

The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

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YSU ALUMNUS ADDS 'HERO' TO HIS RESUME



Workers for ThysenKrupp Elevator stand in the lobby of Kilcawley House in front of the elevator that fell five floors Friday evening, injuring several students.

Students question accuracy of YSU reports

Jambar Staff Report

Twelve students were riding in the Kilcawley House elevator that fell five floors on Friday, and some students are debating the official reports.

While initial reports suggest that students overloaded the car and behaved raucously, witness and victim statements counter this version of events, and Youngstown State University spokesman Ron Cole said a drop that occurred this way "could only be called a malfunction."

The load capacity for the elevator is 2,500 pounds. Of the 12 students occupying the car at the time, the weight of nine of them is certain — 1,428 pounds — according to the YSU Police Department report.

At least two students, a witness and victim, claim they experienced malfunction symptoms in the elevator within the past three weeks.

Brandi Junciewicz said the elevator "lurched" when she rode it two weeks ago.

The car began to descend, stopped with a shudder and resumed its descent.

This same symptom occurred Friday, said Junciewicz's roommate, Kiyana Rand, who was in the elevator when it plummeted.

"Everyone kind of went back and to the right," Rand said. She described how the car hit the shaft doors and then began to fall.

Rand offered testimony counter to earlier reports that said the car did not free fall. Rand said it dropped straight down without stopping.

Junciewicz heard the bang "over blaring music" while she was sitting in the third floor lobby with some friends.

She then ran to the doors and heard screaming coming from the bottom of the shaft. Junciewicz said she tried to bring the accident to the attention of two students attending the Kilcawley desk, both of whom dismissed her claims.

She sprained her knee as she slipped on a freshly mopped floor trying to reach the basement, knocking a venti-

lation grate off the wall.

Junciewicz found several students already standing around the elevator, which was resting approximately 10 inches below the floor with its doors open. All but two girls had exited the car. The two were apparently too injured to exit.

Upon seeing some injured friends, she returned to the first floor where YSU Police officer Sam Oliver had arrived. Junciewicz said she directed Oliver down to the scene and returned to the third floor to be out of the way when paramedics arrived.

Cole said Oliver arrived from his patrol at the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center two minutes after the immediate call from the elevator.

Apparently, students accidentally bumped the emergency call button, which triggered the dispatch response at the YSU Police Department. They explained the button was pressed by accident.

However, the microphone remained operative, and a minute later the dispatcher heard the students screaming as the elevator dropped. The dispatcher

then immediately sent Oliver to the scene.

However, Rand alleged that Oliver was on the scene alone for at least 25 minutes before other officers arrived. Police reports, however, all note the time of initial response as 6:28 p.m.

Junciewicz, though, said her friends clocked her absence for about 30 minutes, and said she returned at 7:15 p.m., meaning the initial accident would have occurred at 6:45 p.m. and not 6:28.

Junciewicz's testimony is corroborated in the police report by a deposition filled out by another student, Kaitin Morse, also a Kilcawley resident, stated the noise was heard at approximately 6:45 p.m.

Youngstown Fire Department Station 1 reports that they received the initial call at 6:48 p.m., and that Engine 1 arrived at 6:49 p.m. They report further that the scene was cleared by 7:20 p.m. Rand said it seemed like at least half an hour before paramedics and fire arrived on the scene.

Firefighters cut the power to the

ELEVATORS PAGE 3

YSU prof, Brit analyze city Students, staff struggle with Blackboard

Andrea DeMart
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown has been waiting for its turn in economic growth, but an economics professor and a British scholar are suggesting that the city has not been proactive.

John Russo, coordinator of the Labor Studies Program and co-director of the Center for Working-Class Studies, has been working for years to bring to light the issues in Youngstown and why this growth is not occurring.

Russo has been working with James Rhodes, a Simon Research Fellow and professor of sociology at the University of Manchester and visiting scholar at the Center for Working-Class Studies, focusing on Youngstown and how the surrounding neighborhoods have been left out of the revitalization process.

The article, "A Renaissance for Whom? Youngstown and Its Neighborhoods," touches on high unemployment, the housing market collapse and an overall decreased standard of living

in the neighborhoods.

"First, a number of issues need to be settled; that was the purpose of the article," Russo said. "There has been an enormous amount of discussion about the types of economic development, and it's been very important."

Russo said it's difficult to determine unemployment rates because of differing views of what constitutes unemployment. They decided to focus on the employment rate instead.

"[We] found out that there was 22,000 jobs lost between July 2007 and July of this year," he said. "That is in the midst of all this wonderful discussions about economic development in the Valley."

This loss of jobs is as large as any period following the fall of the steel industry, Russo said.

"Can we do things better? We know we are in a recession, and we know that we're cash-starved and resource-starved in the area," Russo said. "We do know that the neighborhoods are declining, but nobody's having any dis-

ECONOMY PAGE 3

Lindsey Ramdin
NEWS REPORTER

Some students and professors at Youngstown State University have had a hard time using Blackboard in the classroom.

This fall, YSU implemented Blackboard in place of WebCT, a distance-learning software that acts as an interactive tool for online courses and as an online supplement for traditional courses.

In 2006, Blackboard and WebCT companies merged and now operate under the Blackboard name. In a 2005 press release, representatives from Blackboard said the merger would improve software performance.

According to the press release, "the merger of Blackboard and WebCT unites two innovators servicing academic institutions, both with complementary heritages in academia."

In addition, the merger will allow for "top-rated, proven e-Learning solutions recognized for ease-of-use, flexibility and scalability."

But students and professors at YSU are having difficulties working with Blackboard, making this transition less appealing and more of a "headache," as Barbara Nykiel-Herbert, assistant professor in the English department, said.

Nykiel-Herbert has worked with programs like Blackboard in the past and, in 2005, even developed a distance-learning operator, Breeze.

Previous distance learning courses at YSU used the WebCT software to supplement coursework.

"WebCT was clunkier in some ways than Blackboard," Herbert said. "But it was also simpler, at least compared to the Blackboard version we are using here. Everything seemed more transparent and easier to navigate. Blackboard has more bells and whistles than WebCT, many of which I don't think we need. There are so many options for every application that an inexperienced user can get easily confused."

