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Today 59° 50°

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Remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar.

Influenza A hits residence halls

Dan Pompili
ASSIST. NEWS EDITOR

Associate Director of Housing and Residence Life Danielle Meyer verified Wednesday that one case of influenza A was confirmed in Kilcawley House.

Influenza A is the strain of influenza under which H1N1 is classified. Cases of H1N1 are no longer being diagnosed since health agencies and hospitals are no longer testing for it specifically.

Mahoning County Health Commissioner Matt Stefanek was cited in the Jambar earlier this semester, explaining that the symptoms and severity of H1N1 were determined similar to regular flu (influenza B) and that

the testing for H1N1 is expensive. For those reasons, suspected cases of H1N1 are treated no differently than cases of influenza A.

The case came to Meyer's attention when the afflicted student's roommate inquired about his options after learning of the student's illness.

Meyer said the ill student has been isolated in his residence hall. A supply of face-masks has been provided and the student has food brought to him.

His roommate has been provided with a series of options, including living somewhere else near campus, going home and commuting or remaining in his residence hall.

INFLUENZA page 4



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICTAMPUS



Francisco Morales, Christina Morales and Tori Blackshear stand in front of their mobile canvases that started as a cure for boredom.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALICIA PATTILLO / THE JAMBAR

Student makes a mobile statement

Alicia Pattillo
REPORTER

Freshman Francisco Morales causes a commotion when he parks his Chevy Malibu just blocks away from Youngstown State University. It's not because of a loud motor, but what his car displays.

"A lot of people talk about my car, but don't know that it's me," Morales said.

Morales' Malibu is covered in shades of red, orange, and yellow. He said he painted his car in such a bizarre way simply because he was bored one day, and also because of one embarrassing tease.

"I had to paint my car anyway, because

when I got the car, it was painted all white but one door was painted black, and people kept calling my car 'Dalmatian,'" Morales said.

Morales won't take all the credit when asked about the artwork displayed on his vehicle. He said a handful of friends and family joined in to create the masterpiece as well.

Those friends include the entire Chaney High School volleyball team, which added its mark to the trunk by painting a picture of a volleyball and spelling out the Chaney name, along with volleyball team member names and uniform numbers.

SPRAY PAINT page 4

Lifelong Cleveland Browns fan now develops team's software

Josh Stipanovich
NEWS EDITOR

The thought of developing software for the team who has been the reason for waking up every Sunday with a purpose, from the end of August through hopefully February, never crossed the mind of 28-year-old Seth Hooker.

But for the 2003 Youngstown State University graduate from Uhrichsville, Ohio, this dream became reality.

"Euphoria ... I'm a lifelong Browns fan. I grew up in a Browns household, [and] the job itself was a great fit for me as far as what all my favorite parts of the software industry [are]," Hooker said about his reaction when he

found out he was given the job. "It's a lot of work, it's a lot of hours [and] they're looking for driven people here, but it's a very rewarding job, and so I was really beside myself when I got the job. It's a great opportunity for me, and it has been so far."

Hooker, who interviewed with the Browns for nearly two months prior to beginning on Aug. 10, is in charge of developing the applications for draft trackers, free agent lists and even game evaluation software.

Like many high school students, Hooker wasn't aware of what he was going to pursue in college. Hooker



HOOKER

said he wasn't only a Browns fan, but also an architecture and engineering enthusiast.

After graduating from Claymont High School, Hooker had to make the decision that would shape his future, but said he wasn't able to choose a major until the last possible moment.

"I really didn't come across what I really wanted to do until I got to YSU, and I didn't decide on my major until the last possible day before I had gotten into school," Hooker said.

HOOKER page 4

First wellness coordinator ready for the challenge

Chelsea Miller
SPORTS REPORTER

Youngstown State University boasts several additions to its campus this year, and many changes in staff. One such change is the implementation of a new wellness program and hiring of a wellness coordinator, Carrie Clyde.

YSU decided to offer a wellness program for staff during 2008 contract negotiations. The university, along with the Ohio Education Association and the Association of Classified Employees, then incorporated a wellness program into its contracts.

Through this new program, YSU provides employees with opportunities, education and incentives for active participation in health and wellness initiatives. In turn, the university hopes to contribute to controlling health care costs and improving employee health.

The job of YSU wellness coordinator is to offer wellness programs to faculty and staff and to plan, promote and evaluate health-related programs. Examples of such programs are health screens, exercise programs and walking classes. YSU is also implementing a new employee assistance program this year, which is a toll-free hotline to address stress-related problems the caller may have.

Clyde, who was hired as wellness coordinator in August, decided to go into her line of work while in college, after a family member endured bypass surgery.

"I wanted to be able to help this person make changes to be around for a long time," Clyde said. "With that, I found health promotion and wanted to focus on disease prevention and disease management to help others understand the importance of their daily lifestyle habits in relation to their overall health. I have a true belief that if you invest in your health, you will be able to prevent a lot of diseases."

From there, Clyde received her bachelor's degree in education and allied professions with health promotion as her area of concentration. Clyde worked for the past six years at a local retirement community as a wellness coordinator. Prior to that, she was a group exercise program director at a Pittsburgh athletic club.

When the opportunity arose for her to take the position at YSU, Clyde was ready to seize the moment.

"I was excited about the challenge of starting up a new program and the potential of developing something really great," Clyde said.

Thus far, Clyde said she is pleased with her job.

"I enjoy being able to help individuals improve their quality of life. I like educating people on how to make changes that can make them feel healthier and feel better about themselves," Clyde said.

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News Briefs

YSU kicks off United Way Campaign

All Faculty and staff are invited for a free lunch, auction, a chance to win a flat-screen TV and to learn about the United Way and its programs. The event will take place Thursday in the reception area of Tod Hall, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Etruscan offers course on literary publishing

Etruscan Press is offering a two-day course in Literary Publishing, featuring Dana Gioia, former chair of the National Endowment for the Arts. The course will be conducted by Philip Brady and is open to NEOMFA and YSU graduates, undergraduate and Metro College students, as well as community members who may take a non-credit option. Gioia, who has published three collections of poetry, will deliver a keynote address and give a reading of his work. Both of these events are open to the public.



