

The Jambar

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VIDEO**

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For some Democrats, Biden's visit much needed

 Lamar Salter
MANAGING EDITOR

Vice President Joe Biden walked into the aluminum excursion-producing factory, Astro Shapes in Struthers on Monday to a crowd of several hundred excited Democrats.

As soon as Biden made his way to the stage, signs that read "Strickland Brown" were held high in the air as Gov. Ted Strickland and Lt. Gov. hopeful Yvette McGee Brown walked along the vice president. It was an atmosphere full of democratic cheer. But this scene, full of support and praise, has not reflected this year's election for Ohio governor.

As of last week, polls for the governor's race between Strickland and Republican candidate John Kasich are even, a step up for Strickland, who has been trailing behind.

After introductions from Brown and Strickland, Biden stepped up to the podium, absorbing the energy from the audience.

"I feel better when I'm here with you folks," Biden said.

Astro Shapes is just one of the many stops Biden and members of the Obama administration, including the president, have made in an effort to fill seats across the country with Democrats.

Biden was most recently seen campaigning in State College, Pa., urging Penn State University students to vote left in the upcoming general elections, which are less than a month away.

The vice president touched on hot issues in America including, most prominently, jobs.

His tone bounced from relentless, when he attacked the Republican Party for its criticisms of the Obama administration's handling of the economic crisis, to soft-spoken, when he recalled memories of hardship he and his family faced when he was a child.

He shared with supporters his understanding of the anxiety families faced when parents had to tell their children of their financial hardships due to the shaken economy.

"My dad made that walk," Biden said, explaining the metaphorical walk up the stairs parents make to their children's rooms.

The economy has been a constant point of contention between both political parties. Republicans argue that the Democrats did not do enough and the Democrats, in part, blame the Bush administration for the turmoil that the country and the administration have worked to correct.

For Youngstown State University College Democrats President and YSU student Darla Conti, job creation was an issue Biden needed to address.

"That's something that the governor along with the rest of the Democrats in Ohio work to do," Conti said.

Although planning to attend law school upon graduation, about a year away, Conti expressed her hope of staying in the area she grew up in. This is an area, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, sits at an unemployment rate of 11.1 percent, ahead of the

BIDEN PAGE 3

White steps down as YSU-OEA union president

 Joe Giesy
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The search has begun for a new president of the Youngstown State University chapter of the Ohio Education Association, YSU's teacher's union, after former President Nancy White resigned Sept. 29.

White, a professor in the psychology department, declined to comment about her resignation, or on the matter as a whole, only citing the e-mail sent out to union members Monday morning announcing that she "has stepped down" and a special election would be held for a replacement president.

The replacement would serve as president until June 30, which is when White's term would have ended.

Bob Hogue, first vice president of YSU-OEA and acting president during the vacancy, said ballots for the nomination of a new president should be sent out this week. The ballot to cast a vote would be sent immediately after nominations are confirmed. He said he hopes the replacement would take office by the end of October.

Frank Ragozzine, chairman of the YSU-OEA election committee, said YSU faculty who are members of the union would be eligible for nomination to the presidency.

Stanley Guzell, chief negotiator of the union's negotiating team, said the change of office should not affect next year's contract negotiations.

"As chief negotiator, I'll provide continuity," Guzell said. "The president is, after all, president of the association, but not chief negotiator, so I doubt that negotiations will be affected."

Guzell has been chief negotiator for

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Scholarship reserve funds depleted

 Joe Giesy
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The scholarship reserve funds at Youngstown State University were depleted for the fiscal year 2011.

Budget Director Neal McNally said the reserve funds had to be used after an increase in the scholarship budget to accommodate the spike in enrollment this semester.

More than 15,000 students enrolled for the fall semester, compared to fewer than 14,000 students in the spring semester.

McNally said the lack of a scholarship reserve fund would not affect students; any additional funding needed would be taken from a general fund reserve and the scholarship budget would be put into a deficit.

McNally said those involved in budget planning try to maintain a general reserve that is about 5 percent, which would be a little more than \$7.5 million, of the total budget each year.

The total budget for fiscal year 2011 is \$154,800,000.

This fiscal year, \$4,448,448 has been budgeted for scholarships, aid and awards, an increase of 47 percent from last fiscal year.

The scholarship budget made up 2 percent of the total budget in fiscal year 2010 and 2.8 percent of the total budget in fiscal

SCHOLARSHIPS PAGE 3

YSU still plagued by union grief

 Dan Pompili
NEWS EDITOR

The union of Associated Classified Employees at Youngstown State University will file three new grievances today, on the heels of a federal arbitration that was found in the union's favor.

Federal arbitrator Stanley Dobry ruled against YSU on Sept. 28 in an arbitration related to improper pay scale conversion. The university now must pay back wages to 60 employees converted to an improper pay schedule.

In a document filled with harsh assessments of YSU's conduct, Dobry wrote, "The university's intent is clear that there was no plan to implement the contract they had just negotiated with the union."

Embattled former ACE President Ivan Maldonado filed grievance 343 in November 2008, alleging that "[YSU] and/or its agents misinterpreted and/or misapplied the collective bargaining agreement ... when the Office of Human Resources improperly converted bargaining unit members who were paid under the C & D schedules ..."

The union and university supposedly agreed to a single-indexed salary schedule in the interest of replacing three very different ones.

According to the finding, Craig Bickley, then director of human resources, "unilaterally" placed the employees in step one of the pay scale rather than in the step that corresponded with their individual achievement status, initial probation or completed probation. This created an "inequity" in the new salary schedule.

According to the document, Bickley strayed from the agreement when he decided that the pay schedule was not cost-effective. Bickley resigned in January 2009 after being placed on administrative leave, having served as chief negotiator in a negotiation that gave Maldonado a \$21,000-a-year salary increase.

This arbitration, along with others that have been found in the union's favor — including another pay scale issue decided in the summer — have been costly and disappointing for YSU.

