

# The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

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STUDENT TRANSCRIBES TRAGEDY INTO TRIUMPH

## Football player released after assault charges

Dan Pompili  
NEWS EDITOR

A Youngstown State University football player has been removed from the team after being found guilty of physically assaulting another student.

Junior defensive tackle Joe Marshall, who played in all 11 games of the 2009 season, pleaded no contest to misdemeanor assault and misdemeanor unlawful restraint at a May 11 preliminary hearing before Judge Elizabeth Koby in Mahoning County Municipal Court. Koby accepted the no-contest plea and found Marshall guilty.

According to an incident report filed by YSU Police, officer William Bailey was dispatched to Lyden House at 9:33 p.m. on May 1, where Sgt. Dennis Godoy met him. Both learned from the resident assistant on duty that Marshall had assaulted a female student who lived in Lyden House.

Officers questioned the victim who said that Marshall had begun yelling at her in her room at around 9 p.m. She said, according to the report, that he then placed her in a headlock and began hitting her in the face.

According to the victim's statement, she and Marshall were arguing, and she said she struck him first. She said that led to the fight. According to her statement, "When I cried loud, he

hit me more. When I hit/kicked him, he hit me ... or pinched me harder."

According to the police report, he then took her from her room, still in a headlock, and dragged her toward the common area near the top of the main stairwell where he continued hitting her.

At that time, the report says Frances Poindexter and her roommate Amanda Hasan heard the victim crying and screaming at Marshall to stop. The report says they pulled the victim away from him and took her to their room, while Marshall fled the scene.



MARSHALL

The report also says that a third witness, Jordan White, a friend of the victim, said she was exiting the elevator when she saw Marshall striking the victim.

After speaking to witnesses, Bailey spoke to the victim again, who said she intended to file charges against Marshall. She informed officers that Marshall resides at the University Courtyard Apartments.

FOOTBALL PAGE 2



President Barack Obama exits Air Force One on Tuesday at the Youngstown-Warren Air Reserve Station. Accompanied by local politicians including Youngstown Mayor Jay Williams, Gov. Ted Strickland and U.S. Reps. Tim Ryan, Charlie Wilson and John Boccieri, the president visited V&M Star to address workers and community residents about the country's economy.

## Summer enrollment decreases from last year

April Shirley  
REPORTER

While fall and spring enrollment increased, Youngstown State University's summer enrollment numbers have decreased 10 percent from last year.

In 2009, 5,100 students enrolled, compared to 4,622 students in 2010.

Associate registrar Jeanne Herman expects between 4,600 and 4,700 students to enroll in summer classes this year. But these numbers are subject to change.

"As of May 18, there are 4,622 students enrolled," Herman said. "However, the number of students who are enrolled will change."

Students are able to add and drop classes until May 24. The withdrawal date is June 10.

For the second session, be-

ginning June 28, the final day to add and drop classes is July 5. The withdrawal date is July 22.

Herman said that actual enrollment numbers are difficult to determine until the end of summer because students add and drop classes and may register for the second session right before it begins.

Online classes also must be considered.

"Non-traditional students are more appealed by them. There are 12 online classes being offered this summer, but eight of them are graduate," Herman said.

Summer classes provide a way for students to catch up or even get ahead in their academic careers. Also, students from other schools can benefit from taking summer classes at YSU.

"Students take classes over the summer period because it is cheaper to take them here than a private school," Her-

man said.

YSU student Kelsy Miksell cited an eagerness to graduate as her primary reason for enrolling in summer classes.

"I took summer classes because I couldn't fit all my classes in the fall and spring semester in order to graduate," Miksell said.

Lindsey Banks, another student enrolled in summer classes, said she simply wanted to stay on track with her classes.

"There [were] two classes I needed to take in the fall that were at the same time, so I'm taking the one now and the other in the fall in order to make it convenient and stay on track," Banks said.

However, some students, like Ernie Cunningham, use the summer to learn more. "I'm taking summer classes to graduate on time mostly but also because of my unquenchable thirst for knowledge," Cunningham said.

