn't get a chance to watch the address, President of YSU College Republicans Jim Shaw said he got the impression from reviews and recaps that President Obama was trying too hard to emulate

former president Reagan.

"I find this really ironic because the president is attempting to dismantle a lot of the various programs and policies from Reagan," Shaw said. "The mood of the address seemed more hopeful, versus his last address that was a lot of doom and gloom."

Additionally, Shaw had many criticisms about the stimulus package.

"The stimulus package is full of pork, which isn't needed, and I am disappointed in the three GOP Senators that voted for it. Had they not, it wouldn't have passed," Shaw said. "The stimulus package is just giving future generations tremendous debt. All I hear is people comparing this to the new deal, and forgetting that getting out of the depression was in a large part due to our involvement in World War II."

Additional reporting by Erica Trekur.

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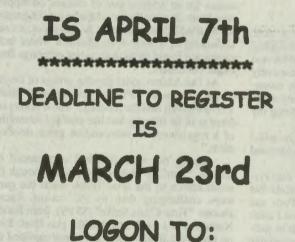
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Gary S. Angelo REPORTER

The Whiskey Daredevils front man Greg Miller's fond memories of play-ing in Youngstown in the early '90s with The Cowslingers involve toilet paper and

"I had some crazy things happen to me in Youngstown. At Cedars, these guys we called 'The Tommy Simon Dancers' used to wrap me up in toilet paper," Miller said, adding that when The Tommy Simon Dancers got bored they would un-wrap him out of the toilet paper and light him on fire. "We always had fun playing at the Royal Oaks and the people there are not afraid to have a good time and show people a good time as well," Miller said.

While this performance may not involve flames or bathroom products, Miller and the Daredevils of Cleveland will perform Saturday at Cedars.

The Whiskey Daredevils shake up a classic mixture of Cramps-esque garage punk, with the late 1950s rockabilly styling of Bobby Fuller and Dick Dale. On Feb. 28, The Whiskey Daredevils will take hold of the stage with The Carpet-Baggers. The Daredevils include Greg Miller on vocals, Ken Miller on bass, Leo

P. Love on drums and Gary Seperko on guitar.

While Miller feels his former band The Cowslingers had more twangy, rootsy 1950s rockabilly feel, the Daredevils have expanded on the style. "The Whiskey Daredevils still have that country punk sound on some songs, but we can be straight ahead garage rock as well," he said.

The Whiskey Daredevils just released The Very Best of The Whiskey Daredevils" on the German punk label Knockout Records. The Daredevils recorded their best of collection with producer John Smerek, who has worked with The Breeders, Kid Rock, Bob Seger, Detroit Cobras and the Paybacks.

"This new album is a great collection of songs we wrote about the people that surrounded us here in Cleveland," Miller said. For example, the song "Stories About Texas," is about a gentleman from Elyria that would lie to girls to impress them by telling them he was from Texas. The song, "Jimmy Rogers" was about a man that Miller knew who collected country music souvenirs.

The Whiskey Daredevils plan on playing in five European countries starting May 8. They will record a new album when they return to the states.

ROCKABILITY CZARS **DRINK TO YOUNGSTOWN**

Hidden hurt Domestic violence leaves its mark

Darlene Wagner REPORTER

On Feb. 8, international pop star Chris Brown was booked on charges related to an alleged assault on his equally famous girlfriend, Rihanna Fenty.

Fenty put a recognizable face to a hidden shame that affects 32 percent of college students annually. According to the Department of Justice, intimate partner violence has the highest rate among women ages16-24.

Lu*, a Youngstown State University freshman knows the affects of intimate partner abuse all too well. Her grandmother suffered abuse from her grandfather, her mother was stabbed and left for dead by an intimate partner, and an aunt has been in an abusive relationship for the past 20 years. In January 2008, her cousin was shot by her abusive spouse. Lu's dream of a college education was replaced by a nightmare of daily verbal and physical abuse. Lu said at first he was only verbally abusive. He would call her names and say demeaning things about her appearance. She said he also screened her phone calls and wouldn't let her leave the house without him, not even to attend classes at YSU. Eventually he began hitting her. The first time he slapped me, I knew I should have left," said Lu. "At first I stayed because I loved him and then I stayed because I was scared of what he would do if I left." Lu said when she tried to end the relationship he responded by trapping her in her bedroom, choking and beating her for hours. Lu's fear of her boyfriend turned into courage to leave when he slapped while they were shopping because a man spoke to her at the grocery store. "When we got home, he cut my hair [so that no one else would look at me]. He put a gun to my head and promised to kill my kids and

For abuse help, YSU students can contact career and counseling services at 330-941-3515.