Professors vary over technology bans in class

Dan Brown
REPORTER

The YSUAlert system has been put into affect, but some professors have not felt the need to change their technology policies within the classroom. A questionnaire sent to 20 professors about technology bans yielded seven different responses, all highlighting cell phone usage as the most prominent problem during class.

Two of the teachers surveyed have banned the use of cell phones during class. Dorian Mermer, a communication studies instructor, said she bans the use of cell phones because students are texting during class and not paying attention. Dr. Johanna Krontiris-Litowitz, a professor of Biological Studies, requires cell phones turned off or set to quiet or vibrate. She also prohibits phone conversations or electronic communications during class time.

Eric Wingle, a teacher in the De-

partment of Mathematics and Statistics, doesn't have a general ban on electronics but restricts the use of cell phones during exams.

"This is to prevent the exam from being photographed and the student from communicating with others during the exam," said Wingle.

Dr. Chester Cooper of Biological Sciences bans all electronics during exams/quizzes too, and he also bans them from laboratories, citing use of electronics in the labs as a "safety issue."

Cooper encourages students to bring their laptops to class to follow his lecture notes so they don't have to print them all out.

English professor Dr. Rebecca Barnhouse doesn't have any bans in place but hopes students will have courtesy for others and not have their phones ring during class. She also finds iPhones and computers useful during class.

"This week, for example, somebody looked up definitions in the Oxford English Dictionary, which he has as an appli-

cation on his iPhone, and somebody else looked up John Milton's birth and death dates," Barnhouse explained.

Dr. Cary Wecht, an associate professor and chair in the Department of Communication, has a unique perspective. She takes on some of the blame if students use their electronics.

"Occasionally, I'm annoyed by the student who is texting while I or other students speak, or I suspect that a student is more present in the world of Facebook than in my class, but by and large, my feeling is that it's my job to make class interesting enough to hold my students' attention. If my students are persistently more interested in their cell phones than my class, I should look in the mirror," Wecht said.

Dr. Scott Martin, a professor and chair in the Department of Civil Environmental and Chemical Engineering was the only teacher whose response said he has no tech ban on the basis that he trusts that his students are mature enough to avoid disrupting classes with portable devices.

COMMENTARY

WEN systems have become the solution for universities

Moneka Gamble
REPORTER

The combined efforts of campus Student and Academic Affairs, Technology, Communications, Facilities and Youngstown State University Police departments have launched the Wireless Emergency Notification system this fall after two years of planning and assessments.

WEN systems have become a popular and plausible solution for universities and even local government agencies. A quick Internet search

will show many providers and provider solutions available to universities. According to the Wireless Design Magazines Web site, Ohio State University's Buckeye Alert and Kent State University's FLASH Alerts provide students information on how to update their number if necessary and turn off the alerts when they are not on campus for an extended period.

According to the FAQ on the YSU Alert Web portal, signing up is as quick as sending a text message from your phone to a designated number and the service is free, aside from standard text messag-

ing rates determined by your carrier. When you sign up for YSU Alert, you will also have an option to receive weather advisories. Parents or spouses can be alerted as well through your YSU Alert account, and you will never have to worry about ads or spam messages. Stopping alerts is also easy, with a quick "STOP" text message to the designated number for YSU Alerts.

On the other hand, YSU students, faculty and staff direct e-mail addresses are hardly top secret. Every time you send an email through your YSU account, that is one more individual or organization

that has your email address and could potentially sign up through the YSU Alert Web portal to also receive campus alerts even though they may not have a connection to the YSU campus.

Students on YSU campus are aware of the infrequent but tragic dangers of campus life. Although senior Aaron Brown admitted to not knowing if his cell phone carrier charged for text messaging, he still liked the idea of being alerted to campus emergencies.

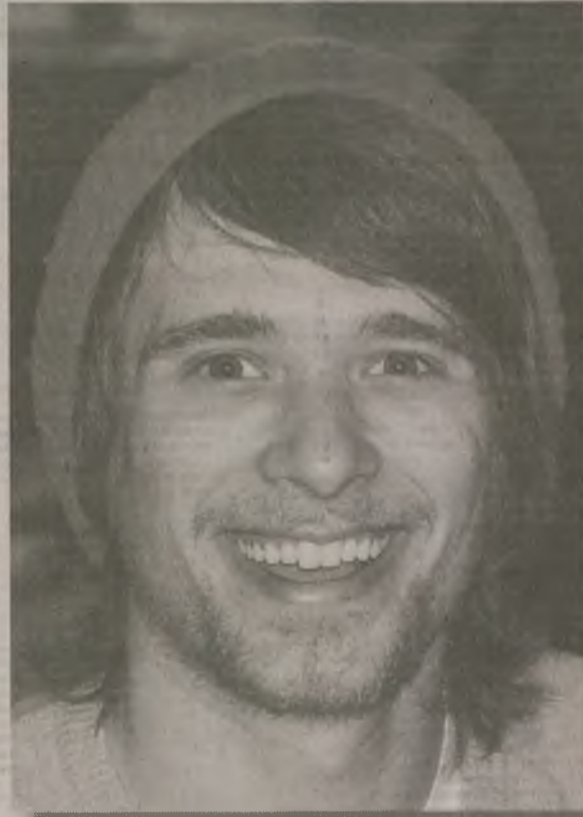
"If someone started shooting on campus, I would want know where to stay away from," Brown said.



How do you feel about Marge Simpson posing for Playboy?



"It's shocking but I think it's funny."
Kacy Standohar



"I'm for it. Jessica Rabbit was the first. But Marge Simpson is kinda like that forbidden fruit."
Sean Hauthey



"That's odd."
Morgan Shagnano



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Talking is getting pushed aside by texting

Bonnie Bing
MCT

I was concerned before, and I've written a little bit about it, but a roomful of seventh-graders really cranked my head around. I'm worried about communication skills going the way of the 8-track tape player.

When I was the guest speaker in Mrs. Sanders' social studies class at Hadley Middle School last week, I asked how many of the students had a cell phone. Most of them raised their hands. I asked how many used it to text their friends. All of them. I asked how many could text without looking at the keys. Several of them.

Then I asked how many would rather text a friend than call and talk to them.

All of them raised their hands. What?