YSU Board of Trustees Chairman Scott Schulick said the board "remains disappointed with the outcomes of recent arbitrations."

"The university believes that it continues to fully implement the terms of the 2008 ACE employment

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NEWS BRIEFS**YSU hosts first Nonviolence Week**

YSU's first Nonviolence Week, "Stamp Out Violence," began Monday and will continue until Friday. Events during the week include a discussion on "Nonviolence and Women" in Christman Dining Commons on Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., a "Stop the Violence! A Call for Nonviolence: Gangs in Youngstown" discussion on Thursday at 11 a.m. and a screening of the movie "Long Night's Journey Into Day" on Friday at 4 p.m. All events are free and open to the public.

Youngstown Area Jewish Film Festival to begin this week

This year's Youngstown Area Jewish Film Festival, partly sponsored by the YSU Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies, will begin Wednesday and run until Oct. 17. Five films will be featured in this year's festival and will be screened at USA Cinema in the Niles East Plaza and the Butler Institute of American Art. Tickets can be purchased at the Jewish Community Center bursar's office on Gypsy Lane. Single tickets and festival passes are available.

POLICE BRIEFS**Water damage noted in Ward Beecher Hall**

On Thursday, water leakage was reported in a laboratory on the third floor of Ward Beecher Hall. The leakage began on a water line valve that broke in the sink and went through the floors below. Two computers were damaged; multiple machines were reportedly damp.

Students fight in KC Food Court

On Sept. 28, an argument between two students arose in the KC Food Court; one student threw a salt shaker at the other student.

JAMBAR STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
Josh Stipanovich330-941-1991

MANAGING EDITOR:
Lamar Salter330-941-1807

NEWS EDITOR:
Dan Pompili330-941-1989

COPY EDITOR:
Emmalee C. Torisk330-941-3758

A&E EDITOR:
Chelsea Miller330-941-1913

SPORTS EDITOR:
Keith Langford330-941-1913

ONLINE EDITOR:
Doug Livingston330-941-1913

DESIGN EDITORS:
Sam Marhulk330-941-1807
Nick Young330-941-1807

ASSIST. NEWS EDITOR:
Andrea DeMart330-941-1913

ASSIST. COPY EDITOR:
Amanda Bowlby330-941-1913

ASSIST. ONLINE EDITOR:
Krystle Kimes330-941-1913

A&E REPORTER:
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COLUMNIST:
Chris Cotelesse330-941-1913

NEWS REPORTER:
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Teresa Soos330-941-3095

BUSINESS MANAGER:
Olga Zibert330-941-3094

ADVISER:
Mary Beth Earnhardt330-941-3095

CONTACT THE JAMBAR

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

TheJambar.com

Plans move forward for enrollment center

Andrea DeMart
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University is looking to make the registration and enrollment process hassle-free for students.

The plan is to create a "one-stop shop," formally titled an enrollment center, where students can access financial and registration services all under one roof.

Jones Hall has been selected to house these services, such as student accounts, registration, records, financial aid and placement testing, and will also provide some advisers.

"It is the goal of [President] Anderson to put [it all] under

one roof," said Jack Fahey, interim vice president for student affairs and ombudsperson.

Fahey said an "urban legend" of students being shuffled from campus office to campus office exists. He said a central location of all services is "emerging as the best practice across the nation."

Fahey said YSU is modeling its enrollment center after those at other institutions such as the University of Akron.

Pamela Arrington, associate director of financial aid and enrollment services at the University of Akron, said the focus of the enrollment center was to "see how we can less juggle students around."

"If you had staff who could answer multiple questions, [you can] handle students in a better manner," Arrington

said. The University of Akron obtained a fully functional enrollment center on Sept. 1, 2006.

Arrington said the enrollment center is working.

"Not to say, in beginning it was [a] little confusing especially for students used to [the] old way. [Students can] not only add/drop classes, but [they] can also ask questions about financial aid," she said.

Arrington said another benefit for students is having a knowledgeable staff capable of answering questions.

"If this is something a school is pursuing, take into account the area which they are going to create," she said.

Fahey said YSU has an architect studying the cost of renovating Jones Hall as an

enrollment center. The university is also having those from affected departments visit area colleges and universities to determine what works and what doesn't work for them, in regards to enrollment centers.

Fahey said plans are in the beginning stages and no final decisions have been made, but the plans have some focal points.

"We have to study the budget and physical [layout] in terms of the building and find out how to actually provide the services," Fahey said.

Arrington said the enrollment center has "value to students ... [it] helps to have one place to go and have answers."

The Jones Hall enrollment center will likely be complete by March 2012.

Lemon Grove, TimeBank may partner to support community service

Jared Buker
FEATURES REPORTER

The Lemon Grove Cafe is planning on partnering with TimeBank Mahoning Watershed to promote community service throughout Youngstown.

Although no official plans have been made, the idea is to reward TimeBank community service with points that can be used for a meal at the Lemon Grove.

TimeBank already uses a similar technique: When TimeBank members do some type of community service, they are rewarded with

points. Members can then go into the TimeBank database of 120 members and use those points to have someone work for them.

Tony Budak, who founded the Mahoning County branch of TimeBank more than two years ago, said he hopes to strike a deal with the Lemon Grove soon.

"This program is like a Swiss Army knife," Budak said. "You can use it in many different ways."

TimeBank works with places like the United Way of Youngstown and the Dorothy Day House of Hospitality, which provides help for those in need.

"This is a real roll of the

dice," Budak said. "People are doing this out of the goodness of their heart, so the motivation is difficult to predict."

Jacob Harver, owner of the Lemon Grove, said he is planning on executing the partnership, but the terms are a "matter of logistics."

"We, especially businesses, are trained to think in terms of dollars," Harver said. "So it is difficult to figure out alternatives that are easily carried out and so we can still pay the bills."

The Lemon Grove and TimeBank help each other advertise through posters and on their websites. The Lemon Grove is not a member of

TimeBank but allows the organization to hold meetings every 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6-8 p.m. at the Lemon Grove.