## Former assistant softball coach arrested, charged with drug trafficking

Josh Stipanovich  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

According to The Vindicator, former Youngstown State University assistant women's softball coach Gina Rango was arrested by the Mahoning Valley Drug Task Force Friday at her home on a "secret indictment" and was charged with four counts of trafficking the drug Oxycontin.

Rango was initially indicted last Thursday by a county grand jury after an eight-month investigation. If Rango is found guilty on all counts, she could face up to 16 years in prison.

According to WFMJ.com, Rango posted 10 percent or \$2,500, of her \$25,000 bond, which was set by the court. Her arraignment, which was scheduled for Tuesday morning, was rescheduled for this morning.

Rango was an assistant coach at YSU for the last two seasons, and a university spokesperson said she would not be returning to the team next season.



RANGO

## Hazel Street extension connects campus, downtown

Jordan Uhl  
REPORTER

Amid the detours and delays, one area project will be giving the campus' south side a slight face-lift. With a recent contract approval, the \$1.2 million Hazel Street extension will soon be underway and finished by the end of the year.

Dusting off an idea from 1985, Hazel Street will, upon completion, run parallel with the new Williamson College of Business Administration.

Hunter Morrison, director of Campus Planning and Community Development at Youngstown State University, said he feels this venture is absolutely necessary.

"This town used to be a lot more vibrant. There are over 14,000 students two blocks away from downtown," Morrison said. "With this, it'll be a lot easier to walk over to The Lemon Grove or the convocation center. We're trying to make Youngstown into more of a college town where, similar to other universities, off campus is right across the street."

Morrison said he envisions the extension lined with lively activities such as restaurants and bars. He also alluded to the importance of breaking physical and psychological barriers. The extension would provide a link between campus and downtown, facilitating those who want to go from one to the other.

In addition, those involved with this project suggest that it may lure developers into constructing housing in the vicinity.

HAZEL STREET PAGE 2

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**YSU grad earns exchange opportunity**

In August, Kristopher Pierson will be on his way to Germany as part of the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals program. He is one of 75 to earn this honor and was selected from a pool of nearly 650 applicants. The program will also send 75 students from Germany to the United States to study. Pierson graduated Saturday with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering.

**Piper makes history as first art education master's grad**

Jeffrey Piper was one of the first to enroll in the new art education master's program at YSU in fall 2008 and was the first to graduate from the program on Saturday. Piper earned his undergraduate degree from Kent State University in 2002, and has been an art instructor at Lakeview High School since 2004.

**POLICE BRIEFS**

**Routine patrol leads to arrest**

On May 4, YSU Police detained and arrested a subject on foot on an outstanding bench warrant for breaking and entering. The subject possessed two homemade aluminum crack pipes. Police confiscated the pipes as evidence and charged the subject with possession of drug paraphernalia, a first-class misdemeanor.

**Flasher reported near M-8 parking lot**

On May 12, YSU Police responded to a call about a subject who had reportedly exposed himself. The victim saw the subject, a black male between 6 feet tall and 6 feet 2 inches tall and wearing a dark hoodie and pants, standing between the M-8 parking lot and the Council of Churches. Although police searched the area, they were unable to find the subject.

**Open container leads to misdemeanor citation**

On Monday, YSU Police conducted a routine traffic stop. Suspecting one of the passengers had been drinking, officers found that the passenger was concealing a bottle of alcohol in a brown paper bag. The passenger was given a misdemeanor citation for consumption of an alcoholic beverage in a motor vehicle. The driver was also given a citation for failure to stop for a stop sign.

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**FOOTBALL PAGE 1**

A second report, filed by officer Kris Russell, said that the officer spoke to coach Dan Kopp, director of Football Operations, by phone at 11 p.m. Kopp called the station again at 12:20 a.m. on May 2 and said Marshall would be turning himself in.

Marshall did so and was informed that there was no bail available for assault charges. The report says Marshall stated that he understood this, and he was Mirandized and taken to Mahoning County Jail for booking.

