

The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

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Board member debates honorary degrees guidelines

Marissa McIntyre
REPORTER



MESHSEL

Members of the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees have begun reviewing guidelines for the issuing of honorary degrees.

Honorary degrees are typically issued to commencement speakers, but board members want the option to issue honorary degrees to visitors throughout the year as they see fit.

An honorary degree is a special honor awarded to someone who may have had no prior connection academically to the university but has made a positive contribution to the university and Youngstown community.

Harry Meshel, board of trustees member and former Ohio state senator, said no set rules exist to bestow an honorary degree. Meshel is a recipient of an honorary degree from YSU.

Each college or university develops individual standards for issuing honorary degrees. They are commonly awarded to alumni, board of trustees members and presidential candidates.

"Our attitude is not that we have been giving them out undeservingly," Meshel said. "Someone could be here for a visit or giving a speech that's not at commencement time. If someone brings honor to the university, I believe that we'd be able to award them with an honorary degree."

Meshel said board members would maintain an open attitude in regards to how and when to issue an honorary degree.

He said one instance when YSU might wish to issue an honorary degree without the recipient being a commencement speaker would be if Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited the university.

"This would be a great opportunity to issue an honorary degree," Meshel said.

One proud moment in Meshel's career was when he was able to issue an honorary degree to Byron White.

White was famous as a football player for the University of Colorado and as a member of the U.S. Supreme Court under the Kennedy administration.

Meshel maintained a good relationship with White and wanted to honor him for his contributions to the U.S. He did so shortly after White's retirement.

"He thanked me kindly afterwards," Meshel said.

Meshel said it's hard to predict future honorary degree recipients, as the discussions are minimal and private.

Discussion will continue at the next board meeting to further review a set of rules for the issuing of honorary degrees.

Falling debris sparks forward movement in M-2 deck

Joe Giesy
& Josh Stipanovich
THE JAMBAR

After years of dented vehicles, angry motorists and discussions at board of trustees meetings, renovations for the M-2 parking deck off Lincoln Avenue at Youngstown State University are finally a reality.

The deck will close April 18 and reopen for the fall semester after a summer of renovations that Support Services Director Danny O'Connell said would involve "very noticeable structural changes."

"I would like to say that next year at this time you're going to say, 'Well, we've seen a noticeable improvement,'" O'Connell said.

O'Connell said the renovation company, Carl Walker, Inc., is on a tight schedule. However, the major tasks should be complete by mid-August.

To make up for the loss of spots this semester, a shuttle service will run between the Covelli Centre's parking lot to YSU during daytime hours, beginning April 18. The shuttle will bring students from the Covelli Centre to Moser Hall on Lincoln Avenue.

If construction gets behind, the shuttle system is prepared to operate for fall semester as well.

"Based on what we're looking at, I'm confident we will get it all done in the summer," O'Connell said.

Renovation plans were discussed in the past, but they were deflected until this academic year. YSU President Cynthia Anderson responded strongly to an incident when debris fell from the deck,



Police offer added protection, page 3

YSU student Nick Matune stands in the parking spot where his car was severely damaged by falling debris. Because of this and other incidents, the M-2 parking deck will close for structural renovations on April 18. Photo by Josh Stipanovich/The Jambar.

causing a lot of damage to a vehicle.

Several students have dealt with vehicle damages in the M-2 parking deck due to fallen debris.

During fall semester's finals week, YSU student Nick Matune was pulled from a class to find that his 2006 Pontiac G6 was damaged by several chunks of fallen debris from the M-2 parking deck.

When Matune and the assisting officer arrived at the car, Matune observed a large piece of fallen concrete on the hood of his vehicle.

Other damages included a broken windshield and several scratches and a dent on the hood, according to the police report. Matune requested that a tow truck be sent to pick up

DECK PAGE 7

Campus Connection

What are your thoughts on the April 18 closing of the M-2 deck?



"I think it's stupid because that has a ton of spots and everyone parks there." Anthony Guerrieri, sophomore



"I don't mind because there are plenty of other parking spaces. They need to fix it." Jessica Smith, freshman

Academic Senate motions to change GER

Andrea DeMart
NEWS EDITOR

The General Education Committee, within the Academic Senate, is proposing changes to the General Education Requirements and what students learn at Youngstown State University.

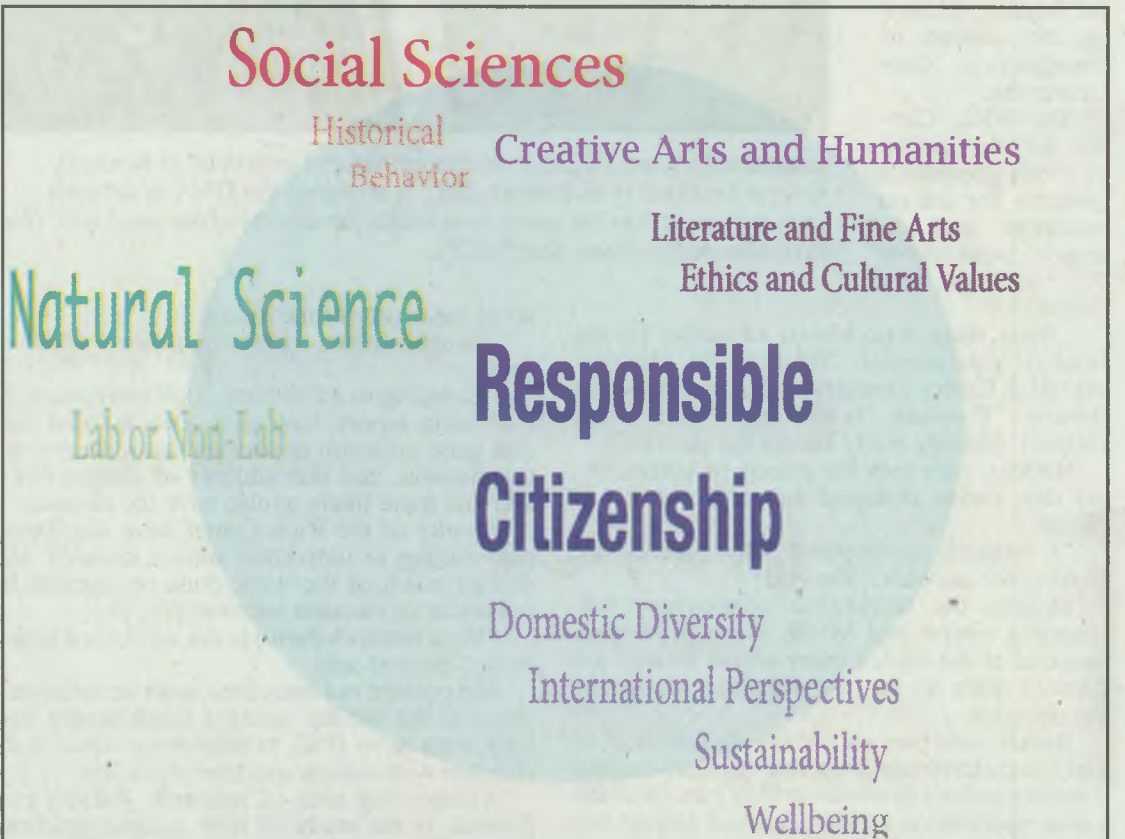
The requirements were established in 2000 when the university transitioned from quarters to semesters.