"Jake is a risk-taker as far as stretching himself and stretching his business to help the community," Budak said. "I feel that we both get a win-win."

Harver said he believes in keeping as many resources in Youngstown as possible.

"By supporting programs like the TimeBank, we are creating value for the community that cannot be easily usurped by some big corporate CEO who knows where," Harver said.

Board approves YSU Research Foundation

Caitlin Fitch
REPORTER

Youngstown State University begins a new chapter in seeking to bring students, community businesses and industries together to improve responsiveness in its efforts to handle and secure university grants and funds.

On Friday, the board of trustees voted to set up the YSU Research Foundation. The foundation would be a nonprofit agency and would coordinate non-YSU funds and industrial contracts.

"As YSU continues its transition into an urban research university, it is imperative that we have the administrative structures in place to efficiently handle research and other funds as they come to us," President Cynthia Anderson said in a press release.

Ron Cole, director of university communications, said the foundation comes after YSU received more than \$45 million from external and federal grants over the last five years.

Chet Cooper, professor of biological sciences; Patrick Gaughan, business community liaison in the YSU School of Graduate Studies; and Peter Kasvinsky, dean of YSU School of Graduate Studies and associate provost for research, are responsible for the foundation's development.

"One of the foundation's goals is economic development, to process funding and look to distribute money appropriately," Cooper said.

When funding or grants are given, it is a process of filing and responding. The YSU Research Foundation is set up to be quicker and more responsive, Cooper said.

"We are trying to engage students in some firsthand experiences in research," Cooper said.

Afghan wrestles with protecting NATO supply routes

McClatchey Newspapers
MCT

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan's top security officials are urging President Hamid Karzai to establish a military-run trucking system to take control of critical NATO supply routes now protected by a ragtag network of unsavory private security firms that is scheduled to be disbanded by year-end.

With the Karzai-imposed deadline looming to close the private convoy-protection companies, Afghanistan officials told McClatchey Newspapers on Sunday that they are want to create a state-run military brigade equipped with its own trucks and thousands of soldiers to carry essential NATO supplies around the country.

But Afghan leaders have yet to figure out how to confront the most vexing issue facing Afghan supply routes: how to co-opt powerful local highway barons who alternatively protect and attack NATO convoys, depending on whether or not they are paid to look after the supply routes.

Creation of a state-controlled trucking system could be the next step in Afghanistan's efforts to adequately protect NATO supply routes from constant attacks that threaten convoys that supply such essentials as ammunition and food for the 150,000 U.S.-led troops battling Taliban-led insurgents.

If Karzai approves the proposal, Afghanistan could create a military brigade with as

many as 5,000 troops to protect the NATO convoys, said Gen. Abdul Razak Amiri, the Afghanistan Interior Ministry's deputy director of counterterrorism.

Protecting NATO supply routes has re-emerged as a central issue in recent days because of new attempts by anti-Western forces to sabotage the convoy network, which runs from Karachi, Pakistan, through the Khyber Pass and into Afghanistan.

Last Thursday, the Pakistan government blocked NATO trucks heading into Afghanistan after U.S. helicopters apparently killed three Pakistani paramilitary soldiers during an attack on a Frontier Corps base on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

The next day, insurgents in Pakistan attacked a convoy of NATO fuel trucks headed for the Afghan border and set fire to more than two dozen of them.

The new attacks have put increased strains on the U.S.-led military coalition, which has been tried — with limited success — to reduce its reliance on the Pakistan supply route. About half of the military supplies run through Pakistan.

On the Afghan side of the border, Karzai has shaken up the supply system by ordering the abolishment of dozens of convoy protection firms, which employ more than 25,000 people.

The network of Afghan firms has been accused of attacking NATO convoys if they are not paid to protect them, of recklessly killing civilians while trying to protect

convoys from attack, and of paying insurgents with U.S. money for passage through areas they control.

"It's difficult," said Abdel Manan Farahi, a top advisor to the Afghan Interior Ministry. "If they believe they have lost their power, they will attack."

While Karzai has called for the convoy protection companies to be disbanded by year-end, NATO and Afghan officials privately concede that it will be nearly impossible to meet the president's timeline.

On Sunday, Afghan officials announced that they have begun dismantling eight companies operating in Afghanistan, including the one formerly known as Blackwater.

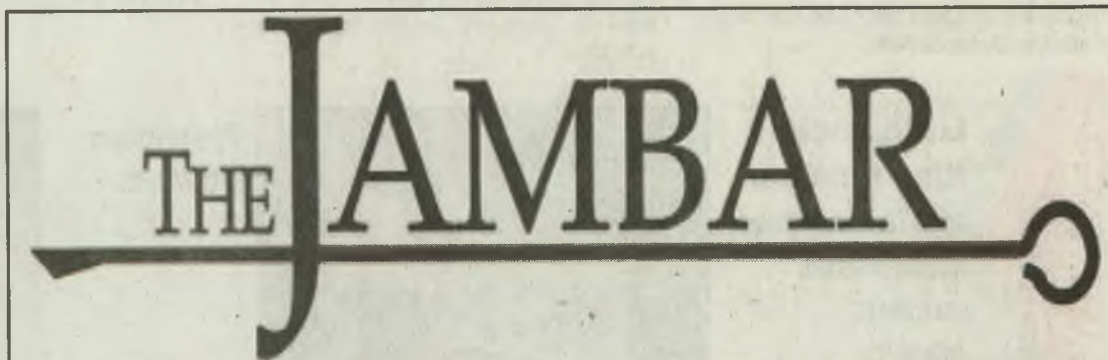
Top Afghan security officials are urging Karzai to establish the new military brigade, but have yet to offer details on how the state-run system would operate.

Some leaders are pushing Karzai to absorb the private security companies into the government and allow them to continue protecting convoys under state-control.

Other Afghan officials fear that continued reliance on suspect companies won't solve the problems.

And there is widespread concern that dispatching thousands of Afghan police to protect NATO convoys would divert an already strained Afghan military from the central task of fighting Taliban-led insurgents throughout the country.