Initially, Marshall was charged with third-degree misdemeanor assault. However, Lt. Mark Adovasio of YSU Police said that Sgt. Rose Marsco brought the case to Mahoning County prosecutor Ally Bassil on May 3, and the charges were escalated to first-degree misdemeanor assault. An additional charge of third-degree felony abduction was added.

Marshall was arraigned on May 4. At the May 11 preliminary hearing, the abduction charge was amended to unlawful restraint, a third-degree misdemeanor. At that time, Marshall withdrew his not-guilty plea and entered a plea of no contest. Kobby accepted the plea and issued a guilty verdict.

A pre-sentencing investigative hearing is scheduled for June 4.

Marshall amassed 23 tackles, including three tackles-for-loss, 0.5 sacks and one fumble recovery during the 2009 season.

Director of Sports Information Trevor Parks said last week that YSU was still in the "fact-finding stage" and that "coach Wolford will take action accordingly." Marshall has since been removed from the team, and an unnamed source said he has withdrawn from YSU.

Marshall, a native of Clearwater, Fla., did not return phone calls for comment.

**HAZEL STREET PAGE 1**

"This is just another one of the many little improvements being made around campus for it to be more accessible until finally it just becomes part of downtown," Morrison said.

Morrison recalled a conversation with a former YSU student who looks fondly upon the ease of having lunch downtown and doing some shopping before returning to class.

That student is YSU President-elect Cynthia Anderson, who will reside on campus upon completion of the former Wick Pollock Inn.

Additionally, to accommodate the predicted increase in traffic flow, several parcels of land have been purchased to temporarily lighten the parking burden with surface lots. A new parking structure is also being discussed.

Youngstown's Board of Control hired United Civil Contractors and Developers Inc. for the project, and construction is expected to begin at the beginning of June.

**Wealth gap between whites and blacks widens**

*Tribune Washington Bureau MCT*

WASHINGTON Years of deregulation that led to an increase in high-cost loans is indirectly responsible for the quadrupling of the wealth gap between white and black Americans between 1984 and 2007, according to a study by Brandeis University's Institute on Assets and Social Policy released this week.

Measured in 2007 dollars, the disparity in assets increased \$75,000 on average, from \$20,000 to \$95,000 over the 23-year period. At least one in four black households had no assets.

According to the study, such an increase in negative wealth among African-Americans means they depend more frequently on credit and other forms of high cost debt, but many low-income and minority households are subjected to costly lending products as a result of their burgeoning

debt. "Our study shows a broken chain of achievement," said Thomas Shapiro, director of the institute and co-author of the study. "Even when African-Americans do everything right — get an education and work hard at well-paying jobs — they cannot achieve the wealth of their white peers in the workforce, and that translates into very different life chances."

The study found that even as white families saw their financial assets grow from a median value of \$22,000 in 1984 to \$100,000 in 2007, black families experienced only the slightest growth in wealth during this period.

This was true even at higher income levels, with middle-income whites seeing their wealth levels increase from \$55,000 to \$74,000, while high-income African-Americans saw their wealth decrease \$7,000 in the period, to \$18,000 in 2007. The study defined middle income as \$40,000 to \$70,000, in 2007 dollars. In general, wealth produced during this period "accrues primarily to highest

income whites." The authors say this shows higher incomes alone will not lead to increased wealth and security for African Americans, since consumers of color are subjected to "systemic bias that operates in racialized ways" in credit, housing and taxes — dramatically reducing their chances of achieving economic mobility.

One way around this problem, he said, is the establishment of a consumer financial protection agency that would ensure fairness for consumers of all financial products by "equaliz (ing) and regulariz(ing) the terms on which cash-strapped families are borrowing to make ends meet."

Shapiro said while he is in favor of the "general ideas that frame" the provisions for such an agency in the proposed financial reform bill, he hopes the agency would take on more of an advocacy role and have more autonomy than contained in the current proposal. Wealth building policies, he recommends, should carry provisions to "target ... families of color."

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**OUR SIDE**

## Keep up the standard

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**RELATED STORY****ASSAULT PAGE 1**

It is not our expectation that the athletic department or respective sports teams can monitor and regulate the behavior of every single athlete at Youngstown State University at any given moment.

Nor should they have to.

