VOLUME 91, ISSUE 42

Thursday, March 5, 2009

THEJAMBAR.COM

AMBAR THE The student voice of Youngstown State University

since 1931.

PAGE 4

SHOW US YOUR JAMBARS ... WIN BIG!

THESIDEBAR CORRECTION

According to the Centers for **Disease Control and Preven**tion, the CDC study showing a potential link between Beer Pong and Herpes Simplex 1, also known as oral herpes, was never published. The Jambar, along with several other news sources, including Ohio State University's The Lantern, the Massachusetts Daily Collegian, Fox News and MSNBC.com, mistakenly ran articles mentioning this false study. Editors' Note: The Jambar regrets the error and strives to use reliable and correct sources.

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BIG BUCK BULLETINS YSU spends \$20,000 on undergraduate bulletins

Darlene Wagner REPORTER

Though Youngstown State University spends \$20,000 per year on undergraduate bulletins, their availability and usability is debatable.

The next edition of the catalog, which is updated yearly, won't be available until August for listings of 2009-2010 semester(s) course offerings,

said Jean Engle, assistant director of marketing and communications.

The undergraduate bulletin is a catalog that lists YSU's history, admission policy, academic policy and procedures, fees, rules, regulations, general education requirements and degrees offered. Classes" available in each department are also provided in the manual.

The undergraduate bulletin provides an official record of course requirements and is policy to provide the bulletin to each student at the time he or she enters the university, said Gary Salvner, profes-sor and chair of the English department.

'The bulletin informs each student of major, minor and general education requirements at the time of admission and acts as some official record of what is required for the student to

obtain his or her degree," he said.

Departments can't change their requirements and expect students to meet requirements that were not in place when initial admission was made. The policy protects students from taking repetitive courses.

Any student that begins in a specific year can finish under the requirements of that year," he said.

Salvner also said he has

BULLETINS page 2

Stimulus gives college students better tax advantage

Lamar Salter REPORTER

With the induction of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, some college students are now being given the op-portunity to save on college expenses in the form of tax credits.

The American Opportunity Tax credit, listed as section 1004 of the stimulus package, is an expansion of the Hope scholarship credit that was designed as a way to help fund education expenses for qualifying students and families making under an estimated \$80,000 a year income. The main difference between the two is that the tax credit will serve full time students in their first four years in college instead of two. Families making between \$80,000 and \$90,000 would receive a partial credit.

One of the biggest advantages of the credit is the increase in the amount of tax credit students could receive for education. The credit went up from \$1,800 to \$2,500. During the campaign, President Obama advocated a \$4,000 credit with a requirement that the student complete 100 hours of community service, but this is not a part of the final package.

Another advantage of the credit is the

Time to send more U.S. college students abroad



SPORTS 🔺

Students partake in
popular March Madness
gambling6
0

Fastest man in league is a Penguin6

WEATHER

Today 🛓	5	3° 4	14°
Friday	Pres.	54°	44°
Saturday	50.65	59°	47°
Sunday	Street.	57°	39°
Monday	•	43°	33°
Tuesday	-	42°	36°
Wednesday	1976	43°	34°
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current at the time of publication, the information In this catalog is subject to change without notice. The University reserves the right to change requirements, fees, course offerings, or other policies at any time. Please check with the department or dean's office for the most current information."

Bulletin

Disclaimer

Regarding changes in

the bulletin, there is a dis-

claimer inside that reads

as follows: " ... Although

SOURCE: 2008-2009 UNDERGRADUATE BULLETIN

ability to now receive a credit for expenses in addition to tuition, such as lab fees and subsidiaries.

Hanna Kassis, a graduate of Youngstown State University in accounting and co-founder of www.collegefinance101.com, a Web site designed to help college students with finances, said the credit will give students a

STIMULUS page 2

Students may ride out recession in grad school

Emmalee C. Torisk REPORTER

Confronted with a shaky economy and limited job prospects, some recent and soonto-be college graduates are prolonging their careers in higher education and attending graduate school, rather than immediately breaking into the workforce.

According to a September 2008 study by the Council of Graduate Schools, total graduate school enrollments in the United States are up 3 percent. Although this is a fairly steady number and is the average annual increase over the last 10 years, enrollment across all disciplines may continue to rise in the next year as the recession progresses.

Additionally, graduate school application totals have increased 8 percent in the past year, as compared to 1 percent, which was the average gain in recent years. Since September 2008, test preparation company Kaplan has also reported a 45 percent increase in interest in law, business and various other graduate school programs.

Peter J. Kasvinsky, dean of the school of graduate studies and research at Youngstown State University, said the increase in graduate school enrollment is typical of troubling economic times.

Historically, when there is a downturn in the economy, those who are out of work or thinking they will soon be out of work go back to school," Kasvinsky said.

Kasvinsky also said further education can help prepare students for a competitive job market and increase students' chances of finding a new job or moving up in their career

GRAD SCHOOL page 2

Cost-cutters return to slow-speed Internet

Etan Horowitz THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

With his work hours cut and an investment portfolio in the tank, Arnold Zimmerman is considering the unthinkable: ditching his blazing-fast cable Internet service and going back to dial-up.

"I didn't think I would ever go back," said Zim-merman, 66, of Davenport, Fla. "I had to wait to get online. It was terrible. But with this economy, you got to look to cut wherever you can.'