U.S. military officials declined over the weekend to discuss the supply routes.



SCHOLARSHIPS PAGE 1

year 2011. It is not yet known how much of the budget will be used by the end of fiscal year 2011.

During the 2010 fiscal year, more than \$4 million of the general fund was used for scholarships. This was 120 percent of the \$3,333,233 scholarship budget for 2010 and a 33 percent increase from the \$3,020,859 used for scholarships in the fiscal year 2009.

The ending balance of the scholarship reserve funds at the end of fiscal year 2010 were \$12,717 for the reserve fund designated "need-based" and \$172,407 for the reserve fund designated "other."

McNally said the reserve funds are used in and made from the scholarship budget; the "need-based" scholarship reserve is "ear-marked" for need-based scholarships but not restricted to need-based scholarships.

"How those reserves came to be is we would budget scholarships and a lot of

years scholarship expenditures would be less than what we budgeted so we'd have an excess," McNally said.

The excess money is then put into the reserves.

According to a narrative of the budget in a YSU Board of Trustees packet, "The \$1 million increase was primarily due to an increase in Scholarships for Excellence of \$566,000, an increase in Early College awards of \$360,000 and an increase in Emergency [Ohio College Opportunity Grant] Supplements of \$129,000."

According to the YSU Operating Budget and Capital Funds report for fiscal year 2011, "\$1 million in additional General Fund Scholarship support [was recommended by the President's Cabinet and implemented] to offset a significant reduction in the YSU Foundation's annual scholarship contribution."

The foundation gave \$4,103,900 for fiscal year 2011.

BIDEN PAGE 1

national average of 9.6 percent.

"Too many people are being pushed out of the middle class and too few are able to get in," Biden said.

Biden continued his speech, steadily addressing the list of issues including education and international relations. He received dramatic applause from the audience as he dejected America's possible dethronement as the leading economy.

After topping Japan to claim the no. 2 economy in the

world, rumors of China taking the top spot have quietly surfaced.

"No one in my neighborhood is prepared to settle for America to be number two," Biden shouted to the crowd.

Before concluding his speech, Biden made sure to address his praise of Strickland and expressed his hope for the governor to keep his seat.

"Let's keep Strickland in Columbus," Biden announced.

For former College Democrat President, YSU alumnus

and member of the Mahoning County Democrats Kenneth Oyler, Biden's visit was the fuel needed to drive Strickland to success.

"It was desperately needed," Oyler said.

Although he had already cast his ballot for Strickland, Oyler said there was "definitely a chance" for the governor to lose his seat if fellow party members did not step up.

"It's important that we stop sitting around and get out there and vote," Oyler said.

WHITE PAGE 1

years and has been on the team several times during his 34 years at YSU. Whoever is elected president of the YSU-OEA would automatically be a part of the negotiation team as an ex officio member.

Along with Guzell, members of the negotiation team include Annette Burden of mathematics and statistics, Chet Cooper of biology, Dorcas Fitzgerald of nursing,

Greg Moring of art and Elvin Shields of industrial and systems engineering.

Guzell is hopeful that contract negotiations would take place near the beginning of the spring semester.

The new contract would take effect in August, which is after another YSU-OEA presidential election and, potentially, another new president of the union would take office.

ACE PAGE 1

contract," Schulick said. YSU trustee Harry Meshel, however, is more pointed in his assertions as to the cause of the river of grievances.

"It's primarily the fault of [former YSU President] David Sweet, who selected ... and supported Craig Bickley as he destroyed any understanding between the university and ACE," Meshel said.

Meshel, who has been an outspoken critic of Sweet, said Bickley was not forthcoming with labor negotiation information.

"We thought everything was going as it should ... and that's what we voted on," Meshel said.

The arbitrator, Dobry, was every bit as critical of YSU's handling of the issue.

The document asserts: "Management came up with a unique plan to exploit the perceived holes in the language. However, these very holes were items which the union had carefully tried to avoid."

The document also questions the credibility of YSU's defense, since none of the chief negotiators testified at the hearing.

"The university had the opportunity to produce any of its negotiation team ... but instead produced witnesses who had neither negotiated the agreement nor reviewed implementation of its language," the ruling cited.

This grievance was denied by YSU's outside legal counsel, Tim Jacob, in April 2009.

On the back of this arbitration finding, Christine Domhoff, ACE grievance chairwoman, will today file grievances for an improper evaluation procedure, alleged discrimination against an employee who filed a grievance and failure to properly implement the terms of the Early Retirement Incentive Program (ERIP).

ACE alleged the early retirement incentive was agreed to include 100 senior classified employees out of a union

of nearly 400 members. YSU's contention is that the benefits extend only to 100 employees across the entire campus.

"It's unfortunate," Domhoff said. "We attempted to intervene before the board's final action to not incorporate the contract language."

Domhoff referenced similar dealings in 2005. She was president of the union at the time, and they were fresh off a strike. The university then decided to deviate from the new collective bargaining agreement almost before the ink was dry.

YSU changed the number of unused sick pay hours members could claim upon retirement, disallowed early retirees from returning to YSU and mandated an acceptable early retirement date.

The problem was resolved before any grievances were filed, and Domhoff said she was hoping this year's misunderstanding could be handled in a similar fashion.

Meshel, however, disagrees with Domhoff's interpretations.

"That's just ACE wanting the whole pie again," he said. "ERIP should be for all unions, but ... they claim to be the sole beneficiary."

Domhoff said she has not had any communication with President Cynthia Anderson. Domhoff said she sent Anderson a letter suggesting a third-party mediator to help YSU and ACE reach mutual understanding on ERIP, but has yet to receive a response.

"If she is committed to saving the university money and resolving labor relations issues, that would be in everyone's best interests," she said.

Domhoff referred to recent discussion of budget cuts, and said YSU should seek to resolve issues before money has to be spent on arbitration.

"The arbitrator will force them to abide by the contract," she said. "That will be the end result."