The behavior of athletes, and even a coach or two, has become an issue of severe concern. The football program alone has been in a state of upheaval for the better part of a year. This hardly reflects on the administrative portion of the organization, except to pose the question, "Have you tried everything to dissuade athletes from such behavior?"

Short of that, the responsibility for an athlete's behavior exists nowhere other than the responsibility of every YSU student: squarely on his or her own shoulders.

Yet, we see this all too frequently. Students feel the freedom of being in college. They see there are no teachers over their shoulders asking them about their homework. Many of them are living away from home, so mom and dad aren't butting in all the time either.

Athletes are no different. Having presumably been part of a team before, they should know what is expected of them. While some rise to the occasion and become leaders and success stories, others ... well, who knows what they're thinking? They choose to ignore the opportunity they have. Some are on scholarship. They have the opportunity for a free education and to showcase their athletic ability. But education falls low on their list of priorities, while personal accountability — it seems — resides even lower.

Do they think about their futures? Their friends or families? Their teammates? Clearly not.

This is not the fault of a coach or department. These people exist in society. All YSU can do is set the standard of integrity, demand athletes adhere to it and dismiss those who will not. After all, these athletes can be replaced with ones who will relish the opportunity.

For now, YSU athletics, don't take it hard. Just keep up the standard. The rewards will come.

**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 editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor and news editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and draw on the opinions of the entire writing staff. The Jambar's business manager and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

