

How to enjoy a last minute spring break  
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# THE Jambar

THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

Thursday, March 8, 2007

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### Weather

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30 | 13

fri.: sunny 41 / 32  
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### YSU News

#### Future shock

Alvin Toffler, the author of "Future Shock" and futurist will speak at Stambaugh Auditorium today. The session is free and open to the public. The speaker is a part of Youngstown State University's Paul J. and Marguerite K. Thomas Colloquium on Free Enterprise.

## Flood damage leaves Ward Beecher in need of repairs

Sarah Sole  
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

There's one sound that those who teach and study in Ward Beecher Hall hope will be loud enough that university officials will take notice. That one sound is the sound of running water. Water in the elevators. Water in the classrooms. Water in the hallways.

"We desperately need a new science building," said Chair of Biological Sciences Robert Leipheimer of the flooding.

"At this point, it's still up in the air," Leipheimer said. "They have to make it a top priority for it to happen."

Chair of Chemistry Daryl Mincey said that now is the perfect time to suggest a new building to administration, since YSU is implementing a new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) college.

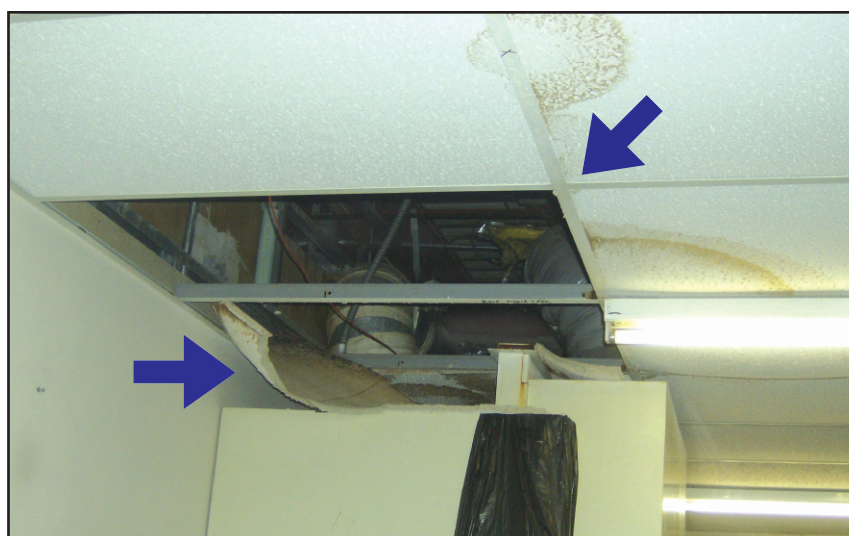
Ray Hoff, an instrumentation service specialist for the science department, has dealt firsthand with the flooding.

"It's been two or three weeks since this one happened," said Hoff of the chemistry lab on the fifth floor of Ward Beecher.

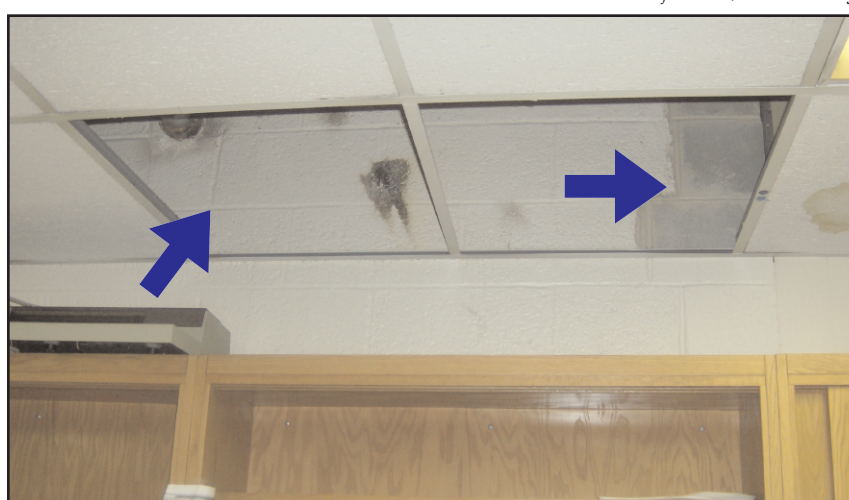
"[We were] lucky that one of our instrumentation specialists was in Saturday," Hoff said.

By the time he arrived, Hoff said there was about two inches of water on the floor. Floods often occur in the building when water freezes in pipes, he explained. As the water freezes, it expands, breaking the pipes. When the water thaws it begins to leak into the building, Hoff said.

YSU



the jambar / Laura Neely



Ward Beecher on the YSU campus is in bad condition. The tiles are missing from the ceiling exposing electrical wires. There are stains on the ceilings and walls from leaking water.

Matthias Zeller, an instrumentation scientist in the chemistry department, also had to deal with the flooding. Zeller said that the building has flooded six times this winter.

"It affects us really badly," he said.

About two weeks ago, Zeller discovered flooding on the upper floors of the building.

"I only noticed it because I heard the water flowing," Zeller said that the resulting debris took about half a day to clean up.

please see **WARD BEECHER**, Page 3

## Fingerhut appointed chancellor of Ohio

Adrienne Sabo  
NEWS EDITOR

Ohio residents got news Wednesday that there will be a new chancellor, when the Ohio Board of Regents announced the appointment of Eric Fingerhut.

Fingerhut takes over the position formerly held by Roderick Chu, who resigned last May after eight years as chancellor.

Youngstown State University President David Sweet said, "I think Eric Fingerhut is an excellent choice."

Sweet, who has known Fingerhut for several years, said that he has watched Fingerhut's career blossom, and that his familiarity with higher education will benefit him in his new position.

"What YSU needs is someone who conveys both ways to the educators and to the legislators," Sweet said.

"I have communicated to both Governor Strickland and Fingerhut that YSU serves as a model to what they want to achieve in the state," he said.

Fingerhut agreed that YSU is in line with many of the state's goals, saying, "I look forward to working with Sweet."

The fact that YSU has many first generation college students makes the university important, he said.

"The future of the state depends on the future of the students," Fingerhut said, explaining that one of his main goals is to provide an emphasis on support for college students. Keeping tuition down and providing more means of financial aid are ways in which he says this could be achieved.

please see **FINGERHUT**, Page 3

STATE

## State bill may shorten college careers

Maysoon Abdelrasul  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

If Ohio state legislator Joe Koziura gets his way, college students will be thanking him sooner than later.

Koziura wants to pass a bill to help students finish college as quickly as possible, thus avoiding an extra semester or so in tuition bills.

House Bill 94, introduced Tuesday, would require state universities to make sure full-time undergraduate students with a declared major finish in a reasonable

amount of time.

Dan Ramos, legislative aid for Rep. Koziura, said the reasonable means are determined by each university.

"The bill would mandate the universities to provide enough classes for the students they have," Ramos said.

He said with tuition going up every year, there is no reason to spend extra money when it is not the students' fault.

"Students shouldn't be penalized if the university doesn't have a class avail-

able," Ramos said.

In some cases, students switch their majors, take fewer hours or just choose to stay longer, and this bill would not apply to those students.

The bill is for students who declare a major early in their freshman year and are full-time.

At Youngstown State University, many students complain that they have to stay an extra semester or year, because they either didn't know they had to take certain classes, or some classes are only offered once

a year, and they close up quickly.

Student Government President Chad Miller said he just spoke with someone, prior to his interview Wednesday morning, who told him that she has to stay an extra semester, because she didn't know she had some general education classes left to take.