You remember dial-up, don't you? It's the beep, crackle, pop method of sending e-mail and brows-ing the Web that was pretty much the only option in the early days of the Internet.

In today's media-rich world of social networking, online videos and music, going from high-speed to dial-up is like switching from a Maserati to a horse and buggy. But some people say the hundreds of dollars they would save might just be enough to make them go back, especially for those. who have access to highspeed Internet at work.

"Right now, it is the beginning of a trend toward dial-up to save money for a segment of the

Jeff Kagan, telecommunications analyst

Although there's no hard and fast data about how many people are switching from high-speed to dial-up, there are signs that it is becoming an option for costconscious customers.

United Online, which owns dial-up providers NetZero and Juno, recently launched an advertising campaign in which CEO Mark Goldston says the average family can save \$300 a year by switching to NetZero's \$9.95-a-month dial-up Internet service.

The company reported that during the fourth quarter of last year, the percenthit an all-time low at just 4.3 percent.

This is not the iPod crowd we're talking about," Goldston said. "It's the emailing group and people doing casual surfing around the Internet. I am not for a **INTERNET** page 2

users."

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THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2009

Post-grad process leaves students unprepared

Tracilyn Tsarnas REPORTER

News Briefs

YSU student awarded

scholarship to study

abroad

major Brian Haughey is the re-

cipient of the Freeman-ASIA

scholarship that will help fund

his study abroad this semester

in Thailand. He will be among

the last to receive this award,

because the Institute of Interna-

tional Education has suspended

YSU students collect

for needy families

collecting pajamas during the

holidays for needy families in the

area. Students collected the items

from people in the community at

Boardman Nissan. Books, blan-

kets and crafts were also donated

Police Briefs

Student turns

himself in

himself into the YSUPD. The

student had a warrant out for his

arrest for theft. The student was

then taken to Mahoning County

Facebook bandit

in reference to a change in her

Facebook password. The student

said she believes the perpetrator

was a male friend of hers. The

male friend of the victim is also

accused of sending incriminating

Found wallet

found in the men's locker room at

the Rec Center. When the wallet

was returned, but \$25 and a black

and silver AT&T Palm Central

cell phone was missing. The stu-

dent had been playing basketball

A black leather wallet was

A student called the YSUPD

Jail.

On Monday, a student turned

by Greek organizations.

YSU students took part in

the program.

Sophomore political science

As the end of the semester approaches, Youngstown State University bears witness to the seniors' mad dash to the finish line.

In their race, however, some students have found it difficult to manage the looming deadlines for internships and graduate school applications. These opportunities have to be planned well in advance; many of the necessary applications are due very early.

Senior Sarah Lowry said the problem is that "no one really tells students how to prepare."

Lowry said no one tells students how or when to schedule their testing, what tests to take or even what the test scores mean. There are too many deadlines and too much to do while taking the last and hardest of the undergraduate classes.

STIMULUS page 1

great advantage.

"Now you can take lab fees like goggles for a chemical class or a lab coat, and that being deductible, receive a credit," Kassis said, as he explained the details of the credit.

Kassis also said if students played their cards right, they would be able to receive credit for textbooks as well and urged

GRAD SCHOOL page 1

field. He also said the effects of education, including increased skills and abilities, will have a positive impact in a relatively short period of time.

Although YSU's school of graduate studies and research noted a four-student increase since last year, statistics for the entire year will not be available

Lowry decided to take a year off before she attends graduate school. She said she didn't miss any deadlines but she felt going straight to graduate school would have made her miss necessary knowledge and experience.

To apply to YSU's school of graduate studies, students must complete the full application a full four weeks before the semester being applied for. For an assistantship or financial aid, though, the applications are due ten class days into the semester prior to the one being applied for.

Junior Katie Yazvac plans to forego her senior year in order to attend The Michigan State College of Veterinary Medicine. She said, "I had to jump through hoops to get all my applications in on time." Yazvac began filling out applications over the summer before her junior year.

Even so, she didn't realize that her transcripts had to be

students to talk with their par-

ents and an accountant if avail-

of accounting and finance, said

the credit will be great for stu-

will receive the credit," Shaffer

said. "So if the parent claims the

student and essentially pays for

ly childhood education major,

is considering graduate school

in order to become a reading

specialist. Toot said pursuing

a graduate program in her ca-

reer field would make her more

marketable. However, Toot said

if she is able to find a job im-

mediately after graduation, she

would wait a few years to attend

Raymond Shaffer, professor

"Whoever pays for the tuition

able, for qualifications.

dents and parents.

sent out as well and paid \$50 in rush delivery fees in order to send them on time. Then, the supplemental applications arrived. In addition to the application process, Yazvac carried 17 hours.

"It would be an understatement to call it a busy semester," she said. "I feel really lucky to have gotten everything in on time.'

Not all students feel so unprepared, though.

Leigh Ann Waring, the coordinator of career and counseling services at YSU, works to connect students with opportunities.

In 2008, over 1,900 students used the services and resources available to them. These include the Penguin Link, a comprehensive database of student opportunities, a career fair that is open to all students, resume and interview services, and oneon-one counseling sessions with one of career and counseling services' four staff members.

college, they will receive the advantage."

Shaffer also added that with tuition rising at various universities, the credit will help college become more affordable during the hard economic times.

"The biggest thing about it is that the money is going back to the taxpayers hands," Shaffer said.

long graduate school was influenced by the recession.

