

Baseball to open season at Dayton see page 6



THE Jambar

THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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Upcoming Events

Today

• Tony Deyo, comedian, at Peaberry's Café, 11 a.m.

• Rockstar Karaoke at The Wedge, 10 p.m., \$2 cover charge.

Friday

• SteelHounds vs. Wichita at the Chevrolet Centre, 7:05 p.m.

• Ty Barnett from Last Comic Standing 4 at the Funny Farm Comedy Club, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., \$17.50.

• Third Arm Promotions presents Gingerspitz, Eileens Basement, Secondhand Suicide and Death of a Dying Breed at The Cellar, doors open at 8 p.m., show begins at 9 p.m., \$7 for 18 years and over, \$5 for 21 and over.

Saturday

• SteelHounds vs. Wichita at the Chevrolet Centre, 7:05 p.m.

• Ty Barnett from Last Comic Standing 4 at the Funny Farm Comedy Club, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., \$17.50.

YSU

Snow Day

Winter blast forces YSU to close campus



Jambar/ Adam Rogers

While YSU students and faculty enjoyed a day off, Emergency Personnel were required to report to campus on Wednesday to prepare the campus for reopening today. Pictured here in front of the YSU Bookstore is one of many giant snow mounds that were plowed to clear entranceways, parking lots, streets and sidewalks. Administrators cancelled classes Wednesday after an overnight snow storm left YSU and the rest of the valley under more than a foot of snow.

Jenny Boyce

ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Below zero temperatures and snowstorms have had no influence lately on whether or not Youngstown State University should close, but when blankets upon blankets of snow buried the campus on Tuesday night, students finally got their wish. Flashbacks of high school cancellations struck the minds of many students as YSU closed for the day, leaving many safely snowbound in their dorms.

"I'm enjoying the day off!" said junior Tracey Schultz, as she stayed snug and warm inside her room at Buechner Hall. "I slept in, ate lunch, did some studying and am

about to go outside and play in the snow."

The last time YSU closed down for the day was Feb. 17, 2003. A YSU police dispatcher at the time advised students not to venture outside, as mounds of snow left some trapped inside their dorms, such as Weller House.

With news reports warning of more inches to add onto the foot of snow already on the ground Wednesday, some students still had to brave the outdoors.

"I had to go to [basketball] practice," said sophomore Ashley Pendleton, as she tried to sift her way through the snow in order to get back to the University Courtyard Apartments. "And then I have to go back out tonight to watch the boys' game."

Since the snow day fell on Valentine's Day, some students found themselves having to brave the weather for much different reasons.

"[I'm] going to spend some time celebrating Valentine's Day with my girlfriend," said senior Brent Kantara, who added that he would venture out after the roads were cleared off.

Others, like Schultz, just found themselves basking in their day off and the rarity of such a snowstorm.

"I actually can breath because I have a little break from classes," said senior Eric Wyand. "I have been relaxing, [and] I am going to start studying here soon. Last night we were out pretty late sledding."

YSU

Cancellation keeps YSU commuters safe at home

Adrienne Sabo

NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University commuter students were twice blessed to learn they would not have to drive to school for evening classes Tuesday or any classes Wednesday.

The cancellation was a relief to commuter students, especially. Sophomore Brittany Thomas said she was thankful to have the day off because of the poor road conditions.

"I think that it was a very wise move because it was really dangerous on the roads," she said.

Thomas, who works in Boardman, added, "The drive home from work on Tuesday night was really bad."

YSU senior Drew Carpenter said he expected to have the day off, but would not be surprised if YSU did not close.

"It's about damn time. I've been here for four years, and it took the last semester of my college life for them to cancel school," he said.

Thomas, on the other hand, was surprised YSU closed.

"I wasn't expecting it, but I was definitely happy when they did," she said.

Thomas said she spent her day off working on assignments and papers for the rest of the week and shoveling parts of the driveway. Carpenter also lent a helping hand to dig a path from his next door neighbors' garage to the driveway Wednesday morning.

While some were able to stay inside, other students had to venture out into the weather and go to work.

Carpenter had to work Wednesday at the Giant Eagle in Howland. He said that even though the roads were bad, there were still customers at the store.

"In the morning when I first got there it was dead, but around 2 p.m. it picked up," he said.

As for today, Thomas said she has some worries about the morning commute.

"I am a little concerned. The roads need to be cleared for driving," Thomas said.

YSU

YSU scores negative rep from non-locals

Jenny Boyce

ASST. NEWS EDITOR

During Feb. 5 phone interviews, President David Sweet and Special Assistant to the President Thomas Maraffa said they did not view January's South Side quadruple homicides as having a negative effect on Youngstown State University's enrollment rate for next spring. Potential college freshmen offer a different opinion.