As a seventh-grader at Hadley, my happiest evening moments were spent talking on the phone when I should have been doing homework. Yes, I wrote notes, but it wasn't nearly as much fun as chatting for as long as my parents would allow me to tie up the line. This was, after all, long before call waiting and decades before cell phones.

Now people of all ages are communicating by texting.

I reminded the students that if you put a person on speed dial you'll probably forget their phone number. If you text all the time, spelling skills can go down the tubes. "By the way" isn't actually spelled BTW.

"I have students rewriting because they use their texting shorthand on papers and labs," their teacher told me.

And you might forget the importance of verbal communication. I reminded them that if they didn't continue to hone their communica-

tion skills, it will be difficult to talk face-to-face with someone you hope to work for. This was a class of very cool kids, but when I was saying all of this, some looked at me as though I might, possibly, with more consideration have a point.

Others, however, had that "I'm not buyin' that" look.

Maybe I lost their trust when I admitted that when I first started texting I thought "LOL" stood for "lots of love." It's "laughing out loud," of course, even though "lots of love" is so much nicer.

Twitter and Facebook are other subjects causing worry. Though I have accounts on both and occasionally enjoy them, I am mystified why anyone would think I want to know what they are having for lunch, or why they would have the slightest interest in how I'm spending my evening.

My friend who would rather tweet than eat said, "Oh, you'll get hooked on it, too." No, I won't.

When my husband and I talked about the lack of face-to-face conversation in the world today, he said, "It's going to be interesting to see what social interaction is 20 years from now." Yes, yes it will.



MCTCAMPUS.COM

HP's new touch Tablet Windows 7 ultimate remote?

Brier Dudley
MCT

Hewlett-Packard recently announced a new wireless, touchscreen tablet that's a cross between a wireless photo frame and a super duper remote control.

A 10-inch diagonal DreamScreen (www.hp.com/go/dreamscreen) lists for \$250 and a 13-incher is \$299.

It looks like a great accessory for Windows 7 PCs, if its streaming features work with the new Windows Media Player.

I wonder if the tablet could work as an a/v device, similar to the Sonos and Logitech Squeezebox, to stream music from a home network to a stereo receiver (although it only has a headphone audio output connection) or control music on a PC linked somehow to a stereo.

In addition to handling music, the DreamScreen plays

videos, displays photos and streams Facebook updates.

Persistent rumors suggest Apple may introduce a similar device early next year, although I'd bet Apple's will have more computing power, so it can run iTunes and apps.

DreamScreen devices are pretty close to the Mira hardware concept that Microsoft briefly pushed in 2002 (http://news.cnet.com/2100-1040-858461.html), but it makes more sense now that wireless home networks are more common and the hardware cost has fallen below \$300.

Microsoft has worked on a variety of lightweight devices to display information from a PC and information services, and smaller companies like Chumby have tried selling gadgets that display widgets similar to those on a PC desktop.

Yet the closest thing to a hit in the category has the digital photo frame, which generally has sub-par software.



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INFLUENZA page 1

"We're still over capacity," said Meyer. She explained that the residence halls offer no place to quarantine ill students or to house displaced roommates.

Residence hall capacity on campus is 850 and YSU is currently accommodating 890 students.

The ill student is from out of town, Meyer said, and could not get home.

Meyer said another Kilcawley resident went home earlier in the semester and was diagnosed with influenza A by her family doctor. The student was later cleared by the doctor to return to classes and is no longer considered a risk to the campus community.

Meyer said residence hall cleaning crews use a heavy disinfectant on top of regular cleaning products and that hand sanitizers and influenza educational posters are posted in all residence hall lobbies.

Meyer said she is most pleased that efforts to avoid panic on campus have been successful. She said Youngstown State University is following the guidelines established by the United States Centers for Disease Control. They continue to use education to combat the spread of influenza and all residential assistants are trained to disseminate information to students on health practices.

HOOKER page 1

"I've always liked computers [and the] idea of development, but I never really had the opportunity to get into it."

After deciding that developing computer software was his passion, Hooker immediately knew he wanted to major in computer science and minor in mathematics.

Hooker, who was able to navigate through college in four years without changing his major, said he was fortunate for this because it allowed him to graduate on time. This has allowed him get to where he is today at such a young age.

Hooker has achieved an incredible amount of success, and said he attributes all of it to YSU.

"What YSU was great for was the interactions between people," Hooker said. "YSU's environment through the dorms, through the campus atmosphere, through all of the intramurals and extracurriculars, really encourages people to get together."

Faculty members such as assistant director of Student Programming Greg Gulas,

Honors Program assistant director Dr. Amy Cossentino and associate professor of computer science and information Dr. John Sullins were all inspirations, Hooker said.

Gulas, who worked with Hooker in bringing the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity up off the ground, said he knew Hooker was going to be an asset not only to himself but also to the fraternity.

"He was one of the guys that was a driving force in trying to get them [Sigma Tau Gamma] recolonized, and you just knew that entire group, Seth included, was a very, very special group because number one, they had 'stick-to-it-iveness.' They were very caring and they were very passionate," Gulas said.

Sigma Tau Gamma still exists, and Gulas said since they have been reorganized, they have been one of the elite fraternities at YSU, winning Greek Sing numerous times and being named all-sports champions.

"They were the number one chapter academically nationwide out of all the Sig

Tau's, and in the top five several times," Gulas said.

Gulas and Hooker aren't just Sigma Tau fraternity brothers; they now have both worked with the Cleveland Browns.

Gulas, who interned with the Browns as a graduate student at Ohio University in 1978, said he knew Hooker would get the position.

"Not only are we fraternity brothers, but we both worked for the Browns," Gulas said. "[Hooker is] much more important than I ever was."

Although working for the Browns is certainly the milestone of his career so far, his main goal in life is quite simple, and Hooker said that because of his busy schedule, he hasn't had the time to have the benefit of the doubt.

"My main goal in life has never really been a work-related goal ... [my main goal] is to learn more about having a family, a nice place to come home to and just at the end of the day just to be satisfied with who I am and with where I am in life," Hooker said.

SPRAY PAINT page 1

Though some may see a vandalized car and wonder who the owner behind the wheel is and what he or she was thinking, Morales said every image holds some significance to him.