Junior Ralph Lewis said although he would like to enroll in a graduate school program for education eventually, he would probably not do so during the recession. "I feel that with the reces-

sion, graduate school will not

BULLETINS page 1

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heard some students making general comments about the bulletin, however, for the most part, it is accurate and at times departmental changes are approved after the bulletin is printed. Though he is not opposed to an online version of the bulletin for revision purposes, he said there has to be an actual hard copy version available to each new student and the departments for historical record.

Engle said she is very interested in finding out what faculty and students think about how the bulletins should be distributed. Funding depends on the State of Ohio budget, which is based on taxes collected and that everyone is feeling the ripple effect of economic woes.

"Printing fewer copies would possibly offset any deficit the university might face," she said. Any decision regarding distribution of the catalogs would have to go through the senate curriculum committee and be approved by the provost.

"The world is in a belt-tightening mood," she said. "We're all going to have to find ways to save money," she said of government-funded agencies.

While it remains to be seen how many students would use the bulletin in an electronic version, some students aren't utilizing the bulletin in its print form.

Freshman Erin Senediak said she did not receive a bulletin when she registered for classes and she doesn't know what it is used for. "I decided what I wanted to major in while I was in high school," she said. "I've seen them laying around. It might be quiet useful, but my advisor helps me choose my classes," she said.

While freshman Marie Kutsko received a bulletin when she registered for her second semester, she said doesn't know what it's for. Kutsko said she never looked through it because before she registers for classes, her advisor prints out what she needs to take in advance.

"They do it for me so I don't have to. It's a little easier that way," she said, adding that she thinks most people don't even look at the bulletins. "It's such a technological age; more people would probably look online for the information if it were available," she said.

Josh Lopez and Martez Pointer are two prospective students that did recognize the bulletin. The two transfer students recently attended orientation in Sweeney Hall. Lopez said he does plan to look through the bulletin. "I'll use it to choose my classes with the help of my advisor," he said.

Classifieds

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when this occurred.

text messages.



until the end of the term, Kasvinsky said. Thus, it is "hard to know at this point in time" if YSU's graduate school enrollment conclusively increased be-

cause of the recession. However, Kasvinsky said graduate schools are not alone in increased enrollment; in times of economic downturn, an increase in undergraduate admissions can occur as well.

"When the job market is not as strong, people choose to get an education instead," Kasvinsky said, adding that this will benefit students in the long term.

Kasvinsky Additionally, said YSU's school of graduate studies and research admits approximately 750 applicants per year. Despite the recent enrollment increase, Kasvinsky said the programs probably will not become more competitive and it will be unlikely for the school to hire additional faculty, unless a great need arises.

"We accept most applicants," Kasvinsky said. "As long as they are qualified and we have space, we'll take them."

Some YSU students said they are considering graduate school', especially because of the recession.

graduate school.

"I believe graduate school will make me stand out and give me more professional experience," Toot said.

Senior Stephanie Raybuck also said she is thinking about graduate school.

"Most companies want students with a master's degree and more education [in their] backgrounds," Raybuck said, adding that now is a great time to attend graduate school because there are fewer available jobs.

Amber Ziegler, a YSU English department graduate assistant, chose graduate school because she always wanted to teach on a university level. Ziegler said she is thankful for her job because it is steady and there are few layoffs.

"Ever since I started college, I knew that graduate school was part of the plan," Ziegler said. "When students cannot find a job after graduation, it creates the incentive to go back to school and acquire more skills."

Ziegler said attending graduate school during the recession is an excellent choice because increased skills and experience could only increase chances of obtaining a job.

However, some YSU stu-Senior Mallorie Toot, an ear- dents said their decision to pro-

INTERNET page 1

the Internet. I am not for a minute suggesting that dial-up is better than broadband, but when it really comes down to it, the real question is: How powerful is your need to save money?"

Goldston said interest in dial-up is the highest it has been since its heyday about 10 years ago. He likened switching to dial-up to buying generic brands or putting regular gas in a car that calls for premium only.

Shortly after NetZero started running ads, dial-up competitor PeoplePC _ owned by Earth-Link _ announced a dial-up plan at \$7.95 a month. Kevin Brand, senior vice president of product management, said EarthLink has seen an increase in dial-up customers. According to the **Pew Internet and American Life** Project, 57 percent of Americans have broadband at home, while 9 percent have dial-up.

But officials at these companies said that although there is renewed interest in dial-up, it's still not a robust, growing segment of the Internet-service business.

Jeff Kagan, a telecommunications analyst in Atlanta, said there isn't a mad rush of people from high-speed to dial-up. When people look to cut costs, they typically slow their Internet speed or switch from cable to DSL.

Dial-up Internet provides a connection of 56 kilobits per second, while broadband Internet (DSL or cable) typically ranges from 768 kilobits per second to 15 megabits per second. That's about 15 to more than 270 times faster than dial-up.

Plus, using the Internet at home has become so ingrained in people's lives that many see high-speed as a necessity.

be the best choice because there is no money," Lewis said, adding that because of the country's economic condition, students must carefully choose a reliable profession where they are confident they will find a job.

Sophomore Sean Stewart also said once he figures out what career path he wants to pursue, he'll consider graduate school a couple years after graduation. Stewart said he wants to earn a reliable, steady income before enrolling in graduate school.