"In part because of concerns from our accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission, basically we went to more of a goals-driven system," said Tod Porter, chairman of the General Education Committee, and professor and chairman of economics.

Charles Singler, interim associate provost, was a General Education Committee member at the time the university changed the GER.

"The courses were not necessarily defined according to specific goals related to general education," he said. "Because of the accreditation and because of the need to change with the quarters to semesters conversion ... and that result was the number of hours and the number of courses that we have."

Requirements for a baccalaureate degree include a total



of eight courses from four knowledge domains: Natural Science, Artistic and Literary Perspectives, Societies and Institutions, and Personal and Social Responsibility, plus courses within selected topics and electives.

Most state universities have three specific domains: Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Arts and Humanities.

Porter said the GER can be

looked at as two parts, one being a skills component and the other a knowledge domain.

"If you think of the skills component as being the oral communications being the two writing composition courses and the math course, you've got four courses in that skills area," he said. "Then you've got the courses in personal and social and societies and institutions and so forth."

Porter said now is the time to change the GER, as the current requirements have been in place for 11 years.

"This is not a process that started yesterday," he said. "People have been talking about making some changes for quite a while."

Changes to the GER were proposed at the March 2 Aca-

GER PAGE 4

Home Buyer Funding promotes safe off-campus housing options

Kacy Standohar
REPORTER

Vacant historic houses surrounding the Youngstown State University campus may get a second life thanks to an organization looking to restore the structures.

Al Casanta and his partners Tom Calpin and Mark Ravenstahl at Home Buyer Funding are working close with the university to renovate and upgrade houses around the Wick Park area, and show students that alternative housing options exist.

"We just bought an apartment complex on Bryson Street. There are 27 units there. Only 10 are currently rented to students at this time," Calpin said.

He added that they are trying to attract more students to that complex.

"Our organization, between the three properties — Bryson, 21 Indiana [Ave.] and the newly finished 253 Park Ave. home, will well represent a million dollars when all [is] said and done," Calpin said.

The recently finished historical home on 253 Park Ave. is one block north of campus, right across from the park. It is a three-story home including a basement. The house has two kitchens, nine bedrooms, four bathrooms, automatic light switches, a laundry room, five



This three-story home at 253 Park Ave., sits just one block north of campus and is now available for rent to YSU students wanting to live near, but not on, campus.

fireplaces and a security system with sensors on windows and doors.

The house was originally purchased from a couple that used the home to foster children.

Casanta said the home was used as an orphanage and then remained vacant for two years.

"We bought the home in November before Thanksgiving," said general contractor Deno Frazzini.

The partners at Home Buyer Funding explained how they got involved with the university.

"We work in conjunction with Hunter Morrison [director of Campus Planning and Community Development] and Jack Fahey [interim vice president for Student Affairs and ombudsperson]. They were both very helpful and encouraging. They both felt the need for an off-campus developer," Casanta said.

Casanta said that when people think of off-campus housing, they think of rundown, unsafe homes.

"The individual student may not know these kind of homes exist around here. We

want to let people know there are alternative, quality off-campus housing options besides the dorms, the Flats and the Courtyard Apartments," Casanta said.

The Home Buyer Funding partners also expressed the importance of working closely with the city of Youngstown and the university.

"Fixing Wick Park has a lot to do with our business. The houses that are restored will appeal to students and their parents when the nearby park feels safer," said Steven Tripepi, YSU alumnus and mar-

keting consultant for Home Buyer Funding.

Tripepi added that the closer the home is to campus, the more likely students will move in. He explained that they showed the house to all YSU sororities but that the brothers of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity expressed interest.

Partners of Home Buyer Funding said their main concern is safety.

"We're looking forward to a lot more cooperation from the community and the university to light up the surrounding area," Casanta said.

He said he and his partners try to pick houses that they think are safe.

"We don't want to be on a street with boarded up houses," he said.

Casanta explained what he feels needs to be done from this point onward.

"After we appealed to the city, they said that there was no money available at this time to fix the sidewalks around Wick Park. They said we would need to fix the sidewalks ourselves, so we are going to do that," he said.

He also said they plan to remove the trees at the Bryson Street complex and put in exterior lighting.

"We're trying to do our part. Our goal is to make a good product, and we just expect renters to respect it," Casanta said.

Rich Center director discusses autism research

John Cutlip
REPORTER

In early 2011, a study linking autism, a complex neurological disorder that develops in early childhood, to a certain type of vaccination was declared fraudulent by the British Medical Journal after years of controversy.

The research, a paper by Andrew Wakefield that was published in the Lancet in 1998, drew connections between the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine and autism development. Sunday Times journalist Brian Deer discovered over the last decade that Wakefield had multiple undeclared conflicts of interest, manipulated evidence and broke a slew of ethical codes.

The aftermath of the Lancet papers was tremendous. Sales of MMR vaccines plummeted in the United Kingdom and across the globe, leading to outbreaks of all three of the diseases.

The reach of the false information has extended to the Rich Center for Autism, located on the campus of Youngstown State University.

The Rich Center, which opened in 1997, provides a grounds for autism treatment and research, with about 70 children enrolled.

"When there is no history of autism [in the family], you wonder, 'What is the cause?'" said Rich Center Executive Director J. Georgia Backus. "They ask, 'Is this why my child has autism?' Nobody really knows the answer."

Backus, who sees the effects of autism every day, knows firsthand the confusion it can create.

"I certainly understand why parents are looking for answers," she said.

Despite the worldwide controversy surrounding autism and MMR, it's still business as usual at the Rich Center where faculty are focused more on the post-diagnosis aspects of the disorder.

Backus said parents and family members of autistic children are desperate for answers and sometimes cling to whatever they can. Over the years, speculation on the cause of autism has been pointed at heavy metals and pesticides as well as vaccinations.

"Many [parents] still very much believe that mercury is culpable," she said.

Mercury, which was long suspected as a cause for autism, is used as a base for thimerosal, a preservative that was until recently found in many vaccines. But according to a government study in September, the chemical metal has no link to autism.

"For the most part, mercury is off the shelf," she said.

Other parents, she said, think the fact that children get so many shots at once has some-

thing to do with autism.

