

The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

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PENGUINS CRUSH DUKES WITH OFFENSIVE ONSLAUGHT

HOT CAMPUS IN THE CITY

Lack of air conditioning leads to hot classrooms, student tempers

Josh Stipanovich
NEWS EDITOR

Unusually high springtime temperatures have the campus of Youngstown State University in a sauna state, with one lab reaching nearly 97 degrees.

The Biochemistry department's research lab in Ward Beecher Hall is home to its only functioning Ultra Low Freezer, which is where faculty and students store their research samples, some of these samples being several years old.

The department's primary freezer is currently out of order due to high temperatures, and assistant professor of genetics Heather Lorimer said if the backup freezer malfunctions, the research samples would be unusable.

"We have to switch over. We can't wait until April 15," Lorimer said.

The Facilities department has designated April 15 the day when all air conditioning units would be ready for use across the university.

"That's not like degree or sense. That's the day that we, I don't want to say arbitrarily pick, but that's the day that we target each

HOT CAMPUS PAGE 3



10 CAMPUS HOT SPOTS BY °F

- 96.7° — Research Lab in Biochem. Dept.
- 90.8° — DeBartolo Student Radio Lab
- 88.4° — Cushwa Computer Lab 3rd Floor
- 88.3° — DeBartolo Student Lounge
- 88.2° — Meshel Hall
- 87.3° — Wick Pedestrian Bridge
- 87.3° — DeBartolo Basement Computer Lab
- 84.9° — Cushwa Student Lounge
- 84.5° — Williamson Hall
- 84.4° — Kilcawley Center 2nd Floor



CHANGE OF SCENERY: Some professors opted to take their lectures outside due to unbearable classroom temperatures on Wednesday morning.

ACE grievances neglected, union chair says

Dan Pompili
ASSIST. NEWS EDITOR

In 1985, classified employees at Youngstown State University broke their affiliation with the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association and unionized under the Ohio and National Education Associations (OEA, NEA).

The union of Associated Classified Employees (ACE) was officially chartered on Nov. 1, 1985. Only six days later, a grievance had already been filed against YSU.

The embattled union has filed 645 grievances for collective bargaining agreement violations since its inception. Following a years-long period of high tensions, which included a strike, the 2008-11 YSU-ACE collective bargaining agreement was intended to clean the slate.

An analysis of grievances since that contract would indicate it has not succeeded.

During the 25 years from Nov. 1, 1985 until Sept. 30, 2008, ACE filed 337 grievances.

Since Sept. 30, 2008, the date of the first official grievance following the signing of the contract, ACE has filed 308 grievances.

In other words, 47.75 percent of ACE grievances have been filed in the past year and a half.

Most noticeable is the nature of those grievances. Because "issues" were not recorded as a matter of standard practice until roughly 1994, it is unknown why older grievances were filed.

Fifteen years later, though, issues are recorded, and 162 of the 308 grievances are cited as "failure to follow timelines." This refers to Article 9, Section 5 of the collective bargaining agreement:

"Within ten (10) days after receiving the grievance, the appropriate department head will hold a grievance hearing."

Close analysis of the grievance list reveals that several of the 162 timeline violations are new filings on older grievances. For example, on Nov. 24, 2008, grievance 342 was filed for "improper pay conversion under A & B schedules." On Feb. 24, 2009, grievance 409 was filed for "failure to follow timelines - grievance #342." Then grievance 462 on March 11, 2009: "failure to follow timelines - grievance #409" and grievance 526 on April 11 "failure to follow timelines - grievance #462."

Former ACE president and current grievance chair, Christine Domhoff, has an interpretation of the trend: "The university has stepped all over the 2008 contract."

Domhoff said that YSU administration has ignored Article 9 of the contract, which outlines all provisions for grievance procedures.

She said that while there are two attorneys in the office of General Counsel with authority to hear grievances, and that the university can designate anyone it sees fit to hear them, grievances have simply been ignored. Domhoff added that Vice President for Finance and Administration Eugene Grilli and interim Human Resources Director Martin Bramlett were also hearing grievances for a time but they stopped.

She also mentioned two outside attorneys that YSU paid to come in and hear grievances.

Domhoff said that grievances are not something the union takes lightly, as the process is extremely arduous and it takes so long to achieve a resolution.

"I never filed a grievance without talking to them first," Domhoff said.

Domhoff said the process usually begins with the grievance officer interviewing the claimant and there are always efforts to resolve the issue informally. Claimants have 60 days from the infraction to file a grievance. Beyond that, the union president will then exercise his authority and attempt to persuade the university to reverse its position. After that, the claim — if unresolved — is assigned to a grievance officer who will conduct an investigation. Then the grievance form is submitted to Human Resources who will date-stamp it and provide a grievance number.

While the university has ten days to respond, Domhoff said the union did not commonly enforce that deadline, and she frequently allowed as long as a month for a hearing. The university has ten days after the hearing to issue a disposition. In one case, Grievance 622 on Dec. 1, 2009 a there was a filing for "failure to implement grievance disposition - #329."

Domhoff said that there are currently 85 cases awaiting arbitration. Arbitration is step four of the appeal process. Step one is a department hearing. Two is a division hearing, three a human resources grievance and step four is arbitration.

ACE PAGE 3

Senate approves official urban research definition

Adam Rogers
MANAGING EDITOR

The Academic Senate at Youngstown State University moved to approve an official definition of "urban research university" at the body's third meeting of the semester Monday.

Academic Research Committee chairman Frank Li, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering, presented the final language of the definition in a statement to senate members who in turn voted to approve it by a vote of 51 yay, two nay and eight abstentions.

According to the document, "Youngstown State University,

as a member of the global community of scholars, contributes to the development and application of knowledge for the betterment of humankind." It goes on to say, "YSU as an urban research university, is made stronger and more competitive through the linkage with its urban location, as the urban location is made stronger and more competitive through the linkage with a high-

quality research university."

The definition also describes three core principals of an urban research university: scholars/teachers, scholarly engagement and resource alignment. These principals outline how YSU promotes urban research now and into the future through teaching

SENATE PAGE 3

"If you look at the document, all it does is define what we already are, what we've always been."

-Chet Cooper

New act places tax on indoor tanning

Joe Giesy
REPORTER

Beginning in July, a 10 percent tax will be added to the price of tanning at indoor tanning salons. The tax comes as a part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act passed in March.

Local companies like Fiesta Hair Fashions on Belmont Avenue in Youngstown and Golden Glow Tanning on North Market

Street in Girard said their tanning prices will go up when the tax takes effect, but will remain the same for now.

Those opposed to the tax are concerned about its potential effects on the indoor tanning industry's income. The tax has also been compared to taxes on unhealthy luxuries like cigarettes.

The Indoor Tanning Association's Web site stated production



of vitamin D as the main advantage of tanning.