Tom Pittman, English instructor,




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Beating the odds
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Rogner, Formeck look to lead Penguins
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NEWS BRIEFS**WCBA seniors receive Beeghly Fellows award**

Williamson College of Business Administration seniors Sarah Stafford of Boardman and Michael Turner of Baden, Pa., have been selected as the John D. Beeghly Fellows for the fall semester. The Fellows program gives students career-related experience with local businesses. Stafford and Turner will both receive \$2,400 scholarships. The program is possible through the YSU Foundation in honor of John David Beeghly, resident and businessman.

Youngstown Presidential installation set for Sept. 24

President Cynthia E. Anderson will be installed as the seventh president of YSU on Sept. 24 at 1 p.m. in Stambaugh Auditorium. The ceremony is open to the public and YSU students, faculty and staff are invited. Speakers at the event will include Anderson and Zach Brown, former president of the YSU Student Government Association, as well as other faculty and members of the board of trustees. Those planning to attend are asked to contact Heather Belgin in the Office of Alumni and Events Management at 330-941-3497 or habelgin@ysu.edu

POLICE BRIEFS**Disturbance at the Rec Center**

YSU Police responded to a call at the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center concerning a disturbance. Two suspects were not allowed to enter the center without proper identification. Police advised the suspects to refer to the student handbook for clarification of the rules.

Items stolen at fraternity house

YSU Police were called to a fraternity house after a victim reported some items stolen. The victim left a backpack on the house steps. Upon return, the backpack was unzipped and a paycheck and wallet were stolen.

JAMBAR STAFF

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MANAGING EDITOR:
Lamar Salter330-941-1807

NEWS EDITOR:
Dan Pompili330-941-1989

COPY EDITOR:
Emmalee C. Torisk330-941-3758

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ONLINE EDITOR:
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BUSINESS MANAGER:
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ADVISER:
Mary Beth Earnheardt330-941-3095

CONTACT THE JAMBAR
E-MAIL editor@thejambar.com
FAX 330-941-2322

New trustees place focus on students

Delores Crawford

Adrienne Loines
REPORTER

Delores Crawford, a native of Youngstown and a 1968 Youngstown State University graduate, is one of the newest members of the YSU Board of Trustees. Her term expires in 2019.

"I am very comfortable with my new position and I am dedicated as well," Crawford said.

Scott Schulick, chairman of the board of trustees, works closely with Crawford.

"Dee is a good person," Schulick said. "She's highly

regarded, and she's committed in whatever she sets out to do. I know she is committed to the position."

Crawford said, as a trustee, she would focus on YSU students.

"I want to make sure our students are just as competitive as any other students at any other institution," Crawford said. "We have to make sure that our students are properly prepared so that they do receive career opportunities."

Additionally, Crawford wants to "become involved in the recurring growth of Youngstown, especially now when our city is in a time of need."

"I also know I want to accomplish stability and growth," Crawford said.

Crawford previously served as director of the Mahoning County Department of Job and Family Services/Child Support, minority coordinator for the Urban Studies department at YSU and as vice president of planning and allocations for the Youngstown/Mahoning Valley United Way.

She is also community affairs director at WKBN, which she joined in 2005. Crawford hosts "Sunday Morning with Dee," a weekly community affairs program.

"One of the reasons that I feel I was chosen for this position is because I'm a committed person. I'm honest and sincere and people see that I will get the job done," Crawford said.

Crawford now serves as

vice president of the Mahoning County Library and chairwoman of the community development committee of First National Bank of Pennsylvania. She is a member of the United Way Women's Leadership Council.

"Making a difference is what keeps me motivated," Crawford said. "What I can say is that life is contagious; that gives me motivation, so that when I do set goals I feed off of that motivation."

Schulick added that Crawford's potential contributions to the board of trustees are significant.

"Dee brings a lot to the table; she's skill-set, experienced and she knows the community very well," Schulick said

Emmalee C. Torisk
COPY EDITOR

On a break in between his two summer classes, Ryan Meditz received a phone call from an unknown number. When he answered it, the

caller, board of trustees Chairman Scott Schulick, offered his congratulations: Gov. Ted Strickland had just appointed Ryan as a Youngstown State University student trustee.

"I felt surprised yet humbled upon hearing the news. I was relieved to know that my hard work paid off," Ryan, who is studying Spanish and International Marketing, said. "My family and friends were very excited for me ... many people called and wished me luck. Almost everyone reminded me that this was only the beginning of a rewarding commitment."

Although YSU student

trustees, who hold terms of two years, have no voting power, they represent the student body, Ryan said. He added that "having student representation on the board of trustees is significant for all fellow students." His term will conclude in 2012, and Ryan is expected to graduate in 2013.

Ryan heard about the position primarily through Student Government Association meetings; he serves as parliamentarian and a Williamson College of Business Administration representative for SGA. At these meetings, Ryan said, he realized the position's importance to the student body.

"I knew then that I wanted to serve as a student trustee," he said. "My main goal and focus is to represent the student body to the best of my ability. The board of trustees and the administration think very highly of student opinions."

Ryan, a Bridgeville, Pa., native, graduated from Canfield High School in 2008. He is a University Scholar, as well as a member of the American Marketing Association, the Spanish Club and the Eco-

nomics Club. Ryan also serves as the Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity's executive secretary; additionally, he spent one year in Bolivia, volunteering as an English teacher and taking university-level classes to continue his Spanish language education.

SGA President Nicholas Meditz, Ryan's older brother, said Ryan's "hard work, dedication to academics and community service, and his eagerness to learn" can be attributed to his selection as a student trustee. His experiences could also "bring new insights to the board of trustees." Nicholas said he knew Ryan was qualified for the position, so he "was more excited than surprised" upon hearing the news of his appointment.

"Since Ryan was little, he always enjoyed helping people, specifically by advocating for others when they were not willing to stand up for themselves," Nicholas said. "Ryan is a go-getter in anything he puts his mind to. I think he saw this as an opportunity not only to help students throughout the YSU community but also

to make himself more well-rounded as an individual."

Nicholas credits his and Ryan's successes to the YSU community, including faculty, staff and administration, along with their parents, who he describes as their foundation.

"They instilled in us values that we still live by today," Nicholas said, adding that he and his brother are "go-getters" for their academic and extracurricular involvement.