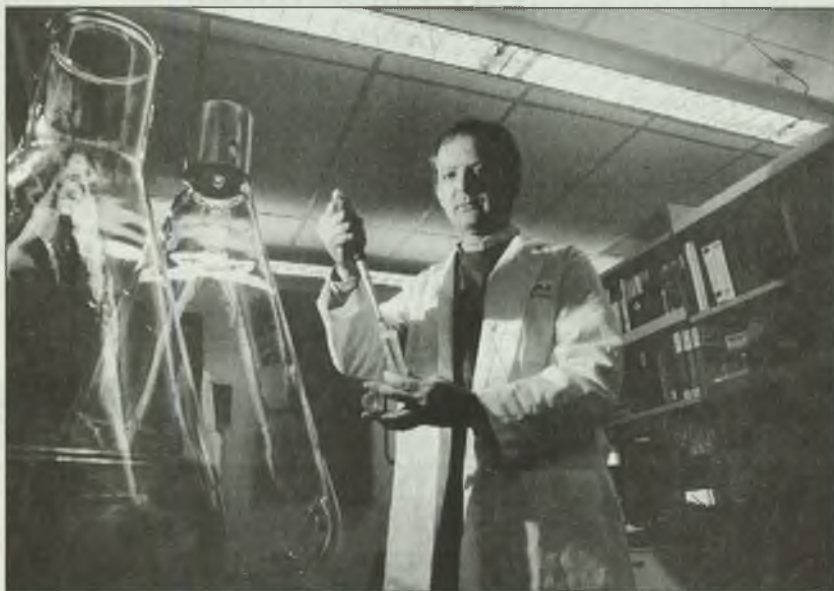
"When you compare the amounts of the vaccinations that children have gotten over generations, it has increased," Backus said. "Children now get groupings of inoculations at a time. Parents believe massive doses do not allow the child's brain to absorb it in ways that are safe."

The number of children diagnosed with autism per year has also been on the rise, but researchers suspect that this is due to more frequent screening and updated techniques.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, autism affects 1 in every 110 children.

"Is it frightening?" Backus said. "Yes."

Meanwhile, research is underway to under-



Jonathan Pevsner, Ph.D., a neuroscientist and geneticist at Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore, Md., is studying the DNA of patients with autism to find the genes responsible for aspects of the condition. (Jed Kirschbaum/Baltimore Sun/MCT).

stand the causes of the disease.

"Genetics place a piece in autism," Backus said.

According to a February 2009 University of California report, biologists have pointed out that gene mutation is strongly associated with the disorder, and that siblings of autistic children are more likely to also have the disease.

Faculty of the Rich Center have also been contributing to individual autism research, although much of the work done on campus is not under an electron microscope.

"Most research [here] is drawn toward treatment," Backus said.

She pointed out one of the most recent endeavors at the facility: using a touch-screen device, such as an iPad, to improve symptoms in children with autism spectrum disorders.

Another big area of research, Backus explained, is the study of how autistic children run and walk. The program, "Gait and Running Patterns in Children with Autism," is being conducted by Suzanne Guiffre and Cathy Bieber Parrot. Breakthroughs in this area can help identify early autistic symptoms.

She said the parents of the enrolled children are "extremely cooperative" with the studies. Through working with them and other medical professionals, the Rich Center has a bright future, she said.

"They believe the world's children need [the research] as well," Backus said. "We are very fortunate. We are on the verge of landing some serious national research studies."

New student organization 'builds' brighter futures for Valley citizens

Caitlin Fitch
REPORTER

On Saturday, members of the new Habitat for Humanity organization at Youngstown State University took part in their first build, or the group's first step to help alleviate a growing poverty housing problem.

Last semester, students started the Habitat for Humanity organization, which branched off from the Mahoning County Habitat for Humanity located on Youngstown-Poland Road. Habitat for Humanity builds houses for poverty-stricken Mahoning Valley residents in Struthers, Campbell and Youngstown.

As an initiation fee, the YSU chapter gave \$250 and will give \$100 each subsequent year. Membership numbers continue to increase. Around 20 interested students attended Monday's meeting, and the group will continue to meet once a month.

Freshman Elizabeth Johnson, president of the organization, said the group started last semester.

"We ... thought it would be difficult to get people to show up," Johnson said.

Rev. Kathryn Adams, the organization's adviser, has been involved with Habitat for Humanity since 1995, and she has contributed to more than 20 built houses.

Build days that the YSU chapter will attend are scheduled for April 16, April 30 and May 21.

Students from the YSU chapter and the Mahoning County chapter will work together on the House of Abraham, located on the West Side's Dryden Avenue.

Adams said involvement with Habitat for Humanity is rewarding and allows students to feel satisfied after helping those in need. She said it's the most fantastic feeling in the world.

"It goes beyond people's own petty problems and issues and help others," she said. "What [people] find about Habitat is that when Habitat is building a home in a neighborhood, neighbors find out and learn about Habitat and are more aware of their own homes."

Adams said the organization's biggest challenge is working with busy students who have school and work responsibilities.

"Students are busy, and they have too much going on," Adams said.

HABITAT PAGE 4

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YSU services to step up security during deck renovation

Lamar Salter
& Joe Giesy
THE JAMBAR

A shuttle system between the Covelli Centre and Youngstown State University's Moser Hall will cause an increase in university police presence in downtown Youngstown while renovations are being made to the M-2 parking deck on Lincoln Avenue.

The renovations are expected to last throughout the summer, but the shuttle will run only from April 18 to the end of the spring semester.

Parking Services plans to have two staff members at the Covelli Centre during the shuttles' operating hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. These staff members will have access to radios that link di-

rectly to the YSU Police Department.

The shuttle will not be available in the evening, but students who are still parked at the Covelli Centre can request a lift from Parking Services.

Support Services Director Danny O'Connell said some businesses already park at the Covelli Centre during the day. These motor vehicles have had no trouble with criminal activity.

YSU Police Chief John Gocala said in addition to normal service routes, police officers would be expanding their routes to the Covelli Centre during the renovations.

"We will make passes twice an hour," Gocala said. "I can guarantee you that the police will be out there."

While confident in YSU Po-

lice and Parking Services, Gocala said, ultimately, safety would be reliant on student and faculty awareness.

"Crime knows no person, no place, no time," Gocala said. "We depend on faculty, staff and students to report any suspicious activity when they see it."

While creating a presence downtown, Gocala also said an anticipated increase in on-campus parking by students who do not wish to make a stop at the entertainment venue would be assessed as well.

"We patrol this campus very aggressively," Gocala said. "We just need the community to have some faith in their police."

In addition to extended coverage, Gocala said he is reaching out to the Youngstown Police Department for assistance.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Original music cabaret 'Blossoms and Bliss' opening this week

On Thursday, "Blossoms and Bliss" is opening in Bliss Hall's Spotlight Arena Theater at YSU. This musical cabaret will be playing Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, as well as April 8, 9 and 10. Thursday through Saturday performances begin at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday performances start at 3 p.m. The theater will be designed into a cabaret with table seating. Because of this, reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis. For groups, reservations should be made at the same time. There will be limited walk-in availability. Tickets are free for YSU students with a student ID, \$10 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens, faculty and staff, high school and other college students, Penguin Club members and YSU alumni. Snacks will be available for purchase during the show. Parking will be available in the M-1 deck for a small fee.

Master classes and performances are featured for Percussion Week

Percussion Week, hosted by the Dana School of Music at YSU, will feature faculty and guest artist performances and master classes and clinics, along with the Percussion Ensemble Spring Concert. The concert will be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesday at Butler North. Compositions to be performed include Toru Takemitsu, Bela Fleck, Gerard Leconte, Philip Richard, Miguel Zenon and Eugene Novotney, along with the Concerto for Saxophone and Percussion by Russell Peterson featuring YSU student Greta Johnson. All events are free and open to the public. Parking is available for a minimal fee in the M-1 parking deck.