Gary Walker, chairman for the Biological Sciences department at Youngstown State University, warned against tanning because the "harms would outweigh the benefits."

TANNING PAGE 3

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RED AND WHITE GAME SET FOR THIS SATURDAY page 8



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NEWS BRIEFS

Homecoming chairpersons needed

Campus Recreation and Student Programming seeks students interested in becoming co-chairpersons for the Homecoming festivities this fall. Students will have a chance to plan and oversee the week of events and also be a part of the celebrations during halftime of the Homecoming football game. Interested students should contact Greg Gulas.

Newman Center arranges spaghetti dinner

On Saturday, the Newman Center at YSU will hold a spaghetti dinner as a fundraiser for YSU Greek Campus Life, the Interfraternity Council and the National Panhellenic Council. The dinner is from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

Art department hosts artist for fundraising efforts

The YSU art department will host artist Charles Beneke this weekend for a fundraising program. Beneke will be working with art students to create a collaborative art piece. The event is open to the public between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. from Thursday through Saturday in the Bliss Hall print studio. Proceeds from this event will go toward a study abroad program in Venice, Italy.

POLICE BRIEFS

Man arrested for drug abuse, paraphernalia, failure to dim

On Monday, a 44-year-old man was pulled over on Fifth Avenue for failure to dim his high beams. The officer smelled a strong odor of marijuana and noticed that the suspect was behaving nervously. The suspect volunteered a bag of marijuana and allowed the officer to search his vehicle. The man was arrested for drug abuse (marijuana), possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to dim.

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How do you feel about the heat?



"I think it's pretty ridiculous. We pay to go here and they can't even turn the air on."

Robert Johnson, freshman



"The way I look at it is only one month let, so deal with it."

Matt Streb, senior



"The English department was like a fish bowl; it was hotter inside than it was out."

Jessica Castick, sophomore



"Miserable. I was in the education building and we were all sweating. Our tuition well spent."

Cindy Innocenzi, junior

Ex-Fed Chairman Greenspan says crisis isn't his fault

McClatchy Newspapers
MCT

WASHINGTON Former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan defended his legacy Wednesday, telling a special panel that's looking into the origins of the financial crisis that insufficient bank capital and poor business decisions brought the nation to the brink of ruin, and it wasn't his fault.

Greenspan's appearance before the congressionally created Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission was much anticipated and didn't disappoint. It included revelations that the Fed's own internal reviews had found insufficient policing of Citigroup, which taxpayers later rescued. A regulator whom Greenspan had silenced also grilled him mercilessly.

"The Fed utterly failed to prevent the financial crisis," Brooksley Born told Greenspan, after reeling off a litany of what she called failures by the central bank that helped bring about what Greenspan himself now labels the worst financial crisis ever.

Born was the chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission in the late 1990s, and her unheeded warnings to Greenspan and other top Clinton administration officials came back to haunt the nation.

On Wednesday, she tried in vain to get Greenspan to acknowledge that deregulating the markets in 2000 allowed for an explosion of complex insurance-like products called credit-default swaps, which helped spark the collapse and

rescue of insurer American International Group.

Greenspan said those products weren't an issue at the time of deregulation, but Born reminded him that they became one of the principal causes of the financial meltdown in September 2008.

"Are you aware that the collapse of AIG was caused by its commitments under credit-default swaps that it had issued? The taxpayer has had to bail out AIG because of its exposure to credit-default swaps to the tune of more than \$180 billion," she told Greenspan.

At the end of the bitter exchange, Greenspan told Born, "I really fundamentally disagree with your point of view."

He said the financial crisis occurred because regulators were unaware at the time that capital requirements — how much banks have to sock away to offset potential losses — were insufficient. Even this begrudging mea culpa from Greenspan, however, had a caveat. Regulators "were undercapitalizing the banking system for 40 or 50 years," he said, suggesting that the problem predated his 18-year tenure.

The other major cause, he said, was a breakdown at the originating point of mortgage finance, where lenders failed to know their clients, the borrowers, sufficiently. This can't be regulated, he suggested, but it's a fundamental part of doing business.

The explanation, however, misses the fact that regulators allowed popular no-documentation loans, in which a borrower who was willing to pay a quarter-point more on a lend-

ing rate could avoid having to document any income.

Commission Chairman Phil Angelides, a former California state treasurer, read Greenspan a long list of warnings from within the Fed about brewing problems in housing finance that were ignored.

"You could've, you should've and you didn't," he said.

Greenspan said the Fed couldn't be blamed for insufficient bank regulation since it didn't have supervisory powers over investment banks, which pooled millions of poorly underwritten loans for sale to investors. That responsibility fell to the Securities and Exchange Commission, which monitored the banks for investor protection but not for their safety and soundness, however, as it wasn't a bank regulator.

As to why the Fed's own inspectors within big banks failed to see problems, Greenspan said they relied on credit-rating agencies to determine the riskiness of complex securities backed by pools of U.S. mortgages.

Under questioning from Heather Murren, a former Merrill Lynch research analyst, Greenspan appeared surprised that two internal reviews by the Fed, obtained by the commission, were critical of how the Federal Reserve Bank of New York policed the risks taken by Citigroup and other Wall Street banks.

A so-called closeout report by the Fed in May 2005 found that "there are insufficient resources to conduct continuous supervisory activities in a consistent manner." A similar report in December 2009, af-

ter Greenspan was gone, concluded that the "supervision program for Citigroup has been less than effective" and cited "significant weaknesses in the execution of the supervisory program."

Greenspan seemed vexed. "I've heard those things, and I must say I don't recall a single instance where a request for funding for supervision and regulation was turned down by the (Federal Reserve) Board," he said. "I find this notion of inadequacy not verifiable."

He also disputed the idea that Wall Street banks with seats on the board of directors of the New York Fed have a conflict of interest.

"I personally have seen no evidence that members of the board ... had any influence on policy" other than giving advice, he said.

Much of Wednesday's hearing focused on subprime lending to the weakest borrowers and the growing exposure of quasi-government entities Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to risks from these bad loans. Members disagreed about whether these entities were the cause of the housing crisis or simply the enablers.

On Thursday, the commission will hear from Chuck Prince, the former Citigroup CEO who famously explained Wall Street's inability to step back from the abyss by saying that as long as the music was playing he had to dance. Robert Rubin, a Citi CEO before he became the economic face of the Clinton administration as treasury secretary, also will go before the commission. On Friday, the commission grills the former heads of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

McClatchy Newspapers
MCT

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba Still operating under Bush-era policies that President Barack Obama last year called "a mess," the Pentagon will resume military commission hearings for accused terrorists Wednesday in a top-secret compound originally designed for the trial of alleged 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed.