Alternatively, Amanda Sevil-, la, a YSU writing and composition instructor, said students who are interested in graduate school should apply for assistantships, especially during the recession. These give students the opportunity to work as a professor's or instructor's aid, while also earning a stipend. However. Sevilla cautioned against attending graduate school solely to ride out the recession.

"I think that students should go back to school for something they are interested in, but not to escape the recession," Sevilla said.

"Right now, it is the begin-

ning of a trend toward dial-up

to save money for a segment of

the users," Kagan said. "That

trend will continue to grow as

long as the economy is screwed

up. Once the economy gets re-

paired, that will drop off quick-

ly because high-speed Internet

will be the first thing they add

to save money, going back to

dial-up won't ever make sense.

was laid off in July from her job

as an administrative assistant.

She switched from dial-up to high-speed Internet about a year

ago and said she won't go back

tures of the baby, and it would

take an hour or an hour and a

half to download my e-mail,"

"My nephew would send pic-

because it's so slow.

Walther said.

But for many people looking

Irene Walther, 60, of Orlando

back."

Additional Reporting by Gary S. Angelo

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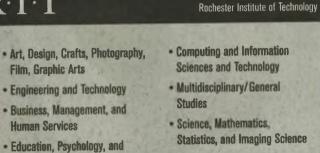
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THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2009

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SHOW US YOUR JAMBARS

In celebration of YSU's Spring Break the Jambar is sponsoring a contest. Take the Jambar with you on the week of March 9, 2009. Whether you're going to Florida or just taking a trip to the Southern Park Mall we want the Jambar to get off campus.

Here's how you participate.

- 1. Get a recent copy of the Jambar (available in many campus locations or in the basement of Fedor Hall).
- 2. Take the Jambar with you on your Spring break activities.
- 3. Take a photo of yourself holding the Jambar during your activities.
- 4. Send us the photo.

PRIZES INCLUDE:

A football signed by YSU's head football coach, Jon Heacock.

A basketball signed by YSU's men's head basketball coach, Jerry Slocum.

Two \$25 gift certificates for the YSU bookstore.

Five YSU tee-shirts.

A \$25 goodie basket from the YSU candy counter.

This contest is sponsored by:YSU Athletics, YSU Bookstore, YSU Candy Counter, YSU's Office of Student Life, and The Jambar and thejambar.com.

Entries are limited to one per student. All participants must be YSU students. No one who works for the Jambar (paid or unpaid) or their families are eligible to compete. All entries must be received by March 17, 2009 at midnight. You may provide a print of the photograph by dropping it off at the Jambar office (basement of Fedor Hall) or you may enter electronically by emailing the jambar@gmail.com (in the subject line please type Spring Break contest). All entries must include the name of the student entering the contest and a phone number and email where winners can be reached. Photos will be printed in the Jambar and on the jambar.com. For a complete listing of contest rules visit the jambar.com and follow the features link.

Banned and permitted carry-on and checked items

The ultimate spring break checklist

Compiled by Doug Livingston

With spring break just around the corner, many students are scurrying to pack for their exotic trip. To ensure everything that is needed makes it on the plane, here is a checklist for all the needs of the spring breaker.

Passport Forms of identification Health insurance card Camera Sunscreen Sunglasses Flip-flops Water bottles Snacks CD Player, mp3 player, iPod Pillow Crossword puzzles Books, newspapers Travel First Aid Kit Bathing suit Clothing Electronic protectors Cell phone case Toiletries Contraceptives Small travel games, cards Notebook, writing Apparatus

And ...

any unfortunate homework!

SOURCES: TRAVELINGMAMS.COM, CCF.TRUMAN.EDU,

Compiled by Emery Boyle-Scott

Spring Break

Bring them or leave them

Carry on your liquid toiletries: three ounces, one quart, one bag

Liquid and gel toiletries in three-ounce containers or smaller are allowed if they are in a clear plastic, quart-size or smaller ziplock bag.

Larger containers are prohibited even if they aren't full. One (1) one-quart or smaller ziplock bag per person.

Baby formula may be carried on if a child is travelling. Prescription and over-the-

counter medications are permitted including:

Personal lubricants, eye drops, saline solution for medical purposes

Drinks, liquids and gels purchased inside the security checkpoint may be carried onto the plane.

Lighters are prohibited in both carry-on and in checked luggage unless they have no fuel and are in an approved case. Laptops, cell phones, PDAs and pagers are permitted. TSA's list of prohibited items is provided on their Web site.

Source: tsa.gov

Staying safe in exotic places

Don't appear affluent. Leave expensive-looking jewelry, clothes and accessories at home.

Conceal your valuables. Lock your passport, cash and credit cards in the hotel safe. When you do carry them, put them in various places instead of in one pocket, pouch, or purse.

Bring an extra pair of glasses, contacts and any medication you need in your carry-on.

Use traveler's checks and credit cards instead of cash.

Bring a copy of your passport and extra passport photos. This will make replacing your passport easier if it's stolen or lost.

Leave a copy of your itinerary with friends or family

Check the Department of State's Web site for country-specific information and travel warnings.

Source: travel.state.gov/

Precautions to take while travelling

Don't take short cuts, narrow alleys, or poorly lit streets. Try not to travel alone at night.

Avoid arguing with locals.

Be wary of strangers who offer to guide you or sell you something — they may be scam artists.