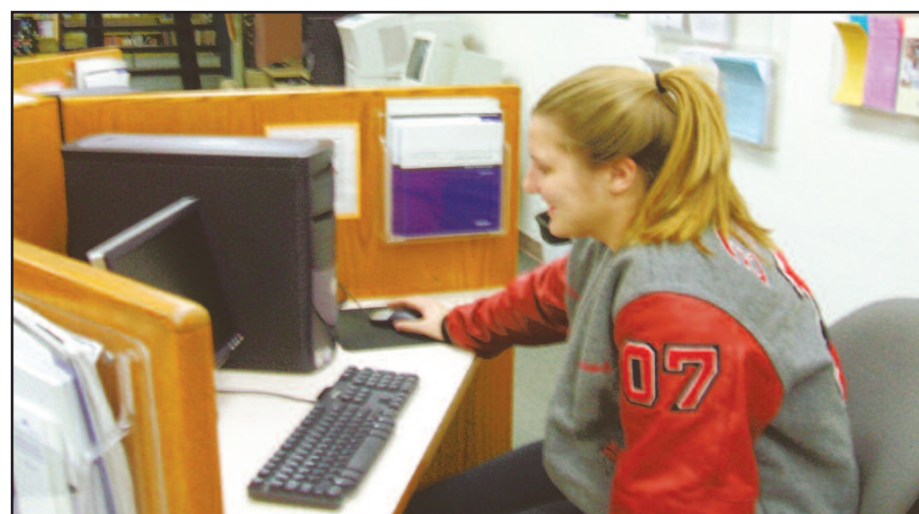
"We have a very safe campus," said Sweet, explaining that it was

important for others to be able to distinguish the campus from other areas in Youngstown.

Some high school seniors, who do not live within 15 miles of Youngstown, have a much different image in mind when asked about YSU.

With the recent release of the 13th Annual Dangerous Cities ranking for 2006 by Morgan Quitno Press, a research and publishing company out of Kansas, the city of Youngstown found itself at number 13 on the list.

According to the report, Morgan Quitno assessed a limited 371 cities.



Jambar/ Jenny Boyce

Beaver Local Senior Briana Hunt finishes up school work for her final semester, while researching at Kent State East Liverpool's library. Hunt is just one of Ohio's prospective incoming freshmen for the fall of 2007.

The group only included cities that have populations of more than 75,000 and that reported crime data to the FBI for that year. Out of these cities, only the following crimes

were evaluated for the report: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and motor vehicle

please see **REPUTATION**, Page 2

REPUTATION, continued from page 1

theft. Although the report does not include all cities throughout the nation, Morgan Quitno's rankings have gained popularity by the media. Local news outlets such as WKBN/WYXF, the Vindicator and the Akron-Beacon Journal reported on Morgan Quitno's rankings, but their reports may have hit an unintended target.

"I've heard [Youngstown is] not a very safe place," said Senior Briana Hunt of Beaver Local High School in Lisbon. "The campus sounds safe, but I was told you never want to find yourself a couple miles outside of campus."

YSU's Office of Institutional Research placed the university's 1993 fall enrollment at 14,501 students, the same year that the Mahoning County District Board of Health recorded 47 homicides in the city. In 1991, YSU's enrollment was at 15,164, dropping significantly in the next couple of years, when crime in Youngstown was on the rise.

When asked if the news of Youngstown's crime ranking would affect where she chose to go to school in the fall, Hunt said, "I'd be nervous [living in Youngstown]. It might alter my decision, but it wouldn't be the only reason why I wouldn't attend."

Other high school seniors agreed with Hunt, saying that location and safety are important factors in their choice of where to attend school.

"Actually that is one key reason why I didn't apply there," said Cory Hackathorn, a senior from Canton South High School, when asked the same question.

"I am planning on furthering my education, and one of the most important things to me is location," said Senior Elishia Carrick, also of Canton South.

With news such as the suspected gang-related quadruple homicide and Michael Hoague — attorney of former Ohio State football player Maurice Clarett — announc-

ing that Youngstown citizens can be seen wearing bullet-proof vests when walking the streets, YSU is forming a bad reputation among out-of-towners.

"I think the media does speak the truth about the area," said Junior Chris Campbell, of the University of Akron. "If the murders and crime weren't abundant, then the media would have nothing to report."

"The crime in Youngstown was one of the reasons I didn't have a desire to attend YSU," Campbell added.

The cities of Lisbon and Akron are between 42-50 miles from Youngstown, while Canton is over 71 miles away. Unlike students from these distanced cities, high school students from Poland and Canfield are within 16 miles of YSU, and hold strikingly different perceptions of the university.

"From my understanding, YSU is a very safe campus that is patrolled very well," said Junior Kate Fleming of Canfield High School. "However, if I was not from the area and thinking of applying to YSU, and I wasn't aware of the fact that it is as safe as it is, [its crime ranking] would be a deterrent."

"The campus, for the most part, is pretty clean," said Senior Kori Jeswald of Poland Seminary High School. "I am a swimmer for Poland High School and we practice at the pool at YSU, so I do spend much of [my] time there. The city of Youngstown is another story."

Senior Mackenzie Sullivan, also from Poland Seminary, said that YSU doesn't receive the credit it deserves, since most kids view the university as their "safety" school when applying to colleges.

"I feel that YSU gives [its] students the necessary education," Sullivan said. "Youngstown does not have the best reputation, but the YSU campus seems fairly crime free."

Police Briefs

Driver threatens student over parking space

A Youngstown State University police officer was sent to Level 2 of the M-2 parking deck where a student was threatened on Wednesday. According to a police report, a student said she pulled into a parking space that another student just vacated. As she exited her 2002 Dodge Neon, a female in a 2006 Chevy SUV pulled up and stated claim over the parking space. The police report said the SUV driver then drove off only to return and say, "I know where you parked." The female then backed up to the Neon and stated, "I will be back," before leaving the area, according to the police report.