Student trustee Lyndsie Hall, whose term will end next year, said the purpose of a student trustee is to bring "the student perspective to the board" and that she and Ryan "cover a lot of range of the student population" at YSU because of their involvement in various activities.

She described Ryan as "outgoing" and a "really friendly guy."

"He asks a lot of questions ... there's a lot to learn," Hall said. "With everything that goes on with the university, it's important to ask a lot of questions."

Officials offer tips to avoid traffic troubles

Lawrence Haley
REPORTER

School is back in session throughout the Mahoning Valley and surrounding areas. Many YSU students are waking up at 6 or 7 a.m. to get ready for that 8 a.m. class and find themselves racing through traffic just to make it on time.

This inevitably means one thing for many motorists and commuters every morning: more traffic and more police patrols. In the midst of the added police presence and increased hustle and bustle of the daily commute, there are some simple steps you can

take to avoid a routine traffic stop and a possible citation.

The Ohio Department of Transportation recently posted its "ABC: Always Be Cautious" back-to-school press release to give Ohio drivers a few reminders.

The press release focuses on safety tips regarding how to drive around school buses and being aware of small children but also mentions the consequences of not being cautious and alert.

According to the release, since school is back in session, younger drivers are on the road. Between August and January, the number of collisions involving teen drivers increases. October is reported as having the highest amount of accidents in each of the past five years.

TICKETS PAGE 4

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ELEVATOR PAGE 1

elevator and assisted the paramedics in escorting injured students from the scene.

Cole and Cara Keithley of the Ohio Department of Commerce said the elevator inspections were all up to date. The last load test was done in June 2008, and the last safety test on June 15.

Cole and Danielle Meyer, associate director of housing and residence life, both said there are no reports of previous incidents.

However, the last code violation cited for the elevator was on May 24. Rand said she rode the elevator within the past few weeks and the gears were grinding.

Kayla Chuck, another resident also expressed concern. "I will definitely never ride

this elevator again. I heard it happened here before," Chuck said.

Jennifer Neff concurred: "Elevators are pretty scary. The accident confirmed it."

Junior Zach Serrine said from what he heard, the elevator car was overloaded.

"So if the right amount of people were riding it, then the elevator would be safe," Serrine said.

Rand, however, contends the elevator was not overloaded.

"We all had plenty of room to turn around in a circle if we needed to," Rand said.

Kilcawley Center reports that the state is spending the next week installing weight sensors. In the meantime, the elevator remains closed.

ECONOMY PAGE 1

cussion about the neighborhoods."

The article claims that waning public interest, a lack of oversight in the media and government ineptitude are to blame.

"None of the things in [the Youngstown] 2010 [plan] really relate to the neighborhoods," Russo said.

Rhodes, whose focus of study was the neighborhoods of Youngstown's South Side, said that "for all of the kind of positive things that happen in the developments downtown, that just isn't really being felt in the neighborhoods."

He said people in the city are frustrated because most jobs available downtown go to people who live outside of the city.

"What they see is like a lack of progress; there's a lack of faith in city institutions like the police, city hall," Rhodes said.

Russo said the local media has not portrayed Youngstown's issues accurately.

"Youngstown is so important in the American consciousness," he said. "Youngstown's story has become America's story."

Russo added that city government, given its faults, must also be held responsible for the slow economic progress in the city.

"What I heard in the meetings that I went to in the neighborhoods is that nobody is listening, nobody was coming," he said. "People would make criticisms and identify a problem in the city and nothing happened. They would get no response whatsoever."

He added, "We are trying to give voice to a group of people that don't have a voice."

Rhodes explained why the renaissance isn't reaching the city neighborhoods.

"I think one reason is people aren't living in the neighborhoods, like people with money aren't moving back into the city," Rhodes said, adding that it's harder to spend your income in the city due to a lack of businesses.

"I think there are four grocery stores now in the city of Youngstown, which again makes it incredibly difficult," Rhodes said.

Rhodes said the school systems and conditions of most neighborhoods don't make the area appealing to young people or people with money. The lack of education also makes it difficult for the members of the Youngstown neighborhoods to be able to qualify for the types of jobs moving into the city.

Another issue plaguing the city is the seldom-discussed topic of race, Russo said.

"Youngstown [will] never redevelop until the community came to grips with issues of race and class," he said, add-

ing that race is an "overlay" of what is happening here.

Russo said one way other metropolitan areas are dealing with declining population is by coming together.

"You mention combining into a metro form of government, and you know what you're going to get ... insipid rebellion in the suburbs because of issues of race and class," he said.

Russo and Rhodes pointed out that border problems have developed on the South Side on Youngstown and the North Side of Boardman.

"You can't hide from it," Russo said. "And you can't make it invisible by going into the suburbs."

He said the economic development in the area is lacking the different races represented in the companies that are coming into the U.S. with ties to various countries.

"We are now in a recession," Russo said. "I would say regional depression ... [getting] out of this mess is going to be increasingly difficult, not only for Youngstown but for the country itself."

Russo said Youngstown State University is out of touch with what needs to be done.

"What part of urban and research doesn't the university not understand?" he said.

Russo said the university could be doing more research in the community since it is now part of America's story.

"We can't just be thinking about high-tech, advanced manufacturing," he said. "We don't have any of those types of material science jobs around here."

Russo said professors are also to blame for not focusing on the neighborhoods.

"Part of the problem is us," he said. "Once we get ourselves together, then I think we can serve our students better, but the students [have] a problem too. They see all this negative stuff, they internalize it and they say I want to get an education and get out of here."

Rhodes added that it is "unfortunate that Youngstown is kind of losing so many of their talented people."

Russo said the types of jobs that are available are "largely low-wage, non-union, non-benefit jobs."

"If you've lost 22,000 jobs in the last three years, there's not a large job market here in the first place, that's very clear," Russo said.

Russo said many are going elsewhere to find jobs, but they are seeing a lot of the city's youth, or "boomerang kids," returning home.

"What they've lost is the types of social networks they have around family and neighborhoods, things like that," he said. "They come back because those job markets aren't so great after all right now."

BLACKBOARD PAGE 1

is also using Blackboard in the classroom.

"I experimented with a hybrid course this past summer. I taught a section of English 1551 and incorporated Blackboard into the curriculum, mostly for my benefit, though the students seemed to enjoy the experience" he said.