"This service should be made regardless if the bill is passed or not. It should be a goal," Miller said.

please see **STATE BILL**, Page 3

YSU

## Three internal candidates compete for STEM dean

Jenny Boyce  
ASSIST. NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University has three internal candidates for the position of dean to the new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) College: Professor and Chair of Chemistry Daryl Mincey, Professor and Chair of Civil/Environmental and Chemical Engineering Scott Martin, and Interim Associate Provost Nathan Ritchey.

Once the internal and external applicants are narrowed down to three candidates, the final decision of who will serve as the new STEM dean will be made by Provost Robert Herbert.

Mincey, who has worked at YSU for the last 29 years, has a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry. He has served on the Science

Committee of the Industrial Information Institute for Education Inc. for 17 years and developed the environmental studies program in collaboration with Martin and Lauren Schroeder.

When asked what sets him apart from his two components as a prospective dean, Mincey pointed to a new-age, glass-covered machine inside a fifth-floor laboratory of Ward Beecher Hall.

The machine, a D8 Advance Powder Diffractometer, attracts students and faculty from all over, explained Mincey and his two instrumentation service specialists, Matthias Zeller and Ray Hoff. With its high-tech features, the equipment makes YSU's chemistry department a major competitor against all others in the state, Mincey said.

please see **STEM DEAN**, Page 3

## 'See' students rally on the YSU campus



the jambar / Laura Neely



Criminal justice students rally for Professor Eric See on Wednesday. See was denied tenure in the fall semester and is now waiting for Youngstown State University President David Sweet for the final decision. He is expected to announce his decision by the middle of next week. Students marched around Tod Hall and gathered by the Rock to show their support for See.

YSU

# Carano pushes for bill to return to traditional tailgating

Shannon Mitchel  
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Students at Youngstown State University may have the opportunity to enjoy alcohol while tailgating before a big game.

Representative Kenneth A. Carano is pushing House Bill 18, which will create the T-1 permit to authorize certain colleges, universities and professional athletic teams to allow the consumption of beer and liquor in restricted areas on property they own or lease.

"I'm here representing the people of the Mahoning Valley to ask for your support for House Bill 18 which will permit Youngstown State University and its fans in our five-county area to return to our traditional style of tailgating that has been fantastically successful for years," Carano said. His sponsored testimony gives details on his support and all the issues involving the bill.

YSU Chief of Police John J. Gocala is very optimistic when it comes to this bill being passed.

"I'm here representing the people of the Mahoning Valley to ask for your support ... to return to our traditional style of tailgating that has been fantastically successful for years."

“

Ken Carano  
State Representative



"You're supposed to have fun. It's not supposed to be problematic," Gocala said.

Carano said this bill will allow campuses with less than 15,000 students enrolled to obtain a T-1 liquor permit allowing tailgaters to bring their own liquor.

"It would be permissive, meaning you can get it if you want it," Carano said.

Legislation was passed twice through the House but never made it through the state Senate.

"Remember, this died twice. The first time it was too late to go through Senate," said Carano. "The second time the snag

was the governor's wife. She was campaigning to stop drinking on all college campuses. We're hoping with a new governor, we can get a bill on both sides."

Four years ago, a Jambar reporter uncovered a state law prohibiting open containers of alcohol in parking lots. After the story broke, the response to the situation was to put an end to tailgating at home games to protect the university from lawsuits and fines.

"President David Sweet and athletic directors were worried because the violation was known and more frivolous law-

suits could come about," Carano said. "Youngstown State University does not want to violate [the] law — not even one that is not actively enforced."

"I have to look at it from a police stand point and it hasn't been a problem. Tailgating has worked very well," Gocala said.

"Overall, we have a model tailgating program. Slippery Rock has played us for two or three years and their chief of police called us for information on our tailgating program and any problems we've had."

At YSU tailgating parties, police officers walk through the crowds keeping control. Officers handle anyone drinking underage or violating the law in any way.

"We aggressively police alcohol consumption on campus," said Gocala. "You're there for a good time, and sometimes people get out of hand."

If a person is found unruly, he or she is asked to leave with a family member or to stay in the area until regaining control. Alcohol is not permitted outside the restricted areas, and tailgating will end 15 minutes before the game begins.

NATIONWIDE

## Daylight saving time starts sunday

Jeanette DiRubba  
REPORTER

Beginning Sunday at 2 a.m., Daylight Saving Time will be in effect nearly three weeks earlier than previous years because of a new law enacted for the conservation of energy. Clocks should now be moved one hour ahead before going to bed Saturday night.

According to a Fox News update, President George W. Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005, changing the adjusting time dates for 2007. This policy is being enforced to save energy because there will be more daylight in the evening.

The new policy also changes the end date to the first Sunday in November, meaning that we will have about four extra weeks of Daylight Saving Time. In the past, Daylight Saving Time began on the first Sunday in April and ended on the last Sunday of October.

According to a Daylight Saving Time Web site, Benjamin Franklin first thought of the time change when writing his essay "An Economical Project" in 1784. However, it was William Willett who suggested advancing clocks 20 minutes on each of the four Sundays in April and

returning them to the same amount four Sundays in September.

In an effort to conserve fuel to create electric power during World War I, the United States finally adopted Daylight Saving Time on March 19, 1918 for "an Act to preserve daylight and provide Standard Time for the U.S."

Youngstown State University experienced server maintenance issues March 2 and 3 in response to the change for Daylight Saving Time.

Because of the maintenance activity, university servers and related services were unavailable for a 24-hour period in order to adjust settings. An e-mail was sent out Feb. 26 to all students announcing this action. Director of computer services, Richard Marsico, said the servers are now up and running correctly.

"We needed to upgrade the systems and now have done so," Marsico said. "The only computers that could be affected now are those for personal uses."

Marsico suggests that computer users either manually adjust the clock on their computers, or go to the Microsoft Web site and download an updated patch to upgrade their computer system.

YSU

## Administrative position filled at YSU

Maysoon Abdelrasul  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

An administrative position has been filled at Youngstown State University.

The announcement came at a YSU Board of Trustees meeting. YSU hired a new director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity.

Yulanda L. McCarty-Harris will start her new position on April 2. She suc-

ceeds Jimmy Myers, who left YSU for another position at Indiana University of Pennsylvania in July.

From July to the present, the interim director was Steve Lucivjanksy, manager of labor relations.

The Jambar has scheduled an interview with McCarty-Harris for today.

For the full story about McCarty-Harris visit [thejambar.com](http://thejambar.com).

### Classified

#### Help Wanted

Bartenders wanted! Up to \$300 a day, no experience necessary, training provided. 800-965-6520, ext. 287.

Certified Spinning Instructors needed. Fitness One Niles. Nancy (330)544-0165.

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ANY SIZE GROUP- TWO TO SIX BEDROOMS. ALL UTILITIES PAID. ALL NEWER, MODERN APPLIANCES. ALL GROUNDSKEEPING INCLUDED. Private residences- NOT apartment buildings. Off-street, fenced, lit Private Parking. Individual leases- No shared finances. 96 channels of Cable T.V. and Broadband Internet in each bedroom. Private locks on all bedrooms. Security system available. Providing QUALITY Student Housing for over 29 years. Starting at \$325 per person. CALL CHRIS: 330-743-RENT (7368)

#### REMODELED

3 bedrooms Up/ 2 bedrooms Down duplex on Elm Street. Price range between \$350-\$375 a month. Call today and ask about our Move in Special. 330-729-1212.