War court critics denounced the decision to go ahead with hearings this week, saying that without new rules the Obama administration has yet to complete the commissions are operating with uncertain procedures.

"It's really like a lame-duck commission," bristled Mike Berrigan, deputy chief defense counsel.

First up on the war court's agenda is a pretrial hearing in the case of Noor Uthman Mohammed, a Sudanese man who was captured in Pakistan in 2002 and brought here soon after for interrogation as a suspected al-Qaida operative.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder ap-

proved Noor's military trial in November on charges of conspiracy and providing material support for terrorism for allegedly helping to run the Khalden terror training camp in Afghanistan.

At that same time, Holder approved civilian trials for the alleged plotters of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks — and this week's hearings also are a reminder that the Justice Department remains undecided on how to proceed with the case of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and his four accused co-conspirators.

After New York officials objected to holding the 9/11 trial in lower Manhattan, the White House announced that it would reconsider the decision. It remains unclear where and in what forum Mohammed and the other alleged plotters will face charges.

That indecision will be on display as the court convenes Noor's case in the maximum security, \$12 million Expeditionary Legal Complex that the Bush administration built for the accused 9/11 conspirators.

Court officials said Noor's judge, Navy Capt. Moira Modzelewski, instructed officers to hold the hearing in the special compound, which is equipped with a soundproof gallery and a white-

noise machine intended to protect state secrets.

Noor's case had not been considered classified previously, and his earlier hearings were held in a more traditional courtroom that allowed reporters and legal observers to watch the proceedings with no high-tech audio delay.

Military commission spokesman Joe DellaVedova noted that Noor would be present at all times in the courtroom and would be able to hear the evidence presented, even if a court censor presses the button that cuts off sound to the reporters viewing the trial from the separate gallery.

However, Berrigan said the decision to use the courtroom built for the alleged 9/11 plotters indicated that prosecutors may intend to present classified evidence, despite promises of more openness.

Among the questions the lack of a new manual of procedures leaves unanswered is whether a defendant could enter a guilty plea in a case where he might face the death penalty. Under military law, such a confession isn't allowed, a requirement that stymied earlier efforts to try the 9/11 conspirators after they offered to confess to a judge directly without empanelling a jury.

HOT CAMPUS PAGE 1

year," executive director of facilities John Hyden said. "Our system is designed to run from April 15 to November 15. Those are the dates that we have established."

But Hyden said he foresees that the April 15 target date would be moved to this Friday.

"[Since] we're not going to have a cold front come blasting through, there's nothing that will keep us from starting up a little bit early," Hyden said. "We will probably, [and] this is a little bit ironic, but we'll probably have the system ready to run on Friday."

Hyden said he's been conscious of the problem, and he knew this was going to be an issue when he initially saw the weather forecast was calling for record-breaking temperatures several weeks ago.

"When I saw this snap of 80 degree

weather coming through, I put the warning out," Hyden said. "I told the president's office. I told the vice president's office, the provost's office, 'It's going to be miserable.'"

But Lorimer isn't the only faculty member who has felt effects of the intense heat. Acting chairman of the Biological Sciences department Gary Walker said his office was 89 and his lab was 87 degrees Wednesday.

Student Government Association President Zach Brown said he has received several phone calls from students who are displeased. Brown said he called Facilities on Wednesday morning, but has yet to hear a response.

Sophomore Josh Pastor said the extreme heat has affected his concentration in the classroom.

"I can't focus in the heat, and my teachers say we can't take notes out-

side," Pastor said.

Sophomore Brec Conti said he's paying to learn at this university, and there is no reason the air couldn't be operational already.

"I know its expensive to fire up the AC and then turn it off, but we pay enough to have a better learning environment," Conti said. "If the weather cools down out of nowhere, turn it off."

Hyden said it's not as easy as turning a switch on and off. The air conditioning units are all winterized, and if turned on too early and the temperature drops below freezing, the coils within the air conditioning units could potentially be damaged.

"We have to anticipate when the threat of freezing weather will be over because we've got certain system components that we winterize," Hyden said.

"If [the AC units] are subjected to freezing temperatures after we've replaced that antifreeze with the system water, they're susceptible to freeze damage and ... it could take us months to get fixed."

YSU President David C. Sweet recognized the problem as well during the Academic Senate meeting Wednesday, and said he's aware the brutal temperatures have led to the discomfort of many students, faculty and staff.

"We are equitable in the heat suffering across campus," Sweet said.

Additional reporting by Joe Giesy and Jared Buker.

Editor's Note: The Jambar received a traceable thermometer from the Biology department to conduct a non-scientific experiment of room temperatures in various buildings across campus.

ACE PAGE 1

The executive committee of the union must agree to proceed beyond each level. Domhoff said cost is often a consideration, since there are filing and arbitration fees, paid to the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, which sends arbitrators all charging different personal and business fees.

Domhoff said that YSU is always represented by an attorney, while the union rarely uses legal counsel, sticking to the arbitrators.

Domhoff said that many issues stem from a lack of agreement on the contract.

"We believe there is only one contract. The university believe otherwise," she said. "At least

that's what they say every time we go into arbitration."

YSU Trustee Harry Meshel agrees that there is not understanding or agreement on an official contract.

"The board of trustees voted on a supposedly agreed-upon contract. What we voted on was not what showed up later," he said.

Meshel added that there is not written or published contract that the two sides agree upon. "Not to my knowledge," he said.

"Neither one of us looks very sound," Meshel said, referring to YSU and ACE, "and that has irritated the board of trustees considerably."

SENATE PAGE 1

and learning activities, information sharing, engagement in community research and with investment in "new and existing academic programs that will augment YSU's research related skill base."

Academic Senate chairman Chet Cooper said the idea for a senate committee to define "urban research university" came shortly after YSU was designated as such under Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric D. Fingerhut's Strategic Plan for Higher Education. Since the designation did not come with a definition, Cooper said that YSU President David Sweet

began asking deans and faculty members from all departments on campus to share their input on what the term meant. This eventually led to the Academic Research Committee who then, after compiling suggestions, presented a rough draft at March's senate meeting and then a final draft for approval on Monday.

Cooper said that it was important for YSU to come up with its own definition and supports the work of the committee.

"We defined it before it got defined for us, because the last thing we needed to be was defined as something that

we're not. I think the committee did a very fine job of incorporating the importance of teaching and research into the definition of urban research university," he said.

Cooper also stressed that the designation hasn't changed the current mission of the university and fits what is already in progress on campus.

"It just kind of codifies it better," he said.

The definition, in its entirety, can be viewed in the online version of this story at <http://www.thejambar.com>.

TANNING PAGE 1

"We get enough vitamin D in milk," Walker said. "And everything is fortified [with vitamins] nowadays."