Pittman never used WebCT but said that "during preliminary Blackboard training, a number of faculty from other disciplines fretted over how they would migrate their WebCT courses to Blackboard. To me, this is like someone trying to create pristine digital files from analog 8-track tapes."

Nykiel-Herbert said Blackboard has too many options, which can make navigation a challenge.

Steve Demaiolo, senior education major, thought the idea of Blackboard is good but that it's

"still pretty confusing."

Blackboard includes 10 communication features that are intended to help students work together in groups.

"But they're obscurely named," Nykiel-Herbert said.

One example is the "collaboration option," which is actually just like old-fashioned chat. Herbert said the discussion board is a "mess." She said there are many glitches and that the forum is extremely "user-unfriendly."

"I try to use a simple organization pattern for the course content," she said. "I hide some of the communication tools from the students so that they don't feel overwhelmed."

YSU offers Blackboard training for instructors in order to teach online courses. Similar training is not offered for students. Students

who register for online courses can be unaware of the technicalities involved.

Implementing a "mandatory Blackboard training session for students who have registered for a Web-based course ... would save everyone a lot of grief," Nykiel-Herbert said.

However, students who are comfortable navigating computer software are not having trouble accessing Blackboard. Sophomore Devron Love said Blackboard is "fairly easy" to navigate.

"I mean, it's pretty simple to set up," he said. "I thought it was a breeze to get started."

Nykiel-Herbert said with Blackboard, "students take more responsibility for their own learning. They don't have the option to sit in the back of the class texting."

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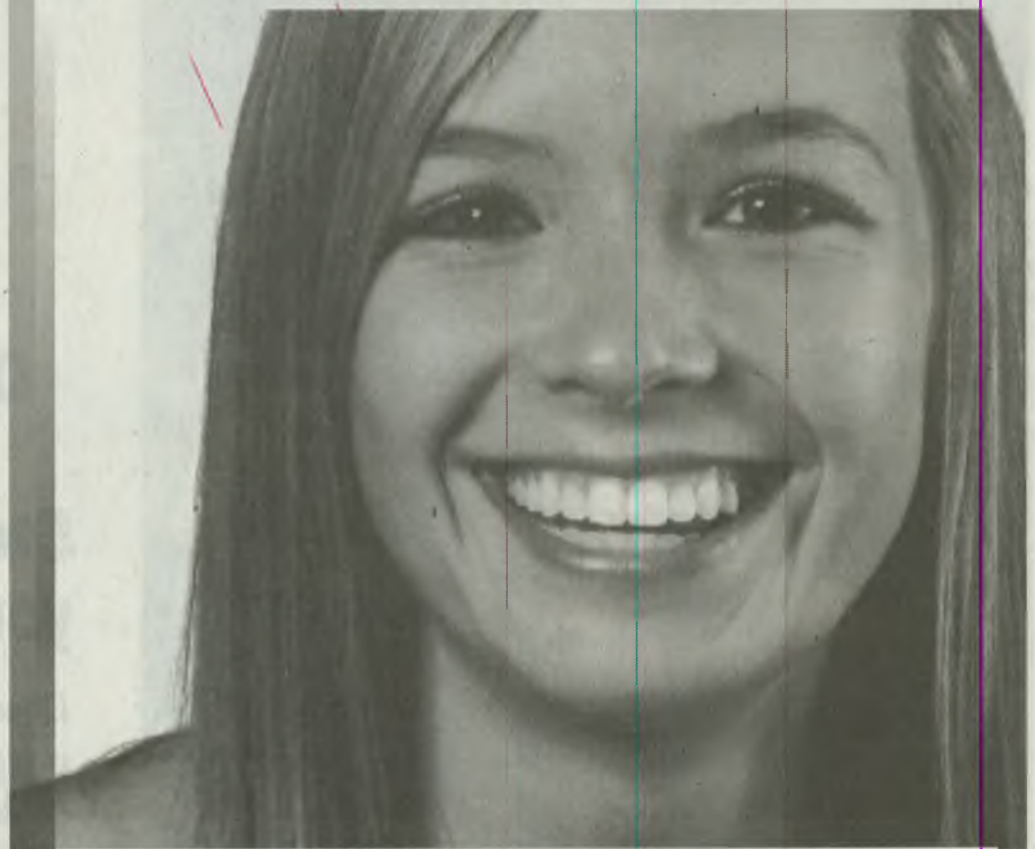
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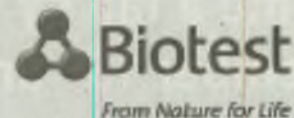
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TICKETS PAGE 2

Max Norris, spokesman for the Ohio State Highway Patrol, said that to prevent accidents, "patrolmen will be looking for certain violations: speeding, following too closely and those distracted while driving."

Norris also noted that increased patrols would be visible, and that they are looking for texting and cell phone usage.

"Even though Ohio doesn't have a specific laws regarding texting and driving, it can be considered distracting, and it is being written in on tickets if an accident or crash takes place during phone usage," Norris said.

Kent Thorton, Mahoning County deputy sheriff, offered some practical advice to avoid being pulled over

and ticketed.

"We're looking for normal stuff: missing front plates, plates that aren't updated or not matching the vehicle, people driving left of center. That usually tells us they've been drinking or are on the phone," Thorton said.

Thorton added that although there's no law against texting while driving in Mahoning County, "if you're driving slow because you're texting or someone sees you with the phone in your hand, they'll start looking for something else to stop you for, so it's best to just not do it."

Being cautious and alert are undoubtedly important but Thorton warned that being overly cautious also gives cause for suspicion.

"If we see you driving with both hands at 10 and 2 o'clock, doing the speed limit exactly and looking around nervously, we pretty much know something is up, and you'll probably get stopped," Thorton said.

According to the Ohio State Highway Patrol's website and a recently published Labor Day holiday recap brief, the increased patrols are having a positive effect. During the holiday period from Sept. 3 to Sept. 6, enforcement increased roughly 17 percent from 18,432 patrols in 2009 to 21,605 patrols in 2010.

This resulted in a 59 percent decrease in fatal accidents over last year's numbers, a reduction that ODOT attributes to more patrolmen on the roads.

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City, page 1

When a 31-year-old British man choked on the revitalization rhetoric sweeping the Mahoning Valley, accusations were made, fingers were pointed.