#### Nice 2 bedroom apartment

Includes all utilities, washer & dryer access. Secure parking, minutes away from campus. Contact 330-518-4382.

#### Two 7 bedroom houses for rent.

Newly remodeled, multiple kitchens, all appliances including washer & dryer. Secure parking, minutes from campus. Contact 330-518-4382. Want a private room in a house with your friend(s) from YSU? Two to six bedrooms with private door locks in secure 3-story Brick house. All utilities, Cable TV, internet, groundskeeping, and off-street parking are included in rent. Security system available. Starting at \$250 per month. Call 330-506-0104.

Tired of Roommates? Walk to YSU from your own 1-bedroom apartment! Large living room, equipped kitchen. \$375 per month plus electric. 330-506-0104.

2 BR apartment. Everything is brand new! Located at 244 Madison Ave., right behind the Cafaro House dorms. \$220 per bedroom. Call 330-506-0104.

Campbell apartments 3 miles from YSU. Two entrances, very private, clean, secure. Quiet for studying, 1 large bedroom, full basement. \$235 plus utilities. Call (330)755-2077.

For rent. Two bedroom apartment on campus. Fully carpeted, with all appliances, private parking, utilities included in rent. Call 330-240-5894.

#### Miscellaneous

Ladies do you enjoy singing? Spirit of the Valley Chorus meets Monday night at Faith Church Community. 1919 Midlothian Blvd., Youngstown. Phone 330-536-6547

Winter/Spring Positions Available! Earn up to \$150 per day! Exp. not required. Undercover shoppers needed to judge Retail and Dining Establishments. Call 800-901-9370

### More evening sun in 2007?

In 2005, Congress passed a law extending daylight-saving time in the U.S. beginning in 2007. The change, which starts in March instead of April, is intended to help conserve electricity.



© 2007 MCT Source: U.S. Congress



## Irish Bob's Pub

Party after the St. Patrick's Day Parade!

Lively Irish Music:

Fergie and the Bog Dogd starting at 4:00

Drink and Food Specials

St. Patrick's Day, Saturday March 17,  
Open at 6:00am

Breakfast Buffet. Lively Irish Music All Day Long.

Country Mayo starting at Noon.

Kitchen open till 11:00 p.m.



The Youngstown State University  
Judaic and Holocaust Studies Committee is proud to offer a

Trip to the United States  
Holocaust Memorial Museum  
in Washington, D.C.

Date: March 25, 2007

Time: Bus will depart YSU at 5:00 a.m. and return at approximately 10:00 p.m.

Fee: \$10.00 (cash or check made payable to YSU)

The low cost of this trip is made possible by  
the Mr. & Mrs. William B. Clayman Endowment Fund

To secure a place on the trip, please complete the application below and attach the above fee. If you are going on the trip as part of a class, please include that information on your application.

Limited spaces available, first come first served  
Submit by March 2, 2007 to:

Pamela Palumbo  
Office of Events Management  
Tod Hall  
Youngstown State University  
Youngstown, OH 44555

A short meeting prior to the trip date for a  
required orientation and discussion of details  
will be held at 4:30 Wednesday, March 7,  
2007 in the Jones Room, Kilcawley Center.

Questions, e-mail:  
[ysuevents@cc.ysu.edu](mailto:ysuevents@cc.ysu.edu)

Please attach your payment and send by March 2, 2007 to: Pamela Palumbo, Office of Events Management, Youngstown State University

Name  Patron ID #

Address

Telephone Number  E-mail

Signature

**STATE BILL**, continued from page 1

He said the university does try to prevent students from staying longer, but many fall through the crack.

"We would like to see it avoided, law or not," he said.

YSU President David Sweet agrees with Miller.

He said he would like to better understand the intent of the sponsors, but he is supportive of the bill.

"With or without the bill, it is desirable," Sweet said.

Ramos said the bill would especially help math and science students who have to take their classes sequentially. Those students should not be deprived because they have to take classes in a certain order, he said.

Sweet said the time period would be different with each major depending on the requirements of the major and in what order students have to take the classes.

According to the HB 94 Sec. 3345.46, the board of trustees of each state university shall adopt rules to implement and manage this section, including ensuring that the university maintains reasonable course availability.

YSU Trustee John Pogue said that it is not a subject the trustees have discussed since it was introduced Tuesday.

Pogue said it would be a cost issue.

"We would have to provide course offerings that we wouldn't [normally] have," he said.

If it is a law, Pogue said, YSU will have to abide by it.

House Bill 94 can be read at [http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=127\\_HB\\_94](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=127_HB_94).

**STEM DEAN**, continued from page 1

"Ph.D. [chemistry] programs in the state look at [YSU] as their equal," Mincey said of the university's state-of-the-art equipment and the upcoming addition of the STEM College.

Mincey, who has served as chairperson of the department for the last 12 years, has raised the number of chemistry graduate students from 6 to 30 since taking the position. Mincey also serves as national science adviser for the FDA.

"[As dean] I think I would have a little more experience with the outside world," Mincey answered as to what might distinguish him from other candidates for this position.

"Deans have to serve in an outreach type of role," Mincey said, adding that his past contacts with industrial leaderships and politicians might benefit him in this capacity.

The second YSU candidate, Martin, has a Ph.D. in environmental engineering and has worked at the university for the last 23 years.

He has also served as faculty adviser to the YSU Student Chapter of ASCE from 1985-2001 and on the YSU Quest Organizing Committee from 1988-2001.

"My major strengths are their major strengths as well," Martin answered, when asked what would set him apart from the other candidates. "We all know YSU intimately."

Martin explained that with YSU forming a new STEM College and CLASS (College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences), a lot of anxiety will come with the changes, such as the possibility of enrollment possibly going down and budgets being cut. The new dean needs to be prepared to handle this situation, and watch over and facilitate the professional development of everyone else, Martin said.

"If I get this position, I would work for the [STEM] faculty; they wouldn't work for me," Martin said. "And we would all work for the students."

Martin has served as chairperson of the civil/environmental and chemical engineering department for the past seven years. Martin has also acquired background work that has involved a variety of engineering-related disciplines and said that the transition from chair to dean would not be too drastic of a leap task-wise.

YSU's last internal applicant, Ritchey, has been serving as interim associate provost to Herbert since 2006. Prior to that, Ritchey was chairperson of the department of mathematics and statistics and has a Ph.D. in mathematics. He has also served as a medical researcher for the Department of Medical Education and Research at St. Elizabeth's Health Center for 10 years and as YSU's director of the University's Scholars Program from 1993 to 2000.

"I think it's the opportunity of a lifetime," Ritchey said of applying for deanship to STEM. "I've unknowingly been preparing for

the position my entire life."

Ritchey's current responsibilities as interim associate provost include serving as chair to the Community College Planning Committee, implementing the Metro College restructuring, supervising the newly established Metro Credit operation, assisting with the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Engineering restructuring (STEM and CLASS), and monitoring faculty overload, extended teaching service and reassignment of teaching duties, among many other duties.

When asked what he could offer to the position that might differentiate him from the other candidates, Ritchey said, "I'm uniquely prepared for this [opportunity] by my experience, personality and leadership abilities."

Ritchey said he would be able to release more information if he advanced to become one of the final three candidates that the applicants will soon be narrowed down to.

**FINGERHUT**, continued from page 1

Fingerhut said that he has not met with all of the university presidents yet, but he has received positive remarks from those with whom he spoke.