Beware of pickpockets. A pickpocket's accomplice might: Jostle you

Ask you for directions or the time

Point to something spilled on your clothing

Or distract you by creating a disturbance

Wear the shoulder strap of any bag you carry across your chest.

Appear like you know what you're doing.

Only ask for directions from people of authority. Carry a phrase book or learn some of the local language so

you can communicate in case of emergency.

Source: travel.state.gov/

How not to pick up a date on spring break

Can I see your tan lines?

Were you arrested earlier? It's gotta be illegal to look that good.

You're ugly but you intrigue me.

Help the homeless. Take me home with you.

I'm not drunk, I'm just intoxicated by you.

I want to be on you.

Are you an astronaut? Cause you are out of this world.

Baby, somebody better call God, cuz he's missing an angel!

Here's a quarter....call your roommate and tell her you won't be coming home tonight.

I have only three months to live...



OPINION

ABOUT THE JAMBAR

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

OUR SIDE EDITORIAL



RELATED STORY Bulletins, page 1

THE JAMBAR EDITORIAL BOARD

Wasting money when times are good is a bad idea. Wasting it when times are bad is inexcusable.

Youngstown State University spends \$20,000 a year printing undergraduate bulletins, even though all of the information contained in them is either available online or could be.

The university has been proactive with regard to some aspects of cost cutting and money saving. Examples of this have been the evaluation of vacant positions to determine if they are necessary and the care with which their investments have been made.

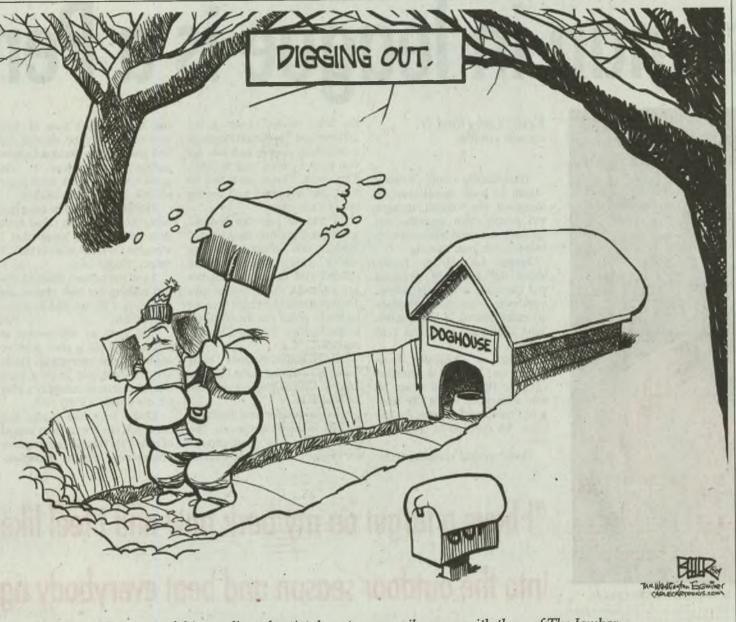
Their record on fiscal responsibility is inconsistent, though.

In addition to the bulletins, YSU's questionable spending record has included their failure to adequately monitor job reclassifications.

YSU needs consistency if it is to move beyond its status as an undergraduate facility. It does an admirable job, but administrators should always be striving for improvement.

Affordability is often touted as a major part of YSU's appeal. While this is undeniably true, if there is money to burn on unnecessary expenditures, then it is not affordable enough.

The \$20,000 figure may seem like a drop in the bucket to administrators, but the amount of money is irrelevant. It is the attitude that says that certain amounts of waste are acceptable that is problematic. Those who emerge prosperous from this recession will be those who adapt. For some, it will mean cutting up their credit cards. For others, maybe it will mean less recreational spending. For YSU, it will mean systematically re-evaluating any area where their tuition dollars are being spent unwisely. All must make concessions in a struggling economy. The time has come for YSU to fix and replace those broken, outdated systems that have slid by unnoticed in the past. We can't afford it any longer.



THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2009

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

National optimism uniquely American

Frida Ghitis

When people outside the United States ask me to tell them about this country, I describe one aspect of it that I have always found extraordinary and strikingly different from the rest of the world. America, or more precisely, Americans, are the most optimistic people on Earth. That's what I told an Iraqi refugee last year in Amman, Jordan, as she eagerly awaited the papers that would allow her to move to America. Success, of course, is the mother of optimism. Success has marked American history, and optimism has moved into America's genes. Conversely, failure is the father of pessimism. A past filled with disasters teaches you to see the glass half empty, or to worry that it will break when it's full. The greatest danger the United States faces in this time of economic crisis is permanently losing that sense of optimism; that edge it has enjoyed over the rest

of the world. America's outlook is key to its willingness to take risks. It is the secret ingredient in its achievements and it's an essential element in that most American of ideals: the pursuit of happiness. It is the reason why the country is a magnet to ambitious and talented people everywhere.