POLICE BRIEFS

YSU Police issue trespass warning

On Thursday, a YSU Police officer observed two older individuals loitering outside of the M-26 parking lot, looking into parked cars. They then began walking on the side of Lincoln Avenue toward oncoming traffic instead of on the sidewalk. The two said they weren't affiliated with YSU and were looking for change that may have been dropped. The officer issued both trespassing warnings.

Man arrested for several trespassing violations

On Thursday, YSU Police received a call from a member of the janitorial service regarding a man on the floor looking under a vending machine in Beeghly Center. The man was then seen walking out of the building toward the bookstore where police stopped him. When he was identified, it was found that he had been issued numerous trespassing violations in the past. He was taken into custody.

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HABITAT PAGE 2

Shawna Dory, Americorps volunteer and Habitat for Humanity faith relations coordinator, said she was excited about the YSU group's formation.

"We love campus chapter partners," Dory said. Dory said the YSU chapter has three goals.

"The YSU group will help build houses by volunteering at the build. They will help raise awareness by promoting habitat and poverty housing issues. They will help fundraise, and they have already had a spaghetti dinner," Dory said.

Dory said the group will likely build three to five houses during this year's build season, which stretches from March to November.

"Three of the houses will be new, where we build from ground up, and two will be rehabs, where we basically go in and repaint or fix things that are broken," Dory said.

To get a house built by Habitat for Humanity, three qualifications exist, Dory said. The first is income. Habitat for Humanity builds for low-income families. The second is a "willingness to partner," Dory said. Each family is required to contribute 350 to 400 hours of "sweat equity" to show their investment in the program. The third is credit, or improvement of credit.

Dory said anyone can volunteer with Habitat for Humanity. No experience is necessary.

"You just need a willing attitude," she said. "It's fun. You can go out there, and we'll teach you what to do."

GER PAGE 1

2 Academic Senate meeting. Since the meeting, the General Education Requirement Committee has been presenting the proposed changes to the individual colleges, with the last presentation held Monday.

Under the proposed changes, the skills component would be essentially unaffected but the knowledge domain would feel the majority of the impact.

"We're doing two things. One is the initial proposal was to go down from 11 knowledge domain courses down to 10," Porter said. "The other was to reorganize the knowledge domains a bit, so essentially what we would do is go to a system that's more similar to what a lot of other schools do."

The newly proposed knowledge domains are Natural Science, Creative Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences and Responsible Citizenship.

Most courses will not be removed, just re-categorized under the new domains. Also, courses cannot be counted twice. They may be used to satisfy only one domain.

The new requirements would align Youngstown State University with other state universities in what courses students are required to take. These changes would also make assessing the domain easier and more uniform.

Porter said such a variety of courses are offered within each domain that assessing the courses, or looking for the common goals the courses meet, is difficult.

"The other thing is that most schools have something in the area of diversity and/or international perspectives," Porter said. "Here is kind of

the most controversial part. Right now, [YSU] is at 46 semester hours total, whereas most schools are in the 30s."

Porter said while presenting the initial requirement changes to the individual colleges on campus, most faculty expressed that more cuts needed to be made to the total semester hours required.

"Right now, the way the proposal stands is at 43 [semester hours] and a lot of people have indicated that they think it should go lower," Porter said. "The committee is taking those comments very seriously and that's what we're going to be talking about in the next couple days."

Paul Sracic, professor, chairman of the Political Science and Pre-Law Center, and former General Education Committee chairman, said he identified an issue with the wording contained in the new requirements.

"The one I'm most concerned about is the addition of this new domain called Responsible Citizenship and the fact that there's nothing in there in terms of learning outcomes about government," he said. "It just seems to me that if you're going to use the word 'citizenship,' one of the fundamental skills one needs to have to be a responsible citizen is some knowledge of both state and federal government."

Sracic said a class about German government would qualify under that domain, whereas a course under American government would not. He said it "seems to make sense" that a state-funded university require a government course for students to have knowledge about the government that is paying for part of

their college education.

"I'm not altogether sure that the proposed revisions are more focused than what the old program was," he said. "In a lot of ways to many of us who have been here for a long time, it looks like we're going back to the pre-2000 general ed program."

Porter said YSU education should not be looked at as vocational. Students should be exposed to things outside of their majors.

"One reason is going back to that skill component so there's some basic things that everybody should be able to do, like write well," he said. "The skill components are kind of focused on getting everybody up to a certain minimum level of competency in those areas."

The general education committee is still discussing the final wording and exact requirements for the GER and will present this to the Academic Senate on April 6. The Senate will vote to approve the changes or decide that there are still some issues with the plan.

"If things go well, maybe it will pass April 6, but it wouldn't be that unusual for this to take a couple Senate meetings," Porter said.

If approved, new requirements would take place beginning fall 2012.

"Students who are currently enrolled have the option of graduating under whatever catalog that they've attended, assuming continuous attendance," Porter said. "For example, somebody who is a freshman this year could still use the current gen ed system to graduate. Now what they may find is that the new system actually gives them more flexibility."

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RELATED STORY

Deck, page 1

YSU commuters will be part of a dramatic shift April 18 when the M-2 parking deck closes for the first phase of renovations.

For the remainder of the spring semester, we'll be asked to park at the Covelli Centre downtown and take a shuttle to the university.

It's a hassle, but right now, it's not only the best alternative, it's the only alternative.

It may seem inconvenient and unsafe at first glance, but where else would we park?

There are 1,300 parking spaces in the M-2 parking deck. They have to be accounted for.

More importantly, the inconvenience is a much-needed sacrifice to begin long-overdue construction.

Parking Services will implement a vigorous bus schedule, shuttling students to campus no longer than seven minutes from the time they park, officials guarantee.

Students who think it's unsafe to leave their vehicle downtown shouldn't fret. Director of Support Services Danny O'Connell and YSU Police Chief John Gocala are also guaranteeing student safety.

O'Connell said there will always be a minimum of two Parking Services employees at the Covelli Centre, and Gocala said he's in the process of contacting the Youngstown Police Department for additional manpower.

If that isn't enough, we investigated police reports at or near the Covelli Centre since 2000 and the results were surprisingly anti-climatic. Other than a robbery early last year and an auto accident in 2000, there were no major incidents reported.

Students won't be parking there at night, when most crime occurs. O'Connell said the shuttle services to Covelli Centre will end at 6 p.m., which means commuters would have to move their vehicle to the university or leave by then.

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 the first summer session. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.

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The editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor and news editors. 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.