The blame fell on all ... including us — the students, professors and The Jambar.

The very institution we rely on to check government and uphold the community, the media, was a victim of its own complacency.

As student journalists, we are taught to be the watchdogs. We read in our textbooks and hear from our professors to report with integrity and diligence. We are told to question authority, but we never question ourselves and the very media professionals we idolize have failed to perform their duties.

While untrustworthy pundits and some unsavory practices have tarnished the reputation of our profession, there is a way to restore dignity and virtue to journalism.

We must return to the fundamentals. Do what we know is right. Report the facts and uncover the truth. We must save ourselves with the same pen we use to save the society on which we report.

Yesterday, TheNewsOutlet.org, a media service through YSU's journalism department, was granted nearly \$80,000 to report on the issues that our British visitor has brought to our attention.

We have the resources. We have the talent. What we don't have is an excuse to not use them.

On March 15, 2009, Todd Franko, editor of The Vindicator, wrapped up his column, "We're a newspaper — the key word being news," with the following statement: "It's not news, I grant you. We're just giving you even more reasons to keep turning to The Vindicator — other than for the best news you can find in the Valley."

Is that saying much at all?

It's time to step up to the plate. We hear the call.

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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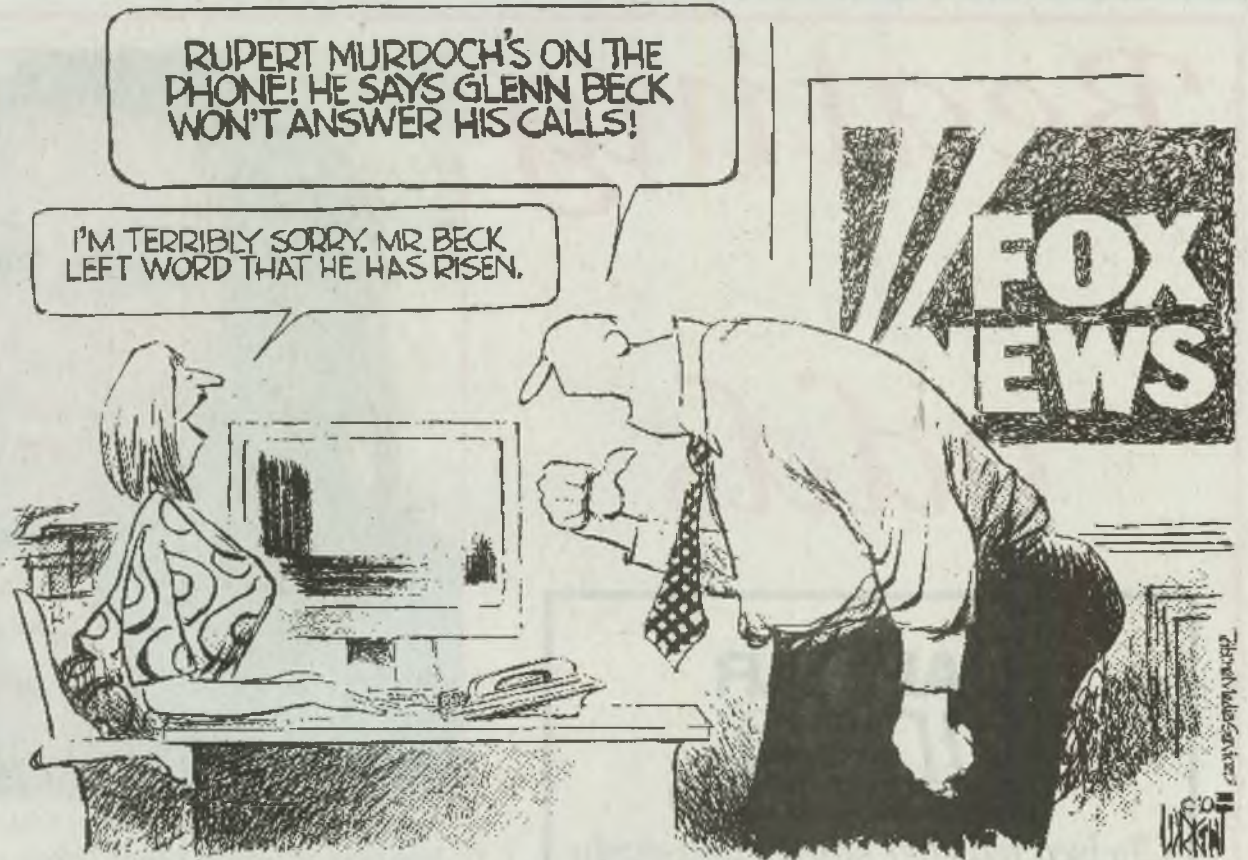
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The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. E-mail submissions are welcome at editor@thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number 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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The views of this syndicated artist do not necessarily agree with those of The Jambar.



On Friday, a Kilcawley House elevator carrying several students fell approximately five floors, sending some passengers to the hospital. What do you think of this incident?



"It's kinda scary. It makes me think about riding the elevators here. It is really scary the elevator would drop four floors. Thirteen people shouldn't have gotten in there anyway."

Elisa Owens, freshman



"I would be scared if I were on there. I would also be scared that it would take that long for help to arrive. That's really crazy."

Samantha Jaquin, sophomore



"It's ridiculous that it took that long for those students to get help. That's scary."

Joe Monty, sophomore

Tear down your altars and lifeless idols



Young gentlemen in the neighborhood

Chris Cotelesse
COLUMNIST

My old man is full-blooded, boggle-named Italian, son of the Roman Empire. He is short and thin. He wears a scrub brush moustache and the bronze tone of the Mediterranean. The image is a lot like Luigi in Super Mario Bros. before he eats the mushroom.

Like some of his generation, he misses the days when conformity to a certain cultural standard was expected of public carryings-on, when the American Ideal meant clean-cut and proper — at least on the surface.

He's not racist. He correctly believes that people should be judged by their character, not irrelevant matters like race or religion. However, he is frustrated by the ever-increasing population of suburban homeboys: Caucasian kids who adopt the dress and mannerisms of their favorite rappers.

"Turn your hat around," he says. "You're white." The irony would be inescapable, if he had said it on purpose.