Tanning of the skin occurs once the skin has been exposed to ultraviolet radiation from the sun or tanning beds. The UV rays cause production of melanin in the skin that gives the dark complexion.

Walker, who will be teaching a cancer biology course for fall semester, said skin cancer is one of the biggest harms that can come from tanning.

"The main way you get mutations [in the skin] is through UV radiation," he said. "If you get enough mutations, it will lead to the development of cancer."

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's Web site listed basal cell carcinomas, squamous cell carcinomas and melanomas as the three most common types of skin cancer. Basal cell and squamous cell carcinomas are highly curable.

"Basal cell carcinoma comes from the main living cell in the skin," Walker said. "They are very slow to prog-

ress and easily observed; so you tend to catch them early."

Some signs of a non-melanoma skin cancer, according to the National Cancer Institute's Web site, are a sore that does not heal, areas of the skin that are scaly and areas of the skin that are smooth and shiny like a scar.

Some signs of a melanoma skin cancer include a change in pigmented skin, moles that grow near already existing moles and irregular changes in color or size of already existing moles.

Walker advised avoiding the development of melanomas because they "tend to be very aggressive cancers and hard to treat."

Depending on sun exposure, wearing sunscreens with high SPF ratings and covering as much of the skin as possible is recommended for avoiding skin cancer caused by UV radiation. If any unusual changes to skin or moles are detected, especially after long exposures to sunlight or tanning booths, an appointment with a dermatologist should be scheduled immediately.

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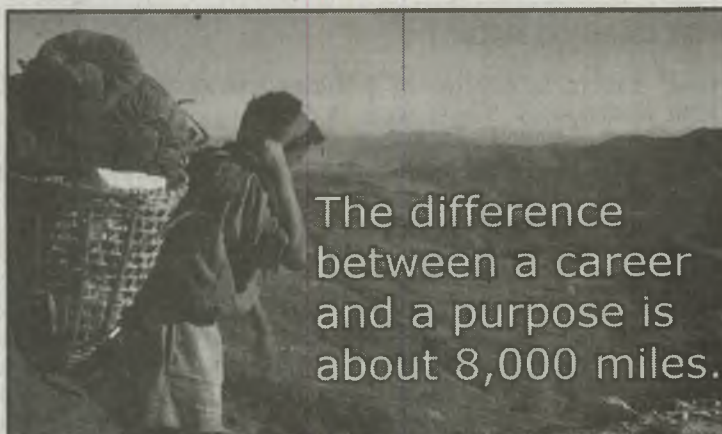
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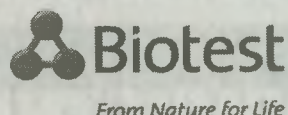
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RELATED STORY

Heat, page 1

With spring in full bloom and the possibility of one last snow day likely behind us, students and faculty at YSU have been dealing with a different kind of precipitation and this time it's personal.

Faculty and students alike have been breaking out in a sweat recently and it's not because of anxiety for that next big exam or a long trek between DeBartolo and Bliss halls. Temperatures outside are rising, and on the inside, becoming unbearable.

In a Jambar investigation, many classrooms and computer labs all had temperature readings of over 80 degrees. Most of the rooms where the temperature was taken had readings much higher than the actual temperature outside.

And you thought going to class was hell before.

Fifty-minute classes on normal days are sometimes hard enough to devote your full attention to, but try adding a room full of overheated computers, 25 other upset, overheated students and a perspiring professor and see how much worse it gets.

When will the cooling begin? Word on the street is April 15, when YSU's heating and cooling system is set to transition and will begin pumping out some much needed air conditioning. That date should already be marked on some graduating seniors' calendars, as it's the one-month mark till commencement.

It's Northeast Ohio. We understand that weather here is unpredictable, but can't we just kick the system into gear a little earlier?

We hope in the end cooler heads will prevail.

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.

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

Questioning ethics

McClatchy-Tribune
MCT

The new Office of Congressional Ethics recently did something significant and unusual — it persisted in a disciplinary case against a lawmaker who was quitting.

Too often in the past, members of Congress could avoid the taint of an ethics probe by resigning. Leaving office early is indeed punishment for a career politician, but quitting often allowed a lawmaker to avoid discipline that might have been meted out by a congressional ethics committee.

In most cases, the alleged transgression wasn't resolved. But the case of former Rep. Nathan Deal, R-Ga., is an important step forward in not allowing congressmen to evade their responsibilities.

The OCE believed Deal used his congressional office and his chief of staff to pressure Georgia officials to protect hundreds of thousands of dollars that his auto-salvage company earned annually from the state vehicle inspection program. The office referred his case to the House ethics committee for possible action. But just minutes before the committee's deadline to act on March 21, Deal resigned. Now he is a candidate for governor of Georgia.

In the past, Deal's resignation would have quietly ended the ethics probe. And voters in Georgia would not have been privy to any findings in the case. But five days after Deal's resignation, the OCE decided to release its 138-page report on the subject. It showed "substantial reason to believe" that Deal might have violated House ethics rules.

The office pointed out that no other House member from Georgia had gotten involved in motor-vehicle inspections, which is a state matter.

The OCE also found that Deal had failed to disclose to Congress \$75,000 that he earned from his salvage company, an outside-income amount that is higher than what is allowed.

House Democratic leaders pushed for creation of the OCE in 2007 to jump-start a broken ethics enforcement system. Since then, the new office has put welcome pressure on the House ethics committee to act in various cases.

Even when the committee doesn't get a chance to act, this new watchdog is serving the public interest by nailing down lingering questions. It's a needed change in attitude in Congress.

Life in 'Murder City'

McClatchy Newspapers
MCT

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico He was happy to see shoppers, the Ciudad Juarez tourist official made it clear, and yet the fact that he had time to sit down for a beer with us in the middle of the day made him morose. It was the week between Christmas and New Year's, and in happier times, his city would have been swarming with tourists from El Paso. These days, the sight of two lone gringos walking across the bridge had brought him scurrying, waving his ID card like a flag of peace.

"Hardly any Americans come anymore," he sighed. "They're afraid. And I suppose they should be. Yesterday, a bus driver was shot in front of his passengers. The mayor of Juarez, they've tried to kill him three times. Or maybe it's five. He sleeps in El Paso at night. We're more dangerous than Baghdad. Can you believe that?"

Welcome to Ground Zero of the collateral damage of the American war on drugs. Since Mexican President Felipe Calderon obliged his friend George Bush three years ago by vowing to shut down the drug pipeline into the United States, Juarez has turned from a festive tourist magnet into a killing field.

Murders — mostly committed by drug cartels clashing with police and one another — jumped from 300 in 2007 to 1,600 in 2008 to 2,600 last year. Though its streets teem with rifle-toting soldiers — the despairing government long ago turned law enforcement over to the army — Juarez's homicide rate is 33 times as high as that of New York City.