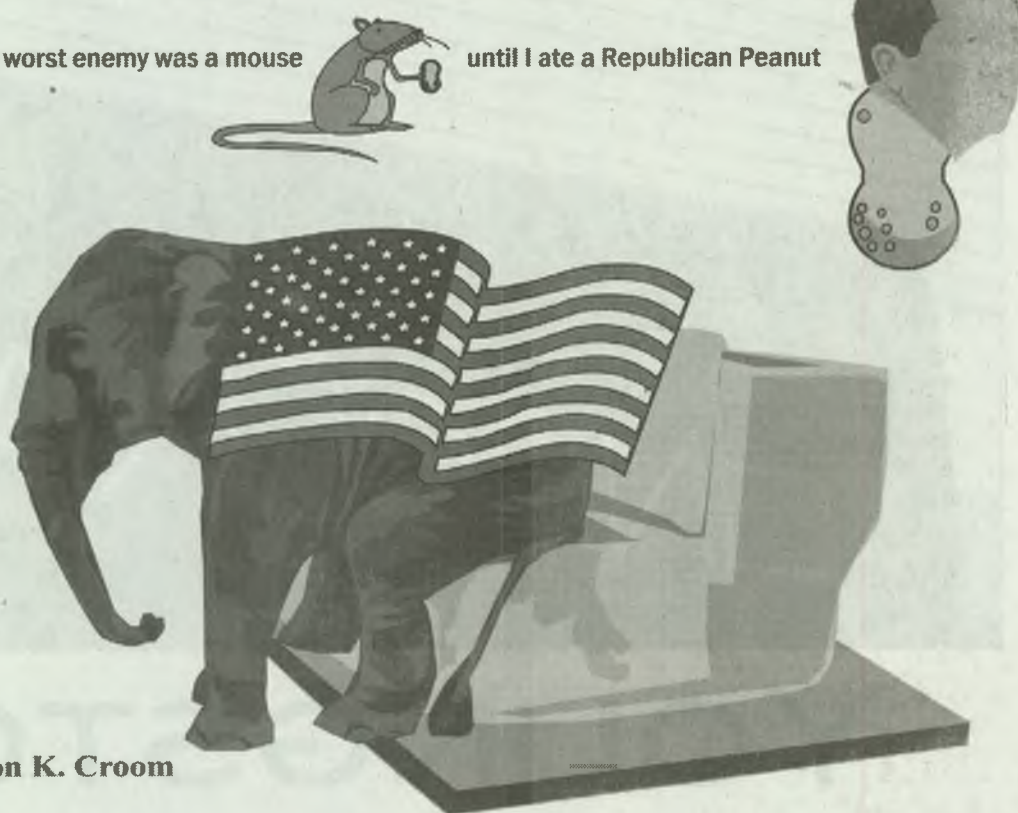
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Letters will not be rejected based on the view expressed in them. Letters may be rejected if they are not relevant to Jambar readers, seek free publicity or if the editorial staff decides the subject has been sufficiently aired. The Jambar will not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

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

I thought my worst enemy was a mouse until I ate a Republican Peanut



© By: Brandon K. Croom

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

Tear down your altars and lifeless idols



Feminism is not a lie

Chris Cotelesse
COLUMNIST

Women have fought hard to earn an equal share of society. Hopefully, they'll get it someday.

The first bill that President Obama signed into law was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, which takes a step in that direction but is far from a final solution.

Women deserve the same basic human rights that men enjoy: fair pay, opportunities, frontline combat.

However, if we fail to acknowledge the differences between the sexes, then we negate our principles of fairness and equality.

There are the basic anatomical differences, but there are less basic and more controversial differences.

According to "Sex Differences in Cognitive Abilities" by Diane Halpern, an American psychologist and past president of the American Psychological Association, girls possess superior verbal abilities, while boys have greater visual-spatial abilities.

In the preface, Halpern admitted that these differences were more than societal:

"At the time I started writing this book it seemed clear to me that any between-sex differences in thinking abilities were due to socialization practices, artifacts and mistakes in the research. After reviewing a pile of journal articles that stood several feet high, and numerous books and book chapters that dwarfed the stack of journal articles, I changed my mind."

These are generalizations that don't necessarily translate to individuals. Some men are better writers than most women, and some women outperform men in visual-spatial relationships.

The inspiration for this column came from a drunken conversation with a very intelligent and strong-willed woman.

I merely pointed out that the amount of testosterone produced by my testicles allows my body to produce and maintain more muscle mass than that produced by her ovaries.

At 2 a.m. in a crowded and noisy bar, I'm sure my argument was less rational, but it remains valid.

I've met plenty of women who could hang my ass in a sling, but in general, the average adult male human is physically stronger than the average adult female human.

If I hit a woman, I'd receive all kinds of negative feedback from society. Whereas if I hit another dude (even for no good reason), it could very well be written off as, "boys will be boys."

Women don't need men to protect them. In the 21st century, there are pepper sprays, stun guns, even a bone-chilling device called the anti-rape condom that is inserted into the birth canal and shreds any foreign object inserted afterward.

But when a girl who weighs less than 100 pounds tells me she's going to beat me up, to do anything other than laugh would be patronizing, would be pretending that women aren't capable of handling reality.

Equality is about recognizing the truth and moving forward.

Letter to the Editor

I'm torn. I want to commend the police and facilities personnel who searched rooms and opened doors in search of a bomb when most people would want to get as far away as possible. They did their jobs bravely, and they deserve our thanks. On the other hand, I'm vastly irritated that I had no idea that there was any threat to YSU before yesterday evening. I get those "This is only a test" emails from the YSU Alert system all the time, and I like them. In the aftermath of the killings at Virginia Tech, it was nerve-wracking to think that someone could rove around campus shooting people and I wouldn't know about it until he opened fire in my office. I like that the police test the system regularly, and that I can see that it still works. It never occurred to me that in the event of an actual emergency, the police wouldn't use it. I'm afraid I don't share Erika Evans' ridiculous optimism when she said on the front page of Thursday's Jambar that "[Bomb threats] are always said but never done." Anyone who took high school chemistry can throw together a couple of materials that will combust. (See McVeigh, Timothy.) Whether or not the police thought the threat was credible, there was no way to know for sure until the building was carefully searched, and that takes time. Of course the police didn't want to risk a campus-wide panic, but why not simply go classroom to classroom and evacuate people quickly and quietly from the threatened building(s)? This isn't an exact analogy, but I have been the only librarian in Maag on nights when a tornado warning was issued. While the sirens blared, the wind howled and the building shook, I've watched a hundred people, some of them children, quietly file down the stairs to the building's tornado shelter area. If the people in charge remain calm and issue clear directions, there shouldn't be a panic. Police Chief Gocala asked that faculty and students have more faith in the police. How about a little more faith in us?

Becky Moore
Youngstown



YOUNGSTOWN HAS A NEW 'ENTOURAGE'

Chelsea Miller
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

"It's something new every day. Who wouldn't like throwing parties?"

-Arthur Ward

Remnants of the Cell nightclub remain in its former home located on Belmont Avenue across from Youngstown State University's campus. The dance floor and bar are still the same, but a new design and fresh coat of paint covers the walls.

Friends and business partners Charles Colvin and Arthur Ward put their heart and soul into the building to open Club Entourage three weeks ago. They are well aware of the challenges of running a business, especially a nightclub, in the Youngstown area but are nonetheless optimistic about the new nightclub's success.

"Everyone has a negative outlook on the area. It's always had like a negative aura, and we just look at it so differently," Colvin said. "We go to other cities, but there's really nothing like being at home. The challenge that people say, 'That can never happen there.' That's one of the biggest reasons why we work so hard every day."

Several nightclubs have opened in Youngstown to little success in the struggling economy. The building that Entourage occupies has been through its share of owners.

The Cell, which was open for years, was ordered to close in January 2009 after numerous underage drinking complaints. Club Kush opened shortly after, but it didn't last long. It closed in December.