Besides the Spanish colony of Florida, the first people to call themselves Americans were mostly fair-skinned Protestants. They set up communities in the New World and expected any newcomers to speak their language and learn their customs. That is one reason this column is written in English even though Americans of English descent are one of the smallest ethnic groups in the country.

My old man is an olive-colored, unconfirmed Catholic. He loves cavatelli and "The Godfather" movies, but that's the end of the resemblance to his heritage. His speech, customs and culture are white-American, like the cheese: mass-produced and plastic-wrapped.

Before the second half of the 20th century, our family would not have checked the "white" box on their census forms. Cotelesse, Largos and Delbines across America lived mainly within their own communities. It wasn't until the Great White Council convened after World War II and offered the designation to all Caucasians that many Italian-Americans shed their language and culture without hesitation.

In fact, the only groups that didn't were too dark to assimilate. Latin-Americans of the South and Southwest chose the language of their ancestors who had spoken Spanish there before the land was in America. Black-Americans also retained and developed their own culture, a culture born and bred in the United States.

So tilt your hat, white boy. Wear them jeans low with pride. Ain't nothing more American.



got an opinion?

Send letters to:
thejambar@gmail.com

Beating the odds

**JAMBAR
VIDEO**

Chelsea tells her story exclusively
on TheJambar.com



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHELSEA TELEGA

Kelly Brothers, a Youngstown State University senior majoring in integrated language arts, and Chelsea Telega, a telecommunications major, sport Relay for Life best friends necklaces on May 15 during a Relay for Life event at Boardman High School. Telega, a 21-year-old native of New Middletown, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia shortly after completing her first year at YSU.

YSU student survives cancer and classes

Brenda Haines
REPORTER

Chelsea Telega remembers May 14, 2008, as a typical day in the life of an 18-year-old college freshman. She had just finished her first year as a telecommunications major at Youngstown State University and was making plans to meet up with her friends at Taco Bell the following Friday.

Telega was looking forward to the upcoming summer and what was ahead for her in the future, but she had no idea that just one day later, a word uttered by an emergency room doctor would change her life: cancer.

Telega awoke in the middle of the night feeling an unexplained pain in her back that, by morning, worsened to the point of needing medical attention. Her mother, Tracy Filisky, was concerned about the amount of pain her daughter was in and took her to the emergency room on May 15.

Acute lymphoblastic leukemia — the type of blood cancer that Telega learned she has — is the most common form of leukemia in people less than 20 years old, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"I was really, really scared," said Telega, a native of New Middletown and graduate of Springfield High School. "I thought they were wrong because I was a healthy kid. I had never really even had the flu. I couldn't believe this was happening to me."

Knowing that she could not go through this ordeal alone, Telega called her childhood friend and classmate, Kelly Brothers, for support.

"I remember her telling me she was in the hospital," said Brothers, a YSU senior majoring in integrated language arts. "I asked her what she did now — she's really clumsy — and she told me. I slammed on my breaks and demanded that I come see her. Chelsea was the one that told me to stay strong and that she was going to be OK. But then she kicked everyone out of the room [after she got her diagnosis] so I could hold her hand."

Telega said she had big ambitions and refused to let cancer stand in the way of her dream of being a news anchor. Ideally, she'd like to be a correspondent on NBC's "Today" show.

"She's such a tough cookie," Brothers said. "She said she was going to 'kick cancer's ass.' She was determined to take over cancer; it wasn't taking her over."

Since her diagnosis, Telega, now a 21-year-old senior, has undergone two and a half years of chemotherapy, including 10 months of intense treatment up to five times a week.

"I was really sick in the beginning," Telega said. "I lost all of my hair, even my eyebrows and eyelashes. One day, a strand of my hair fell out and landed in my food. I got really upset and pushed the food away. It was really hard, but I found a way to use humor to cope."

Brothers said Telega has always used humor to make the most out of obstacles in her life.

"She would look at the bright side because she knew that if she focused on the dark times, she wouldn't get through this in one piece," Brothers said. "So we'd poke fun. I never knew how to take it at first. Now we just blame it on cancer. Can't walk straight ... stupid cancer ... and then we'd laugh."

Although she was experiencing side effects from chemotherapy, Telega said she missed just one semester of school in the early stage of treatment.

"I was determined to catch up," she said. "I was pretty much secluded to my house. I took four online classes ... so I wouldn't get too far behind, but homework, tests and studying were pretty much the last things I wanted to do when I felt the way I did."

For this student, getting back to the YSU campus for classes made the changes she was going through more tolerable.

"I was so excited to get back to campus," Telega said. "Once I was actually in class on campus it was much easier for me to adjust. The one thing that I was worried about was that my friends wouldn't recognize me because of the [physical] changes I went

through with treatment, but they did. It was great to be back."

One of Telega's journalism professors, Tom Pittman, said he could relate to everything she was going through.

"I spent a lot of time with her through conferencing when she was a student in my News Reporting class," Pittman said. "Very early on, she shared with me that she was ill, and it really hit me hard because she has the same type of cancer my daughter had. She reminds me a lot of my daughter, just through this tenacity and never letting this disease identify who she is."

Pittman said she was really good at concealing her illness from her classmates and was determined to be a normal student.

"She never used it as an excuse for me to extend deadlines or to get out of things," he said. "I offered her those opportunities to be flexible, not to lower the bar because I knew she could do the work, but that was never an issue."

Against her attempt to blend in as a normal student, Telega's personality is considered unique to those who know her, Pittman said.

"I look at her and she motivates me ... she lights up a room," he said. "It's just so fun to have her around. She's funny, and she always has something really bright, although sometimes off-point, to talk about. She's just a delight in class."

In addition, Pittman said Telega made a big impact on his life recently when she announced Aug. 28 that she was officially finished with her chemotherapy, in complete remission and cancer-free.

"A couple of weeks ago my mother died," he said. "The day I came home from the hospice I logged in to check my e-mail [on Facebook], and Chelsea's status was that she was cancer-free. It just really moved me because I thought, someone so connected to me — my mother — I lost her that day, but then yet here's Chelsea, ostensibly, and just the ethereal quality that she has, comes in and represents life to me more than any bunch of flowers or greeting card. Just the fact that she had really great news that she decided to

share with all of her friends just meant a great deal to me."

Pittman said now that Telega is cancer-free, she can focus on pursuing her dreams.