Other hotlines include: the Community Counseling Clinic on campus at 330-941-3056, the Sojourner House at 330-747-4040, and the Help Hotline at 330-747-2696.

me. I left. I had no choice. I had to get out," she said, looking off into the distance while wiping away a tear.

Three weeks ago, Lu left her home, personal possessions and

to those numbers, an estimated 1,667 will be killed. By the end of the day 250 women in America will be victimized. An estimated 18 will die.

Kristen Macaluso, operations



Dennis McCauley

While the major game publishers are beginning to tap into the iPod/iPhone market, many indie developers are offering games as well, which

the abusive relationship for what she called a chance for the future. "I'm convinced he would have killed me if I stayed any longer," she said. Lu has since dropped out of school. She plans to re-sume classes at YSU during the summer.

Experts say leaving the abusive relationship as soon as possible is exactly what an abused person should do. According to Victoria E. Kress, associate professor and community counseling clinic director at YSU, situations that Lu faced are common in IPV relationships.

These relationships typically escalate from verbal to emotional, and finally to physical violence if some sort of intervention isn't sought, Kress said. The risk of homicide is possible when there is an increase in severity and of frequency of abuse. Kress also noted that women have no control over their partner's violent behavior; drug and alcohol use increases the woman's risk of being murdered at the hands of her partner.

Not all women leave abusive relationships as soon as Lu did. In a recent report by the American Bar Association, 1.3 million women are physically assaulted by an intimate partner each year. Not all them survive. According

manager at the Sojourner House in Youngstown, said intimate partner violence is a pervasive problem. "Society does not recognize domestic violence as a social ill," said Macaluso. Macaluso said abuse is often witnessed in childhood is a part of acceptable behavior. Macaluso has been at the shelter for 11 years and said she has never met a woman that liked being beaten.

Each case is different. Women offer hundreds of reasons for, staying including financial reasons and the belief the abuser will change, Macaluso said. Statistics have shown that most women attempt to leave seven times before they are successful or something dire happens.

When they do protect themselves against the abusive man, they face stiffer sentences in the court of law. Macaluso concluded by saying statistics have shown that batterer interventions do not work and most often they are court ordered anger management classes. "A stranger that beats a women gets more time in jail than an abusive lover [or] husband," she said.

*Name has been changed upon request.

My video-game addiction took on a new. smaller footprint after the holidays. Resigning myself to the fact that my four-year-old iPod was never going to die of its own accord, I proactively put the clunky, white model with the ugly monochrome screen out to pasture and treated myself to a 32-gigabyte iPod Touch (\$399). Just doing my bit to jump-start the economy, you know.

My old, circa 2004 iPod played only audio files, so naturally I'm digging the music, video and Wi-Fi capabilities of the iPod Touch.

But I'm especially impressed with the system's ability to play video games. I'll confess this is partly a generational consideration; iPods and iPhones are so mainstream these days that I don't feel self-conscious using my iPod Touch in public. On the other hand, I'd be a bit uncomfortable pulling out a Nintendo DS or Sony PSP on a train or at a fast-food joint.

Although the games available for the iPod Touch and the iPhone aren't nearly as sophisticated as those on the DS or PSP, neither are they as expensive. Titles for the Nintendo and Sony handhelds typically run in the \$20-\$40 range. So far, the most that I've paid for an iPod game was \$7.99 for "SimCity" from Electronic Arts.