"YSU is painted on there because I like the school, the

whole Chaney volleyball team helped me paint my car, the cross represents my faith in Christianity, an anarchy sign because I have free will, the Puerto Rico flag because that is my nationality," Morales said.

CORRECTION

In the article, "SGA meeting discusses funds allocation and new policies," the Jambar misrepresented Justin McIntyre, who is a member of the Financial Appropriations Committee and also a CLASS Representative for SGA. We regret the error.



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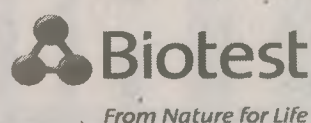
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OUR SIDE EDITORIAL

Write your own story

RELATED STORY

Hooker, page 1

THE JAMBAR EDITORIAL BOARD

Every student at Youngstown State University can produce his or her own success story. Students can make their mark not only on the university, but also on friends, colleagues, faculty and staff whom they influence every day.

Two weeks ago, Notre Dame graduate Brady Quinn was pulled out of the game, now YSU graduate Seth Hooker is working on the software that may help the Browns draft Quinn's replacement or find a good trade for him.

London's Economist Magazine just named Youngstown as one of the battleground cities from which America's revitalization may arise. Success stories like Hooker provide clear rationale for such an assumption.

Youngstown is long overdue for removal of the stigma attached to it. YSU continually produces quality graduates who succeed because of the tempered strength they develop in this city. Yet many of us refuse to believe prosperity can emerge from a steel ghost town.

Why?
Critique the small stuff but make no mistake; a degree from YSU is every bit as good as one from Notre Dame or Harvard. It's not the paper. It's the person holding it.

Learn from the unique experiences that can only be derived from the culture and attitude that cities like Youngstown possess. Bear those cold winters and pothole-riddled roads. Thrive on the spirit that can only be found at the Ice Castle on a blustery Saturday.

And don't forget to study. Work hard at it. It actually means something.

For the Browns fans on campus, you may one day be the only one qualified to make an educated decision for them.

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.

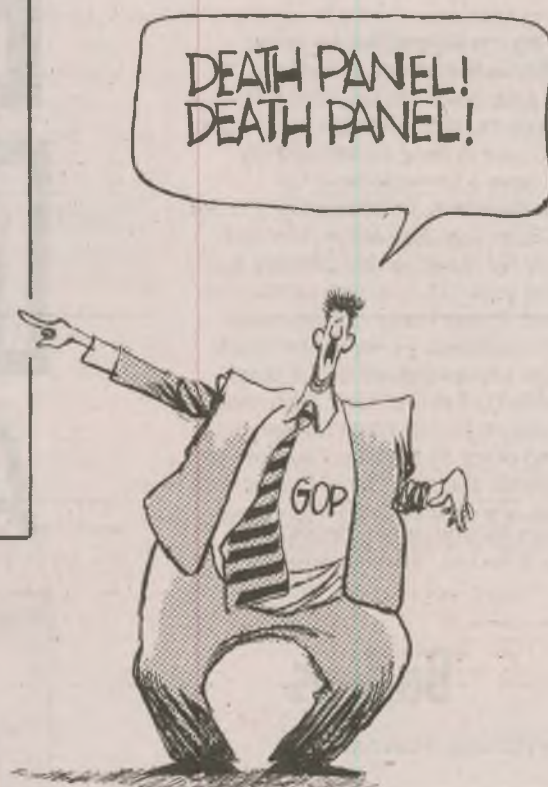
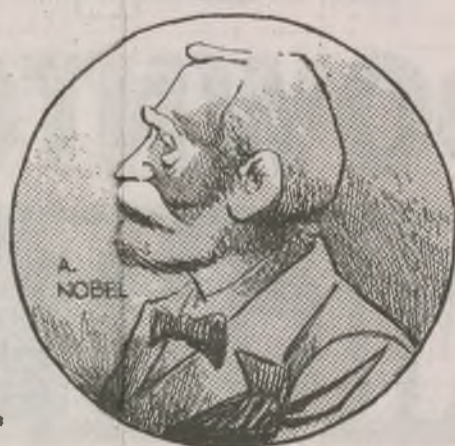
YOUR SIDE POLICY

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

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NOBEL COMMITTEE AWARDS PEACE PRIZE TO BARACK OBAMA



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

Baucus bill is a good start in getting the nation to the goal of universal health care

MCT
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Max Baucus accomplished at least two things as he nipped and tucked the health care bill his Senate Finance Committee will consider Tuesday.

First, the Montana Democrat bloodied almost every one of the nation's prominent health care interest groups; second, the committee produced the only bill that stands a fighting chance of attracting enough centrist Democrats to gain passage. Both are good things.

The Baucus bill would remake one-sixth of the nation's economy in an essential reform that is now closer than at any time since President Harry S. Truman ripped the "do-nothing 80th Congress" for opposing national health insurance in 1948.

If the bill survives the committee vote this week as expected, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., will combine it with a version passed by the Senate Health Committee. Sen. Olympia Snowe of Maine is the only Republican who shows the slightest inclination to support the Baucus bill. Republicans are unlikely to support any of the three bills pending in the House.

Whether the GOP at large realizes it or not, the public is ready for change. Fifty-seven percent of Americans said that health care reform is "more important than ever," according to the Kaiser Health Tracking Poll released Sept. 29. And some prominent Republicans

do seem to understand the need, including former Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson, former Sen. Bill Frist of Tennessee and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger of California. All endorsed reform efforts in the past week.

But while the Baucus bill would do some good, it still needs tailoring. President Barack Obama should lobby Congress to ensure that only the best ideas emerge.

Our concerns:
The bill does not create a government-run insurance plan to compete with private plans in the health insurance buying exchanges that would be created for those who are not covered by employer plans or other government programs. This is a major flaw. Health insurance premiums have risen between 88 percent and 145 percent in the past decade — they are breaking the budgets of average working people. The average annual cost of a family health insurance plan is now \$13,375, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Clearly, private insurers don't have enough competition.

But we're not convinced the bill's health insurance co-ops, adopted in lieu of a public plan, would do the job. Even the bill's language acknowledges that co-ops would not establish "a significant market presence in many areas."

A show of hands: How many of you are satisfied with the performance of your health insurer? OK, then why not ask the insurers to put more skin in the game? Millions of new customers will flow to insurers as a result of mandated cover-

age, which argues for some limit on how much private insurers should profit from that requirement.