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- Office Mac 2008 Student- \$62.50

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OUR SIDE

Enough is enough

The Jambar
EDITORIAL BOARD

RELATED STORY

ACE PAGE 1

Earlier this semester, we commented that ACE has too many issues that are compromising the general reputation of the university.

While we stand by that, blame is a two-way street.

College students and alums want to take pride in their school. They wear the jerseys and hats, proudly frame their diplomas and even splurge on class rings.

The problem is, YSU sometimes makes it difficult for us to be proud Penguins.

A disturbing pattern has emerged. Numerous federal arbitrators have found that our university leaders have been less than forthcoming in their labor relations.

On top of disconcerting spending decisions, the neglect of safety issues like the M2 deck, mistreatment of employees and failure to abide by contract terms damage the integrity of this university.

We are not often likely to quote Scripture, but even the Bible said, "What you do for the least of my brothers you do for me."

The way an institution treats the least of its employees can indicate how that institution can be expected to treat others ... like its students.

The arbitrator said: "What the employer did was isolate the lower-seniority employees' pay rates, hoping the union would not aggressively pursue vindication of the rights of a small minority."

This is not the first arbitration finding of this nature either.

In Ivan Maldonado's trial for menacing — a charge on which he was acquitted — the judge stated that the ACE employees worked in a "poisonous environment."

Years from now, as we glance at our class ring, is that what we want to remember about our "good old college days"... a poisonous environment?

Furthermore, the people who should be defending the university's case in these arbitrations are nowhere to be found. Where are the chief negotiators? Why is nobody talking? Is there something to hide? This raises suspicion and mistrust and destroys the fabric of integrity.

This university must halt these failed and disingenuous labor practices. While there is blame on both sides, YSU must become the agent of change in this relationship.

President Cynthia Anderson faces a glaring opportunity to change the climate of labor relations for the better, and we strongly encourage her to use any and all means at her disposal to do so.

In this case, pride and integrity have to start at the top.

OUR SIDE POLICY

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.

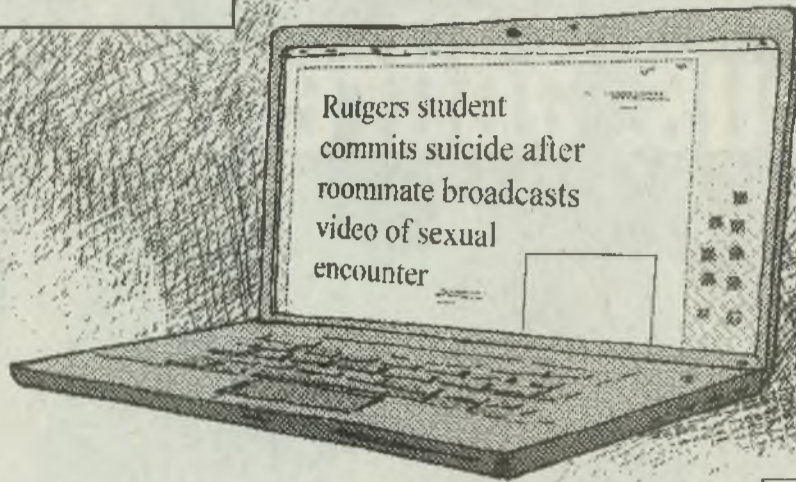
YOUR SIDE POLICY

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.

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

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

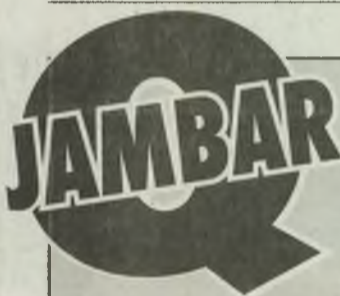
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*Decency and common sense sold separately

SOEEMAN

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



YSU's scholarship reserve fund is running low. How important is scholarship money to you?



"I don't think I have any."

Tanga Smith, sophomore



"It depends on their financial situation."

Jeff Mentzer, sophomore



"It's pretty important. Not a lot of people can rely on loans, but if I was given more opportunities to get scholarships that would be great."

Megan Harris, junior

Tear down your altars and lifeless idols



Biblical Marriage

Chris Cotelesse
COLUMNIST

Opponents of gay marriage make several arguments for their position. There's the argument from tradition, but it disintegrates under minimal scrutiny. An old policy is not necessarily just.

There's the argument from nature, but it doesn't even get off the ground. Several nonhuman animal species exhibit homosexual behavior.

When those fail, social conservatives try argument from procreation, claiming the purpose of marriage is to produce children. That's just stupid. There's no fertility test when you apply for a marriage license. People unable or unwilling to have children may be married as long as they choose to marry a member of the opposite sex.

You might be surprised to know my opinion on the subject. It's one of the few issues where my libertarian friends and me agree. Government shouldn't regulate personal relationships. Politicians should not have the power to recognize or censure anyone's choice of a partner.

I'm not campaigning for the legalization of gay marriage. I am arguing against marriage as a public domain. If I ever choose to share my life with another person, I shouldn't have to seek approval from bureaucrats. You'd think conservatives, for all their talk of liberty, would take up the cause. They're too busy foaming at the mouth over government intrusion into private life. If you don't understand why that's funny, you're probably a conservative.

It doesn't take much deductive reasoning to discover the real reason for this denial of inalienable rights: "God said so!" If we set aside the fact that religious justification for public policy is constitutionally irrelevant, consistency would require that we observe all parameters of biblical marriage.

First, we'd have to allow polygamy since the Bible doesn't expressly prohibit it. We'd have to enforce strict penalties for adultery (Exodus 20:14), outlaw divorce (Matthew 5:32) and thought-crimes like lust (Matthew 5:28). Verse 29 prescribes an interesting remedy: "If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out and throw it from you."

My favorite divinely sponsored human rights violation of all time is Deuteronomy 22:28-29, which says that if a man is caught in the act of raping an unbetrothed virgin, then he must pay her father a sum of money and marry her. That's right! God's perfect justice is to force rape victims to marry their abusers. Remember that next time you crusade for a return to Judeo-Christian values.