His next step after the formal appointment Wednesday will be to look at the budget and make sure there is enough funding.

Fingerhut, a former state senator from Cleveland, served in the Ohio Senate from 1991 to 1993 and 1999 to 2006, after term limits forced him out. He's currently working as the director of economic development education and entrepreneurship, and faculty member, at Baldwin-Wallace College.

The OBOR will hold a meeting on Wednesday to finalize Fingerhut's appointment.



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**WARD BEECHER**, continued from page 1

Graduate student Ashley Malich works in Ward Beecher and said that the staff has replaced leaky ceiling tiles with plastic panes connected to pipes that drain into the sink.

"It still leaks a little bit," Malich said.

The effects of flooding are far-reaching. Zeller said that ceiling tiles collect condensation and often fall down.

Associate Professor Larry Curtin also said that tiles have fallen down in his research lab in room 5012.

Senior Tracy Olin said that about a year and a half ago, a ceiling tile fell down in the middle of her class.

"The ceiling caved in right when he was teaching," Olin said. Despite the sudden interruption, the instructor continued to teach.

Hoff also said that the temperature at Ward Beecher is unstable.

"On the same days, we've had some rooms at 90 degrees and some at 50

degrees," Hoff said

"The students couldn't even do their experiments in the lab because it was so cold," said graduate student Jen Patton of the sixth floor general chemistry lab.

Malich also felt the temperature changes, saying that Ward Beecher was so cold Wednesday, that she had to go to the library. Malich said she wears a winter coat when she is at her desk.

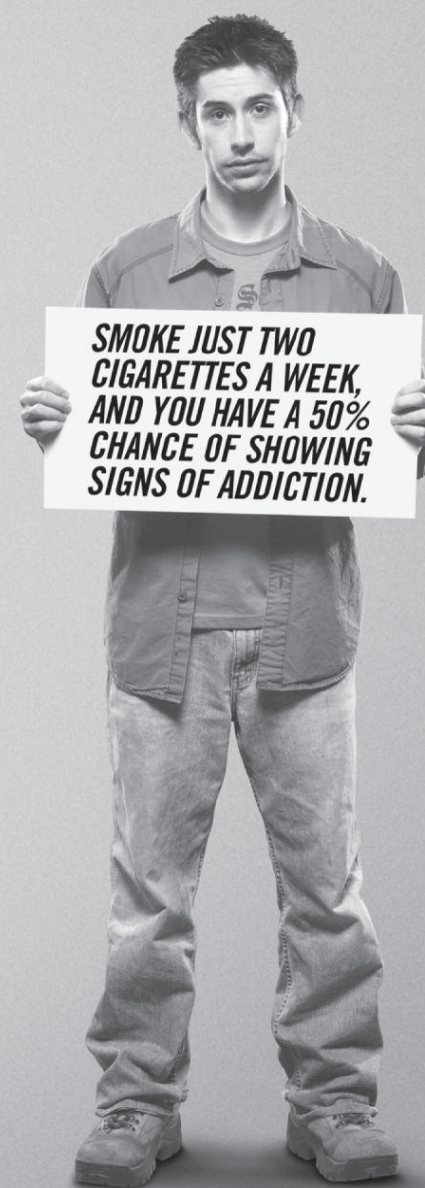
Last summer the departments of biology, chemistry and physics lost a total of \$70,000 from a combination of storm and electrical damage, Mincey said.

"We do not blame any of the maintenance people," he said.

Chair of Physics and Astronomy Gregg Sturuss agrees with Mincey, but believes that more help is necessary.

"They got one worker when we need five," said Sturuss.

Facilities could not be reached for comment



# Jambar Editorial & Opinion

Thursday, March 8, 2007

www.thejambar.com/thejambar@gmail.com/330-941-3758

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## THE Jambar

Excellence in journalism since 1931

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The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the summer sessions. The first copy of The Jambar is free; each additional copy is five cents. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press Honors.

### OUR SIDE

## Dear Mr. Fingerhut

Eric Fingerhut will soon be the new chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, but there are a few things we believe he needs to know before his first day on the job.

Youngstown State University students are unique. This campus is a blend of traditional and non-traditional students, commuters and residents. Many of us are first-generation college students. Some of us go home to families where the fact that we are in college is a bragging right.

Youngstown does not have a booming economy. Many of us will be forced to move away from our families once we graduate.

For some, the move is welcomed. For others, it's not. Some of us want to stay.

So, to Eric Fingerhut our first message is simple: Do what you can to help ensure that our economy will improve. We recognize that education is the key to this. But it hasn't been working up until now. You represent hope for us.

Mr. Fingerhut: Many of us come from middle-class, working-class families and our parents never dreamed of going to college.

The value of an education is working its way into our culture, but there is still a strong focus on skilled work. This town has deep roots in blue-collar work ethics. The mentality is shifting slowly.

There's more, Mr. Fingerhut. In addition to going to school, many of us also work jobs, often full-time.

Our work money pays for school and books and if we're lucky, for gas to and from school.

While school is our main focus, work eats up our time, certainly much of our energy and, unfortunately, it sometimes takes precedence over school.

Mr. Fingerhut, We need something better. Our university is not on the same level as other state schools.

Our tuition costs are somewhat lower and officials here tell us that the quality of education that we receive here is the same as it is at other Ohio schools. But many things are different here, Mr. Fingerhut.

We don't have many of the services that are offered at larger universities.

We need more and better academic programs that can create a well-rounded curriculum. We need to be able to be confident that we can compete with students from Ohio State University and Kent State University.

We aren't sure what it will take, Mr. Fingerhut.

So, that's why we're turning to you the same way that Gov. Ted Strickland did when he made it clear that you were his choice to lead higher education in the State of Ohio.

We're confident that you have ideas and vision.

We just wanted to remind you, Chancellor Fingerhut, not to forget about us.

We welcome you to come to our campus.

It's there in those homes, Chancellor Fingerhut, where you can acquire the true picture of how much is riding on the fact that we - the sons of daughters of the people of the Mahoning Valley - are college students.

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.

## The FRONTRUNNER



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Resolution on unresolved issues

Dear Editor:

I would like to respond to the Jambar editorial of March 6, 2007. YSU Association of Classified Employees (YSU-ACE) has made every attempt possible to reach resolution with the University representatives on most unresolved issues. ACE will not file a grievance until discussions have occurred with Human Resources representatives. Once all settlement attempts have been exhausted, we follow the process outlined in our collective bargaining agreement under Article 9 "Grievance Procedure." ACE is not required to informally seek a resolution, but we always attempt to do so. Some

of the ways ACE has sought resolution in the past include mediation with the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Services (FMCS), proposing multiple settlement agreements on unresolved issues, and offering many significant compromises to the mutually agreed upon terms of employment outlined in the contract.

The University uses state subsidies, tuition dollars, and donor contributions to fund their grievance and legal battles with ACE, OEA, APAS and FOP. As union members, we pay dues to provide various services including legal services as necessary. ACE makes every attempt to responsibly administer the terms of the agreement (such as avoiding the use of outside legal services). Unfortunately, if one were to review the over

300 grievances filed in the history of ACE, a person would find repeated management violations of the same issue or provision of the agreement.

I speak for all members in that it is in our best interest to resolve disagreements, save money, and achieve resolution at the earliest point so that we can focus on the jobs for which we were hired to perform. The longer we wait to settle an issue the more time and money it costs both sides with fewer services provided to students (our number one priority). Maybe the University should consider an incentive to reach early settlement.