In addition to SimCity, I've toyed with a number of iPod/ iPhone game apps in recent days, including Apple versions of World War II shooter "Brothers in Arms," PlayStation 3 hit "Time Crisis" and Sega classic "Super Monkey Ball."

makes for an eclectic mix of choices on Apple's App Store. And that's part of the beauty of gaming on the iPod/iPhone platform. At this point, it's still something of a wide-open platform where indie games are found alongside pricier offerings from major publishers.

As Det Ansinn, chief gaming officer of Doylestown, Pa.-based iPhone development studio 1337pwn.com told me recently, "The iPhone platform is in its infancy and has enabled something of a renaissance in independent game development."

Among the more polished commercial offerings, "SimCity" was a fun play, although the small screen of the iPod Touch made the game more challenging than its PC cousin. Arcade shooter "Time Crisis Strike" (\$5.99), from Bandai Namco, was a total _ pardon the pun blast. Even on the small iPod screen, the game captured the fast-paced fun and excitement of the "Time Crisis" series. "Brothers in Arms: Hour of Heroes" (\$5.99), from GameLoft, is a terrific small-screen version of the popular World War II combat game, complete with cut scenes.

I'll confess to being somewhat disappointed with "Touchmaster Volume One" (\$3.99), from Midway. Its five mini-games suffer from a distinct lack of personality and are poorly documented as well.

Although from a lesser-known developer, one of my favorite games on the App Store is "Fieldrunners," a superbly designed tower-defense affair from Subatomic Studios.

Headlamp shines light on dark mornings

Emilie Le Beau MCT

Ready to change your clocks?

Daylight savings begins on March 8, which means an extra hour of sunlight in the evening. It also means a later sunrise so early morning exercisers should prepare for a darker workout. The sunrise won't happen until well after 7:15 a.m. in many parts of the country.

Select parts of the country won't see the sun until close to 7:45 a.m.

A powerful light can make runners, cyclists and skiers more visible. It can also enable

see the trail or street. The L3 3-Watt Headlamp from Brunton is a bright light that shines up to 207 feet. It weighs just six ounces and has 200 hours of bat-

exercisers to better

tery life. The L3 has four light modes ranging from maximum output to conservative use so the light can

be lowered as the sun rises. It is water resistant and has a flash mode for emergencies.

The battery pack is external and can be worn on the adjustable head strap or on a belt. The L3 Runners Belt is de-



signed for active sports and reduces the amount of weight worn on the head strap.

The L3 3-Watt Headlamp costs \$152.20 and the Runners Belt is \$26.80. Both are available at Brunton.com



OPINION

OUR SIDE EDITORIAL

Reading between the lines

RELATED STORY OBAMA, page 1

THE JAMBAR EDITORIAL BOARD

President Barack Obama delivered his first address to a joint session of Congress on Tuesday. As it is his first, it is not technically considered a State of the Union address, but he spoke of the economic problems faced by the nation nonetheless.

Unfortunately, although he discussed the problems we face, the discussion rarely left the realm of political throwaway lines.

Obama said it is "time to take charge of our future," with an agenda that "begins with jobs," but never ex-plained how jobs would be created.

He promised that America would have the highest per-centage of college graduates in the world by 2020, but failed to explain how a presi-dent could possibly provide for such a lofty goal.

Perhaps most startling, he vowed to cut the federal deficit in half within the course of four years.

In journalism, we are taught to question things that sound too good to be true. Cutting a deficit that hovers around a trillion dollars, even after adding \$800 billion to it and hinting at spending more, just doesn't add up.

For those of us who face the prospect of graduating college soon, we understand the fear that this crisis inspires all too well. Will we be able to get jobs? Will our degrees be worth anything? Are our futures being buried under a pile of the previous generations' excesses?

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2009

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.