Car strikes fence, causes severe damage

According to a Youngstown University police report, a vehicle struck the Stambaugh Stadium security fence, which caused severe damage to approximately 40 feet of the fence, a chain link pedestrian door, four support poles, four decorative trees, and other lawn damages.

According to the police report, when the officer arrived a blue Ford Contour was in the YSU grass area. The driver stated that there was a confrontation with a second vehicle on Fifth Avenue. He said he drove on and off the eastbound service road before striking the trees and fence. The driver was not injured, but was under driver's license suspension, the police report said.

Classified

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Jambar Editorial & Opinion

Thursday, February 15, 2007

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THE Jambar

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OUR SIDE

Witnessing YSU's Snow Day

Tuesday night, the unpleasant thoughts of waking early to start cars and bundling up to face the bitter cold on campus were completely forgotten as Youngstown State University students reveled in pleasure to find out that the university would be closed Wednesday.

The news of YSU's class cancellations on Tuesday night set students' hopes up for a complete closing on Wednesday. Students and faculty members received their wish when, later that night, WYSU-FM 88.5 announced that YSU would be closed and only emergency personnel should report to work.

Coats, gloves and books were put away, and we made plans to stay up late, sleep in, or appreciate the indoor warmth.

What about our Valentine's Day? If couples had plans, they might have had to rearrange their schedules. But let's look at it this way: a snow day from YSU, or a night out trying to overcome the icy roads just to get to dinner? We take the snow day.

Because of the winter weather, we were able to take the day off and enjoy the snow. Skiing, snowboarding and sledding were just some of the activities that busied us on Wednesday's winter wonderland of class cancellations.

Thanks to YSU maintenance, the campus was salted and bearable for today. Now, we just need to worry about the nice frigid winds that love to whip around buildings and blast us with cold.

Wednesday's closing meant we didn't need to drive the distance and brave the cold campus weather. Instead, we finally received the gratification of loudly announcing, to our own brothers and sisters, that YSU was indeed closed.

As the snow continued to fall Wednesday morning, our siblings prayed for yet another snow day. We, however, knew better and solemnly shook our heads in realization that the alarm must be set for Thursday morning.

OK, so one snow day never hurt anyone, see? It probably won't be any time soon that YSU closes again, but at least we got to enjoy one snow day during our college careers.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters must be typed and should not exceed 400 words. Each letter must include a name and telephone number for verification purposes. Submissions are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters must be received by noon Friday for Tuesday's edition and by noon Tuesday for Thursday's edition.

The Jambar will not print letters that libel others or threaten harm. The editor in chief reserves the right to reject letters that do not follow policy. The views and opinions expressed in published letters do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff or YSU faculty, staff or administration.

The Jambar editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambar and its Editorial Board members. Those wishing to schedule meetings with the Editorial Board should call the editor in chief.



"I FEEL A DRAFT... LYNNE? CAN YOU GET ME ANOTHER CUP OF HOT COCOA?"

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

After reading Mr. Iesue's letter to the editor in the Feb. 8 edition of The Jambar, I found myself pondering over its real purpose. On the surface, it seems to draw attention to an "apparent snub" by the Student Government Association toward the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

As a member of the SGA body, I was concerned with these charges, so I conducted my own investigation. I questioned several members of the Executive Committee of SGA and learned that SGA was never directly informed. It is difficult for SGA to

be made aware of every charitable event held on campus. Had SGA been invited to the event, we would have sent representation willingly and without encouragement from Mr. Iesue.

I point to the continued community service and numerous events that the SGA has sponsored, such as: several university Blood Drives, the United Way Steering Committee raffle, a voter registration drive, and membership on the Board of Directors for the newly created Young Philanthropy Fund. SGA undertakes all of these activities in addition to the service it already provides the

student body, such as appropriating monies to student organizations, which encourages and requires a basic commitment to community service.

If the letter to the editor is examined closely, Mr. Iesue remarks that "no one from their body ... bothered to show up." However, in his last paragraph, he admits that SGA must have had some representation at the event. Mr. Iesue's letter was written with a single purpose in mind: to denigrate the entire SGA body.

The sole reason that Mr. Iesue wrote his letter was because he intends to run for President of next

year's SGA. What better way to kick off his campaign than by bashing the current body and executive committee over which he seeks to preside? His editorial is a blatant attack meant to draw members of the current Executive Committee out into an argument where he can claim the upper hand. This is a common underhanded political ploy.

Instead of adequately praising the efforts of the Muscular Dystrophy Association, Mr. Iesue deemed it necessary to disparage the SGA and focus his criticism on a misunderstanding between The Jambar and the SGA. (This, I

might add, was solved through a simple meeting where both sides resolved their differences professionally.)

That Mr. Iesue would use this exposes his true agenda. The fact that Mr. Iesue would so willingly use the Stride and Ride event as a means to score points for a future election is absolutely appalling. SHAME.

Ramon Ramos
 Chair, Academic Affairs Committee
 Student Government Association,
 Representative of the College of Arts & Sciences

COMMENTARY

A Hillary apology? Sorry, no can do

Dick Polman

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER
(MCT)

Hillary Clinton is never going to say she's sorry. Politically, she can't risk it.