YSU-ACE stands ready to resolve issues instead of filling the pockets of the legal counsel referred to as "outside help." According to the leading outside counsel for YSU, James

Wilkins, he stated during the 2005 negotiations that "ACE had a mechanism in place to resolve issues; file a grievance and take it to arbitration." We hope the University administration will rethink this position and its impact on the students it claims to serve. The University already employs two full-time attorneys (as well as one re-assigned attorney) at YSU—why is there a need to seek additional outside help?

Christine Domhoff  
YSU-ACE President

Send letters to the editor to:

thejambar@gmail.com

### COMMENTARY

## Don't work too hard during spring break

Jambar Staff

Spring Break is supposed to be a time for students to sit back, relax and forget about the stress induced by college classes...for a week at least.

For many students, that is not the case. In most instances, spring break is not a break at all.

Next week, students will pick up as many extra work hours as possible to earn money for college-related expenses. Whether these expenses include parking tickets, Ramen noodles, alcohol or any combination of the three, students will work their fingers to the proverbial bone to provide for themselves during the second half of the semester.

If students do not work overtime, they may spend the week with their noses in a book or their eyes fixed on a computer screen, hoping to catch up (or even get ahead) on upcoming assignments or studying for a midterm that falls on Monday after break.

During break, these students may also spend an extraordinary number of hours at the gym, striving to compensate for workout time lost doing something seemingly meaningless, like studying.

Perhaps spring break is best spent with shorter "to-do" lists and fewer responsibilities. Take advantage of the week away from YSU. Go snowboarding, knit a pair of mittens, watch 48 straight hours of Saved by the Bell — anything that will prove as an escape from the hectic college schedule.

We are not recommending turning down extra hours at work or putting off projects for another week, just make it a point to relax and enjoy life during spring break.

### COMMENTARY

## Forever stamps deserve 'Amen!'

McClatchy  
MCCLEATCHY-TRIBUNE  
NEWS SERVICE  
(MCT)

Even in this age of e-mail, text-messaging and instant messages, sometimes you still need to send something via snail mail.

Wouldn't it be great if you didn't have to worry whether that postage stamp gathering dust in your drawer still had enough value to get the envelope to its destination?

The U.S. Postal Service promises to eliminate such concern once and for all with its proposed "forever stamp." Buy a forever stamp at whatever the current price is for a first-class stamp and it will be good for mailing a one-ounce envelope anytime thereafter, even decades after the purchase (a good thing for

those of us who procrastinate on our holiday greeting cards).

The concept received a stamp of approval from the independent Postal Regulatory Commission last week as a part of a broader rate increase. The commission suggested that the post office start selling forever stamps for 41 cents in May, when first-class postage would rise from 39 cents.

The U.S. Postal Service's board of governors should approve the plan when it votes on the commission's recommendation in the next week or so.

It's a great idea that would end the hassle for customers and the Postal Service of making everyone buy a bunch of stamps worth a cent or two every time rates go up. Countries like Britain and Canada

have tried this with great success.

But don't plan on snatching up thousands of forever stamps to bulk up your investment portfolio. Even if the post office rejects the commission's suggestion to limit the number of forever stamps a single person can buy, you're unlikely to make a killing hoarding them.

Historically, the price of postage has risen at roughly the rate of inflation, or even below it. So your postal "investment" won't even give you the 3.6 percent return you can get on the average risk-free money market account these days.

Besides, who knows how much longer you will need stamps? Some Silicon Valley inventor is probably working on teleportation technology in her garage right now.



## FEATURE

# Depression doesn't get her down

Rudi Whitmore  
FEATURES REPORTER

Jenny Aimon doesn't look any different from the other 13,000 students at Youngstown State University. She has swinging short hair, glasses, a smoky laugh and discusses absolutely everything over a Long Island.

Even her struggle with depression. "I guess it started in my childhood; I was maybe nine," she shrugs, pulling on a Pall Mall cigarette. "I always felt different and that no one else would ever understand."

Jenny says her home always felt safe, and high school wasn't difficult for her. Her trouble began when she left for college. "I don't know," she trails off as she tries to articulate. "I wouldn't sleep, and if I could, I had trouble waking up and getting to class."

She sets down her coffee, gesticulating abstractly while she tries to explain how depression felt to her.

"It's like ... a lethargy — that nothing is worthwhile. I would miss class a lot. Sometimes it would make me feel agoraphobic." She laughs softly around the end of her cigarette. "Luckily, I'm smart. I can cram and pass, but I did skip a lot."

Sighing on an exhale, she's firm about her analysis. "It was the happiest day of my life when I was diagnosed. I was like, 'There are other people with this problem!' I cried I was so happy."

Finding a level balance wasn't easy for her. Many people diagnosed with depression also suffer from an anxiety disorder, and Jenny is no exception.

"Yeah, I also have anxiety. The medica-

tions..." She laughs exasperatedly. "They made me gain weight, and ya know ... dry mouth sucks! I always have to carry something to drink with me, and I'm supposed to avoid sunlight. The medication makes me more susceptible to heat stroke." In a wry tone, she adds that living in Youngstown kind of takes care of the sunshine problem.

Pausing to say hello and invite a friend to sit while she discussed her illness,

"We're not dangerous; it's just that dealing with everyday stresses is harder. It makes you freak out and shut down"

Jenny Aimon

Jenny continued seamlessly, "Did you know there's a correlation between mental illness and creativity?" Her laugh rings out over the bar. "I'm a poet, a musician and an artist! They should have seen it coming!"

She may joke about her illness, but she's knowledgeable about all its aspects. "Mmm... I was on Pamelor first, then I tried Prozac, Zoloft and Paxil."

Because she didn't like the side effects, from time to time, she would quit taking the medications, then go back on them, and repeat the cycle again. "Finally," she says, "I decided 'Fat or crazy?' I cannot function without meds."

From time to time, her anxiety will act up, and Jenny has panic attacks.

"I just feel..." She flutters her hands in air, hovering above the table, "Jittery. Sometimes it's an event, but sometimes it's

just out of nowhere. Sometimes when it hits I'll try to just tap out a rhythm." Jenny demonstrates with her fingers a disjointed, staccato beat.

"I take the anti-anxiety meds right away, but it takes a while for [them] to kick in. You just always have to remind yourself it'll be over soon. Just concentrate on your breathing, because you're not gonna die.

don't suffer from depression.

"We're not dangerous; it's just that dealing with everyday stresses is harder. It makes you freak out and shut down."

"Socially..." Jenny laughs again, her shrug this time nonchalant. "I embraced the fact that I'm weird. People will accept it or they won't. I think that's why I used to be shy, because I was ashamed ... There's still such a stigma."

Depression has made college difficult for her in some aspects.

"I have a terrible time concentrating. It makes it difficult to concentrate on lectures and long classes. I know everyone has that problem, but I'm hurting by the end. I just want to scream. When I'm reading, I really have to concen-

trate, no one can talk, ya know?"

Jenny has been seeking therapy, but as a financially-strapped student, her money is limited to spend on therapy.

"I go to Turning Point. They have a sliding fee scale, so I can see a therapist for, like, \$16. You can stay there for a few days when things get to be too much. ... I like them. It's mental health care for people at or below the poverty level."

Jenny suggests therapy to everyone.

"Oh God," she draws out. "Therapy is a wonderful, wonderful thing. Everyone should have to go for at least a year. And not just crazy people," she adds with a wink. "It's not a quick fix, though. It's a process of changing your programming and how to deal with stress."