Colvin said his goal is to bring back the struggling nightlife in the city.

"Everywhere else, they already have [a club scene]. But I think that's something that needs to be established here," he said.

Colvin and Ward own Starlyfe Entertainment, a business dedicated to promoting events and venues around the area. The two men are now responsible for the day-to-day operations of Entourage including stocking liquor, hiring staff members and promoting the club.

"It's something new every day. Who wouldn't like throwing parties?" Ward said.

He said the job is an ex-



Businessmen Charles Colvin and Arthur Ward are promoting their recent venture, the newly opened Club Entourage. The club is the third opened at the location since 2007, but Colvin and Ward said they believe they have what it takes for the business to succeed. Photo by Doug Livingston/The Jambar.

citing one but not without its challenges. Both men stressed the work aspect.

"It's a lot of work," Colvin added. "It's a lot more than just throwing the event. You got security. You got codes and laws you have to follow. We learned a lot through the years, and we're still learning every day."

Colvin and Ward may still be learning, but they have been in the business for more than three years. They've helped plan fashion shows, concerts, parties and numerous other events around the area.

Ward and Colvin met when they were children and have been friends since high school.

As seniors in high school, Colvin was originally interested in producing, and Ward had dreams of becoming a rapper. The men decided to put their love of music and entertainment to use when they started their business in March 2010.

Ward said he believes their friendship helps when working alongside Colvin.

"We have a mutual respect for each other and each other's opinions," Ward said. "I know they always say you can't mix business and friends, but we've been doing it."

Despite their experience, the men are young. Ward is 24 and Colvin is just 23. Ward graduated from YSU with a

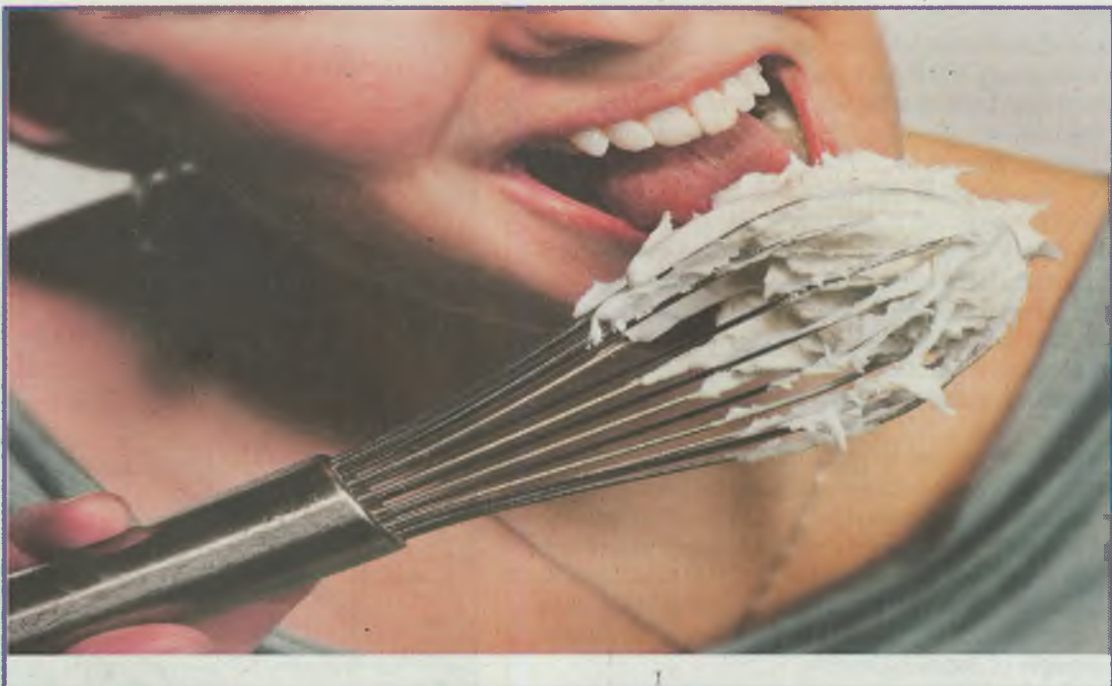
degree in business. Colvin was a senior information technology major but is taking the semester off. They said they believe their young age gives them an edge over their older competitors.

"We know the people that are coming out. We went to school with them. That's different from another club owner," Ward said.

Colvin added most people are surprised at how young they are.

"We're just determined to give the city a different outlook," he said. "I think we have a strong understanding of what it takes to get people here."

New diet gains popularity



Kevin Alquist
REPORTER

There have been many diet plans and strategies used to help a food-obsessed America lose weight or aid in getting in better shape, but a diet plan that is growing in popularity is

much stricter in what the dieter eats and, specifically, how many calories he or she takes in.

According to the Every Diet website, calorie restriction is the process of limiting calorie intake with the intention of slowing the aging process. The diet is based on calorie restriction and can leave people practically starving if it

is done improperly.

The diet works by drastically reducing the amount of food the dieter consumes each day; cutting calorie intake by at least 500 calories per day; and eating the right foods, like fruits and vegetables, lean meats and low-fat dairy products in strict amounts.

The concept of calorie restriction is often considered an

anti-aging diet. Some studies have shown that calorie restriction leads to an extended life span if done correctly.

Chrystyna Zellers, a nutritionist and registered dietician at Youngstown State University, said the research being done on the effect that calorie restriction has on the aging process is ongoing and not yet clear.

The biggest problem with a person living on a slim diet is that sufficient nutrition, meaning the proper intake of vitamins and minerals, must be maintained in order for the diet to have a positive and healthy effect on the body. Also, the calorie restrictive diet must be taken on slowly so that the body can adapt to the change.

Zellers said under normal circumstances one must not ingest fewer than 1,200 calories per day. Going below that, she said, might not provide adequate nutrition that is important for proper function of the immune system.

She said there is no perfect diet or exact number of calories people should eat to lose

weight or maintain a healthy weight. Every individual is different and needs to find what type of diet and calorie intake is appropriate.

"Calorie levels are based on metabolism, age, daily activities and exercise, and other factors," Zellers said. "The diet of someone who does a [highly active] job like landscaping, for example, will probably require a higher calorie diet than someone who works in an office."

When energy input, or the intake of calories, matches energy output, then the body will not store excess body fat. When the balance of the two is off, the body either stores fat or loses too much of it.

On the Every Diet website, a daily meal plan is posted as a guide for people interested in calorie reduction. The plan consists of a diet based on lean meats like properly prepared chicken and fish and a variety of greens, berries, nuts and non-fat dairy. The full menu can be viewed on the website.

DECK PAGE 1

Ludt's Towing brought the car to their lot on Mahoning Avenue, according to the report.

Matune said the damages amassed to nearly \$10,000, and he was devastated and angry. He added that he was just happy he or anyone else wasn't in or near the car when the debris fell.

Following the incident, he spoke with Susan Viglione, associate director of Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety. Matune said he was told to file a claim with his and the university's insurance company.

Several weeks later, attorney Holly Jacobs of YSU's general counsel told Matune that YSU was not responsible for the damages done to his vehicle under the sovereign immunity clause, which states that a governmental body cannot be sued by a private party.