Glenn Garvin MCT GIMME SOME OF GOP (ONGRESS

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

COMMENTARY

"Playing the Sophist OR: What cynics and cowards do best"

Bradley R. Smith is a clever cynic but a dishonest coward. He poses a "question" that cannot really be answered because that is not his objective: he seeks a gullible, semi-literate electronic audience and cyber-cash. His question, at first glance, seems straightforward: "Can you provide the name of one person, with proof, who was killed in a gas chamber at Auschwitz?" What Mr. Smith probably knows (and most Americans don't) is that the actual historical records of Holocaust victims remain in Germany (the German Federal Archives in Koblenz, and the International Tracing Center at Bad Arolson) and are not accessible electronically owing to privacy issues. If Mr. Smith really wanted an answer, he would go to Germany and raise the issue

Robert Balfanz & John

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 De-

pression. The nation could use a

ray of hope, and progress is being

made on one issue that deepens

unemployment and poverty the

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 un-

employment, poverty, incarcera-

sponding in large cities as well as

Fortunately, the nation is re-

This week, we will release

a report examining progress in

raising graduation rates in all 50

states. Some states and communi-

ties are graduating more students

in the thousands, even as gradua-

tion rates increase by five or more

percentage points. Both the gov-

ernor of Colorado and the mayor

of Philadelphia have pledged to

cut the dropout rate in half dur-

ing their terms in office, and doz-

ens of other officials are showing

Now is the time for coordi-

America's Promise Alliance

is leading the charge with 105

Eight states have seen gradua-

tion requirements mount.

similar leadership.

nated action at all levels.

tion and single parenthood.

rural communities.

The landscape in our nation's

high school dropout epidemic.

Bridgeland

мст

with archival authorities. But he is not concerned with truth and apparently does not want to risk prosecution in Germany for Holocaust "denial."

Mr. Smith is posing what the ancient Greeks called a "sophistic" question, a kind of rhetorical trick: a deliberately narrow inquiry is put forward in order to obscure a more important reality. It is a "needle" in a "hay-stack," allowing the questioner to "make hay" (including the financial kind) with a jaded and lazy audience. The first half of the question exploits the typical American preference for social familiarity ("you", notice, no "please",) skepticism of authority, and anecdotal evidence ("one person" - that's not "too hard" to grasp.) In other words, the terms of the question are designed with

The alliance released a com-

prehensive guide on how com-

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, repre-

senting critical savings as govern-

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

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.

up to its dropout challenge, and

with youth unemployment soar-

ing to new heights and an econ-

omy in deep recession, it is not a

moment too soon.

Our nation has finally woken

Parents of students trapped in

challenging curriculum.

The perspectives of dropouts

ment costs mount for stimulus.

time.

dents.

the audience in mind rather than the "problem."

Then, POOF! The "problem" becomes incoherent with the question's last nine words. Gee, I wonder how many ways someone could be "killed" in a gas cham-ber? The possibilities grow like a marathon game of "Clue." This ambiguous formulation is simply another way for Mr. Smith to "protect" himself semantically from the penalties of German and Austrian law, should he ever venture into Europe to pursue his 'game." Once one thinks about the various ways that victims could have been killed "in a gas chamber," one's curiosity turns to killing "outside the gas chamber." Mr. Smith's game is over at this point. The horrific meaning of the Holocaust - and hence the need to remember the truth--

is not about any "one" person, but about the magnitude, variety, and maniacal cruelty of the killing that took place. The number of victims, realistically close to six million, boggles the mind. Joseph Stalin once quipped, "the death of one person is a tragedy, the deaths of millions a statistic." Ironically, Mr. Smith's sophistic question is a gruesomely grinning replay of the Soviet dictator's sadistic cynicism, and a transpar-ent example of dishonesty and of moral-political cowardice.

Fibune Media Services

Keith J. Lepak

Associate Professor for Polical Science and Coordinator for YSU Peace & Conflict **Studies Program**

THEJAMBAR.COM

COMMENTARY Common sense missing in Obama bailout

There's a reason that English is the most widely spoken language on the planet: It's the most highly adaptable, capable of evolving to meet new needs in the blink of an eye. For example: Just last year, offering mortgages at a cheaperthan-market teaser interest rate with little or no money down was known as "predatory lending." But conditions changed specifically, the party occupying the White House and now we call that style of lending "national policy."