The day after my girlfriend and I visited, 26 people were murdered. I'm sure it didn't surprise the tourist official. "You don't even buy the paper anymore," he told us. "You know what's in it."

Though some Mexicans now refer to Juarez as Murder City, its lethality is by no means unique. Ten students on their way to pick up financial aid were blown to pieces with hand grenades on Palm Sunday in the north-central state of Durango. The week before that, the chopped-up parts of two police officers were found stuffed into shopping bags in the southern state of Guerrero.

In Reynosa, across the border from McAllen, Texas, so many journalists have been kidnapped or murdered that local newspapers and TV stations have stopped covering narco-violence. But there's no fear of an uninformed populace: New media have filled the gap. Video of narco-trafficker tortures and executions

are routinely posted, deleted and reposted on YouTube.

Both sides of this war are being funded from the United States. The so-called Merida Initiative, the pact with which Bush enticed Calderon into this mess, has provided the Mexican government with \$700 million in counternarcotics funding the past two years, and the Obama administration has asked Congress for another \$450 million in 2010.

But those seemingly big bucks pale beside the money generated by America's bottomless appetite for illicit drugs. Government estimates of the wholesale value of the U.S. drug trade range from \$13 billion to \$48 billion a year, a major chunk of which winds up in Mexico, the transit point for most cocaine, marijuana and heroin consumed in this country.

For more than four decades, the United States has been trying to fight its war on drugs on the cheap by laying off the cost in human blood on other countries. First Colombia, then Peru and now Mexico have been turned into murderous free-fire zones that we would never have tolerated here. The result: "Overall, the availability of illicit drugs in the United States is increasing," the U.S. Department of Justice reported in February.

"In fact, in 2009 the prevalence of four of the five major drugs — heroin, methamphetamine, marijuana and MDMA (ecstasy) — was widespread and increasing in some areas," the report continued. The single seeming bright spot, a decrease in the cocaine supply, turns out to be merely the result of an increased appetite for the drug in Europe.

In short, the war on drugs has been like squeezing a balloon: It just pops up in another place. And the next place may be inside our own borders. In alarmingly unnoticed testimony to Congress last year, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano warned that more than drugs may soon be flowing across the border. "We must guard against and prepare for the possible spillover of violence into the United States," Napolitano said.

You might think that after four decades of this futile war, we'd be willing to talk peace — as California voters are seriously considering, with a ballot initiative that would legalize marijuana, depriving narco-traffickers of a significant chunk of their war chest.

Instead, the Obama administration wants to up the ante. Napolitano told Congress that her office is drawing up plans to put the U.S. military into action against drugs, not in some far-off Third World jungle, but here in America. We have seen the future, and it is Ciudad Juarez.

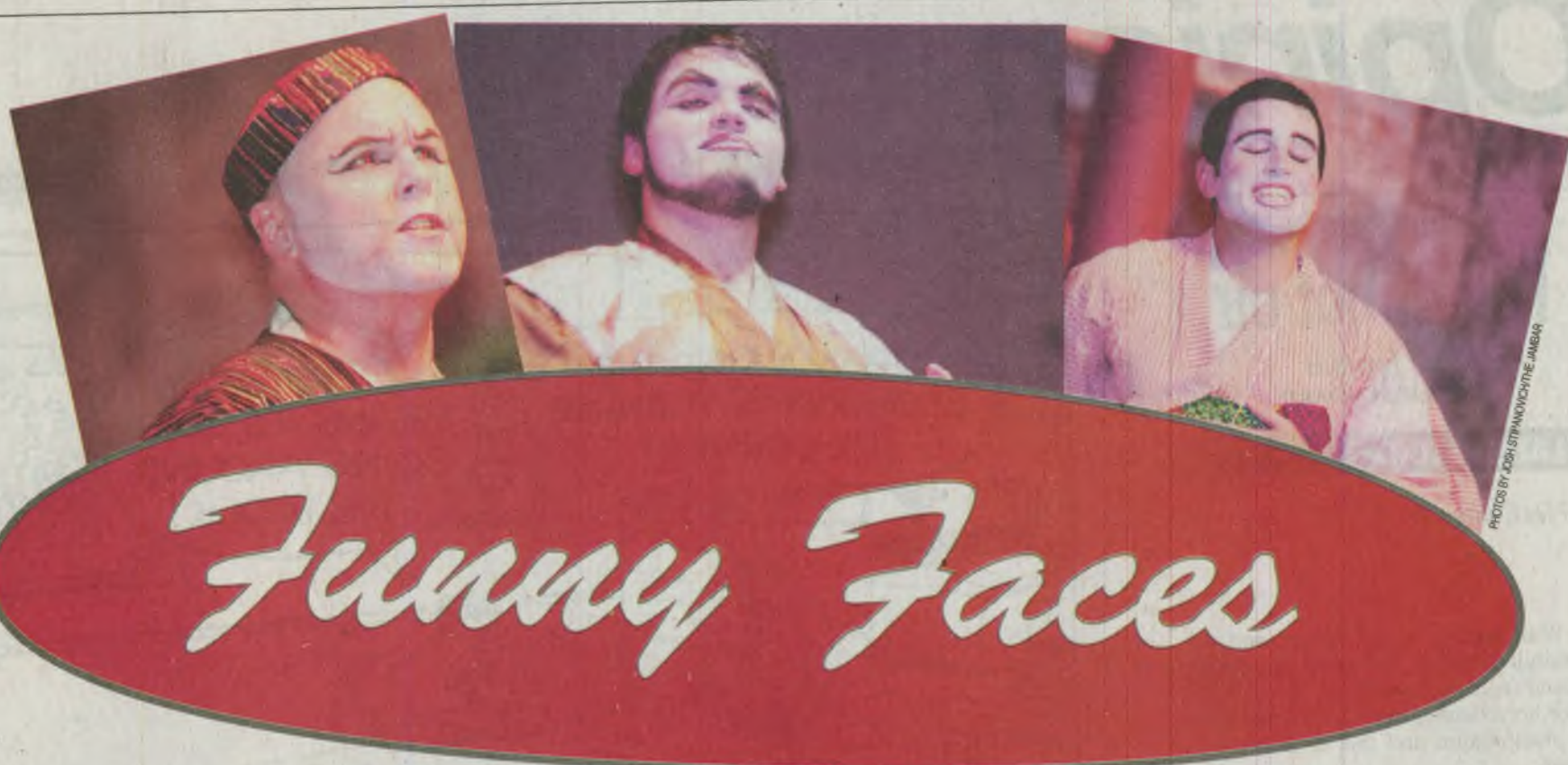
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Comedic opera to close out theater season

Lamar Salter
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

If there ever was a production to close out Youngstown State University Theater's performance season with a laugh, "The Mikado" will surely be it.