Matune spoke with a friend of his family who is a lawyer, but after explaining the incident to her, she advised Matune to not hire a lawyer because it would be a tough case to win.

Jacobs could not be reached for comment before publication.

In an email, Viglione said

that YSU is a part of the Inter-University Council-Insurance Consortium. This consortium includes 13 other universities.

"The IUC-IC collectively pools a core group of casualty and property risks. The pool retains a portion of the risks and purchases insurance to protect members from the financial consequences associated with a large loss," Viglione said.

Within the casualty insurance program, which includes general, auto and educator's legal liability, "there is a \$100,000 retention applicable per occurrence," Viglione added.

"Claims are subject to the above noted retention and governmental laws (Ohio Revised Code) applicable to the IUC universities in Ohio," Viglione said.

Matune said after he spoke with Jacobs, it was determined that YSU would not pay the damages, but that the legal counsel department would refund the \$10,000 within six weeks.

Matune isn't the only student who has fallen victim to debris in the M-2 parking deck.

Last week, it was reported in The Jambar that YSU Police found a small fallen rock on the windshield of another student's vehicle. The rock caused a small crack in

the windshield but has since spread. Police told the victim they were unable to find sufficient evidence to support a claim that the rock fell from the deck.

In 2008, The Jambar also reported that after a professor discovered a large piece of fallen rock in the M-2 parking deck, he feared for students' lives.

Now, the minor problems have accumulated enough to begin the major renovation.

"In my area, I was able to step up and say this was the plan we recommended three years ago from facilities, from parking," O'Connell said. "It was kind of kept being delayed, kept being delayed, kept being delayed."

O'Connell said he thinks that most thought the recommendation from Parking Services and Facilities three or four years ago was a different plan.

The main renovations are planned for while the deck is closed this year, but the deck will need to be closed again next summer in order to finish any structural renovations that could not be tended to this summer. More cosmetic work, like fixing lighting, guard rails and paint, will also be done.

"We're going to treat that deck like it's a permanent asset," O'Connell said.

The major renovations

should extend the deck's life another 15 years until enough money can be raised to put a down payment on a new deck, he said. There will be minor renovations to the deck every year, with money set aside for the project. O'Connell said that at some point the already 40-year-old M-2 parking deck will need to be taken down.

"Our whole focus with this project is a long-range plan," O'Connell said.

The money for the project comes from the Parking Services auxiliary fund through parking passes, fines and other means. The parking auxiliary will need to pay the brunt of the costs, O'Connell said.

To raise money for these projects and basic, long-term maintenance of the parking decks, O'Connell discussed a transportation fee with the board of trustees that would require all students to pay \$100 and open parking up to any student. Other alternatives to the parking pass have been suggested as well.

He said the parking pass system does not provide an easy way to budget for the upcoming years because of fluctuations in how many are purchased. Avoidance of purchasing parking passes drives students to park off campus, which can cause safety concerns.

O'Connell said with more

than 400 cars parking off campus, an availability in spots will need to increase immediately if some sort of general transportation fee is going to replace the parking pass system next year. The board will likely vote on new fees during summer meetings.

There will be 286 new parking spaces put in over the summer through surface lots.

A new lot next to the Beeghly College of Education will bring 126 additional spaces to campus. An extension of the M-26 lot behind Smith Hall will bring 160 parking spaces.

O'Connell said there is also discussion of extending surface lots to the Charlie Staples Bar-B-Q property and paving over the vacant section of Lincoln Avenue to make the M-26 and M-24 lots one large parking surface.

There has also been discussion of converting the tennis courts across from the new Watson and Tressel Training Site into a parking surface lot, but this project would have to be held off until the new field complex off Fifth Avenue is completed.

O'Connell said there is a Parking Services Twitter account in the works that would notify followers of full decks, lots or parking areas.

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Career & Counseling Services

The Office of Career & Counseling Services needs students to work our 2 Week Phone Campaign beginning April 4th and ending April 14th. Phone Campaign workers will call YSU Graduates to get their feedback regarding job placement since graduation.

The hours required are:

- Monday, April 4th 5:30—8:00pm
- Tuesday, April 5th 5:30—8:00pm
- Wednesday, April 6th 5:30—8:00pm
- Thursday, April 7th 5:30—8:00pm
- Monday, April 11 5:30—8:00pm
- Tuesday, April 12th 5:30—8:00pm
- Wednesday, April 13th 5:30—8:00pm
- Thursday, April 14th 5:30—8:00pm

Previous telephone experience is preferred. Please contact Susan George at 330-941-3299 if you are interested in this opportunity.

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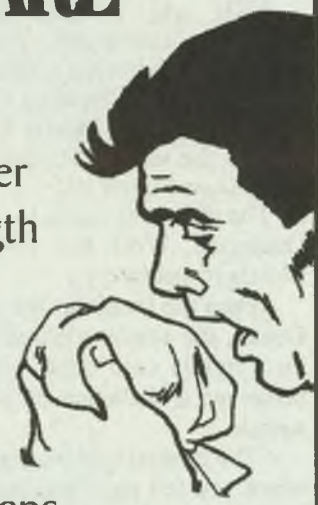
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Rugby club has good showing at tournament,



A Robert Morris University player attempts to elude YSU's Brett Grabman who is hot in pursuit. Grabman, a senior, is vice president of the rugby club, which is in its third year of existence. Photo by Jordan D. Uhl/The Jambar.

Jordan D. Uhl
SPORTS EDITOR

Coming off their second consecutive win, members of the Youngstown State University rugby team tried their hand in tournament play.

On Saturday, the Penguins traveled to Cooper's Lake Campground in Slippery Rock, Pa., for the Pittsburgh Rugby Collegiate Classic.

YSU was grouped with Duquesne University, Washington and Jefferson College, Juniata College, Kenyon College and Robert Morris University, the team YSU defeated 15-0 on March 19.

The team was slated to play Duquesne, W&J and Robert Morris respectively.

When the Penguins met the Dukes, the teams squared off on a rigidly cold field, which presented a challenge for both squads.

"The ground was frozen, so when you fell on it you might as well have been playing on pavement," said senior and club vice president Brett Grabman.

The ball didn't do too much traveling in the first half, staying within a 20-yard diameter of midfield. This resulted in a physical game, and the Penguins fell by a slim margin of 7-0.

"We could probably beat them if we played them again,

and we will. We play them this weekend. I'm really looking forward to it," Grabman said.

Sophomore James Toliver, the club's treasurer, said, "To be frank, they got lucky."

After a four-hour respite, YSU faced W&J.

A much faster and better-conditioned team than YSU, the Presidents toppled the Penguins 26-0.

As is typical with smaller universities, W&J's rugby team is above par.

Grabman said this is because a lot of smaller schools have players with high school rugby experience as well as a coach, something YSU's team is lacking.

In addition, players live on campus, and it's easier for them to get to practice than it is for the Penguins. Most YSU rugby team members are commuter students.

Playing these high-caliber teams only makes the Penguins better, Grabman said.

"You're going to get your chops kicked a couple times, but you get used to it," he said. "We refer to it as 'baptism by fire, what other rigger would desire.'"

The team's final game of the day was against Robert Morris.

The Colonials, obviously frustrated by their poor showing at Mill Creek Park, came ready to play.