You can't really go out after them, though. It's ... it makes you too sensitive to stimulus."

She says she occasionally gets panic attacks while sitting in class.

"I just sit really still, maybe rock a little bit, but I try to concentrate really hard on the lecture. That really helps."

Depression has had effects on other parts of her life as well.

"Sometimes being sociable just takes too much effort. Maintaining a conversation can be draining. It makes interpersonal relationships hard." She shrugs, almost apologetically. "You have to have a lot of patience to deal with me."

She acknowledges that she deals with life's problems differently than people who

**Upward Bound at YSU  
Summer Employment Opportunities**

Upward Bound is seeking YSU Students who enjoy working with high school students and have or would like to gain experience in housing/ residential setting and student activities.

**Position Descriptions and Salary**

**Lead Resident Assistant Salary \$1900**  
Purpose: Live-in and provide 24-hour supervision of students on and off-campus. Provide leadership to residential component. Coordinate implementation of six-week summer schedule of social and recreational, and cultural activities. Supervise residential staff.

**Resident Assistants Salary \$1400**  
Purpose: Live-in and provide 24-hour supervision of students on and off-campus. Facilitate social and recreational activities that promote interpersonal growth. Provide safe and secure environment for minors.

**Dates:** June 11-July 20, 2007 and additional training.

**Qualifications:** Current student. Experience working with high school students. Preference given to Juniors and Seniors with majors in education, psychology, or social work. And those with experience working with residential setting.

**Applications:** Applications are available in Jones Hall 2002. The deadline is March 23, 2007. For additional information contact Jennifer Roller at (330)941-4664.

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**Are you looking for real experience to help land that real job?**

Then look at the Jambar or Penguin Review. Applications are now being accepted for the upcoming 2007 summer and 2007-08 academic year [August-May] student positions. All positions receive a paid stipend. Applicants will be interviewed by the Student Publication Committee in mid-April.

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Current students in good standing who are registered for twelve (12) or more hours. Seeking students who are self-motivated with a passion for writing, advertising, design, sales, or photography.

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- Editor-in-chief also earns part of his/her tuition.

## Applications Now Being Accepted

### Where to pick up an application:

Applications are available from Lynn Haug in the Kilcawley Staff Office located on the upper level of Kilcawley Center. One application applies for both publications—simply check the position(s) you are most interested in. Application Deadline: 1pm, Wednesday, April 11, 2007

## APPLICATION DEADLINE:

1 p.m. Wednesday, April 11, 2007.  
Interviews will be scheduled for mid-April.

# Jambar Features

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www.thejambar.com/thejambar@gmail.com/330-941-3758

Thursday, March 8, 2007

STUDENT LIFE

## Spring '07 Break

### Did you miss the boat?

How to enjoy a last-minute spring break

Rudi Whitmore

FEATURES REPORTER

So if you're reading this now, you've probably missed the boat on getting away to the Bahamas or Jamaica for spring break. But that doesn't mean you're stuck in Youngstown for the week. So call up your friends, call off work, and pack up the car because you've still got choices.

They may not be tropical escapes, but spots like Pittsburgh and Cleveland can get you far enough away to enjoy "Kegs and Eggs" this Saturday somewhere besides Irish Bob's.

Brandi Veigh, resident adviser in Kilcawley House, is going home for spring break, but doesn't think it really matters where you go.

"If I can get a group of friends together anywhere, it doesn't matter where we go. I have a friend in Hawaii, and I wanted to go see her, but I saw the

price of plane tickets and I just can't afford it. A lot of times it's not the venue, but who you're with that makes the time. I mean, if you go to Australia for spring break, but if you don't go with anyone you want to spend time with, it's just not worth it," Veigh said.

Let's assume you've got the gang piled together into your D.D.'s car. Call ahead to get a hotel. Never ever assume that they'll have rooms available. And while it may not be the best for spring break hook-ups, it's great on a light wallet: cram as many people as you can into one hotel room.

Juli Merhaut, a sophomore nursing major, is heading to Chicago for her break. When asked if she would spend her break in Cleveland or Pittsburgh if she wasn't going anywhere else, she said, "Sure, why not check it out? It doesn't really matter where you go, as long as it's away."

If you're looking at the 'Burgh and planning on a bar crawl, East Carson Street has at least six, and a hotel on the same side of the river. There is a ton of nightlife activity in Pittsburgh for every type of interest. Check out the 'Burgh's beer bars, sports bars (aren't they the same thing?) hip-hop and R&B dance clubs, techno clubs, and joints that feature live music for about \$5 a head.

If drinking the week away isn't your style, check out all the cafés, museums, the Incline, or the shops at the Strip District. Every hotel should

have tourist maps, or at the very least a slightly knowledgeable concierge. When all else fails, tip your taxis well ahead of time, and ask what they recommend. It never fails.

Last stop Cleveland? Your one-stop shop for debauchery is the Flats. Filled with bars, live music and restaurants, the Flats are your spring-break dream come true ... without the sunshine or bikini-clad co-eds. If you've got a bit of spare cash, the Warehouse District is worth its weight in loan money. They have sushi restaurants, some more upscale clubs, and a lot of blues and jazz music, art galleries and coffee shops. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame is a staple, and it's got an exhibit for our generation, "Van's Warped Tour." If you want a bit of culture while you're venturing outside the Yo', try the Playhouse Square Center. There's also Tower City, Quicken Loans Arena and maritime museums.

Maybe it's not Barbados, and there aren't any white, sandy beaches, but soaking up a little local nightlife with friends still doesn't sound like a bad way to spend a week away from homework and the all-too-familiar familiarity of home. After all, Merhaut's favorite part of spring break is getting away.

"[It's] just the time away and being able to relax and spend time with people. Just time away from school and worrying about all of that is great."



MCT Campus

#### SPRING BREAK

## Statistics for spring break reveal students' dangerous habits

Press release shows that 97 percent of college students drink during spring break

Ashley Tate

REPORTER

Daytona Beach, Fla., Cancun, Mexico and Panama City, Fla. all sound like great places for students to vacation during spring break, right? Well, according to a press release The Jambar received, some students go a little overboard with the partying and celebrating.

Joe Flood, a sophomore at Youngstown State University, said he has been going on spring break vacations since his senior year in high school, which makes this his fourth consecutive year.

"I've always felt spring break to be that one week in the year where you can totally let loose. ... [There are] a lot of college students with the entire same goal — to get drunk," Flood said.

Flood said he and a group of his friends will be flying to Panama City, where they plan to soak up the "collegiate environment."

Joining Flood in Panama City will be senior Mike Palumbo. He said spring break is a time to get away from the hassles of school and relax.

Both students admit to drinking. Flood said places like Panama City only increase in excitement when drinking is involved.

"Therefore, we usually toast the morning and night the same exact way; by cracking open a fresh beer. Last year, we managed as a crew to empty 746 aluminum cans. This year, we plan to recycle even more," Flood said.

Junior Adrienne Logozzo said she is not vacationing anywhere this spring break, but has been to Cancun, Mexico and St. Pete Beach, Fla. for past spring break getaways.

Logozzo said she went because she loves the beach and wanted to get away from school and work. Logozzo said she doesn't remember how much she drank, but admits that it was enough to have a good time.