The new definition was provided by Predator-in-Chief Barack Obama last week while making his daily announcement of a new bailout plan, this one for hom-eowners who took on mortgages they can't afford during banking's

go-go days earlier this decade. Only churlish Language Nazis would quibble with those bold new definitions of common sense and responsibility, much less note the extraordinary resemblance between Obama's mortgage-lending practices and those of the reptilian bankers he denounced so often during his presidential campaign:

Down payments? We don't need no stinking down payments! Just like the bankers, who lured customers with deals that required no money upfront (at the height of the mortgage boom in 2005, 43 percent of first-time buyers didn't put down a single penny), Obama's plan doesn't call for the traditional 20 percent down. Instead, homeowners will be allowed to borrow more than their houses are actually worth. Just a week ago, being upside down owing more on your loan than the market value of your house was considered economically debilitating; now it makes vou a prime customer.

Hey kid, wanna smoke some mortgage crack? The first rock is free! Through a combination of government subsidies and armtwisting of banks, the Obama plan will slash interest rates in some cases, probably to less than 3 percent until a borrower's payments are no more than 31 percent of his gross income ... for the first five years. Then the interest rate jumps to market levels. A week ago, that was known as an "exploding adjustable-rate mortgage," because so many of the people who took them got financially blown up. To be perfectly fair, there's a big difference between Obama's ARMs and the ones the banks offered instead of the banks being on the hook when the hapless borrower goes delinquent on his payments, you will. Obama's plan calls for the government to spend \$200 billon buying up these loans through its mortgage zombies, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. You may recall that Fannie and Freddie went broke in September because they held so many worthless mortgages and had to be propped up with \$200 billion in taxpayer money. But what's another bailout among friends? Result: The government's own statistics show that, of the borrowers whose loans were adjusted in the first six months of 2008, half were delinquent again within six months. By eight months, the figure was up to 58 percent. Obama, in announcing his mortgage program last week, argued that the defaults were brought on by rising unemployment. To some extent, that's certainly true, though it's hard to see how his new E-Z Payment Plan is going to help that problem surely the president isn't planning to give loans to people who are jobless? But the harsh truth is that most foreclosures are directed against people who should never have gotten loans in the first place. A study unveiled earlier this month by Federal Reserve economist Sean Chu and two University of Minnesota colleagues, Patrick Bajari and Minjung Park, shows that fully half the increase in defaults since 2006 is among borrowers with lousy credit scores who wouldn't have been eligible for mortgages before the credit binge began. When people have too little salary and too much debt to pay for their homes, lending them more money is no act of kindness, either to them or the taxpayers who will foot the bill. It's more like waking up with a hangover and trying to cure it with a shot of Jack Daniel's you're just postponing the pain. And that's true no matter how many new pages you add to your dictionary.

We need more than political speeches. We aren't interested in the crowd-pleasing lines, and we don't need promises that the government will make everything better.

It's not enough to remind us of how bad it is out there, and it's an insult to our intelligence to make extravagant promises in times such as these.

What we need is leadership.

OUR SIDE POLICY

The editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editorin-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, threatoning, 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 mose of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of Youngstown State University.

[Access to full essay provided on The Jambar's Web site]

Meeting the dropout challenge In hard times, make a real fashion statement: Don't wear fur "dropout summits" in all 50 states over the next few years.

> Michael McGraw PETA

When Tia Carrere walked the red carpet at the Grammy Awards earlier this month, bargain hunters everywhere cheered. Celebrities regularly receive thousands of dollars' worth of free clothes from designers, but Tia took a different route. Her entire outfit including her stunning black dress, baubles and bag cost less than \$100. She told a reporter, "I just wanted to make a statement that you can look great for not much money."

At a time when most of us are cutting costs taking cues from first lady Michelle Obama, who wears J.Crew and affordable designers to official events, scouring consignment shops and discount stores for bargains some celebrities and the designers who dress them seem woefully out of touch. Yes, I'm talking to you, Ashley Olsen. Designer Giorgio Armani, who told Time magazine that he had decided to stop using fur, yet still sells rabbit-fur garments rabbits don't count? included floralprint fur coats and fur-hemmed skirts in recent collections.