Consulting this vile literature for one's personal moral guidance is despicable enough, but imposing law based on the superstitions of Bronze Age barbarians is downright evil.



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Little Rock Nine member visits campus, addresses racism



Minnijean Brown-Trickey spoke to Youngstown State University students in McKay Auditorium on Thursday as part of the Diversity Series. The presentation was put on by YSU's Women's Studies Program and Mahoning Valley Sojourn to the Past. Brown-Trickey was part of the Little Rock Nine, a group of nine black high school students who integrated Little Rock Central High School in 1957. Photo courtesy of YSU Marketing/Communications.

Chelsea Miller

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Although Minnijean Brown-Trickey remembers the excitement she felt prior to attending a new high school, nothing could prepare her for what she faced upon arrival.

Protesters and the National Guard greeted her. The angry mob spit and screamed hateful slurs at her, and when she finally gained entrance to the school, she was met by endless taunts.

The school's lockers were cleaned out every night in case of bomb threats, and citizens who didn't want her in their school made phone calls to Brown-Trickey's household.

The year was 1957, and Brown-Trickey was part of the Little Rock Nine, a group of nine black students who desegregated Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas. The integration sparked a nationwide crisis as Gov. Orval Faubus defied a federal order and employed the Arkansas National Guard to block their entrance.

President Dwight D. Eisenhower responded by sending the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division to accompany the nine students inside the building. However, this did little to quell the negative response. Crowds outside the high school and students within verbally and physically abused the Little Rock Nine.

Twenty students befriended the Nine and were treated in the same manner. Brown-Trickey was one of the only students to fight back, dumping a bowl of chili on her assaulters, which resulted in a six-day suspension. Brown-Trickey was later expelled after another confrontation.

Brown-Trickey said she wanted to attend the school because she knew she wasn't

welcomed.

"They don't want me to go, so I'm going," Brown-Trickey said as she stomped her foot resolutely.

She's a feisty woman, tall and steadfast in her resolution. She speaks her mind: This is how it was, and she doesn't try to sugarcoat it.

"Once you're in it, you gotta hang with it," she said of the integration. "Nobody could prepare for it."

Despite her strong will, Brown-Trickey said she was scared every day and is haunted by the fact that her expulsion may have meant more torment for the other eight.

"My feeling was, by getting rid of me, all the things were just spread among eight kids instead of nine, and I just felt like I failed them," she said while holding back tears.

Brown-Trickey is an active crusader in the nonviolence mission. She is the recipient of numerous awards for her community work for social justice, including the Lifetime Achievement Tribute by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and the International Wolf Award for contributions to racial harmony. With the Little Rock Nine, she received the NAACP Spingarn Medal and the Congressional Gold Medal.

"I knew that my life would be dedicated to saying, 'This shouldn't happen again,'" she said.

Given the chance, however, she said she would do it again.

"I would ... because when we want change, we have to be the ones," she said. "We have to do it."

Brown-Trickey said the problem of racism and prejudice in society is far from over. Gun violence, she said, is a problem, as well as a misunderstanding of racism.

"We really do have to have a good understanding of oppression before we can decimate it," Brown-Trickey said.

Sherry Linkon, English professor at Youngstown State University, met Brown-Trickey while interviewing her for her weekly WYSU radio program.

Linkon said she jumped at the opportunity to interview Brown-Trickey again. She said she hoped students would be inspired by Brown-Trickey's story and come away with a greater understanding of prejudice and oppression.

"While our students today are not facing the kind of direct, in-your-face, 'I don't want you here' oppression that she did, they get a lot of prejudice," Linkon said. "The way I talk about racism is to understand the institutional system of oppression ... It's not about do I like people who are different from me or not, but the fact that the system is rigged so that some people have more advantages than others."

Linkon said she doesn't see a solution to the problem in the near future.

"Society's too large. We have to figure out ways to constantly challenge it," she said.

In an effort to open students' eyes to the oppression African-Americans faced during the Civil Rights Movement, Sojourn to the Past takes students on a journey through important historical sites. The non-profit organization features several speakers along the trip, including Brown-Trickey. Penny Wells, former Youngstown schoolteacher and member of the Community Diversity Committee, volunteered to take the trip with students this year.

"I want them to see that all those things [Brown-Trickey] said existed in the 1950s still are around today," Wells said. "I want kids to know they have the power to make a difference, and there are things that need to be always changed in our world. They can do the same thing Minnijean did in the '50s, and they can step up and make a difference."



—BROWN-TRICKEY—

Wells grew up in Dallas, and she said the move to Youngstown showed her that racism is a larger problem.

"When I moved to Youngstown, I felt that Youngstown was more racist than any place I've ever been," she said. "I think it's very subtle and very hidden, versus the South where I grew up, which was very overt ... I think it's harder to change racism when it's more subtle. People don't think they're racist."

Junior Tenise Brown said as an African-American and engineering major, she's treated differently. She added that she is one of the only African-Americans in her classes.

"When classes first started ... people wouldn't sit next to me, they wouldn't talk to me, they wouldn't say hi ... sometimes it bothers me, but I'm here for one thing, and that is to get an education," Brown said. "Just because I'm of color doesn't mean I'm different from you. I listen to rock music and everything."

Brown said racism affects people of all colors, though, and she has seen it both ways.

"At my old university, it's kind of worse because we were an all-black college.

They didn't like white people coming in there," she said.

Carl Davidson, senior business major, agreed with Brown. He has also experienced racism and said the authorities are often more cautious of African-Americans. Davidson said the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity at YSU helped him adjust to campus life. He received a book loan through the program but became more involved in his years at YSU.

The Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity offers programs for minorities as well as women and those of different sexual orientations. It also offers loans and scholarships to students in need. William Blake, director of student diversity programs, said the department hopes to reach out to students and eliminate "ism's" including racism and sexism.