One of English composer Arthur Sullivan and librettist W.S. Gilbert's most popular operatic collaborations, "The Mikado" is a favorite among musical theater sets. The opera dates back to 1885, but its satirical theme and colorful characters keep the performance as fresh and new as any modern production.

"The Mikado" tells a tale of forbidden love, political corruption and suicide, but director David Vosburgh advises audiences not to take the com-

edy too seriously as its beauty lies in its hilarious satire of British upper class.

"The plot is just too complex to understand, which is the point of the satire," Vosburgh said. "It was the beginnings of what became musical comedy today."

Although set in the fictional Japanese town of Tititpu, Gilbert aimed to poke fun at the British lifestyle and used Japan, which had just opened up to the Western World at the time of the play's creation, as a creative tool to parallel British society without directly referring to home.

As general manager of the Opera Western Reserve and opera teacher, Vosburgh said that each time he produces "The Mikado," he aims to create a totally different performance.

"The Mikado presents a lot of possibilities in terms of design," he said.

With the performance

scheduled in Ford Theater, the stage has been designed to incorporate elements of Ancient Japan including a torii (Japanese gate) set in the middle of the re-imagined Tititpu.

The 20-plus cast will be dressed in traditional Japanese garments such as kimonos and sokutai with powdered makeup and wigs shaped like Japanese hairstyles.

Although "The Mikado" is a production that could be offensive to Japanese culture, Vosburgh said that people should not worry about the nature of the setting.

"No one in 'The Mikado' is actually trying to act Japanese," he chuckled. "Back then, Japanese art was the thing. It was a fantastic time for Japan, and Gilbert saw an opportunity to poke fun at Britain with this new world."

In an effort to keep the themes of "The Mikado" relevant to today's audience, Vosburgh said that he has

worked in current topics into the script.

Christopher Anderson plays Ko-Ko, the self-absorbed Lord High Executioner and noble of Tititpu. During the first act Ko-Ko recites a monologue listing people he feels society would be better off without. In this updated version, Koko humorously includes radio host Rush Limbaugh and Twilight novelist Stephenie Meyer.

Actor and YSU alumnus Anthony Ruggiero, who plays the title character, said the script has provided the opportunity to "work with a lot of possibilities."

As "The Mikado" literally translates to 'The Emperor' in Japanese, Ruggiero, who has played the role multiple times in his career, said he tried to fit the image of how an emperor would act.

"Every time I play the Mikado, I choose between a buffoon and a tyrannical ruler,"

Ruggiero said.

This time around, Ruggiero chose to play "the tough guy act" to enforce the Mikado's law.

"You really do not even see the Mikado until towards the end. He just pops in and solves everything," Ruggiero said with a laugh.

"The Mikado" is not a typical opera, but its attraction is still motivated musically. Sullivan's score contains a mixture of epic motifs combined with soft and playful themes.

Jon Simisic, who will conduct the 16-student volunteer orchestra, said that he looked at training and preparation with a "musical point of view."

"You have to find that balance of operatic and musical characteristics," Simisic said. "So I geared my training of cast using more musical perspectives."

Curtains rise for "The Mikado" on Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Bliss Hall's Ford Theater.

1964 to rock the Youngstown

Chris Cotelessee
REPORTER

They've sold out the famed Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Colorado. They are the only Beatles tribute band to play Carnegie Hall, a venue they have visited 10 times. They've played at the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, and Philharmonic Hall in Liverpool, England.

Internationally renowned 1964 will play Stambaugh Auditorium on Sunday.

Rolling Stone magazine called 1964 "the best Beatles tribute on earth." Press manager Steve Gardner confirmed that designation.

"You'll see why they're the best," Gardner said.

Gardner claims his praise isn't easily given. He considers himself a "Beatles fanatic, a purist." After seeing Gary Grimes performing as Paul McCartney, Gardner practically hired himself as photographer and moved up into his current position. Grimes has since taken a medical leave from the band.

1964's goal is to provide the audience with the feel of a Beatles performance during the first wave of the British Invasion and "to recreate a Beatles concert 40 years ago. They have a faithfulness to the look — period clothes, period drums — down to scratches on the guitars," Gardner said.

The band members take their performances seriously, even getting suits from the last of the Beatles' tailors. Todd Rainey and Terry Manfredi,

born right- and left-handed respectively, learned to play their instruments inversely in order to fulfill their roles as Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr.

Mark Benson, who formed the band in the early-1980s and performs as John Lennon, also makes stringed instruments. He has crafted guitars to look and sound nearly identical to those used by the Fab Four.

Gardner said the most important part is "faithfulness to the sound." The members of 1964 not only sing as Englishmen but also "speak with a Liverpoolese accent. Benson will convince you he is John Lennon," Gardner said.

In addition to rocking faces off, the band has appeared on celluloid in the 1987 film "Concrete Angels" in which they can be heard as The Beatles.

"We didn't plan on this career. We incorrectly thought it would be once a month for baby boomer crowds. It just took off. Young kids come with their grandparents," Benson said.

Benson also gets the chance to imagine, if just for a short while, a day in the life of The Beatles.

"When playing to sold-out crowds at Red Rocks or the Cavern Club in Liverpool, you get a sense of what they must have seen," Benson said.

However, Benson and the other members of 1964 haven't ever needed a police escort to avoid being mobbed by young girls.

"The most satisfying experience is the fan response. It's always positive. It's good clean fun and great rock 'n' roll ... all enjoy it," Benson said.

GOING GREEK

Greek organizations celebrate 58th annual singing event

Krystle Kimes
REPORTER

Saturday marks the 58th annual Greek Sing, a long-standing tradition of Youngstown State University Greek Life. This year, the performance theme will have the audience doing a double take as the fraternities will perform sultry girl band ballads and the sororities will belt out the beats of boy bands.

Greek Sing is an event that brings an entire year's worth of accomplishment and hard work together for one night. Aside from the musical performances, the groups use the night to display philanthropic work and recognize the hardest working Greeks on campus.

The highlight of the night, though, is performing in front of a few hundred of their biggest supporters. And competitors. The biggest prize of all is

the trophy for first place overall for the competition, and the Greeks know it.

"We're doing The Supremes' 'Baby Love' and 'Stop in the Name of Love,'" said Mason Shattuck, president of Alpha Phi Delta Fraternity. "We're not wearing anything special, [just] a suit and tie combo to look retro."

The Alpha Xi Delta sorority started preparing for the event in mid-February and practiced twice a week for two hours a night. In the week before Greek Sing, the practices are every night. Alpha Xi Delta President Amanda Foster said the acts this year are versatile.

"It's very entertaining and features both serious and hilarious acts," she said.

There is a Greek Sing chairperson and an assistant in the sororities that make up the dances, run practices, cut the music and coordinate costumes.