All three students said they are aware of the potential

#### Safe spring break items

- Sun screen, 15 SPF or higher
- Travel-size first-aid kit containing bandages, gauze, ointment, and aspirin
- Condoms
- Plan B emergency contraception

Source: Collegiate Presswire

health risks of drinking, such as alcohol poisoning and intoxication, but Palumbo said, "You only live once."

Flood said, "I am most aware of the hazards of drinking. However, in the same breath, it's my only weekend to let loose and enjoy my liver, so I'll take my chances."

According to the press release, 97 percent of college students drink during spring break, nearly three out of five women have unprotected sex, and more than a million cases of skin cancer are diagnosed each year; the sun accounting for 90 percent of all skin cancers.

Logozzo said that she used to tan a lot for high school dances but hasn't gone tanning in three years and doesn't wear sunscreen.

"My sister got [a type of] skin cancer on her foot from the tanning bed, and that is why I have not gone tanning."

She admits that she doesn't wear sunscreen but is aware of the health risks from tanning beds and sun tanning.

Palumbo said he tans and wears sunscreen, but isn't worried about skin cancer because when he is out in the sun, which isn't often, he wears sunscreen.



MCT Campus

Flood, on the other hand, is more worried about skin cancer.

He said his father passed away from melanoma complications in April 2004 and since then, he has never thought the same about the sun.

"Tanning is obviously not the best alternative, but it gets my skin used to the ultraviolet rays that I will soon be experiencing, and it keeps my body from burning. I do use lotions to keep my skin moist as much as possible and hope that I can ultimately avoid such a disease."

With all the warnings and precautions about spring

break, the memories make for good souvenirs.

Last year, while on spring break, Flood had an experience that he considers funny now, but wasn't at the time.

"Every year so far, we've always rented a pontoon boat and cruised the open waters. Last year was no different. ... About three hours into our trip, we found ourselves extremely drunk. One of my friends thought it would be amusing to 'pants' me as I was attempting to drink an entire beer as fast as possible.

"During this hilarious time, no one managed to spot the police boat approaching at fast speeds. As he came aside our boat, he noticed my pants resting about my ankles and the empty beer can in my hand. Needless to say, I had to board his boat and give all of my information. I ended up getting an underage drinking ticket," Flood recounted.

## REVIEW

# Game fails in attempt to define ninja genre

Andrew Caldwell  
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Every once in a while, a game comes out that tries something new and defines an entire genre. "Izuna: Legend of the Unemployed Ninja" for the Nintendo DS is not one of those games. Clearly inspired by classic "Roguelike" Role Playing Games like "Nethack," "Diablo," or the "Mysterious Dungeon" games (although borrowing more heavily from the latter) "Izuna" is a challenging dungeon-crawler based entirely upon exploring dungeons and killing hundreds of monsters. It's a game that tries nothing new and yet manages to be one of the most addictive games on the handheld.

## Features

- 1 cartridge save slot
- Randomly generated dungeons and equipment
- Classic Roguelike RPG gameplay

## Story

The story begins during a time of world peace. The recent end of all conflict was obviously seen by most as a good thing, but for Izuna and her gang of ninjas, this lack of conflict also meant a lack of work. So she and her three companions — Grandboss, her leader; Shino-sis, her sister; and Matsumoto, their slave — began to wander the earth looking for employment. They stumbled upon a village in the mountains of Japan where one thing led to another and eventually the six angry Gods of the village who were imprisoned in a crystal were set loose and began to curse the townspeople. Izuna is then given the task of descending into different caves and mines to defeat all of the gods and relieve their curses. The story progresses predictably as one curse replaces another until all the gods are defeated. It's a fairly clichéd story, but it serves the game, and the funny characters and dialogue make the story entertaining. It's always fun to see what spoiled and conceited Izuna will say next to people.



## Sound

The game's music is very catchy and fun. Each dungeon has its own signature song, and none of them are annoying, which is a good thing as you'll be spending hours traversing the twisted halls and passages of the dungeons looking for that next item or trying to raise one more experience level before leaving the dungeon. The sound effects are average; they serve their purpose, but are nothing spectacular. The game features limited voice acting, but it is in Japanese, so sometimes, like upon defeating a boss, you are left to wonder what the characters are saying.

## Graphics

The graphics are somewhat basic and the entire game is sprite-based. Considering the DS capabilities, the graphics are a bit of a step back to the days of the Game Boy

Advance. The game does have some nice sprite work, and magic spell effects are pretty impressive. During dialogue, the game features character portraits, which are beautifully drawn in anime style and help add to the atmosphere of the game. Each dungeon also has its own tile set, so the cave dungeon looks different from the forest dungeon, which in turn looks different from the ice dungeon. This helps to break up the monotony of exploring the dungeons, which is the meat and potatoes of the game.

## Gameplay

The game is comprised of a village area where items are bought, sold, and stored in the storehouse, and a series of progressively harder dungeons. The game is entirely turn-based with each action counting as a turn. Whenever you take a turn, however, every monster in the dungeon gets to take a



turn as well, so there is a certain amount of planning and strategy and planning involved with tackling a dungeon. But strategizing and planning aren't always enough. Each dungeon is randomly generated every time you enter it, so the layout of the maps and placements of items, monsters, and traps will never be the same twice. The game is very unforgiving with its difficulty; it auto-saves every time you enter a dungeon or die, so you cannot load a previous save slot should you make a mistake. Traps on the later levels can randomly spring up and destroy certain items in your inventory. There are also traps that make you unable to use weapons or armor for a certain number of turns. Combine this with traps that spawn up to six enemies around you, and it can be very easy to die, even when you think you're well prepared for a dungeon. Dying is not a trivial matter in this game. When you die, you will lose everything your character is holding including money and equipped items. The only items you don't lose are items in your storehouse or items that have been affixed with a special item that returns them to your storehouse upon dying. This can be frustrating as, since items are completely random, it could take hours and hours to find replacement equipment.

## Overall

"Izuna: Legend of the Unemployed Ninja" is not for everyone. If you get frustrated easily, this game probably wouldn't appeal to you. If you are looking for a quick, easy game to pick up and play between classes, this is not it. If, however, you want a challenging game that you can get into and you have around 20 hours to spare to beat it, this is probably the game for you.

## ENTERTAINMENT

## Penguin Productions present campus events

Britta Snowberger  
FEATURES REPORTER

On April 5, three-time Grammy Award-winning rapper Ludacris will travel to the Mahoning Valley for a Chevrolet Centre performance. The national act's upcoming concert is a result of months of surveying, analyzing, planning and marketing by Eric Ryan Productions in coordination with Youngstown State University's own student organization, Penguin Productions.

Instituted during the Fall 2006 semester, Penguin Productions began as a brainchild of Student Life, which hoped to collaborate with students to bring strong events to campus. Half of the Penguin Productions student members were immediately identified as candidates for the new organization, and the remaining six were determined through a grueling interview process.

"The 12 students we chose are all from different departments across campus," said adviser Joy Byers, assistant director of programs at Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center. "They participate on a volunteer basis, and they make most of the decisions as a committee."

Overseen by a dozen advisers from separate campus departments, the Penguin Productions student board's decisions have been superior to date.

"We held a battle of the bands during the fall semester," Byers said. "It was very successful for our first event, and it showed the committee's dedication. It also showed the need for things like this on campus."

The drive to bring more entertainment to YSU is the mission of Penguin Productions and a mantra of its student

volunteers.

"So many students think nothing's going on at YSU," said board member Keith "2 Fly" Logan. "We hear what the students want, and we try to provide that so they can have fun on campus, not in Niles at the Eastwood Expo Center."