In Europe, true optimism went out with the catastrophes of two world wars and the failures of utopian ideologies. Even the idealists there seem tainted with dark suspicion. America's sunny outlook is quietly mocked in the continent, with Europeans sounding like the mature adults who smile knowingly at the naive enthusiasm of dreamy young ones across the sea. In Latin America and much of the developing world, the odds of dramatically changing one's station in life are so remote that poor people often believe they are condemned to a life of unrewarded struggle. In Asia and Africa, the idea that government is inevitably corrupt puts a limit on national confidence. I was in Moscow when the Soviet Union was collapsing. I remember

thinking then that the Russians' seemingly congenital cynicism would prove the greatest obstacle in their post-Soviet life. After all, time and time again their attempts at a better life had brought ruin

For all the troubles the United States has seen and every country has its share after more than 200 years America's past has escaped some of the most devastating experiences that have befallen the world. It's easy to see how disaster has a way of sapping the sweet syrup out of optimism. The experiences of Sept. 11 and New Orleans after Katrina showed us we can wake up one day and find our world tragically transformed in a few hours. My friend from Iraq has now arrived in this country. The America she has come to is not exactly overflowing with good cheer. (She must think I was lying when I swore this was the land of optimism.) The latest measure of consumer confidence shows that when we squint into the horizon all we notice are storm clouds. The economy is shrinking, and the markets are suffering from freefloating anxiety. The new presi-

dent, who described himself as a Hope Monger on the campaign trail, spent his first month in office trying to push us into despair so he could convince Congress to pass his rescue legislation. After Bill Clinton told him he'd gone too far, his rhetoric soared again, and he promised America will be great again.

This economic crisis will end. There is no question about that; ask any economist. We don't know how long it will last or exactly how much it will hurt. But it will end. One day, we will need to replace our cars and our stoves. One day, what economists call pent-up demand will spark commerce and industry back to life. When that happens, some of the people who are taking risks now will be rewarded with extraordinary success. Dynastic fortunes will be made. The greatgrand children of those people will recount how their ancestors built their fortunes during the Crisis of 2009. My Iraqi friend has arrived at a time when the country's confidence is being tested. I still believe she will be amazed.

Few lessons from lobbyist libel suit

Edward Wasserman мст

There's an old bit of wisdom among lawyers that bad facts make bad law. Drawing lasting lessons from an unusually messy dispute can backfire. You end up distilling unusual circumstances into some bone-headed principles that are then applied elsewhere, compounding the harm, turning today's idiocy into a curse.

That's not quite what happened with the libel suit over last year's New York Times story about Sen. John McCain and the pretty lobbyist. It didn't make bad law because it settled out of court, and its dubious elements were never reborn as dubious rulings that return to stalk the living.

Still, because it was a prominent dispute there's danger that its resolution may do the same harm as bad law serve as precedent. That would be a pity, because it has now ended with The Times standing by a position it should have recanted, while handing the lobbyist a soapbox from which to claim protections she doesn't deserve.

The original sin was a February 2008 front-page inquiry into Sen. McCain's dealings with special interests. It suggested that despite his image as a reformer, he'd long had cozy relations with lobbyists that had blinded him to apparent conflicts of interest.

Case in point was McCain's friendship with Vicki Iseman, a telecommunications lobbyist decades younger. During his unsuccessful 2000 presidential campaign his dealings with Iseman were so cordial, The Times reported, that "waves of anxiety swept through" his top aides, who feared the two might be viewed as romantically involved.

Iseman sued for defamation in December, and it's her suit

that was just settled. No money changed hands. Instead, principles were declaimed, and that's where the analogy to bad law comes in.

Now, as a matter of journalistic practice, was that OK? No. Repeating the whisperings of possibly ill-informed, perhaps overprotective aides was indefensible.

Still, while The Times failed to own up, it provided its adversaries a chance to do mischief of their own.

That came in a published statement from Iseman's attorneys. It's a long and curious commentary. It ignored the matter of whether the story was true. Instead, it suggested Iseman fell victim to an intrusive press that didn't respect her rights as a private person.

Indeed, in a joint statement, both Iseman and The Times agreed that they "recognize that the article's publication generated a significant public debate concerning the privacy of people swept up in public matters." Nonsense.

Now, I was big on privacy when I first criticized The Times story a year ago and argued that if McCain was favoring friends through official acts, the press should report that without bothering with whether he slept with any of them. I'm not so sure now.

The real question is whether a public official is on the take, accepting favors and dispensing favoritism. The payoff can be money, but it can also be sex. The issue isn't adultery or personal morality it's corruptibility.

That's why Iseman's privacy protest rings hollow. She wasn't McCain's neighbor or his real estate agent. She was a major lobbyist heavily involved in the public policy arena; her job was to wield influence.

If a lobbyist like her used questionable methods and if a powerful official was susceptible to them, that would not be a private matter, any more than withdrawing money from her personal bank account for a bribe would be.

At least, it's some consolation that the Iseman-Times matter is over. But if anybody is looking for lasting lessons they'd best look elsewhere.

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, 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.

2

Time to send more U.S. college students abroad

COMMENTARY

Andres Oppenheimer

Here is a plan that could do wonders to increase U.S. competitiveness in global markets and improve long-term ties with Latin America send one million U.S. college students a year to study abroad, especially in developing countries.

The idea is contained in a bill presented last week in Congress by Sens. Dick Durbin, D-III., and Roger Wicker, R-Miss., which went almost unnoticed in the media amid the legislative debate over the Obama administration's budget request.

Under the bill, the U.S. government would give grants to U.S. universities to make it easier for students to spend part of their college years studying abroad.

While much of the world's population growth and economic expansion in coming decades will take place in China, India and Latin America, only a tiny fraction of U.S. college students are getting a global education.