The bill could cost far more than Baucus is letting on. A Congressional Budget Office report, widely heralded last week, contends the bill would reduce the deficit by \$81 billion over 10 years. The figure is illusory. The bill makes the bold assumption that Congress will actually do what it says it will do and reduce physician payments to Medicare providers by up to 25 percent. Don't hold your breath. If those reductions do not occur, and history argues that they will not, then the real cost of this bill will be billions of dollars more.

The bill should do more to change the fee-for-service culture in health care that rewards volume over quality.

Despite changes made to the bill recently, it's still unclear if the working poor will be able to afford insurance through the exchanges — even with subsidies. And even after spending more than \$800 billion, the bill would leave 25 million uninsured by 2019.

Despite its flaws, though, the Baucus bill represents progress. It is not so much health care reform as it is insurance reform. But that's a start and lays a foundation for future work.

The bill would cover 94 percent of Americans; about one-third of those remaining on the sidelines would be illegal immigrants. It envisions innovative approaches to reduce costs, including creation of an independent commission with

real teeth that would remove Medicare pricing from the influence of special interests that each year badger Congress into spending far more than is necessary for quality care. And it would allow insurers to sell across state lines, which under tight regulation should help drive down premiums.

The bill would tax Cadillac health care plans, which has the twin benefit of raising revenue to pay for subsidies for low-income people and discouraging companies from offering plans that waste medical resources. It extracts new fees from Big Pharma and medical device makers and ends the debilitating practice of denying coverage for pre-existing conditions.

The bill is expensive costlier than it seems at first blush but the cost of inaction would be higher. Health care costs are rising at an alarming rate as the number of uninsured in America approaches 50 million. There are many arguments in favor of fixing this broken system: It kills jobs; puts unacceptable burdens on family budgets; allows well-heeled corporate titans, such as the insurance companies and big pharmaceutical firms, to gouge hard-working Americans.

But the best argument remains: The world's richest nation simply shouldn't allow millions of its people to teeter at the edge of financial ruin, just one accident or one bad gene away from disaster.

Fix the Baucus bill, pass it and begin to fix the system.

Time to end tax credit for ethanol producers

MCT
KANSAS CITY STAR

Congress has tried to create a charmed life for ethanol and Midwestern corn growers in recent years.

First came a hefty tax credit for producing the renewable fuel. And in late 2007 U.S. lawmakers passed a new standard that requires quadrupling the output of ethanol and other biofuels by 2022.

But this month the federal Government Accountability Office issued a sobering report that questioned the need for the tax credit because it's not expected to boost ethanol production beyond already-mandated levels.

In reaction, Congress should scrap the 45-cent tax credit that artificially supports each gallon of ethanol.

The credit helps keep out cheaper ethanol from Brazil, boosting the cost of driving for American motorists.

More notably, the tax credit is no longer needed now that Congress has mandated such a large increase in production. Right now the credit is a source of easy profits for the industry.

The GAO report also correctly called for more rigorous examinations of ethanol's long-term impact on the environment.

That's a field ripe for study, mostly because farmers likely will be using more land, water and fertilizers to dramatically

increase corn production. The GAO authors fairly point out that changes in crop yield and the use of water conservation techniques could lessen these environmental concerns.

Ultimately, new studies could help determine whether ethanol's true effect on the environment is more harmful than now thought.

In the short term, getting rid of a tax credit costly to U.S. taxpayers is a needed first step in Washington.

got an opinion?

Send letters to:
thejambar@gmail.com

Downtown 36

36 FEDERAL PLAZA W.

HOURS: Wednesday-Saturday, 9 p.m.-2:30 a.m.

A big city atmosphere boasting affordable specials, Downtown 36 is a top-notch bar targeting YSU students. With a special every night, it's hard to deny the affordability to have a fun night here. On Wednesdays, DT36 hosts "Party like a Rock Star: Pay at the Door and Pay No More," where girls pay \$10 and guys \$15 and drink inside at no cost. Power Hours are the theme of Thursdays, where drinks from 9 p.m. to midnight are only a dollar while DJ Patrone spins the tunes. On Fridays, the bar hosts DJ Jerry Mac and offers \$1.50 Miller Lites and \$2 bombs. DJ Chris Daniels takes on the scene on Saturday nights with the same specials as Fridays.

Barleys

21 FEDERAL PLAZA W.

Bartender Jim Ceci described each night of the week at Barleys as full of nightly specials. Monday night boasts \$2 imports, Tuesday night is open mic night and \$2 cocktails, Wednesday night is flip night (the bartender flips a coin and the customer chooses heads or tails, and if the customer guesses correctly they get their drink for 50 cents, and if not the customer pays full price) Thursday night is hip-hop night, and Friday night is always band night. Barleys opens at 8 p.m. with dollar domestics.

Skeeter's Jazz Bar & Grill

15 W FEDERAL ST.

HOURS: Wednesday-Saturday 8 p.m. to 2 a.m., with kitchen open for lunch

Intended for adults 35 years or older, Skeeter's Jazz Bar and Grill presents a jazz scene and features fine jazz musicians from the tri-state area. They pride themselves on their extremely relaxed atmosphere.

Tomasino's Pizza

103 FEDERAL PLAZA W.

Tomasino's Pizza serves homemade New York style cheese, pepperoni, vegetable, spinach and special pizzas. Tomasino's also has pepperoni and spinach rolls.

Cafe Cimento

120 E. BOARDMAN ST.

This humble cafe serves homemade Italian dishes and fine wine.

Lemon Grove Cafe

122 W. FEDERAL ST.

HOURS: Monday-Friday, 11-4 a.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 5 p.m.-4 a.m.

Lemon Grove Cafe owner and YSU graduate Jacob Harver said his objective was to create a coffee shop that wasn't corporate and has its "own vibe and character." Harver also said the Lemon Grove is the middle ground between coffee shops and bars.

"I like coffee shops, but I like to drink, but I don't like going to bars," Harver said.

Lemon Grove patron Bill Majzik said the cafe is not "gender specific, age specific or political specific." Harver also describes the Lemon Grove as "walking the line of social activism, and a place to provide a positive environment for the community, and that's also environmentally sustainable."