"She's also a baker, reality show-type baking," he said. "It's probably an insult to just call her a baker. She and I have discussed, 'What do you want to be when you grow up?' She is so talented and versatile. I would watch her if she had her own television show, whether it was as a newscaster or talk show host or even as a baker. I think she has that quality that anyone can relate to because she is so pleasant and fun to be with."

Telega said learning that adversity can happen to anyone was a harsh reality, but she has grown and morphed into the person that she is today as a result. She is no longer the typical college student.

"Some people ask me if I would change what I went through if I could, and I always answer honestly with a 'no,'" she said. "Although the treatment was miserable and I was very sick the majority of the time, it taught me so much about life. My whole outlook on things has drastically changed, and I no longer get so wrapped up in the little things that used to worry me so much."

Telega said having the disease caused her to mature quickly.

"I learned a lot about people, and a lot about the way I want to live the rest of my life," Telega said. "It was definitely the hardest two and half years I could ever go through, but I feel like now that I've beat it, I know I can conquer so much."

Brothers said Telega has been an inspiration to her.

"Chelsea went from being a semester behind to being able to graduate before me," she said. "She went from not being able to lift her arms or move her feet to teaching little kids dance lessons. She's simply unbelievable."

"Chelsea has always been a ray of sunshine in my life ... before, during and after cancer," Brothers said. "I'm lucky to have such a wonderful friend who has taught me to laugh and be such a strong woman. I love her."

Youngstown State alumnus adds 'hero' to his resume

Andrea Demart
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Ian Sepanek, a 2009 YSU graduate with a bachelor's degree in music education, recently returned from the Carnival cruise ship *Triumph*, which sailed the Western Caribbean and Mexico/South America.

He was employed on the ship as a trumpet player in the show band, which provides music for parties and dance classes but also performs music for all on-ship productions such as performance shows and big band sets.

Recently, there was a situation on the ship, which required Sepanek to step up.

A passenger aboard the cruise ship went to the infir-



PHOTO COURTESY OF IAN SEPANEK

YSU alumnus Ian Sepanek, center, shown with the medical staff aboard the Carnival cruise ship *Triumph*. Sepanek is credited with the life-saving action of donating blood to an injured woman onboard.

mary. Due to confidentiality, the name and age of the passenger are unknown.

Sepanek described the patient as a woman in her 40s.

"Apparently she was bleeding internally and had been for

a while," Sepanek said.

The passenger was anemic, so the bleeding could have been fatal. The ship did not have any blood in reserve to give the passenger, so a call was made to all crew aboard

the ship to donate blood for an emergency patient in the infirmary.

Sepanek added that the infirmary won't take blood from a lot of different countries because of the risk of AIDS and hepatitis.

"There aren't many Americans that work on the ship," he said. "So my boss calls me and asks what my blood type is [A positive] and says that my blood matches the patient."

Sepanek then proceeded to go to the infirmary and donate a bag of his blood so that the patient could have a blood transfusion.

The situation was made even more critical because there were only two donor bags aboard the ship, one of which didn't work.

The Coast Guard arrived

and sent a boat out to take the passenger from the ship to a Miami hospital.

Sepanek's blood was given to the patient on the way to the hospital to keep her alive. The patient was treated at the hospital and eventually released.

Sepanek also noted that after the incident, the doctor on board credited him with saving the woman's life.

"The doctor on the ship e-mailed a bunch of corporate people in the company and pretty much said if I hadn't stepped in and donated my blood, this woman would have died on the way to the hospital," Sepanek said.

Sepanek also said that the story would appear in the *Seaview*, a quarterly publication of the Carnival cruise line.



YSU FALL

JOB EXPO 2010

Wednesday, September 29, 2010 • 10:00am—2:00 pm

Kilcawley Center — Chestnut Room



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CROSS INTO THE BLUE



Jordan Uhl
SPORTS REPORTER

A crowd of more than 18,000 was in attendance when Butler University visited the Ice Castle for the Penguins' first home game of the season.

With stellar performances on the ground by a quartet of running backs, YSU accumulated 286 yards en route to a 31-7 victory over the reigning Pioneer League champions, bringing their five-game winning streak against non-conference opponents to an abrupt halt.

Sophomore Jermaine Cook led the stable of backs with 98 yards on 18 carries. Freshmen Jordan Thompson and Adaris Bellamy had 65 and 60 yards respectively, with Thompson entering the end zone once and Bellamy twice.

While YSU freshman quarterback Kurt Hess continued to improve upon his young career, his passing opportunities were reduced in comparison to their first outing at Penn State University. Hess went nine for 16 on the night and threw for a total of 91 yards with no touchdowns. Hess was not sacked, primarily due to solid protec-

tion from the Penguins' offensive line.

The Bulldogs were directed offensively by junior quarterback Andrew Huck, who completed 20 of his 32 pass attempts for 148 yards, one touchdown and was picked off by junior cornerback Randy Lewis.

Scott Gray and Ryan Hitchcock, Butler running backs, combined for a total of 25 yards, with quarterbacks Huck and Matt Kobli banded together for the other 80 of the Bulldog's 105 total rushing yards.

On the other side of the ball, YSU was led by linebacker John Sasson, a junior, with 10 tackles, six of which were unassisted. Freshman strong safety and Youngstown native Donald D'Alesio came up big with seven tackles.

Sophomore linebacker Jordan Ridley anchored Butler's defense with 16 tackles.

After the game, Butler head coach Jeff Voris said he attributed the Bulldogs' loss on the team's inability to "capitalize on opportunities."

Butler's pregame mentality was one of confidence, Voris said.

"We thought coming here, we had a chance. If we prepared and we played the way we've played over the last

couple years ... we didn't play well enough to win. You tip your hat to them, and they got some really good football players," Voris said.

In addition, Voris congratulated YSU head coach Eric Wolford on his first win and had high praise for the team.

"They're so good up front, and they're well coached scheme-wise that we had trouble consistently moving the football. I tip my hat to the job [the] coach has done," Voris said.

Cook saw this game as the Penguins' first real test of the season, which they passed.

"I felt really good about that. It's a good start to the season," Cook said. "It's a start of a new era; the fans were all into it. Everything was really good, and we [have] some pretty loyal fans. The fans even stayed through the rain so that was really good."