As evidenced from her weekend foray in New Hampshire, the Democratic base is virtually demanding some sort of apology — something along the lines of "I was wrong in 2002 when I cast my Senate vote giving President Bush the option of invading Iraq," or "I am sorry I made such a big mistake when I voted to authorize the war," or "I acknowledge the critical error I made five years ago," or "I should have slapped that skirt-chasing stinker and walked out for good."

OK, maybe not that last one.

The antiwar liberals, who can be expected to vote in disproportionate numbers in the early New Hampshire primary, had hoped this past weekend to hear some words of contrition. As one

Democrat, a financial adviser in Nashua, told her: "I want to know if right here, right now, once and for all and without nuance, you can say that war authorization was a mistake. I, and I think a lot of other primary voters until we hear you say it, we're not going to hear all the other great things you are saying."

But here's what she told the Democratic base: "If we knew then what we know now, I would never have voted to give this president the authority. ... I'm sorry, what I say is what I believe. I understand that some people disagree or think it's not adequate, but it's what I believe."

Which, I suppose, is one way to equate nuance with conviction.

At various stops in New Hampshire, she said that she "takes responsibility" for her yes vote. She said she voted yes in the expectation that President Bush would keep sending inspectors into Iraq. She said that if she had been president back in 2002, she

never would have gone to war. She said that if she is president in 2009, she will end the war. (A rough parallel to what Dwight Eisenhower said about Korea during the '52 campaign.)

And she sought to rally her Democratic listeners by steering their attention to Bush's execution of the war: "I share the sense of anger, outrage and deep, deep disappointment about what the president did in Iraq."

In other words, no apology. And there will never be an apology even at the risk of exposing her left flank to rivals Barack Obama (antiwar since '02) and John Edwards (antiwar since '05, when he apologized for his own war vote). Because if she did try to repudiate herself, she would probably wind up with an even bigger political headache.

Clinton is strongly focused on the swing voters, maybe 10 or 12 percent of the electorate, who will ultimately determine the outcome of the '08 November election. More

specifically, the swing voters in winnable red states, the states John Kerry failed to carry in 2004. If Clinton was to issue an apology, she would immediately expose herself to the flip-flop charge the same charge that doomed Kerry among swing voters. A contrite Clinton would be swiftly painted by her opponents as a waffler who was for the war before she was against it; the Republican National Committee (already road-testing the charge that Clinton likes to sing "Kerry-oake") still has sufficient resources, despite its '06 defeats, to pound that message.

In other words, a Clinton apology would provide opponents with the opportunity to paint her as a flip-flopper who is capable of being duped. Which is not the ideal image for the first serious female presidential candidate.

Jambar Features

MUSIC

'THE SCARS REMAIN' TOUR CUTS UP Y TOWN

Britta Snowberger
FEATURES REPORTER

"The Scars Remain" Tour Hits Youngstown Saturday

On the wings of The FREQ 107.1 FM and Extreme Faith Productions, "The Scars Remain" tour aims to infect Youngstown with optimism, humility, love and eardrum-shattering, face-melting Christian rock on Saturday, Feb. 17, at Crossroads Church.

Featuring Decyfer Down, Fireflight, Family Force 5 and Disciple, the nationwide tour launched Jan. 10.

"The tour is super," said Fireflight bassist Wendy Drennen. "Everyone in the other bands have been so awesome to work with. We couldn't have asked for a better line-up."

Kicking off Saturday's line-up will be North Carolina rockers Decyfer Down. The band's melodic hard rock style, intensified by passionate lyrics of crying out and reaching for God, is crafted by **C a l e b Oliver,**

stage. The Florida five-piece consists of Dawn Richardson, vocals; Wendy Drennen, bass, vocals; Glenn Drennen, guitar; Justin Cox, guitar, vocals; and Phee Shorb, drums.

Influenced by artists such as The Juliana Theory, Zao, Def Leppard and Skid Row, the band's 2006 debut national album "Healing of Harms" exposes pride and guilt, and promotes forgiveness and hope. Boasting two female band members, Fireflight strives to convey self-worth, respect and inner-beauty to its female listeners.

Priding itself on the ability to compromise ideas and control, Fireflight hopes to "write music that people can feel, make records that are universal enough to stand the test of time, and to stay genuine or die trying."

Once Fireflight is finished, Family Force 5 will try its best to captivate the Crossroads audience. The electronica, metal, glam and self-described "crunk rock" band from Georgia lists Jesus, Rick James, Vanilla Ice and Elvis among its many influences.

Comprised of Solomon Olds, vocals, guitar; Jacob Olds, drums, vocals; Joshua Olds, bass, vocals; Nathan Currin, keytar, turntables; and Derek Mount, guitar, Family Force 5 released its debut album "Business Up Front/ Party in the Back" last year. Since then, the energetic band has appeared on DirecTV's "CD USA" and CBS's "The Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson."

Fireflight

v o c a l s , b a s s ; Brandon Mills, guitar, vocals; Chris Clonts, guitar, vocals; and Josh Oliver, drums.

Decyfer Down's debut album, "End of Grey," which signifies a "resolve to be black and white about truth," was released June 2006. The band has played with national recording artists such as Cold, Breaking Benjamin, Crossfade and Adema.