With one successful event under its belt, Penguin Productions has shifted its focus to bringing a national rap act to Youngstown. The decision to approach Ludacris for the performance came after board members surveyed members of the student body and carefully analyzed the results.

"First, the students did an informal survey through Facebook, found out what type of performers students would like to see and broke them down into musical genres," Byers said. "Then we worked with Eric Ryan to determine what could work in the area, and what was feasible."

Once Ludacris was secured for the performance, Penguin Productions members began to gain practical experience while organizing and marketing the event.

"I never realized how much goes into planning an event like this," said student member Amanda Polles. "But we're get-

ting a behind-the-scenes look at how to advertise and set up a major event."

So far, students have been responsible for a large concert marketing campaign, during which they have established advertisements in the Mahoning Valley and handed out flyers in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and on other campuses. At the upcoming show, they will be responsible for working as stagehands and ushers and selling tickets.

Although the Ludacris concert is far from over, the Penguin Productions team has already begun deliberating events for Fall 2007 Homecoming. According to Byers, students may fill out an assessment and voice their opinions for possible events while scheduling for next semester's classes.

Many students cannot wait until the end of the current semester to offer ideas to members of Penguin Productions — a response that proves the growing organization is on the right track to fulfilling the needs of the student body.

"People are already coming up and making suggestions. They want to get involved, and they want to see what's next," said Logan. "[Penguin Productions] teaches us things we may not have known. It's a good learning experience for all of us."

Tickets for the April 5 concert, which begins at 7:30 p.m., range from \$25 to \$45. The first 2,800 YSU students with valid student IDs to reserve tickets receive \$10 off the purchase of one ticket. The student discount will be awarded at The Chevrolet Centre box office until March 10. Beginning March 12, discounted tickets will be available at Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

## Today

Jason Tarr, comedian, at Peaberry's Café, 11 a.m.

Blue Man Group: How To Be A Megastar Tour 2.0 at the Chevrolet Centre, 7:30 p.m., tickets available online.

## Friday

Asleep at Barley's, 10 p.m.

5 Elements, Third Class and Finding Mike Vagas at Cedars, 10 p.m.

## Saturday

Eric Ryan Productions presents Guys Without Ties at The Cellar, doors open at 9 p.m., show begins at 10 p.m., tickets \$5 in advance, 18 years and over.

Eric Ryan Productions presents Mahoning Valley Golf Expo 2007 at the Chevrolet Centre, tickets \$10 at the door, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Upcoming  
events



## At the base of the pyramid: Why male cheerleaders have the best job in sports

Emily Thayer

JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

When you think of men and sports the first thing to pop into your head probably isn't cheerleading.

But more and more men are stepping off of the gridiron and hardwood and onto the sidelines every year.

Even some United States president's have picked up a megaphone to cheer on the team.

Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower and our current president George W. Bush share not only political parties, but also a history of cheerleading.

It might be surprising to some, but the first official cheerleader was a man.

In 1898 Johnny Campbell became the first cheerleader when he coined the traditional "Rah, Rah, Rah" cheer at University of Minnesota football game.

Some lucky, and some may say unfortunate, Youngstown State University students have chosen to follow in the footsteps of Johnny, George and Ike.

If you came out to watch the Penguin football team during its 11-3 season last fall you probably saw them. They were the guys at the base of the cheerleader

pyramid with the best view, of the game, in the place.

But how did they even get involved with cheerleading in the first place?

For YSU junior cheerleader Naseeb Kaleel, he was doing cheers in the stands at a YSU football game with his friends and got the attention of the cheerleading squad.

"They heard my voice through the crowd and said they loved it and asked me to come to a practice," said Kaleel. "The practice was amazing. I never thought I could lift people like that."

For his fellow cheermate, sophomore YSU Scott Rouan, he got an invitation from a family member to tryout for the team.

At first he was skeptical, but decided to check it out nonetheless.

After experiencing the raw powering of the sport Rouan fell in love with it he said.

But convincing people that cheerleading is even a sport is a hard task in itself.

The task for guys though is disproving the myths that surround male cheerleaders.

"Probably the biggest misconception would be the one everyone would expect: that all male cheer-

"Probably the biggest misconception would be the one everyone would expect: that all male cheerleaders are gay."

Scott Rouan  
YSU cheerleader



Jambar/Ron Stevens

Even though the male cheerleaders on the YSU squad joined up for different reasons, they've all bonded through one common goal: pumping up the crowd.

leaders are gay," Rouan.

Rouan, a chemical engineering major, of the pyramid.

has been cheering at YSU for two years. He feels that cheerleading can actually be a good way to pick up girls.

"Some girls find the idea of a male cheerleader attractive," Rouan said.

As for Kaleel, he said cheerleading could impress the girls if they are looking for a strong, outgoing type of guy.

Although the guys and girls on the squad get only a few hundred dollars in scholarships a semester to cheer, Rouan said he is gaining great life experiences by taking up the megaphone.

"Cheerleading has helped me in more ways than I can count by meeting deadlines, showing up on time, managing time and social interaction," he said.

So gentlemen if you want to impress the ladies or have aspirations to run for president someday maybe next year's tryouts are the place for you.

And just remember guys you get to be at the bottom

### SOFTBALL

## Penguins softball team begin title-defense this weekend

Aaron Blatch

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Heading into the 2007 season the Youngstown State University softball team has a challenging yet enviable task ahead of them—defending a league championship.

The Penguins return 13 letterwinners from last season's Horizon League championship-winning team and have been picked to finish in third place this season by league coaches.

Inclement weather cancelled the Penguins first tournament of the season, so they will now kickoff the year by playing doubleheaders Saturday and Sunday

in the George Mason Invitational. Weather conditions have also affected practices, as the Penguins have only been able to practice outside once so far.

Head coach Christy Cameron said that her team is confident and motivated after last season's success.

"We've had a taste of what it feels like now," Cameron said. "The winning has encouraged us to work harder. That satisfaction from winning gets us through everyday."

To repeat as league champions the squad will have to navigate a tough schedule this season.

But the most difficult part of the season may be the number of

away games the Penguins will play, 24 of the team's 35 games will be on the road.

This may prove to be a tough task, even for the reigning champions.

Cameron also talked about setting goals, and the fact that the team can't get ahead of themselves while looking to defend its title.

"We want to get better everyday and take steps in the right direction," Cameron said. "We have 'now' goals and short term goals that will determine if we get to our long term goal – winning the Horizon League championship."

The eighth year head coach said that the team's biggest

strengths will be solid defense and a pitching staff anchored by right-hander Karlie Burnell.

The senior is a second-team all-league selection and went 16-10 last season. She also collected victories in all four Penguin tournament games.

Burnell will be the leader of a young staff that includes sophomore Tasha Hess, who gained valuable pitching experience last season, and three freshmen.

Cameron said that all five pitchers must continue to develop for the team to be successful.

The Penguin batting lineup should also be strong, as it returns three .300 hitters.

Sophomore catcher Kristen McDonnell batted .316 last sea-

son and tied the single-season home run record with 10. She will be joined by outfielder Jamie Fornal, another .316 hitter, and infielder/outfielder McKenzie Bedra, the Horizon League tournament most valuable player.

Beyond defending their league title, the Penguins will try to improve on last season's 22-27 record, as well as their 7-19 mark in games away from McCune Park, the squad's home field.

To accomplish these tasks the team will have to play like it still has something to prove.

"We have to focus and prepare for each game," Cameron said. "If anyone gets complacent they will struggle."