More ridiculously, he also featured fur-trimmed snowsuits. For

While many Americans are worrying about losing their jobs or keeping up with their monthly mortgage payments, flaunting fur is a bit gauche, to say the least. It also sends the message that the wearer doesn't care about anyone but him or herself.

On fur farms around the world, animals spend their entire lives in small, filth-encrusted cages, often with no protection from the driving rain or the scorching sun. Rabbits' tender feet become raw and ulcerated from rubbing against the wire mesh of the cage bottoms, and the stench of ammonia from urine-soaked floors burns their eyes and lungs. Video footage taken during undercover investigations of fur farms in China and France shows rabbits twitching and shaking after their throats are cut.

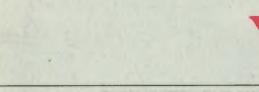
Some animals are still alive, breathing in ragged gasps, as the fur is ripped off their bodies. An investigator working undercover on a Chinese fur farm filmed a skinned raccoon dog, tossed onto a heap of carcasses like trash, who had just enough strength left to lift her bloodied head and stare into the camera. Even in countries with animal welfare laws and China has none animals are poisoned, gassed and electrocuted for their fur, all legally. Animals who are electrocuted convulse, shake and cry out in excruciating pain as they die of heart attacks.

Cruelty is never in style. But now more than ever, as more and more fashionistas are becom-ing "recessionistas," fur is as conspicuously out of place as a bailed-out banker's private jet.

munities can increase high school graduation rates by collecting accurate data, implementing school reform and community supports, and sustaining those efforts over Governors will continue to play a critical role, as they build systems to track graduation rates, set ambitious graduation and col-

lege readiness goals, and raise compulsory school age laws with new supports for struggling stu-Congress should pass the Graduation Promise Act to improve or replace the 15 percent of high schools that produce over

Can we expect to see stars wearing frocks from Target at the Academy Awards? Probably not. But there is one thing that celebrities can do to show that they feel their fans' economic pain: Leave the fur at home. Nothing says ostentatious consumption like a coat made by ripping the skin off dozens of animals' backs.





Swimming and Diving, 2/25-2/28, at Horizon League **Championships** Men's Basketball at Butler, 2/26, 7 p.m. Women's Basketball at Loyola, 2/26, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2009

THEJAMBAR.COM

Bowling club looks forward to **ITC sectional tournament**

Keith Langford Jr. SPORTS EDITOR

Sports

The Youngstown State University bowling club has done well for themselves this season, with the men's and women's teams earning berths to the sectional tournament with their solid play.

The club has its collective eyes set on the Intercollegiate Team Championship sectional tournament, which is in Allentown, Pa. on March 14-15.

The men's team ranks 47th out of 130 schools while the women's team ranks 46th out of 72 teams. The top men's 64 teams and the top women's 48 team advance to the sectional round.

The club plays out of the American Heartland Conference, which boasts over 30 teams around the Midwest. The club is open to all full-time students with at least a 2.0 GPA. Bowling Club President Jackie Zook said the men's team has done well.

"It's the first time the men have cashed in this year. The women's team did this last year," Zook said.

At the Ebonite International Classic, the team hosted the bowling tournament at their home practice facility McKinley Lanes in Niles. The men's team placed first out of seven schools. The Ohio State University sent two teams, as well as Kent State University. The University of Toledo and Farris State University rounded out the seven-team tournament.

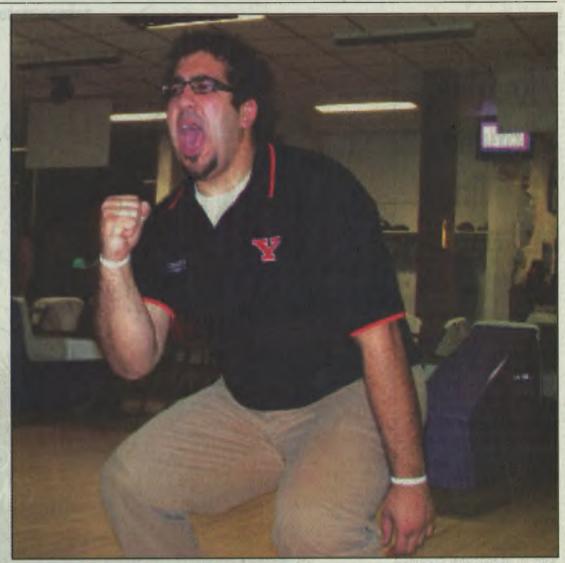
The tournament win for the men's team earned the team \$1,000 in scholarship money. The money they earned in the tournament circulates back to the general fund for the bowling club. Since the bowling club is not a varsity sport, it does not receive funds from the school except a small chunk of change