Compiled by: Jeff Mamounis, Chelsea Pflugh & Emmalee C. Torisk

Photos & Design by: Adam Rogers

DOWNTOWN NIGHT LIFE AND DINING



Rosetta Stone Cafe and Wine Bar

110 W. FEDERAL ST.

KITCHEN HOURS: Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Sunday, 1-8 p.m.

BAR HOURS: Monday-Wednesday until 10 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday until 2 a.m.

Greg Sop, a Rosetta Stone owner, said there's something for everyone at The Rosetta Stone. The restaurant features traditional dishes, like steaks, fresh seafood and Italian dishes, and more unusual choices, like frog legs and duck. The Rosetta Stone also has more than 30 wines for diners to choose from. Live bands perform on Fridays and Saturdays. Sop said a nightclub below the Rosetta Stone is in the works.

Imbibe Martini Bar

124 FEDERAL PLAZA W.

HOURS: Wednesday-Saturday, 8 p.m.-2:30 a.m.

Not exclusively martinis, Imbibe also has cocktails, beers and wines. Try cocktails with a wide selection of vodka, gin, rum, whiskey, scotch, tequila and cordials. See if you can try them as a mixer or a shot. Imbibe offers imports, microbrews, small batch brews and a large selection of domestics. Imbibe has alcohol from 16 countries and beer from eight different states, including Ohio. The wine menu consists of wines by the bottle and by the glass; choose from red, white, and sparkling wines. Information provided by Imbibe Martini Bar.

Cedars Lounge

23 N. HAZEL ST.

HOURS: Tuesday-Wednesday, 8 p.m.-2 a.m.; Thursday-Saturday, 7 p.m.-2 a.m.; Sunday, 10 p.m.-10 a.m.

Cedars bartender Billy Danielson said Cedars is "the coolest f---ing bar in town." Cedars hosts Swing Night on Thursdays and features live music on Fridays and Saturday nights. On Swing Night, guests are encouraged to dress in clothing spanning from the World War II era to 1960. Music from the period will be played. Cedars charges no cover charge on Tuesdays.

Plan Yo WEEKEND

PUMPKIN CARVING
Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Fellows Riverside Gardens

HAUNTED LAKE TRAIL
Friday and Saturday, 7 or 10:30 p.m.
Lake Milton State Park
\$6

ALL OR NOTHIN PRESENTS: FRESH FRIDAYS
Fridays at 10 p.m.
NoDay s
18+

KELLY CLARKSON
Saturday, 8 p.m.
Covelli Centre
\$35.50 to \$75.50

RALLY IN THE VALLEY BLOCK PARTY/BIKE NIGHT
Sunday, 3 to 9 p.m.
Rosetta Stone

"COME FLY WITH ME"
Sunday, 4 to 5 p.m.
Bliss Recital Hall

HAUNTED HAYRIDES
Sunday, 7 to 10 p.m.
Boardman Park

Broaden Yo Horizons

BAD ASTRONOMY
Saturday, 1 p.m.
Ward Beecher Planetarium

EDGAR ALLEN POE S "THE BLACK CAT"
Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, 2 p.m.
Victorian Players Theatre



IMAGE COURTESY OF JENNIFER NEAL

BELLY DANCER BRINGS SHIMMY TO CITY

Gary S. Angelo
FEATURES REPORTER

Jennifer Neal, the owner, belly dance yogini and Pilates instructor of EOS Whole Fitness, has introduced the mystical art of belly dancing to Youngstown. EOS Whole Fitness is located on 1931 Belmont Ave.

Neal has pursued various forms of dance nearly all her life, including ballet, tap, jazz and hip-hop. Her interest in belly dance began when she danced at a memorial scholarship benefit for local artist and Ursuline High School alumna, Cookie Pesce.

"While practicing, a friend brought an old belly dancing VHS tape in as a warm-up tool and from that point, I loved it," Neal said.

After watching the tape,

Neal researched the world of belly dancing and began studying the numerous styles and roots of this form of self-expression.

"At that point I wanted to dance as much as possible," Neal said, adding that she began taking workshops from belly dancer Rachel Brice. "Brice integrates yoga deeply into her belly dance format, and immediately after studying with her I became addicted to yoga."

Neal said Brice is one of her main belly dance influences. She is a master of tribal fusion and director of The Indigo Belly Dance Company, one of the most well-known belly dance troupes in the world. Brice is a major influence on Neal's teaching style as well.

Shortly after taking her first class from Brice in Wash-

ington, D.C., Neal began to hold dance classes in the upstairs portion of her Belmont Avenue business location in April 2007. By March 2008, she expanded her business to the downstairs portion of the building, and added yoga and other fitness classes.

Neal has noticed an increased interest in belly dancing.

"I think it's becoming more popular not only because things move in cycles, much like bell bottoms come and go and come back, but hopefully because of an increase in cultural awareness," Neal said.

Neal said belly dancing is as good for an individual's emotional and spiritual well-being as it is for his or her waistline.

"Belly dancing encourages people to become comfortable in their own bodies

again," Neal said, adding that belly dance does not require a specific build as some other forms of dance do, but rather welcomes and celebrates bodies of all sizes and shapes.

Neal also directs Youngstown's acclaimed belly dance troupe, the Tribe of EOS. The Tribe of EOS has performed at many local events, including the BonFrog festival at Cedars, the Pig Iron Community Street Festival and the Grey to Green Festival.

Neal's most memorable experience in dance performance was pulling off a nine-minute choreography for a show in six weeks with eight performers, some of whom didn't know a body shake from a hip shimmy just prior to the event.

"It was a very chaotic, wild and also very rewarding experience. It just made me want to do this more," she said.

Neal said she is most interested in the "older, more folkloric and tribal styles of belly dancing prominent in North Africa and India."

"I always reach back to cabaret, which has roots in Turkish, Egyptian and Greek styles, to name a few," Neal said.

In addition to tribal and cabaret styles, Neal also fuses styles such as Bhangra and Bharatanatyam, both native to India, as well as hip-hop, jazz, latin and contemporary types into her classes and choreographies.

Neal said the belly dance community is filled with a lot of extremely talented, yet humble, earthy and really fun-loving people. It is a very open and supportive sort of subculture that is slowly emerging out into the fringes of the mainstream.