As Decyfer Down packs up their gear, emo-core band Fireflight will swarm the

Possessing the final spot on the evening's bill, headliner Disciple will showcase its 14 years of experience in the music business. The Tennessee progressive rock four-piece of Kevin Young, vocals; Brad Noah, guitar; Tim Barrett, drums; and Joey Fife, bass, demonstrates aggressive metal riffs with an eclectic and dynamic style.

Releasing their seventh full-length CD, "Scars Remain," in November, Disciple



Decyfer Down

put the word out."

Not only will the tour's Youngstown

stop be a hit, it will bring with it a sense of optimism for which the community hungers, according to Crossroads Church Youth Pastor Doug Wampler.

"We're expecting 800 to 1,000 people, standing room only. I think we'll see people jumping around and getting crazy for Jesus — not out drinking and partying it up," he said. "The bands will be bringing a positive message, and the Mahoning Valley needs that positive message."

Carrying on the encouragement and optimism, Fireflight bassist Drennen feels that "The Scars Remain" tour is the best place to be this Saturday night.

"We have been wanting to tour with Disciple for quite some time, and we were happy for the opportunity," she said. "We feel really blessed to be on a tour like this. Every band is amazing, and this tour is one you really don't want to miss."

Saturday's show at Crossroads Church on Meridian Road begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door.

focuses on coping with trauma, retaining faith or "searching within and examining blemishes and baggage that define character and personality." The band's hit song "Game On" has been featured on World Wrestling Entertainment, National Football League broadcasts and television shows such as "Best Damn Sports Show Period" and "CSI: Miami."

Disciple's "The Scars Remain" tour is bound for success in Youngstown, according to local radio station and tour sponsor The FREQ 107.1 FM.

"We've been advertising the tour since November, and we've had a terrific response. We're selling tickets left and right," said radio operations manager and morning show host Dana Franklin. "All four bands are core artists of ours, and we play a lot of their music."

In addition to corporate advertisements, YSU students have been independently promoting the show. Youngstown State University's Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship has been working with the bands to promote the Crossroads Church show.

"I've been to a lot of concerts and put on a few shows that not that many people came to," said Chi Alpha Representative Nick Angelis. "Everyone says 'I would have gone if I would have known,' so we've been promoting the show because we know how difficult it is to



Disciple

PROFILE

Local employees struggle to balance school with work

Rudi Whitmore
FEATURES REPORTER

Within two minutes of stepping foot onto the serving floor of Applebee's in Boardman, Megan Vitt has already hugged three servers and good-naturedly told a manager to just give it up and go home.

Just before 4 p.m. on a busy Sunday, Vitt surveys the dining room and sighs. "We're busy right now, but when the game starts, we'll be dead."

Her uniform is not the normal heavy cotton-embroidered Applebee's shirt that the other employees wear, because "they're made in Polynesia by... by 8-year-olds," Vitt says, waving one hand and repeating a story she's told countless times before.

Double-majoring in philosophy and religion, her views on life take a turn away from the norm. Vitt says she does a lot more than simply bartend and serve, but before she can explain, her manager is interrupting to ask for an Expo marker.

"Ummm..." Vitt digs into her apron, pulling out pens, pencils, permanent markers and an incense stick before giving up. "Everything but an Expo marker," she shrugs, holding the incense stick up. "Got incense. Want it?"

Her manager laughs and walks away while Vitt turns back to the bar, wrapping her hands around a coffee mug. "I've worked here two years," she says, "but I've served for thirteen." She tries to spend most of her time behind the bar, but can serve, cook, hostess and run the to-go orders.

"A lot of the scheduling, I do," Vitt admits. "Servers talk to me a lot. I go between them and management a lot."

She cracks a sly grin over the rim of her mug. "I tell the managers I'll give them just as much shit as I do everyone else. I'm kind of a momma bear."

The proud mother of a 9-year-old, Vitt has been attend-



"I used to get really stressed. Especially here, but not so much anymore. I think... you wake up one day and realize... getting stressed about dirty glasses isn't going to change the world."

Megan Vitt

ing YSU on and off since she graduated high school. "I really messed up the first time. I had a 1.28 GPA, and after my daughter was born, I raised it to a 3.675."

Explaining how she did it, she spreads her hands and shrugs. "If you want to do something, you do it. You find a way. You can retake courses at YSU. It doesn't erase it from your record, but it can help your GPA."

Vitt thinks her dedication to working hard and being consistent in her schoolwork is a good example for her daughter. "You don't always want to go. There are things you don't want to do. Like GR's [general education requirements] and math, ya know? But you keep going. It teaches her discipline and focus." Vitt enunciates her point with her hands, stabbing the air with the same gentle conviction her words carry.

A lot of non-traditional students can feel the same conflict Vitt does, balancing her daughter, her job and her education. "You do the best you can," she says with a soft smile. "Motherhood is one-day-at-a-time. You just write in the planner when things are due, and do what you can, ya know?"

Vitt's favorite part of the day is talking to her co-workers and asking questions. "There are just certain people you meet that you know you have a connection with," she says.

As a self-described "very aware" person in a spiritual and environmental way, Vitt's worst moments come from speaking to people who aren't, as she finds them almost impossible to deal with.