"We're here to help them develop a higher level of comfort," he said. "We want them to know we value differences."

Area high school students of the Youngstown Connection choir said they hope to break barriers as well. The choir, made up of black and white students in the Mahoning Valley, sing the message of racial harmony, peace and hope. Alex Mickler, choir member and Chaney High School student, said he believes the group can make a difference, through community service and their performances.

"Not our group, but a group before us has performed for an all-white community, and before the show ... they weren't welcomed properly. The men were just standing in the back. They didn't smile, they didn't look at the black students," Mickler said. "But after the show was ended, the white men in the room were just crying and they were hugging the black students."

yo* calendar

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broaden yo* horizons

plan yo* night

SexTon/Rock Band 2

Tuesdays, 8 p.m.

TGI Friday's

Drunken' Trivia

Tuesdays, 9 p.m.

Sammy's

21+

Karaoke

Wednesdays, 8-11 p.m.

Casa Fiesta

18+

Flip Night

Wednesdays, 10 p.m.

Barley's

\$3, 18+

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News



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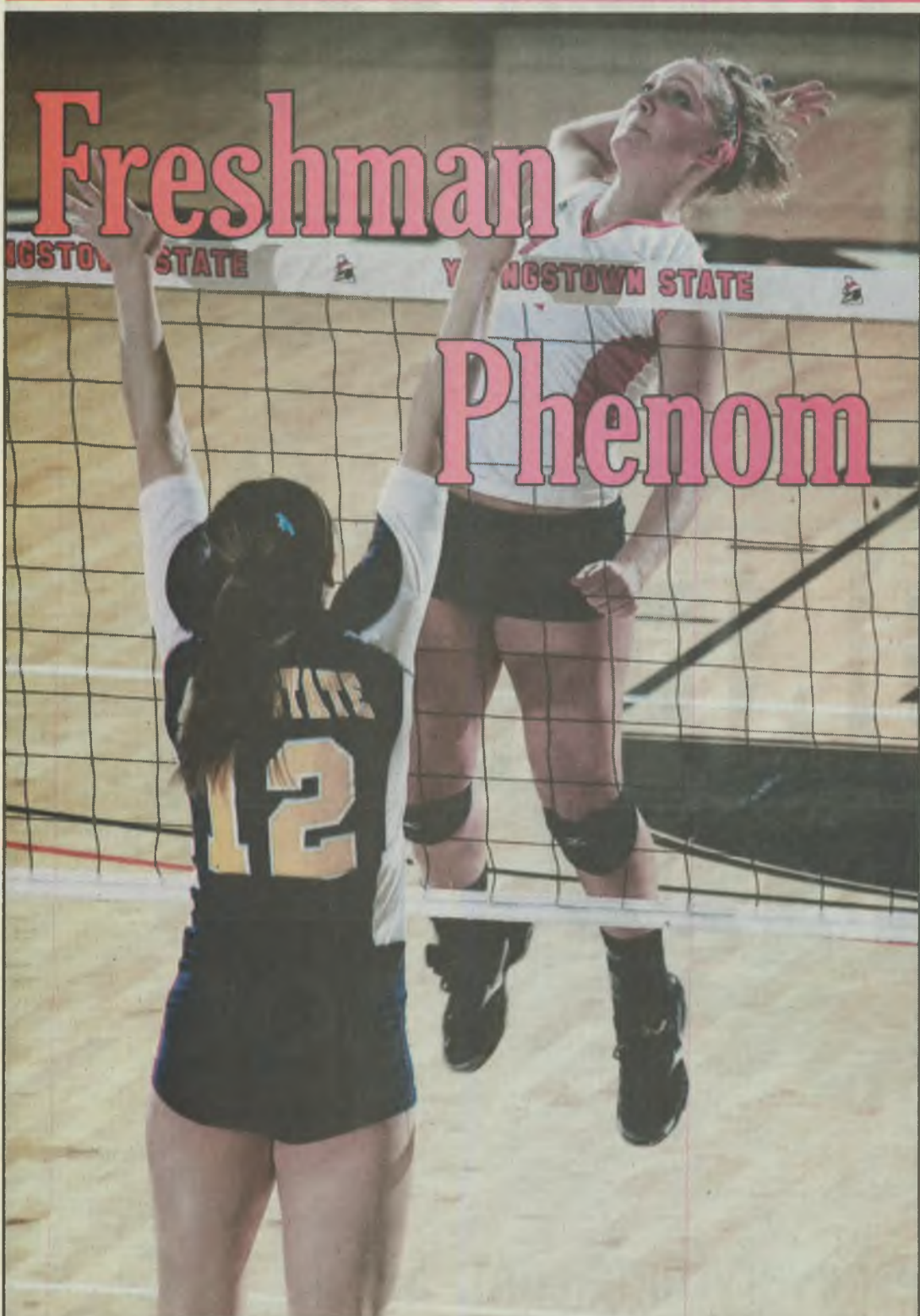
Commentary

1. Go to www.refresheverything.com. Set up your account.
2. Search for our project using terms like "Rookery" "Radio" and "Youngstown."
3. VOTE for us. And be sure to note the instructions for voting using text messaging and Facebook.
3. Tell everyone! It sounds cliché, but every vote counts. If we're in the top ten for the \$50,000 category, we win! We want everyone to know – and everyone to vote. Tell everyone about ...

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Freshman Marissa Hundelt rises up high for a potential kill in a match against Kent State University earlier this season.

Youth takes helm for Penguins volleyball

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Despite a 2-15 record, the Youngstown State University women's volleyball team has a freshman stud for an outside hitter.

Freshman Marissa Hundelt has stepped into the mix and contributed to the team right away, which is nothing new for Hundelt as she was the go-to player on her high school volleyball team.

As a sophomore and then again as a senior, Hundelt was named to the First Team All-Missouri at the class two level. Hundelt finished her high school career with 1,165 kills, 1,123 digs and 322 blocks.

As a Penguin, Hundelt leads the team in kills with 113, is second in digs with 118 and fourth on the team with 20

blocks.