Who you gonna call? Ghost hunters

Lamar Salter
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

The time of the year has rolled around when scary stories, crazy costumes and children eating candy become common around neighborhoods.

While some people see Halloween as simple fun, there are others who take the legends heard around this time of the year to heart every day. One of the most common tales to frighten any child or scare any coward has been the definitive ghost story, and we don't mean a Kelly Pavlik autobiography.

Their existence constantly debated, ghosts have haunted the minds of people for generations. Stories of haunted hotels, ghost trains and vengeful spirits travel to the ears of people around the world, and Youngstown is no different.

Lori Miller, a junior at Youngstown State University, talked about her frightening encounter with the unknown.

"I was attacked last week by a ghost," Miller said. "I was laying in bed and someone said, 'Turn over, your grandfather is behind you.' I didn't, but then I woke up the next morning with scratches on my collar bone, stomach and legs."

Sophomore Neena Guerrieri also talked about hearing voices.

"I was sitting at home by



Jim Sparks, or Sparks Spirit Hunters, displays a camera used in his investigations. Photo by Lamar Salter/The Jambar

myself and I heard somebody talking upstairs. I was so scared," she said.

While most shy away from the thought of spirits in the shadows, laughing dubiously at their own fear, others have taken a more predatory approach.

Sparks Spirit Hunters is a group based out of Hermitage, Pa., of people who have become fascinated with stories of paranormal activity. They have used their intense interest to get to the next level.

"I was always interested in the paranormal even as a kid," said Jared Sparks, a lead investigator in the group.

He talked about a major

experience he had in his home that inspired his career choice. He said he would hear footsteps and strange sounds while home alone.

One night, he started to take night vision pictures of a room where the spirit was thought to stay. One particular shot he took showed a faint white light in a bathtub, which he believes is a former owner of his home not ready to leave.

Sparks Spirit Hunters use their extensive knowledge of the paranormal to both present and solidify evidence of the paranormal. The group has presented countless pieces of evidence including sounds, photographs and frightening

encounters.

"Ghosts are any type of energy that you cannot explain with rational thought," said Jim Sparks, Jared's older brother and fellow lead investigator. "Everything has energy."

Jim Sparks started his investigation into the unknown a decade before Jared after a frightening physical experience with a spirit.

"I was home alone taking a shower and started hearing voices," he said. "So I jumped out, got my gun and started looking around but there was nothing."

After researching about spirits, he decided to take matters into his own hands.

Since then, he has learned a lot about the supernatural. He talked about the different categories of spirits. He said there are the typical demonic ghosts that are seen in movies and the residuals, who are unaware of their own death and repeat their days as if they were still alive.

"They're like a CD stuck on a loop," he said.

He also talked about intelligent ghosts, who are very responsive and interactive with the living.

"We can sit there and ask a question and it will give us an answer to that question," he said.

Sparks Spirit Hunters have traveled across Ohio and surrounding areas, sometimes of their own accord, sometimes at the request of others. They

have traversed the hallways of the Ohio State Reformatory, set up shop in the West Virginia Penitentiary and investigated private residences in McDonald.

With ghosts said to be of electromagnetic energy, the group uses Electromagnetic field (EMF) detectors to pick up any readings. Thermometers help read peculiar temperatures during a job and flashlights and audio and video recorders help discover suitable evidence.

The group members tend to distance themselves from the more flamboyant hunters, who rely more on instincts and glamorous predictions.

"They're some people who are into sensationalizing it and going to Hollywood," Jared said. "We aren't going to say anything unless we have the full proof."

He also talked about the stress of the job.

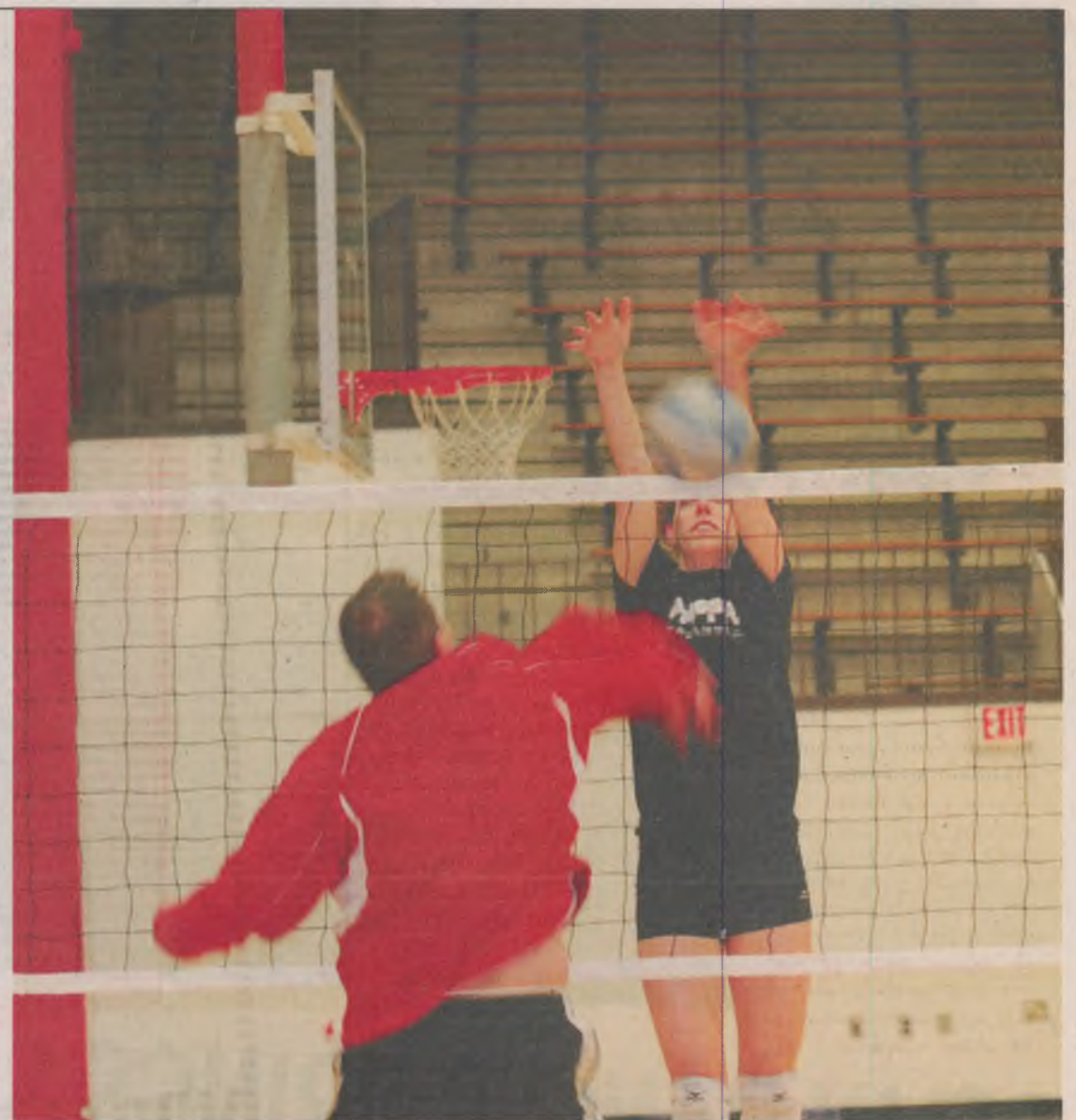
"It gets pretty boring. Sometimes you end up sitting at a monitor watching nine hours of footage. You can't fast forward though or you might miss something," he said.