"Like... when you ask people what they think about global warming, and they say, 'Great!' and you just—" She doesn't need words for the shocked and horrified face she pulls.

Everything she learns, she wants to apply to teaching, or at least to making the people she works with question the norm. "To change anything, you have to change people's thinking, and their intent," she insists. But she's more laid back than she used to be.

"I used to get really stressed. Especially here, but not so much anymore. I think... you wake up one day and realize... getting stressed about dirty glasses isn't going to change the world. If I'm going to get pissed, it should be about something that matters."

And the things that matter to Vitt are varied and complex. She talks about changing and saving the world in the same way she does homework: with a practical, individual approach, just as a phone begins to ring.

"If just everyone cuts down. I'm not saying you can't have your Nike shoes, but realize that we're all connected... in life, they would reduce their waste," said Vitt.

The phone hasn't stopped ringing, and Vitt excuses herself for a moment. When she returns, she shakes her head wearily with a sigh and wicked gleam in her eyes, as they rove the restaurant. "If I can't get them to answer the phone, how can I get them to save the world?"

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African American History Month 2007

Proverb of the Month:

"A fight between grasshoppers is a joy to the cow." Lesotho

Saturday, February 3

11:00am-4:00pm, Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center

THE AFRICAN MARKETPLACE

The African Marketplace is one of the major highlights of African American History Month. In typical African tradition, vendors and people from all walks of life converge at the marketplace to buy and sell a wide variety of goods and products, and to catch up on the latest news in town. YSU's Marketplace draws vendors from Ohio and neighboring states with artistic creations from Africa and the African Diaspora. The atmosphere is festive and paced by Harambwe Youth Group and the Drum Circle of the Unity Building of Youngstown.



Monday, February 19

7:00pm, Ohio Room, Kilcawley Center

LECTURE: CONFRONTING RACISM IN AMERICA TODAY

by James E. Cingman

James E. Cingman is the nation's most prolific writer on economic empowerment for Black people. His weekly syndicated newspaper column, "Blackonomics," is featured in hundreds of newspapers, magazines and newsletters. He is author of five books and has been a featured speaker for numerous organizations across the country.



Monday, February 5

8:30pm, Auditorium, McDonough Museum of Art

ART EXHIBITION in the gallery of the College of Fine and Performing Arts throughout February

PANEL DISCUSSION ON ART: THE COLOR OF HISTORY

by Walter A. Constant

Walter A. Constant was trained in traditional methods of painting and drawing and holds a B.A. in studio art with painting and graphic concentrations. In over 20 years of painting, he has developed his own impressionistic style with a personal response to the world around him. Constant was named by master artist and professor Professor Emeritus Al Bright of Youngstown State University. A discussion of the artist's work with Constant and YSU art faculty will take place. (Co-sponsored with the College of Fine and Performing Arts)



Friday, February 23

7:30pm, Room 204A, Kilcawley Center

LECTURE AND RECEPTION: LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE BLACK COMMUNITY

by Sergeant De Lacy Davis

Sergeant De Lacy Davis is a police officer, commonly known in his community as Brother De Lacy. Mr. Davis joined the East Orange Police Department in New Jersey in 1985, and has been an instructor at the Essex County Police Academy and a New Jersey State-Certified Firearms Instructor. He has served as the vice president of the Police Benevolent Association, Local #15, and executive director of the East Orange Police Athletic League. A recipient of the prestigious Harold Robinson Award by the National Black Police Association, Mr. Davis has traveled frequently to West and South Africa. He holds a master's degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University. The lecture will be followed by a book signing and reception.



Thursday, February 8

7:00pm, Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center

LECTURE ON DIVERSITY

by Mohammed Bilal

Mohammed Bilal is a former MTV "Real World" star and diversity consultant. He has helped many people in colleges and organizations move beyond mere tolerance-of-differences to accepting diversity through his 12-step program. His interactive presentation is enjoyable and thought-provoking. (Co-sponsored with the Office of Student Diversity)



Wednesday, February 14

8:00pm, Peabody's Club, Kilcawley Center

HORNS 'N THINGS

The famous jazz group from Cleveland has performed to countless audiences nationwide. The group features the very best in jazz, and promises to soothe, dazzle, and set everyone in the mood for Valentine's Day. (Co-sponsored with the Office of Student Diversity)



Saturday, February 17

7:30pm, Dance Workshop, Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center

THE PITTSBURGH DANCE ENSEMBLE

The Pittsburgh Dance Ensemble will conduct a workshop in the afternoon and perform in the evening. The ensemble is a successor to the Ra Soul's an Dance Group since 2004. Led by Bob Mitchell, the group is made up of expert professional dancers and drummers with a broad repertoire of African dance and song. In their short history, they have thrilled audiences and left lasting good memories.

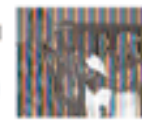


Saturday, February 24

7:30pm, Planetarium, Ward Beecher Science Hall

FEATURE FILM: THIS AMERICA

The film "This America" presents the adventures and challenges of an African immigrant being conflicted of survival and adaptation in American society. This feature film, entertaining documentary is produced by an African film company based in New York.