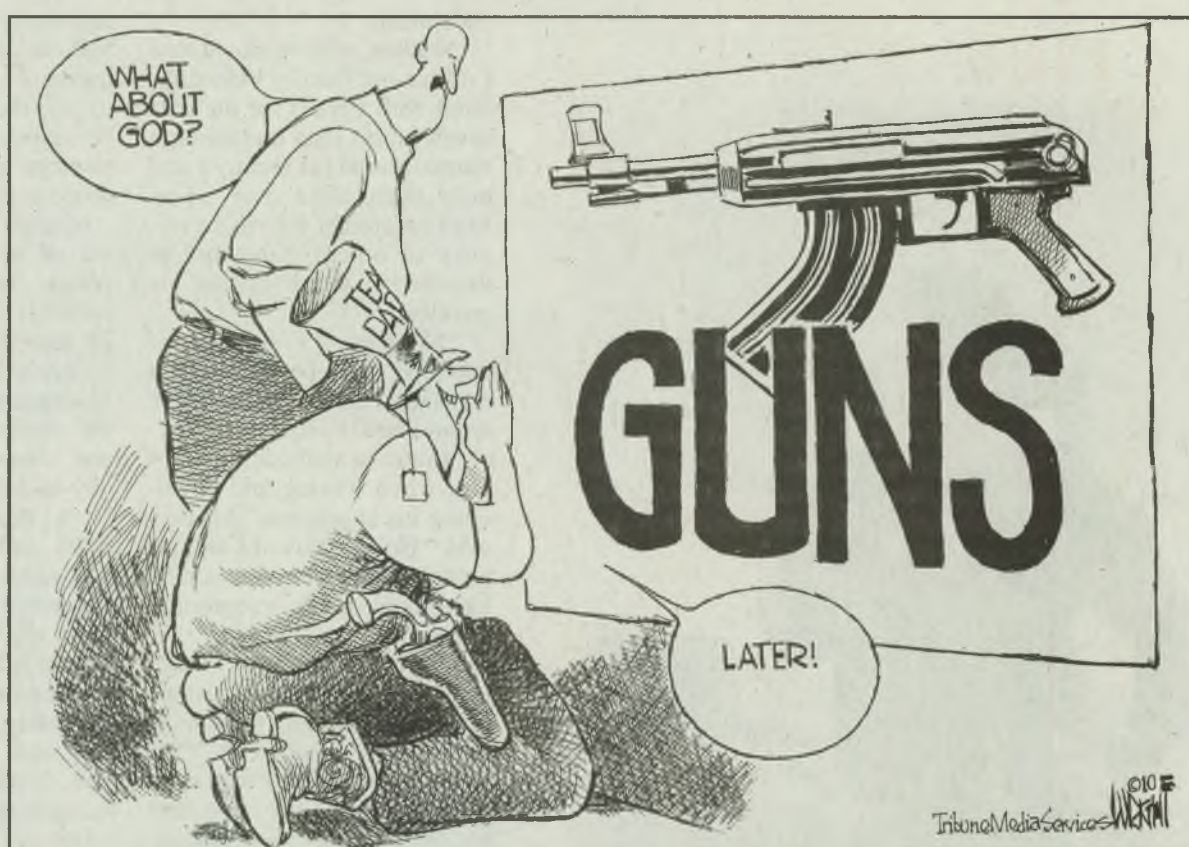
**YOUR SIDE POLICY**

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. E-mail submissions are welcome at editor@thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification and the writer's city of residence for printing. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries that are libelous or that don't defend opinion with facts from reliable sources. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitting writer based on these requirements.

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thejambar.com



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

## We can fight world hunger with our forks

### Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine

MCT

She had to choose between a medication that could save her life, and beans and other food staples to feed her child. At a time when much of the news is focused on the disparity between wealthy executives at Goldman Sachs and working families facing foreclosure, it might be easy to forget those who have suffered the most from the economic crisis. But the difficult choices facing mothers I met in sub-Saharan Africa make it impossible to ignore.

As a physician who was recently working in East Africa, the facts and figures of the economic crisis have morphed for me into young and old faces with names, and their daily struggles to secure food and fight the effects of malnutrition.

According to a U.N. report, the number of people going hungry increased in 2009 to approximately 1 billion people — most of whom are young children and women. An estimated 200,000 to 400,000 more infants will die each year because of the economic crisis, according to the World Bank. In many countries, the price of staple foods has increased by 50 percent, and the average food budget has increased to at least 60 percent of household income.

Food insecurity has many causes, including the economic crisis. But there is another key fac-

tor — the rise in meat intake in both the industrial and the developing world. Worldwide meat production has increased more than 10 times faster than the population growth rate over the past several decades. Dairy consumption has followed a similar trend.

Meat-laden diets play a key role in world hunger, primarily because animal agriculture is a terribly inefficient way to produce food. Raising animals for food requires 10 times as many crops as are required to support plant-based diets. Meat production also requires enormous inputs of water and other scarce resources.

Projections suggest that meat and milk consumption will continue to increase dramatically in coming decades, unless we make changes in our personal dietary habits and domestic policies. Alternatively, we will also continue to face increased rates of heart disease, diabetes, and cancer — all diseases which neither industrialized nations such as the United States nor developing countries have adequate resources to fully address.

Prevention would be much less painful — for patients and the global economy. Vegetarians are approximately five times less likely to die from ischemic heart disease than people who consume meat on a regular basis, according to a 20-year German study. Studies also show that a low-fat, vegetarian diet can reverse obesity, cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

Unfortunately, fast-food restaurants are cropping up across the globe. India's first Taco Bell restau-

rant opened in April. North Korea's first fast-food restaurant opened last year, serving minced meat and fries.

But before Americans point fingers at Pyongyang, we should consider our own enormous appetite for meat and other animal products. Between 1909 and 2007, Americans' intake of meat increased from 123 pounds to more than 200 pounds per year, according to a new report in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition. In 2007, Americans also ate nine times more cheese than they did in 1909.

As a global leader, we are setting a poor example by raising and killing more than 10 billion land animals per year. These patterns are horrible for people, animals, and the environment. The United Nations, the Pew Commission, and numerous independent scientists have pointed out the links between animal agriculture, massive air and water pollution, and global warming.

But there is a solution. I recently conducted a continuing education session for nurses from rural villages in Uganda, in which local residents prepared a healthful and abundant vegetarian meal that included plantains, beans, greens, cassava, bananas, and other locally grown fruits, vegetables, and grains.

Why don't we follow their lead? If consumers begin choosing more vegetarian meals, we'll help prevent global food insecurity and address climate change — and we'll live healthier, longer lives.