The award show at the end of the night is a chance to

commemorate the events of the scholastic year.

"It's a year-end celebration competition to advertise what the Greek system has done through the year," Shattuck said.

The Greeks come together to honor outstanding achievements of the chapters and individuals during the awards portion of the program.

"There is an opening slideshow that showcases each chapter's accomplishments in scholarship, philanthropy and more," Foster said. "It really brings everybody together for a fun and eventful night."

In honor of Greek Sing, Dining Services will offer Greek-inspired food all week, including Greek apple pie, lava and Greek spinach pie. Christman Dining Commons, Kilcawley Center and Pete's Place will host Greek buffets.

Greek Sing will take place Saturday at 6 p.m. in Stambaugh Auditorium. Admission is free.

Skeggs Lecture Series

JANE GOODALL

Internationally known primatologist and conservationist



TUESDAY, APRIL 20 • 7:30 P.M.
Stambaugh Auditorium

1000 Fifth Avenue, Youngstown Ohio

Established in 1966, the *Skeggs Lecture Series* continues in recognition of Leonard T. Skeggs, Sr., and the vital role he played in the formation of Youngstown State University.

Goodall's lecture is free and open to the public, but tickets are required. Tickets must be picked up in person from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. April 12-14 at the Information and PC Lab in Kilcawley Center on the YSU campus. Tickets will be limited to four per person.

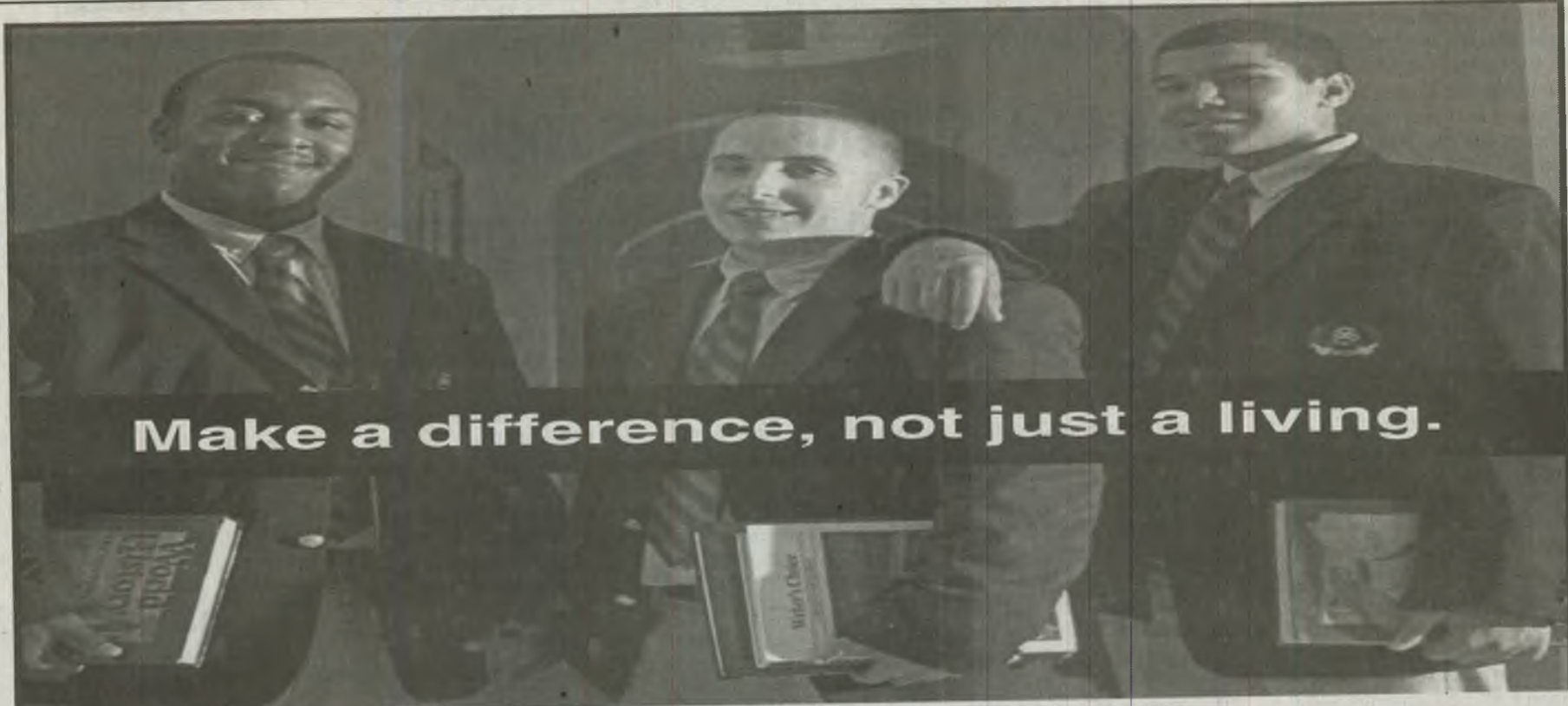
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Youngstown
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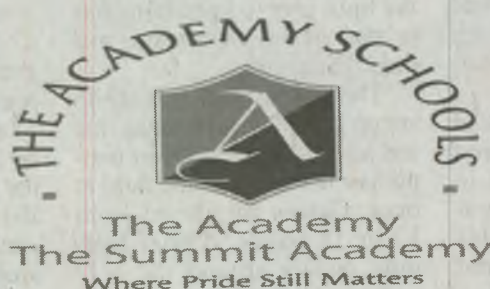
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Penguins crush Dukes with offensive onslaught

Chelsea Miller
SPORTS REPORTER

Youngstown State University's baseball team continued its early success this season by defeating Duquesne University in a large-lead victory Wednesday. The game ended in a final score of 22-8, which bumped the Penguins up to a 13-12 record for the season.

Duquesne took an early lead, scoring the first run of the game. During the first inning, junior Andrew Heck hit a double to center field, advanced to third on a wild pitch and was brought in on a fly to right from Mark Tracy.

The Penguins quickly recovered however, scoring four runs in the second, where junior Armani Johnson cranked out a home run and an RBI. Derek Carr also continued the streak by hitting a ball down right center for a double and was later brought home by senior C.J. Morris. A change in pitchers for Duquesne did little to stop YSU's effort as Neil Schroth brought in Morris with a double.

Duquesne tightened in on YSU's lead in the third inning by scoring two runs off of a double by Anthony DeFazio, but could not regain the lead after that.

YSU scored 12 runs after the fourth inning, six of which were in the fifth. Leading the Penguins was Joe Iacobucci who had two home runs and four RBIs during the game. Senior Tom Clayton also scored a home run, as well as Derek Carr, his first of the season.

Although the Dukes hit well throughout the game, they were no match for the Penguins at the plate. YSU accounted for 23 hits, four home runs, and 21 RBIs during the game.