What's more, most of them are going to Great Britain, Italy and Spain, supporters of the bill say.

If the United States wants to remain competitive, and secure, this has to change, they say. "I'm afraid we are far behind," Sen. Durbin told me in a telephone interview. "More and more students from areas like Asia are coming to the United States. Sadly, very few U.S. students are moving in the other direction."

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNES-CO), only 0.3 percent of U.S. college students study abroad. Comparatively, 6.2 percent of Norwegian college students, 2.5 percent of French students and 2 percent of Chinese students study abroad, the UNESCO figures show.

"Americans are notoriously uninformed about the rest of the world, compared to people in many other countries," says Victor C. Johnson, a senior advisor to the Association of International Educators (NAFSA). "We believe that it's crucial for American students in a global age to have had international experience as part of their education."

Indeed, global affairs are not among Americans' strongest points. A 2006 National Geographic/Roper survey found that 63 percent of young Americans aged 18-24 couldn't locate Iraq on a map of the Middle East, 70 percent could not find Israel, and 54 percent were unaware that Sudan is in Africa. Under the bill, the United States would quadruple the number of college students who study abroad over the next 10 years.

The U.S. government would create a Study Abroad Foundation, which would give international study grants to universities that comply with certain conditions. Among them: expanding the ethnic scope of U.S. students who study abroad so that it mirrors the demographics of the U.S. student population, and making sure that more U.S. college students go to Latin America, Asia and Africa.

While 57 percent of U.S. college students who study abroad choose Western European destinations, 15 percent go to Latin America, 10 percent to Asia, and 4 percent to Africa, according to the New York-based Institute of International Education.

The proposed Study Abroad Foundation would steer larger numbers of U.S. students to developing countries by giving more grants to universities that set up study abroad programs in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

'The biggest barrier to study abroad by American college students is the rigidity in universities' curricula," said NAFSA's Johnson. That's why the key to getting more students to nontraditional destinations will be not giving

money directly to the students, but instead providing incentives to universities to diversify their study abroad programs, he said.

Will the bill pass?, I asked Sen. Durbin. He said a similar bill passed the House last year, but died in the Senate. "Now that we have a large (Democratic) majority in the Senate, the chances are better," he said.

My opinion: I like this plan. It would be good for the United States _ and even better if it contemplated allowing U.S. college students to lower their tuition costs, since studying in almost any Latin American university is cheaper than in U.S. colleges.

And it would also be great for Latin America. While Latin American countries are among the leading U.S. trading partners, and a major destination of U.S. investments, only 4.2 percent of U.S. college students spend some time studying in Mexico, 2.4 percent in Costa Rica, 1.6 in Argentina, and 1.3 in Chile and Ecuador.

That's a sad situation because people's experiences in collegeoften mark their own _ and their countries' future. It's OK to have U.S. students going to London, or Rome, but it's increasingly important to get them to Mexico City, Buenos Aires, Islamabad or Johannesburg.





Men's basketball vs. UIC Flames, 3/3, 7 p.m. Women's basketball vs. Butler, 3/5, 7:05 p.m. Track and Field at Alex Wilson Invitational, 3/6-3/7, All day Baseball at Towson, 3/7, noon

THEJAMBAR.COM

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2009

Fastest man in league is a Penguin



J.R. Hodge used to play football here at Youngstown State, but he now burns the track as he finished in the top spot in the 60-meter run at the Horizon League Indoor Championships. PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

Keith Langford Jr. SPORTS EDITOR

Transitioning from football season to track season can be strenuous. For football, strength and power reign supreme, but for track, lean and mean muscles help achieve great running.

Senior J.R. Hodge knows about this transition firsthand and has made it seem effortless, most recently with his sixth-place 60-meter ranking in Youngstown State University track and field history.

Hodge is originally from Bremerton, Wash. He attended Olympic High School where he was a member of 4x100 relay state championship team for the Class 4A division of Washington

Hodge played cornerback for

the YSU football team in the 2007 season. He played mostly as a defensive reserve and saw action in two games back in 2007. This year, Hodge switched to track and has done well for the men's track team.

"I had to lose the football weight and get into track form," Hodge said about switching sports. Hodge said assistant coach David Towson helped him get into track shape. Hodge says Towson pushed him hard because he felt he could win the 60-meter at the Horizon League Championships.

Hodge helped the men's track team finish second at the Horizon League Championships on Feb. 28-March 1.

Hodge ran a personal-best time of 7.02 in the 60-meter run. The blazing time was good enough for Hodge to capture the number

one slot. Hodge's time of 7.02 was not only good enough for first place in the Horizon League indoor championships, it was good enough to rank sixth place all-time in YSU track history.

Hodge was happy he ran a fast time, but felt like he could have done better. "I'm happy that I won, but I wanted to hit in the 6.9 range," Hodge said.

Head track coach Brian Gorby had nothing but high praises for Hodge as a person and as a student-athlete.

"He gives us 100 percent at practice and has a great positive attitude about everything. He is very resilient and he is a hard worker and he is definitely a plus for our squad," Gorby said.

Gorby feels like Hodge has come full circle in a short period of time. "He was ranked fourth or fifth coming into the champion-

ships and came out as the fastest man in the Horizon League," he said.

Since Hodge has the title as the fastest man in the Horizon to boast about, he now feels the pressure to defend his title in the outdoor season is his main objective. "I have a target on my back now and I feel like I have to go into the outdoor season and beat everybody again," Hodge said.