## Gulf oil spill deserves a criminal inquiry

### McClatchey-Tribune

MCT

If this were merely an innocuous case of the government and industry passing the buck back and forth, this newspaper would be more than happy to let the big-dollar lawyers just hammer away at each other in civil actions over the gulf oil spill. But with each new allegation of cozy dealings between the Minerals Management Service and BP, momentum grows for the Justice Department to pursue a criminal probe into circumstances that led to this disaster.

The New York Times reported Friday that regulators allowed BP and other companies to drill in the gulf without obtaining the required permits concerning endangered species and waived environmental impact statements despite the protests of staff biologists and engineers. BP had claimed in its drilling plan that the odds of an oil spill were slight and that drilling would not have an adverse impact on endangered species.

This departure from standard procedure raises questions about the possibility of preferential treatment and what might have caused regulators to short-circuit their approval process. Moreover, the BP claim of a minimal threat to the environment now strikes some as a misleading assessment that regulators either accepted blindly or knew to be false and failed to challenge.

More troubling evidence has emerged in recent days. For example, a worker on the rig told "60 Minutes" that drillers were under pressure to work faster, which may have caused a mishap with "mud," a drilling fluid pumped down the well to control oil and gas. Likewise, cement work, loose pipes and a dead battery on the rig have been questioned.

All these charges are only that — charges — and must be sorted out. Late Monday, word spread that President Barack Obama will establish an independent commission to investigate. This may be a good first step, but it's critical that whatever form the probe takes, accountability and consequences are the end result.

Criminal probes resulting from energy-related accidents and regulatory failures aren't unprecedented. BP, for example, agreed to pay millions in criminal penalties for several major incidents, including a Texas City refinery explosion in 2005. The FBI reportedly has launched a criminal investigation into the recent Massey Energy mine explosion that killed 29 West Virginia coal miners.

Under federal laws, the Deepwater Horizon spill could result in misdemeanor negligence charges. If regulators looked the other way — or if BP and others took risky shortcuts that contributed to the magnitude of the spill — charges could be even more serious. The key, legal experts say, is whether companies and regulators knowingly violated rules.

A criminal probe is an important next step in finding the truth because many questions are not likely to be fully answered until regulators and drilling executives are hauled into court — with more than civil penalties at stake. Americans deserve a full and appropriate accountability of those involved.



# YSU student transcribes tragedy into triumph



IMAGE COURTESY OF PIROOZ KALAYEH

ends meet.

Mullins, who works at Red Lobster and Family Video, has lived with Cicero for the past seven years. They met through mutual friends at Denny's and have been close ever since. Mullins credits Cicero's curiosity of others' behaviors as the driving factor behind his novellas.

"Noah is very observant of other people's behavior. He's constantly analyzing everyone around him. I assume this level of intense analyzation helps him when writing and developing his characters," Mullins said. "He's not always serious though. He laughs a lot, and he likes to act goofy to entertain people."

Cicero couldn't laugh at some of the hardships life threw at him, though. A 23-year-old enrolled at YSU at the time, Cicero was devastated to learn the news that his older brother had committed suicide. If that wasn't bad enough, Cicero had previously ended his relationship with his fiancée, a woman he dated off and on since he was 16, and his relationship with his parents was strained to the breaking point.

"I had basically three earthquakes at once," Cicero said. "... I spent like the next four years working at pizza places and restaurants and sitting in my house reading and not really accomplishing anything. I mean, I wrote books, and I wrote and I spent a lot of time doing that, but it was kind of like a very sad, weird four years."

Cicero realized while working as a dishwasher that he wanted to go back to school and turn his life around. He could not, however, forgive his parents for the way he said they treated him as a child.

Through the hard moments in his life, Cicero began reading novels to distract himself. He then began using his writing as a means to express himself.

"You can go into your room and write and write as much as you want and feel as much as you want," he said. "As a man, men aren't really supposed to go around having feelings that much. Like, you

can have feelings about football or feelings about video games ... men aren't allowed to cry, they're not allowed to be moopy ... and so, I try not to mope in public, so I go and mope in my room."