Coach Rich Pasquale said he was satisfied with the results of the game.

"I'm very pleased with how our offense is staying with our offensive philosophy and the guys are just seeing the ball well right now," he said. "It's one of the times during the season where the guys are trusting their swings..."

YSU's next scheduled match-up will be a three-game series starting Friday against Valparaiso University. The game will be held at Eastwood Field at 3:00 p.m. Although YSU is currently second in the Horizon League standings and Valparaiso is at sixth, Pasquale said the game should prove to be challenging for the team.

"We've always had, since I've been here very, very tough games [against Valparaiso]... and I hope that obviously our offense continues," Pasquale said, "but it's going to be another test because every time we play in the conference, it's a test and Valpo's a good team. They keep coming at you too, so we've got a challenge ahead of us."



BATTLE OF THE SOPHOMORES: Sophomore wide receiver Trey Rich goes toe-to-toe with sophomore defensive back Jerome Swinton in a Wednesday afternoon practice to prepare for the annual Red and White game this Saturday.

Defense, special teams main focus heading into spring game

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

After much anticipation, the Youngstown State University football team will hold its annual Red and White Game at Stambaugh Stadium at 12:05 p.m. Saturday.

The game presents the opportunity for the white team players to step up and fight for positions and for the starters of the red team to prove their merit and worth to the team.

Junior linebacker Deonta Tate, who will don the red jersey, eagerly awaits the spring game. In Wednesday's practice, Tate intercepted a pass and took it back for a score. Tate credits his coaches for the incredible play.

"I don't like to brag. The coaches put me in that

position to make a play," Tate said.

Head coach Eric Wolford stressed in Wednesday's practice the importance of special teams. He stressed it so much he gave senior placekicker Stephen Blose the opportunity to be a hero or a goat at the end of practice.

Wolford created a scenario where Blose was given an opportunity to nail a field goal to end Wednesday's practice. If Blose made it, the practice would end right there and then. If he missed, the entire team would continue with drills. Blose went to kick the field goal the first time but was iced by a defensive player calling timeout. When given a second opportunity, Blose split the uprights to the joyous encouragement and relief of his fellow teammates.

"As a coach, you try to practice as many situations as possible," Wolford said. "We want to put pressure on our kicker... we will have a football game where it comes down to a field goal. I was impressed with Blose making that kick at the end," Wolford added.

Tate was not shocked Blose made the field goal to end practice.

"That's what I expected from him. When coach asked him to do it, I had faith in him," Tate said.

Assistant coach Tom Sims emphasized aggressive but fundamentally sound defense heading into the spring game.

"In order to be an aggressive defense, we have to be a fundamentally sound defense," he said. "We're taking baby steps to be honest. We feel like we are progressing all right."

HORIZON LEAGUE BASEBALL

1. WRIGHT STATE
2. YOUNGSTOWN STATE
3. MILWAUKEE
4. UIC
5. BUTLER
6. VALPARAISO
7. CLEVELAND STATE

HORIZON LEAGUE SOFTBALL

1. VALPARAISO
2. BUTLER
3. CLEVELAND STATE
4. WRIGHT STATE
5. LOYOLA
6. UIC
7. YOUNGSTOWN STATE
8. GREEN BAY
9. DETROIT

PENGUIN SPOTLIGHT



JEREMY BANKS

POSITION: Infield
YEAR: Sophomore
HOMETOWN: Steubenville
AVG: .308
OB%: .407
HIT: 24
HR: 2

SCHEDULES

BASEBALL

- April 9 VALPARAISO
- April 10 VALPARAISO
- April 10 VALPARAISO
- April 13 @ Niagara
- April 14 AKRON
- April 17 LeMOYNE
- April 17 LeMOYNE
- April 18 LeMOYNE
- April 21 PITTSBURGH
- April 23 MILWAUKEE
- April 23 MILWAUKEE
- April 25 BUTLER
- April 25 BUTLER
- April 27 KENT STATE
- April 28 @ Akron
- April 30 WRIGHT STATE
- May 1 WRIGHT STATE

SOFTBALL

- April 10 @ Loyola
- April 11 @ Loyola
- April 14 @ Detroit
- April 15 @ Detroit
- April 17 WRIGHT STATE
- April 18 WRIGHT STATE
- April 20 CLEVELAND STATE
- April 21 CLEVELAND STATE
- April 24 UIC
- April 25 UIC
- April 28 NIAGARA
- May 1 @ Valparaiso
- May 2 @ Valparaiso
- May 8 @ Green Bay

WOMEN'S TENNIS

- April 10 BUTLER
- April 11 WRIGHT STATE
- April 13 DUQUESNE
- April 18 @ Detroit
- April 23-25 Horizon League Championships

MEN'S TENNIS

- April 10 BUTLER
- April 11 WRIGHT STATE
- April 18 @ Detroit
- April 22-25 Horizon League Championships

'Ultimate' club gives YSU students opportunity to enjoy Frisbee

E.J. Lammerding
REPORTER

Now that the temperature has risen and the snow has melted, more and more people find themselves outdoors looking for something to do. What does one do to pass time on a beautiful day off? Look no further than Ultimate Frisbee.

Established in the late-1960s, the game has grown to include more than 4 million players in the U.S. Originally called Ultimate Frisbee, the game is also known as Ultimate since Frisbee is a trademark term for a flying disc

fashioned by toy manufacturer Wham-O.

YSU junior Alex Hunt and some friends created the Youngstown State Ultimate Club or Utterly Smooth. The team recently returned from the Boogie Nights tournament in Oxford, near the University of Miami, where it took 11th place out of 20 teams.

Hunt said he got interested in the sport during track and cross-country breaks while in high school and during intramurals at YSU. However, his travels to Columbus inspired him to start a team at YSU.

"I love playing Frisbee, and this was a fun way to help stay

conditioned. After I transferred to [The Ohio State University] and [saw] they had offered an actual club for the game, I tried out and made the team. I wanted to keep playing the game. When I left OSU to come here, the only way to keep it up was to start up my own team, so I did," Hunt said.

The game itself is easy to set up and play, with rules that are just as simple. Seven people per team are on the field at once. Games are played up to 13 or 15 points. A brief half-time occurs around the seventh or eighth point.

Players are not allowed to run when they have the disc;

they must establish a pivot foot as in basketball. Scoring results from throwing a pass into the end zone to a receiver. The end zone, per regulations, is 25 yards long and 40 yards wide. The game is self-officiated with no referees.

YSU's Ultimate team is getting ready to compete in the upcoming sectionals on April 17 and 18. Team members will be competing against some of the same competition from the Boogie Nights tournament as well as other talents from the area, including players from OSU, Ohio Wesleyan University, Ohio Northern University and Ohio University.