The team also works for no profit. Every job is voluntary and the equipment they use is their own personal property. Jared said that despite the downs, their curiosity and interest in the paranormal are worth the high prices.

"I'm doing this to find the questions to the answers I have for myself," Jim said.



Junior Laurie Shives gets ready to serve the ball at practice.



Coach Joe Bonner works on technique and blocking with senior Allison Heinz.

PHOTOS BY KEITH LANGFORD JR./THEJAMBAR

Volleyball to play Valparaiso and Butler on road

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

The Youngstown State University women's volleyball team will find itself opposite the women's soccer team as it gears up for four road games instead of a four-game home-stand.

This week, the Penguins will travel to Indiana to battle the Valparaiso University Crusaders, and square off against the Butler University Bulldogs one day later.

Head coach Joe Bonner said the intensity of his team has increased since the begin-

ning of the conference schedule.

"Since we started conference, the energy in our practices is at another level. Every day in practice we need to set higher goals and achieve them," Bonner said.

With eight more conference games to go and with six of those eight games on the road, the Penguins need to play well on the road to maintain their fifth place position in the Horizon League standings. The Penguins are 1-1 so far on the road, which includes a three-set sweep of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. This road trip will test the Pen-

guins.

The Penguins will play two of the elite teams in the Horizon League this week. Earlier this season, the Penguins played both teams and lost. They were swept in three sets in both matches.

Valparaiso stands tied for first place in the Horizon League with Cleveland State University while Butler is third place in conference.

The Crusaders play good offense as well as good defense. On the season, they average more kills and digs than their opponents. That's a key reason why they are on top of the Horizon League standings.

Senior outside hitter Angie Porche leads her team in kills with 242, and freshman libero Taylor Root leads the team in digs with 339. These two are key players for the Crusaders, and two the Penguins should plan for.

Butler is similar to Valparaiso, as they also average more kills and digs than their opponents.

Junior outside hitters Jessica Wolfe and Katie Daprile lead the team in the kills and digs respectively. Wolfe lead the team with 353 kills, while Daprile has racked up 366 digs this season.

Senior middle hitter Ruth

Boscaljon leads the Penguins in kills and blocks. The Penguins need her leadership to pull off two victories on the road.

Coach Bonner said in order to win games from this point forward, the Penguins need to be efficient in every match. Bonner's goal for the season is to find his team in the postseason and then go from there.

"We want to find ourselves peaking when it comes to tournament time," Bonner said.

The Penguins will definitely need efficiency against Valparaiso and Butler.

INTRAMURAL PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Carrie Ritzler

Student intern Ben Dooley nominated Carrie Ritzler because of her play in the co-recreation soccer league. Her goal in a shootout for her team, Kamikazee, won the game.

Soccer hosts Valparaiso

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

As members of the Youngstown State University women's soccer team practiced on a brisk fall morning where the temperature hovered around 32 degrees, they looked forward to the opportunities in front of them.

In seasons past, all Horizon League teams made the playoffs and were seeded by their conference record. This season the format has changed. Only the top six teams make the tournament this season. The Penguins lie in the ninth and final position in the Horizon League, but square off against several teams above them on their home field.

The Penguins play their final four regular season games at home. If they get on a roll and win some clutch games, they can sneak into the playoffs.

"We have to win a couple game to get in [the postseason]," head coach Will Lemke said on the prospect of his team's chances. "We have top teams ahead of us and we're playing them at home."

The Penguins will not hit the road again unless they make the postseason. They will finish with a 1-6 record on the road in the regular season. Compare the 1-6 away record to a solid 2-2-2 record at home and it's clear where the Penguins are most comfortable.

"We have played consistent all year at home and this is our time," Lemke said.

Coach Lemke does not want his team to look ahead to the four straight home games, but at the first game ahead on the schedule against the Val-

paraiso Crusaders.

"We have to win this next game. We have to focus on winning this next game," Lemke said.

This game brings the Valparaiso University Crusaders into Stambaugh Stadium on Friday.

The Crusaders come into the contest against the Penguins 5-8-1 overall with a 2-3 Horizon League mark. The 2-3 record in the league places the Crusaders in the sixth spot, a position the Penguins can march toward if they defeat the Crusaders. The Penguins have to defeat the Crusaders or their postseason opportunities could fade away after just one game.

If the Penguins do lose, they would be three games back in the win column against the Crusaders and by all means eliminated from the postseason. However if they win or tie, that would help their cause tremendously.

Two Crusaders' players the Penguins should plan for are freshman forward Luisa Desario and senior midfielder Jackie Kondratko. Desario and Kondratko both lead the Crusaders in points with 10. Desario has five goals on the season while Kondratko has three goals and four assists.

The Penguins have lost four straight games. All four were conference losses. The Penguins' offense has struggled the past four games. The Penguins' opponents scored 12 goals while the Penguins scored two goals. The home advantage should help the offense. In the two home wins and two ties, the Penguins scored six goals while their opponents scored four goals.