Senior wideout Dominique Barnes said he attempted to make a big play, in regards to his 86-yard punt, the second longest in school history.

"I got some good blocks from the punt return unit so I just ran," Barnes said.

Barnes also emphasized a team-centered mentality.

"As long as we're scoring touchdowns, it doesn't matter how many catches we

have. Actually it showed we can pass a little bit, and we can run so it's the best of both worlds," Barnes said.

D'Alesio, a Mooney graduate, said he was "used to the field, but there were a little more people."

"I'm so happy for Coach Wolford because he does a lot for us, and to get him his first victory, that was good. Our goal is a home-winning streak so that was our first step," D'Alesio said. "I'm sure he was excited; he might not show it but he was excited."

Wolford said this moment was "obviously special."

"When you're the head coach, it's a lot more stressful, to say the least ... it was fun, we'll come back next week and hope to do the same thing," Wolford said. "We got a pretty good group of running backs back there ... so good things are to come; we just [gotta] keep getting better up front and hopefully we will."

Wolford also issued a warning to the tailbacks who are all competing for carries. If we see you swinging the ball around and we're concerned about your ball security, we're [going to] pull you off the field and you're not [going to] play," Wolford said.

FCS TOP 25

1. VILLANOVA
2. APPALACHIAN STATE
3. JAMES MADISON
4. JACKSONVILLE STATE
5. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
6. MONTANA
7. ELON
8. NEW HAMPSHIRE
9. RICHMOND
10. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
11. DELAWARE
12. WILLIAM AND MARY
13. NORTHERN IOWA
14. SOUTH CAROLINA ST.
15. LIBERTY
16. MASSACHUSETTS
17. CAL POLY
18. EAST. WASHINGTON
19. MCNEESE STATE
20. SOUTH DAKOTA ST.
21. WEBER STATE
22. MONTANA STATE
23. NORTH DAKOTA ST.
24. FURMAN
25. SOUTH DAKOTA

MISSOURI VALLEY FOOTBALL

1. NORTHERN IOWA (1-0)
2. ILLINOIS STATE (1-1)
3. INDIANA STATE (1-1)
4. MISSOURI STATE (1-1)
5. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS (1-1)
6. WESTERN ILLINOIS (1-1)
7. **YOUNGSTOWN ST. (1-1)**
8. SOUTH DAKOTA ST. (0-1)
9. NORTH DAKOTA ST. (1-1)

PENGUIN SPOTLIGHT



MARISSA HUNDELT

POSITION: Outside Hitter
YEAR: Freshman
HOMETOWN: St. Charles, Mo.
HIGH SCHOOL: Orchard Farm
2010 Season Stats
KILLS: 73
DIGS: 69
BLOCKS: 14

SCHEDULES

FOOTBALL
 Sept. 18- CENTRAL CONN. ST.
 Sept. 25- SOUTHER ILL.
 Oct. 2- @ Missouri State
 Oct. 9- NORTH DAKOTA ST.
 Oct. 16- @ Western Ill.
 Oct. 23- @ South Dakota St.
 Oct. 30- UNI (Homecoming)
 Nov. 6- @ Illinois St.
 Nov. 13- Indiana St.

SOCCER

Sept. 17- @ Oakland
 Sept. 19- @ Michigan
 Sept. 24- MILWAUKEE
 Sept. 26- GREEN BAY
 Oct. 1- @ Cleveland State
 Oct. 3- @ Wright State
 Oct. 8- DETROIT

VOLLEYBALL

Sept. 14- KENT STATE
 Sept. 17- @ UIC
 Sept. 18- @Northern Illinois
 Sept. 21- @Eastern Michigan
 Sept. 24- GREEN BAY
 Sept. 25- MILWAUKEE
 Oct. 1- @ Cleveland State
 Oct. 5- WRIGHT STATE
 Oct. 6- BUTLER
 Oct. 9- @ Loyola
 Oct. 10- @ Valparaiso
 Oct. 16- UIC

Rogner, Formeck look to lead Penguins this season

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

The Youngstown State University women's golf team has one senior and two juniors on a 10-woman roster. Five freshmen and two sophomores comprise the rest.

YSU senior Katie Rogner looked at this as a positive factor.

"I'm really excited this year that everyone on the team is younger than me," Rogner said. "If one of the freshmen have a bad shot, I can help them."

Rogner and junior Samantha carried the Penguins for the past two seasons. In their two years together, they won the Horizon League conference championship title for the 2008-2009 season and finished second for the 2009-2010 season.

During the summer, Formeck and Rogner competed in numerous amateur tournaments to improve their skill set against the toughest women amateur players in the country.

They had to win sectionals to reach that point, but Formeck and Rogner lost in the first round of the U.S. Women's Public Links tournament.

In their first tournament this season on Sept. 6-7, the YSU Invitational at The Links at Firestone Farms in Columbiana, the Penguins came out on fire and grabbed a 10-shot lead in the first round.

Unfortunately they couldn't hold the lead as Bethel University stormed back in the second round and took home first prize.

In the tournament, Rogner



Senior Katie Rogner drills a tee shot on the second hole at the Mill Creek Park South Course. The women's golf team used Monday as a practice day in preparation for their next tournament.

and Formeck finished first and third individually. Rogner shot 151 (70-81), and Formeck shot 155 (76-79).

"I've never shot below par in a college tournament," Rogner said about her two-under par round of 70 in the first round of the YSU Invitational.

Head coach Roseanne Schwartz thinks one freshman that can take a little pressure off of Rogner and Formeck this season is Angela Molasky. Molasky played high school golf at Poland Seminary High

School.

"We have high expectations for her," Schwartz said.

Schwartz added that she thinks Molasky has the potential to be the best freshman in the Horizon League conference this season. In the YSU Invitational, Molasky finished 16th individually. Molasky shot 167 (86-81).

Up next for the Penguins is a tough tournament in the Ball State Invitational on Sept. 27-28 at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

Schwartz knows the Ball State tournament will be a good barometer of how her team will do this season.

"We have a lot of competition for the Ball State Invitational. It will give us an idea where we will finish this year," Schwartz said.

Schwartz said a lot of low-scoring teams like Eastern Michigan University, Bowling Green State University and the University of Toledo will compete against the Penguins in the Ball State Invitational.

PHOTO BY KEITH LANGFORD JR./THE JAMBAR