Monday, February 26

7:00pm, Ohio Room, Kilcawley Center

STUDENT PUBLIC FORUM: GOING BEYOND STEREOTYPES

A student forum on stereotypes between Africans and African Americans. The forum will examine perceptions and images of Africans by African Americans, and vice versa, and seek ways to transcend their prejudices. Selected faculty members will be present to share their observations. The forum will be moderated by Madonna Chiam Pankard, community relations director, WFAU/WBCB Television, Inc.

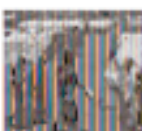
Wednesday, February 28

7:30pm, Ohio Room, Kilcawley Center

LECTURE: UNDERSTANDING THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

Dr. Isaac Anin

Dr. Isaac Anin is an associate professor of geological sciences at YSU and a native of Sudan. Since Hitler's atrocities against the Jews and similar manifestations of unthinkable evil, including Bosnia and Rwanda, people of conscience joined in rage to condemn "never again." But the Darfur genocide has become a suffering phenomenon. Dr. Anin will explore the causes and possible solutions to the major human tragedy of our time. (Co-sponsored by the Willey Committee of Conscience)



For further information, call the Africana Studies Program at 330-941-3017

Event parking is available at the Lincoln Desk and lot A24, next to McDonald's on fifth Avenue.

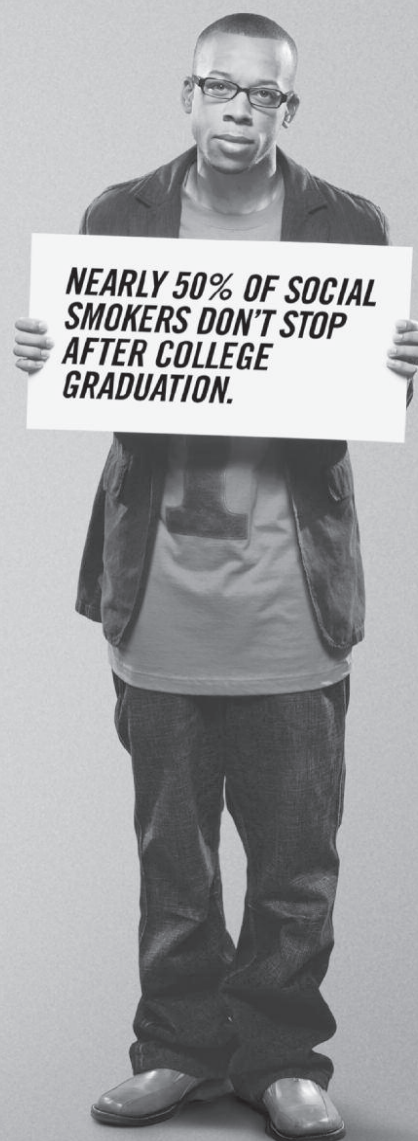
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BASEBALL

Penguins declare open season on Flyers

Jake Glavies
SPORTS EDITOR

Saturday will mark the first time that 17 new Penguins suit up for a Division I baseball game as Youngstown State University travels to Nashville, Tenn. for an opening day double-header with the University of Dayton Flyers.

Even with the abundance of youth, the Penguins look no less competitive on paper than last season when the team posted a winning 16-13 Horizon League record.

Faced with fierce competition and high expectations in 2007, head coach Mike Florak said the newest additions to his team will have no trouble making the transition to the next level.

"It's still baseball. They will just have to know there [are] going to be ups and downs," he said.

To open the season on the right foot, the team will have to stick to the basics and play error-free baseball in all aspects of the game. Staying with the game plan and eliminating mental mistakes will give the Penguins the edge for success.

"We work on fundamentals everyday and we take them into every game. We're not going to change our approach for anyone," Florak said.

Opening day for the Penguins will mark game one of a grueling



Photo courtesy of YSU Sports Information

Junior pitcher Lucas Engle winds up for a pitch at a game last season at Eastwood Field. Engle is the likely starter for the Penguins on Saturday against Dayton.

22-game road slate that the team will endure before being able to play on its home patch of grass. The Flyers have opened the season 0-3 after a series sweep at the

hands of Wofford College.

Junior pitcher Lucas Engle is the probable starter for the Penguins and has the task of toning down the bat of sophomore

first baseman Jeff Mercer who hit .437 with a pair of doubles and three RBIs over the course of the Flyers' opening weekend.

Engle should be up to the chal-

lenge and will look to continue his four-game streak, which dates back to last season, without surrendering a run.

The Penguin offense should look to jump on the Flyers' starting pitching early and often. In their previous two losses, the respective starters were tattooed for a combined nine runs in the first inning of play.

Getting an early lead could be difficult for the Flyers due to Engle's efficient right-arm pitching and junior Ryan Sellman from the back of the Penguin bullpen. The right-handed closer had a .262 ERA and saved six games for the Penguins last season; he poses the confidence required for the high pressure role.

Grounding the Flyers would be a beneficial confidence booster for the team as its next opponent, Stephen F. Austin University, will have 11 games under its belt before the Penguins come to town.

With the Horizon League looking strong from top to bottom this season, a good start during the non-conference schedule will benefit the Penguins by the time league play begins on March 23.

As a majority of the teams have improved since last season, it will be a tight race throughout the course of this season. "I think the league is wide open this year," Florak said.