Hundelt said she doesn't feel added pressure as a freshman starter to contribute but does understand the Penguins count on her.

"It's a big responsibility, but I feel I have to do it for my team. We're a team and I'm a team player, so I just have to step up to the plate," Hundelt said.

Hundelt remains confident about winning despite the Penguins' record.

"Yes, we've lost, but I feel it has brought our team closer, and this may have to happen for our team to get better in the long run," Hundelt said.

Hundelt said she chose YSU because the roster made her feel like one of the girls even as a recruit.

"It just felt right. The girls had a role in that. The girls are behind each other, and they just made it very welcoming ... Academically wise, they

had my major, and I liked the campus," Hundelt said.

Head coach Krista Burrows said Hundelt has the potential to be a leader for the Penguins because of her vocal abilities on the court. Hundelt added that she is someone who leads by example on the court.

"I try to be as much of a vocal leader as possible but also lead by my actions," Hundelt said.

Before a match takes place, Hundelt enjoys a good mixture of music with her teammates to lighten the mood before she takes the court.

"As a whole team, we listen to music. We all get pumped up and ready to go. We listen to Miley Cyrus, Lil' Wayne and Drake," Hundelt said.

As far as nerves go, Hundelt said she was nervous in her first start but has become used to playing on the collegiate level.

Students unite to form women's lacrosse club

Jordan Uhl
SPORTS REPORTER

A group of young ladies who are not afraid of a little contact will embark on an endeavor new to Youngstown State University: women's lacrosse.

Beginning in the spring, Amanda Kolacki and a team that she has put together will begin competing against other women's lacrosse teams from around the region.

"There were always girls saying, 'Is there a girls team? Is there a girls team?' and there never was, so I wanted to start one," Kolacki said.

"I sent out a MyYSU personal announcement e-mail and pretty much got everyone from there. A few by word of mouth, but mostly from the e-mail," she said.

For a team early in existence, Kolacki isn't having trouble finding players.

"We have about 35 girls right now. We only need 11 on the field and a few sub-

stitutes. So we're in pretty good shape right now," she said.

Alex Portwood, a Youngstown native, responded to Kolacki's mass e-mail.

"I've never played lacrosse before. I've always been an athlete ... I played basketball. It's a challenge, [and it's] something to do that I've never done before," Portwood said.

Although Kolacki is the organizer of the team and by no means a newcomer to the sport, she has no experience playing organized lacrosse.

"I'm very familiar with it. A bunch of my friends played lacrosse at my high school and they taught me how to play a little bit, but I really learned how to play through the [boys club team] here last year," Kolacki said.

There is no set schedule, because, as Kolacki said, "In the early fall a lot of the teams get their schedules done."

Not allowing this to dis-

courage her from her goal, she is working diligently to change that.

"I've sent out some e-mails to West Virginia [University], Kent [State University], Slippery Rock [University]. I'm trying to keep it within a few hours so we don't have to travel too far, and we're also [trying] to, hopefully, have some home games too," Kolacki said.

Another obstacle is obtaining the necessary equipment to field a team.

"We are going to be submitting a form to student government to hopefully get some assistance with fees for our games ... I'm hopefully going to be getting the ball rolling with some ideas, so we don't have to pay a lot of money," she said.

While many encumbrances stand in the way between now and the expected commencement of their inaugural season, Kolacki and Portwood, along with the rest of the team, remain optimistic.

Women's basketball shows optimism during media day

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Expectation and serenity was the theme for the Youngstown State University women's basketball team on media day.

The Penguins return four starters from a season ago with the exception of outgoing senior forward Rachel Manuel, the only starter not returning. The team also lost a solid contributor from the bench, senior guard Kaitlyn March.

Moving forward from a 0-30 season and a 31-game losing streak can be difficult, but a new coach and a renewed sense of hope may trump a long list of consecutive losses.

"We haven't talked about it a lot. It's not something you can easily hide from," head coach Bob Boldon said when asked about "the streak".

Junior point guard Macey Nortey seconded Boldon's claim and added that the team is focusing on the upcoming season.

"It's been off our back since the season ended. What happened, happened and we can't dwell on that now," Nortey said.

Boldon said he wants to utilize one of his team's greatest assets this season: speed.

Boldon said the Penguins would be moving toward a motion style offense with constant moving and cutting instead of the offense former coach Cindy Martin had in place.

This season, the Penguins have 10 guards and three forwards.

Boldon said his team needs to work on several areas such as "putting the ball in the basket."

"I've seen some improvement with the shooting ... I think we are shooting the ball better. It's something we have to work on as a staff," Boldon said.

The top returning player for the Penguins is sophomore forward Brandi Brown. Brown averaged a double-double last year with 11.4 points and 10.6 rebounds.

Brown said she is excited to get back to the grind of the basketball season.

"At the end of the day, we're still playing basketball and that's what I'm excited about," Brown said.



Head women's basketball coach Bob Boldon remains optimistic despite inheriting a team that has lost 31 straight games.

"It's not something you can easily hide from."

-Head coach Bob Boldon

FCS TOP 25

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

MISSOURI VALLEY FOOTBALL

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

PENGUIN SPOTLIGHT



JOHN SASSON

POSITION: Linebacker

YEAR: Junior

HOMETOWN: Pittsburgh

HIGH SCHOOL: Fox Chapel

2010 Season Stats

Tackles: 40

Fumble

Recoveries: 1

Blocked Kicks: 1

SCHEDULES

FOOTBALL

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

Oct. 8- DETROIT

Oct. 10- @ Loyola

Oct. 22- @ Butler

Oct. 24- @ Valparaiso

VOLLEYBALL

Oct. 5- WRIGHT STATE

Oct. 6- BUTLER

Oct. 9- @ Loyola

Oct. 10- @ Valparaiso

Oct. 16- UIC

Oct. 22- @ Milwaukee

Oct. 23- @ Green Bay

Oct. 29- CLEVELAND STATE