from the student government. The team has to earn money to stay afloat. The club earns money through yearly dues and fund-raisers, including selling bottled water at the Canfield Fair and "fun nights" at McKinley Lane.

"We are a club sport so we are open to any one interested in bowling," Zook said. The men's team also boasts

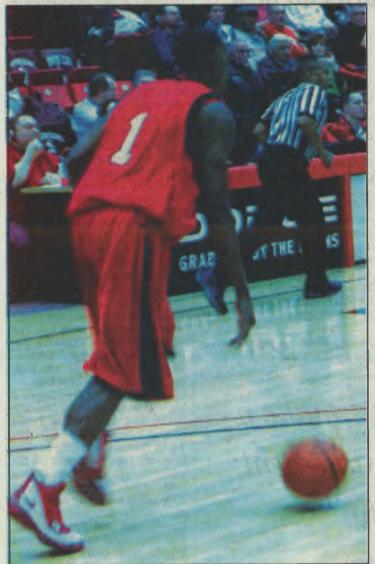
sophomore Robert Harvishak, who was named to the all-conference team this season. Harvishak averages a score of 202 every time he laces his bowling shoes. He has accomplished the average throughout 26 games and five tournaments this sea-

The teams practice twice a week at McKinley Lanes to prepare for their tournaments. With no tournaments on tap until their sectional date in Allentown, Pa, the bowling club will look to practice and focus on the sectionals.



Bowling club member John Dohar elated about bowling. The bowling club is gearing up for sectionals. Photo by Ryan Firm.

Crucial road trip ahead for Penguins



Keith Langford Jr. SPORTS EDITOR

With only two regular season games left, the Youngstown State University's men's basketball team will travel to Indiana to battle against the Butler University Bulldogs Thursday night and the Valparaiso University Crusaders Saturday night.

The Penguins have plenty to play for since they are trying to secure a home playoff berth. They need one more win against either Butler or Valparaiso to secure a first round home game. The Penguins could slide into the home game also with a single loss from either Loyola or University of Il-

back on Dec. 6. The Penguins battled but could not get the early season victory over the Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs are the quintessential mid-major powerhouse. They have been dominant within the Horizon League conference, and this season was no different. The Bulldogs are 13-3 inside of the Horizon League. They are the team to beat on their home court. Butler has only lost once at Hinkle Fieldhouse all season long. The Loyola Ramblers, a team the Penguins beat on the road earlier in February, hold the distinction of being the only team to beat Butler at home this season. Butler holds a mark of 12-1 at home.

The Penguins should expect Butler to hoist a lot of 3-pointers, since the Bulldogs have put up Butler h 233 long bombs this season for a solid 36 percent and averages 8.6 made 3-pointers per game. The Valparaiso Crusaders have had a disappointing season; they are just 4-12 in the Horizon League and are 8-20 overall. However, within their eight victories this season, they beat the Penguins on Dec. 4, 68-57, at Beeghly Center. The Crusaders can play the role of spoiler since they can prevent YSU from hosting a home playoff game. Also, if the Crusaders win, they will complete the season sweep of the Penguins.



Track and field team prepare for Horizon League Championships

Junior Stephanie Jarvis broke her own school record and personal best mark on Saturday by clearing 3.40m in the pole vault to claim sixth at the Kent State Tune-Up.

R.D. Goodright, a senior led the men with a fifth place finish in the 800m with a time of 1:52.38. Goodright's time is a personal-best and ks fourth in school history

Junior DeAnder pushes the tempo for the Penguins. The Penguins face off in two crucial road games agaisnt nationally-ranked Butler Thursday and Valparaiso Saturday. Photo by Micheal Bury/The Jambar.