INTRAMURAL SPORTS

Arena football brings classic game indoors

Emily Thayer
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Despite a leaky ceiling in the Stambaugh Stadium complex Monday night, the Youngstown State University intramural arena football league made do with the space allowed for competition and continued with the first games of the 2007 season.

"We will adapt and overcome any kind of adversity to make sure the students can compete," said Paul Schumacher, co-inventor of YSU intramural arena football. "Every year something new comes up, but no matter what happens we work through the problem."

Schumacher, a YSU alumnus, has been involved with the arena football program for 14 years. He created the intramural league with fellow alumnus Dan Balzak during their college years at YSU.

According to Schumacher, the arena football league is the second most popular intramural sport during the spring.

With a staff of 18 trained student referees and 10 teams of almost 90 students, arena football keeps the student body involved with recreational activities.

The 10 teams are divided into two separate divisions: the fraternity division and the men's division. The game is five on five with a four person minimum.

Arena Football Schedule

MONDAY

7 pm Phi Kappa Tau vs. Sigma Tau Gamma
 8pm Sigma Chi Vs Sigma Alpha Epsilon
 9 pm Braskey vs. T-Ballerz
 10 pm 9-1-1 Never Forget vs. Penguins

FEB. 26

7 pm Sigm Alpha Epsilon vs. Alpha Phi Delta
 8 pm Phi Kappa Tau vs. Sigma Chi
 9 pm Penguins vs. Broadway Bombers
 10 pm Braskey vs. 9-1-1 Never Forget

March 5

7 pm Sigma Tau Gamma vs. Sigma Alpha epsilon
 8 pm Alpha Phi Delta vs. Sigma Chi
 9 pm Broadway Bombers vs. 9-1-1 Never Forget
 10 pm Penguins vs. T-Ballerz

March 19

7 pm Sigma Alpha Epsilon vs. Phi Kappa Tau
 8pm Alpha Phi Delta vs. Sigma Tau Gamma
 9 pm Broadway Bombers vs. T-Ballerz
 10 pm Penguins vs. Braskey

PLAY-OFFS MARCH 26

Players compete for two 18 minute halves and over the course of the season play against all the teams in their division. At the end of the season the best two teams will compete for the league championship. The winners take home T-shirts and the runner ups earn mugs.

Due to the lack of space and a no-contact policy, arena football rules and regulations differ

from regular football. Arena football is considered pass football, meaning that as soon as the ball is caught the play must stop.

Another difference between classical football and its arena counterpart is the scoring system.

Teams score different amounts of points for each play. The maximum amount of points that can be scored on one

drive is 14, causing the score of most arena games to be much higher than normal football games.

"The fun part of the game is you can win by 100 points," said Sigma Chi quarterback Rob Johnson.

Johnson is competing in his second season with the Sigma Chi fraternity in the arena football league.

"Last year we didn't know what we were doing. There's a lot of strategy to this game," he said.

According to Johnson he likes arena football because it's easy to play regardless of the competitor's physical conditioning.

Another quarterback and intramural veteran, Justin Boone, has been competing in arena football at YSU for four years.

"Having fun and being with the fraternity brothers are my reasons for playing," Boone said.

Boone, a hospitality management major, plays for the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity. According to Schumacher, Boone is one of the most experienced players in arena football at YSU.

In case of withdrawal from the NFL on Monday nights, Schumacher encourages all students to stop by Stambaugh Stadium on Monday nights from 7-11 p.m. and see what arena football is all about.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Track team to tune up at Akron and Kent before championships

Before heading into the Horizon League Indoor Championships Feb. 24 and 25, the Youngstown State University men's and women's track teams will take part in the Zips Open at the University of Akron on Friday and the Kent State Tune up at Kent State University on Saturday.

Leading performers for the men's team this season have been senior distance runner Nick Kruse and sophomore thrower Aaron Merrill. The senior from Napoleon, Ohio won the mile in the team's last meet, the All-Ohio Championship on Feb. 10. Kruse clocked in at 4:22 to win by .45 seconds. Merrill achieved a career and YSU best this season when he hurled the shot-put 54'1."

On the women's side junior Bethany Anderson topped her own school record in the weight throw with a toss of 60'10" to finish fourth at the All-Ohio Championship. Alisha Anthony has also contributed a great deal this year as she won two divisions of the long jump at the Akron Open on Feb. 2 and 3; she also finished third in the event with a jump of 18'5" at the meet on Feb. 10.

Penguins to play basketball double-header Saturday

The men's and women's basketball teams will take the court this Saturday at the Beeghly Center for a Youngstown basketball double-header.

The women will play first as they tip off against the 11-12 University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panthers at 2:05 p.m. The team dropped its first matchup against the Panthers 60-44. To come out of Saturday's game with a win and improve the team's 7-15 record, leading scorers Heather Karner and Monique Godfrey will have to put the team on their backs and play their best games of the season. The team will end the season March 3 at Wright State University.

Traveling to Beeghly Center to take on the Youngstown State men's squad are the Eastern Kentucky University Colonels. The Penguins will enter the game at 10-15 overall with a 5-8 Horizon League record. The squad is in the middle of the league standings and is still in the hunt for a home playoff game. The men will play their last game of the season Feb. 24 against Cleveland State. The Penguins and Colonels will take the floor at 4:25 p.m.