Cicero's novellas are based off of real experiences and people in his life, and some parallels to his life are easily seen in his books. Most of Cicero's books are based in Youngstown and he captures the feeling of hopelessness and despair people face in day-to-day life.

"I think when the steel mills left [Youngstown] ... you already had kind of this miserable hard-working existence and then it was over and people felt really meaningless ... People live this pointless life where they get up every day, and no one cares about you. It's kind of like the way a neglected child feels, but a whole area feels like that," he said.

A New York publisher that specializes in "experimental fiction" published Cicero's first book, "The Human War." The story is centered on Mark, a screwed-up youth who lives in Youngstown and feels a sense of hopelessness and despair in his life. The story is based on Mark's reactions during the first few hours of the Iraq War. He is against the war and those who view it as entertainment.

Contemplating the war, Mark said, "People will die. I've never met them. But I'm sure. They had hopes. Moms. Dads. Brothers. Sisters. They had people who loved them. But they must die."

Lee Rourke, managing editor of Scarecrow, an underground book review forum specializing in unconventional literature, said of Cicero's novella, "The Human War" is an odd, simple book with a powerfully simple message: That war, all war, is wrong. And although it is simple and odd in its idiosyncratic tone, it is also right in every conceivable way. Noah Cicero's little book, for this reason alone, is clear and free of pretension."

One of Cicero's greater achievements, though, came when movie director Pirooz

Kalayeh of Sangha Films, approached him about creating "The Human War" into a movie, which is in production and expected to be released in January.

"I was interested in the novel's themes about sex, class, America and the human condition. I thought these dialogues were important and exciting to be depicted by actors. I was also excited by the visual landscape of the Midwest. I wanted to capture the visual images of a small town at the center of America, and see what would happen when those images were juxtaposed with a media world that was far removed in Iraq," Kalayeh said.

When Kalayeh first visited Youngstown, he said he believed he had a recipe for success. The small town was what he had pictured when working with the film script.

"The interplay between story and visual landscapes seemed a perfect recipe for a film. Every night I would go to bed and think, 'I wonder if I'm right?' After a couple of weeks of non-stop cinematic dreams, I realized I needed to take it a step further," Kalayeh said. "I went to Youngstown to see if what I had imagined matched reality. It only took a couple of days exploring potential locations with Noah to know that what I had envisioned could be translated into an affordable and visually exciting film."

Cicero was excited to start work on the movie as well. Through e-mailing and Kalayeh's visit to Youngstown, they became good friends.

"There are some people that you know you'll be friends with for your lifetime because there is a kinship between you that extends past what is communicated with words," Kalayeh said of Cicero. "You get each other's artistry, and because of that, the chemistry goes beyond the simple boundary of friendship. You can look at a painting and glance at one another and know what the other is thinking. Noah is that type of friend. He is kind, generous, honest, realistic, imaginative, opinionated and open simultaneously."

Chelsea Miller  
REPORTER

Noah Cicero sits forward in his chair and wrings his hands nervously. The run-down coffee shop in which he sits is filled with college students talking about their day, and Cicero's soft voice can barely be heard above Europe's "The Final Countdown" blaring in the background.

At 29, Cicero has decided to go back to school at Youngstown State University with the hope of furthering his career as a writer. Although many have painted Youngstown in a negative light, with Forbes Magazine recently naming Youngstown as No. 18 in a list of the country's most miserable cities,

Cicero is determined to succeed.

"I think it would help Youngstown if I succeed," he said thoughtfully, but added, "... I think the Forbes thing was something ran by someone who was trying to find a city, who probably did not come to downtown Youngstown or see the area in the last eight years. They were probably just like 'I need to put a city in' and put a f---in' city in like a 'tard.'"

As a struggling author, Cicero knows the hardships that can be faced when living in the Youngstown area. With four books published — his first was released in Europe — Cicero estimates he has made only \$4,000 off them. He lives in an apartment with his roommate, Bernice Mullins, and works at Red Lobster to make

## Final series to determine tournament seeding

Jordan Uhl  
REPORTER

Going into a crucial three-game series with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panthers this weekend, the Youngstown State University men's baseball team's Horizon League Tournament future is ultimately in its hands.