"The Robert Morris boys have heart," Toliver said.

"They wanted to prove to us, to their fans and to themselves that they could win. We should respect that."

After two attempts and successful conversions, the Penguins had a comfortable 14-0 lead before the Colonials began to mount their offense in the second half.

The Colonials scored a try but missed the conversion. They added three points with a penalty kick to make it 14-8. As time expired, the Colonials got a try to make it 14-13.

With tension high, as there was no time left to rebut the Colonials' score, their kicker prepared to attempt a conversion. As soon as he began his routine, Penguin Alex Barlekamp ran forward to block the attempt and seal the victory.

Barlekamp's last-second heroics not only ended the day on a positive note but also foreshadowed things to come, as he is one of the team's many inexperienced players.

"He is brand spanking new. That was his fourth game he ever played," Grabman said.

This is the norm on the rugby team, as frequent new faces are commonplace. Even now, those interested are not only welcome but encouraged to join.

The team worries about the club's future, not wanting to see what they've built up simply collapse.

"Seeing the interest that's building here on campus, I see YSU rekindling a tradition of

pride in rugby that this Valley has been missing for too many years," Toliver said.

This weekend, the team will head back to Pennsylvania to take part in the Highlander Collegiate tournament. This will give the Penguins an opportunity to develop the younger players and also enact revenge against both W&J and Duquesne.

"[We're] looking for a little bit of retribution, a little bit of justice. We definitely want to settle the score," Grabman said.

"We [need to] work on getting the ball out to our faster players, continue making hard hits and regain the momentum from previous weeks," Toliver said. "The Duquesne boys are in for quite a challenge."

Grabman said he believes the team will need to play a perfect game against the Presidents if they hope to win.

"I feel like we have to come out and play every game as if we're against a professional team," he said.

He broke down three areas the team needs to focus on in order to witness positive results. First, coming out both mentally and physically prepared to play. Next, coming out with a selfish attitude when it comes to possession of the ball. Finally, spreading out on the field and not weighing down one side.

"[It's] a matter of making the fundamentals we know in our heads appear on the pitch," Toliver said.

Men's tennis wins at Chicago State

On Friday, the YSU men's tennis team won at Chicago State University 6-1. Tariq Ismail battled and won at the No.1 singles match 7-6, 2-6, 10-8 over Ankit Chopra. Max Schmerin got an easy win 6-3, 6-0 in the No. 3 singles matchup against Viet Lam. The Penguins' No. 4, 5 and 6 singles all picked up wins as Zeeshan Ismail won 6-2, 6-0; Rodrigo Campos won 6-0, 6-0; and Rob Emig won by default. The only loss for YSU went to Felipe Rosa. At the No. 2 singles match, Rosa lost 1-6, 6-1, 10-8 to Armaan Choudhary.

YSU baseball drops two of three at Wright State

The YSU baseball team took on Wright State University for a weekend series starting Friday night. The Penguins dropped the series opener 13-1. Wright State had a staggering 11 runs scored with two outs in the win. Robert Switka got the loss, starting strong but not being able to finish off innings. The Penguins were held scoreless until the ninth inning.

Wright State continued to dominate in the doubleheader opening game on Saturday, getting the win 8-2 and getting two out of three games. Wright State got four runs in the first two innings off Kevin McCulloh of YSU and never looked back. The Penguins got 12 hits but left 10 men stranded on base.

In game two of the doubleheader, the Penguins struck back, winning 7-3. Phil Klein gave the Penguins seven great innings. He gave up three runs and six hits, and tallied six strikeouts. Padriac Williams got his third save of the season in relief. Drew Dosch had four hits to lead the YSU offense. The Penguins will face Walsh University at Cene Park on Tuesday at 3 p.m.

YSU softball gets swept in weekend series

The YSU softball team dropped the first two of a three-game series against Loyola University Chicago in a doubleheader on Saturday. Loyola's Brittany Gardner pitched two complete games and shut down the Penguins' offense. In the opener, Loyola won 4-2. Gardner held the Penguins hitless for 5.2 innings, giving up a double to senior Kristina Rendle, followed by another double from junior Jordan Ingalls and a single from sophomore Vicky Rumph. In game two of the doubleheader, Loyola dominated 10-1. Gardner gave up two hits. One was a first career home run to YSU freshman Samantha Snodgrass. YSU dropped the third game of the series on Sunday, 6-2. Loyola scored six runs on eight hits, powered by a three-run home run in the third inning by Lauren Arceneaux. The Penguins couldn't muster enough offense to catch up, scoring their only two runs in the fifth inning.



Joe Santisi, a junior, watches where his ball will land after a drive. Photo courtesy of Sports Information.

Golf heads to Butler for first look at a Horizon foe

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS REPORTER

The Youngstown State University men's golf team, coming off a recent 12th place finish at the South Dakota State Jackrabbit Invitational in Nevada, is en route to Avon, Ind., to participate in the Butler Spring Invitational.

This is the team's second spring tournament.

The Penguins also participated in five fall tournaments, placing 10th or lower in each event. They have not finished in last place. Their best finish came on Oct. 4 and 5 at the Telich Sun Life Financial/CSU Invitational where the Penguins placed 10th out of 15 teams.

"We didn't play as well as we would have liked to play,"

said head coach Tony Joy about the fall tournaments. He added that the lack of outdoor practice has become a concern for the team.

YSU will get its first look at some Horizon League teams at the Butler Invitational. When asked if there is an extra notch in the tournament, Joy replied, "Oh yeah."

"Any time [we are] playing against the conference teams [means we are] getting ready for the championship. Most of the teams [in the conference] are like us, where we've had one event in Nevada and they had one in Florida. We'll be more on equal terms. I think my guys are going to step up and play pretty well," Joy said.

YSU holds a very young golf team in what Joy referred to as a "rebuilding year." He will lose only one player, senior Spenser Sulzener, before

next season. Sulzener is team captain. His best finish this season came at the Bowling Green State University John Piper Intercollegiate where he placed eighth with a final score of 147 [74-73].

Joy has also enjoyed the work of redshirted freshman Mark Olbrych. His best performance came at the Michigan State University Mary Fossum Invitational when he tied 37th overall with Sulzener. Each had a final score of 155 to lead the Penguins.

Joy is in his 27th season leading the men's golf team at YSU. He described how this team compares to and differs from his previous squads.

"I really like this team," Joy said. "We're going to be dangerous, [and] anything can happen in the tournaments. This tournament will tell a lot. It's going to be very competitive."

SCHEDULES

MEN'S TENNIS
April 2- UIC
April 3- VALPO
April 6- @ Robert Morris
April 9- @ Butler

WOMEN'S TENNIS
March 30- @ Pitt
April 2- UIC
April 3- VALPO
April 9- @ Butler

BASEBALL
March 29- WALSH
March 30- NIAGARA
April 2- @ Le Moyne
April 3- @ Le Moyne

SOFTBALL
March 31- DAYTON
March 31- DAYTON
April 2- @ Wright St.
April 3- @ Wright St.

RUGBY
April 2- @ Highlander
April 9- LORAIN
April 16- S.R.U. (TBA)
April 30- @ Ohio Cla.