At 5-1 for the month of February, the Penguins have been enjoying the most successful month of their season. Prior to this month, the Penguins won only three Horizon League games; YSU has won four Horizon games this month alone. It's a good thing the Penguins are clicking at the right time, because the Horizon League postseason tournament lingers right after these two crucial games.

Head coach Jerry Slocum had positive things to say about his upcoming faceoff against a nationally-ranked Butler team. We feel like we are playing

well now ... so we are excited about the challenge - and it will be a challenge," Slocum said at his weekly press conference.

Butler beat YSU earlier this season at Beeghly Center 78-71

The Penguins' task at hand won't be an easy one. They have to win at least one game on the road to secure the home playoff berth.

Jarvis' previous best mark of 3.36m was set in 2006 and her 3.40m mark betters second place by .35m.

In addition to Jarvis, three other Penguins set personal-best, top-10 school records at the meet on the women's side.

Junior Alexis Hall threw a personal best distance of 17.04m in the weight throw, finishing seventh, ranking second all-time in school history.

Sophomore Marissa Opper and freshman Kaitlyn Griffith also had personal best throws in the weight throw. Opper threw a distance of 15.22m, while Griffith threw a distance of 14.79m in the event.

Other top performers for the men include seniors Michael Perri and Mark Lipinsky. Perri claimed eighth in the 400m with a personalbest time of 48.66. Lipinsky also ran a personal-best time of 8.60 in the 60m hurdles and finished in 11th.

The Penguins will travel to Greencastle, Ind. on Saturday where the women will look to defend their Horizon League title and the men will try to surpass Milwaukee at the league's Indoor Championships at DePauw University.

> Courtesy of YSU Sports Information

Penguins look to bounce back at VMI after being swept by No. 14 Georgia

Josh Stipanovich SPORTS REPORTER

Despite being swept in the opening series of the 2009 season. head coach Rich Pasquale and the Youngstown State University men's baseball team travel north to Virginia in search of their first victory of the young season.

The Penguins, who have not defeated Georgia since the 1987 season, let the opportunity slip out of their grasp Sunday afternoon after losing Friday and Saturday by a big margin. Georgia outscored YSU 29-2 during those two games.

But Sunday's finale at Foley Field was a different story. The Bulldogs came out of the gates swinging away and found themselves with a commanding 5-0 lead, but YSU would not give up as the bats came to life after junior catcher Anthony Porter reached base after striking out on a wild pitch.

Porter was then able to advance to third on a balk and scored the Penguins first run of the game on a sacrifice fly by sophomore infielder David Leon.

LEAGUE

Back-to-back singles by C.J. Morris and Jason Reitenbach gave the Penguins their first two hits of the game, while John Koehnlein moved them up on a sacrifice bunt.

Two errors in a row committed by the Bulldogs led to two more Penguin runs, and junior Jacke Healey tied the game up at five after hitting a double to left. YSU was not done yet as they took their first lead of the series after junior Eric Marzec managed an infield single to bring Healey in.

The lead would not last though as the Penguins would give up four runs in the home half of the sixth on two home runs.

Georgia added two more runs in the seventh to move out in front 11-6.

A Penguins comeback came up short after scoring their final two runs of the game in the eighth inning losing by the final score of 12-8.

Regardless of the three game sweep by Georgia, the Penguins head to Virginia to take on a Virginia Military Institute team who has lost three of four to start the 2009 campaign.

The two game stint kicks off in Lexington, Va. at 3 p.m. at Grav-Minor Stadium.

SCHOOL (ONFERENCE	OVERALL	
BUTLER	13-3	23-4	
GREEN BAY	12-4	21-8	
CLEVELAND STATE	11-5	20-9	
MILWAUKEE	10-6	15-12	
WRIGHT STATE	10-6	16-12	
YOUNGSTOWN STATE	7-9	11-16	
UIC	6-11	14-14	1
LOYOLA	6-11	14-16	
VALPARAISO	4-12	8-20	
DETROIT	2-14	7-20	1

HORISON LEAGUE STANDINGS