In a time of uncertainty, however, several tournament details have already been decided.

Wright State University has earned the No. 1 seed. UWM and the University of Illinois at Chicago are playing for the No. 2 and 3 seeds.

Depending on how YSU performs this weekend at Butler, the team could earn a No. 4, 5 or 6 seed. Butler University and Valparaiso University are also vying for a No. 4, 5 or 6 seed.

Head coach Rich Pasquale said he believes that no matter who the team faces, it can come out victorious. Pasquale acknowledged the Penguins' recent sub-par performance; the team has gone 3-12 in its last 15 outings, yet this has not discouraged players.

"We know we can do it," Pasquale said, adding that "taking care of a couple things during the game" is all that's holding the team back from

optimal performance.

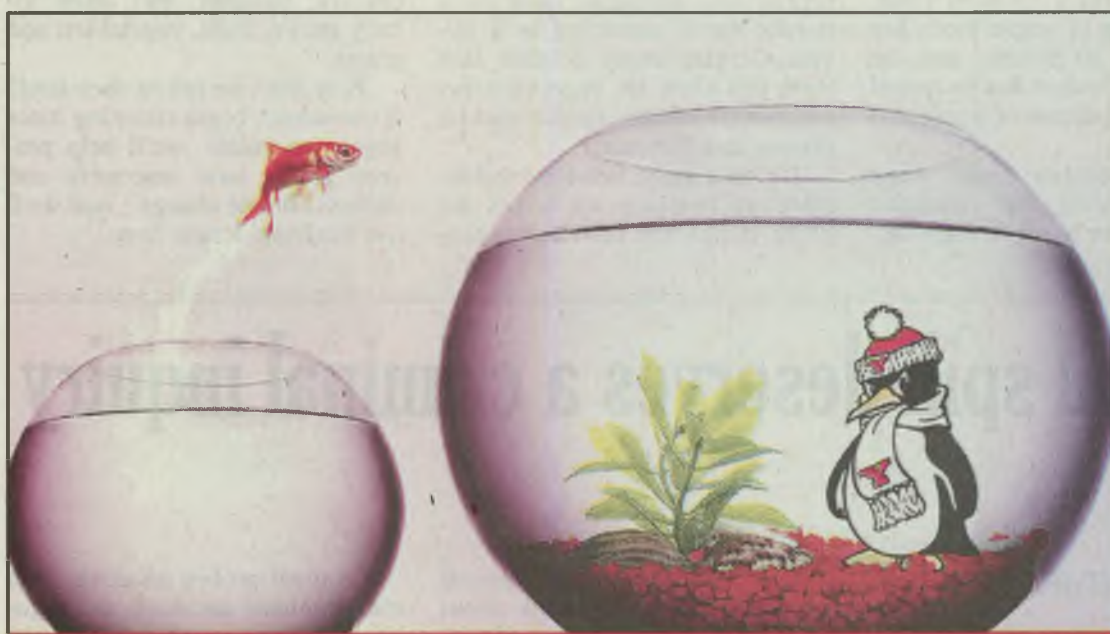
Throughout the season, which has produced an overall record of 21-29, along with 9-14 in conference play, the Penguins had their ups and downs. Pasquale credits the team's resiliency to the camaraderie among the players. In his mind, this trait will prove vital in tournament play.

As for team goals, look no further than the team's Twitter account, @YSUBaseball. Strewn throughout the score and team updates is the acronym "OTR2HLC," which stands for "On the Road to Horizon League Championship."

For those who believe that history repeats itself, Pasquale suggested looking no further than the 2004 tournament, where YSU overcame all odds, coming into the tournament as the lowest seed, and emerged victorious, receiving an automatic bid to the regional tournament. This was also the only time YSU won the Horizon League Tournament. While he was not the coach at the time, Pasquale said he still has faith his team could finish with a similar result.

Senior Aaron Swenson is slated to start in the team's first outing. The following games will be solely match-up based decisions, Pasquale said.

The bracket will be finalized by Friday, and the tournament will commence Wednesday and conclude May 30.



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