Hodge is excited about the outdoor season and feels his team can improve from the runner-up position in the indoor season to the top spot in the outdoor season. "I'm not disappointed with being second, but we have higher expectations for ourselves heading into the outdoor season," Hodge said.

"I have a target on my back now and I feel like I have to go into the outdoor season and beat everybody again." J.R. HODGE

Students partake in popular March Madness gambling

NCAA tournament brackets are an easy way to gamble on one of sports' biggest yearly events

Doug Philibin REPORTER

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team ended their chances of making into the field of 64 by losing in 40 students done by the Jambar, 57.5 percent said they bet money in a March Madness poll. Additionally, 57.5 percent said they have filled out March Madness brackets.

March Madness is considered one of the more exciting sporting events every year. The tournament arrangement separates the top 64 teams into four brackets where they are seeded one through sixteen and then pitted against each other in a single elimination tournament. First round action begins March 17 and the tournament plays through April 6 when

the champion will be crowned at

Ford Field in Detroit. Selection things happen to other people and Sunday for the chosen 64 teams falls on March 15.

According to the survey, 60 percent of students said they wager money on the games. Of the 24 students who wagered money, nine said they bet under \$20, seven bet under \$50, five bet under \$100 and three bet over \$100.

not them. Grigsby also points out that gambling is psychologically addictive similar to the addictions of sex or marijuana.

Access is what makes the addiction so hard to overcome, Grigsby said, adding, "It is difficult to conquer because it is legal at the appropriate establishments, and people don't have to go all the way to Las Vegas or Atlantic City anymore. There are casinos and race tracks less than an hour away from our area." Gamblers Anonymous is the best way to treat the addiction, Grigsby said.



the first round of the Horizon League tournament Tuesday.

Their defeat, however, has not caused YSU's student body to lose interest in the tournament. Many students still plan to fill out their tournament brackets and hope to win some money.

In a non-scientific survey of

Sixteen students said they do not bet at all.

Janice Grigsby, a psychology professor at YSU and Case Western Reserve University, calls gambling a "personal fable." Most who suffer from the addiction have the belief that bad

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS



Men's baseball team looks to continue their two game win streak as they travel to Towson, Md. to take on Photo courtesy of YSU sports information Towson University.

Penguins look to extend win streak

Penguins have won two games in a row against VMI

Josh Stipanovich SPORTS REPORTER

Already in the short 2009 campaign, the Youngstown State baseball team has been swept, swept an opponent, had a player named as Horizon League player of the week and endured their first cancellation of the year.

The clean sweep of the Keydets of the Virginia Military Institute came only one week into the season and with it also came the 1,000th win for the baseball program at YSU, thanks to the heroics of junior Jack Healey.

Healy, who was recently

named the Horizon League player of the week, came through in the clutch for the Penguins after he hit a two-run homerun with two outs in the final inning of Friday afternoon's game.

The rally caps were back in full effect for the final game of the series Saturday morning, after the game was moved up due to the weather, as the Penguins rallied late for the series win over VMI

One day after the clean sweep of VMI, YSU traveled south to Lexington for a one-game stint against a powerhouse Virginia Tech team who, coming into the game, had only one loss. But it was not meant to be as the game

was called due to inclement weather in the Blacksburg, Va. area.

After all that has taken place this season, the Penguins will be taking their two game win streak into Towson, Md. this weekend for a three game series against a Tigers team who have dropped three of their last four at home and six of their last eight overall.

The series against Towson will be the Penguins' first doubleheader of the year. The first pitch for game one is set to be thrown Saturday at noon. Following that game will precede the final game of the doubleheader which is scheduled for a 3 p.m. start at Schuerholz Park.

Women's golf team ready for spring season

Keith Langford Jr. SPORTS EDITOR

The Youngstown State University women's golf team's spring season gets underway over spring break as they travel to Tampa, Fl. to compete in the Northern Illinois University Snowbird Intercollegiate tournament March 12 and 13.

The Penguins are a strong team, judging by the fall portion of their schedule where they did very well.

In the Penguins' five fall tournaments, they finished first or second place in four. The key win in the fall for the Penguins was a home tournament, the YSU In-

vitational on Sept. 14. The Penguins took first place at this home tournament, which was played at Pine Lakes golf course in Hubbard.

The Penguins seek to continue the success of the fall campaign as they look ahead to the spring season of their schedule.

The Penguins' key players for the spring are freshman Samantha Formeck and 2008 Horizon League player of the year sophomore Katie Rogner.

Formeck averaged an 18-hole score of 76.9 strokes. Formeck's low round came at the Bucknell Invitational where she shot a round of 73. Rogner's average of 79.3 ranked her second behind Formeck. Rogner's lowest score

of 73 came at the YSU Invitational

The Penguins' Rogner and Formeck earned medalist honors at four of the five tournaments. Formeck claimed three medalist honors and Rogner claimed one. Formeck won the Bucknell Invitational, the Detroit Titans Invitational and the Robert Morris Invitational. Rogner claimed the top individual position at the **YSU** Invitational.

The Penguins will look to take the top spot away from the Butler University Bulldogs as the champions of the Horizon League. The Penguins finished runner-up to the Bulldogs last season.



Freshman Samantha Formeck lines up a putt in the fall portion of the women's golf team schedule.