



THE JAMBAR

Since 1931 The student voice of Youngstown State University



Volume 90

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TO THE POINT

Baseball Coach resigns

Mike Florak, head baseball coach, resigned from his position Tuesday. Florak, who has been with YSU for nine years, will continue coaching until mid-October. A national search will be conducted to replace Florak, who has helped the Penguins achieve their first conference title and their first trip to the NCAA tournament.

Christman Dining Commons

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at 5 p.m. today at Christman Dining Commons. The \$275,000 project was completed over the summer and includes a new sports bar area and a redesigned entrance.

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Please remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar

SPORTS

Columbus bound

Penguins open season with game at Ohio State

Andrew Berry
Sports Editor

When Youngstown State University takes on Ohio State University in the first game of the 2007 regular season, it will mark the first time the two history-rich programs meet on the field of play. Saturday's game will be like a script out of Hollywood as the Penguins travel to Columbus for a high-noon battle with the Buckeyes at Ohio Stadium.

The Buckeyes may be one of the top powerhouses in the Football Bowl Subdivision, but YSU head coach Jon Heacock expects his team to compete to the best of their ability.

"We're not going down there to lay down," Heacock said.

"I'm fully aware of who we're playing and I expect our guys to go out and play with all they've got," he said.

Facing off against YSU's former head coach means drama for the fans.

At the helm, Tressel guided the Penguins to four national championships in the '90s before taking the head coaching position at Ohio State.

While he hasn't spoken to Tressel recently, Heacock isn't hesitant to acknowledge his predecessor's Youngstown legacy.



ABOVE: YSU Quarterback Tom Zetts, center, speaks at a press conference held on Tuesday, photo by Andrew Berry, The Jambar.

"We're not going down there to lay down...I'm fully aware of who we're playing and I expect our guys to go out and play with all they've got."

Jon Heacock, Head Coach

"He's an impact person," Heacock said. "As coaches, our job is to impact people. He impacted a lot of things in this town; he impacted my family. He's

a guy that I worked for and [he] became a friend. He was who he was. I could go on and on."

Aside from competing with a friend, Heacock must also try to out-coach his own brother: Jim Heacock, Ohio State's defensive coordinator.

Although Heacock said he and his brother discuss football during their weekly chats, he downplayed the upcoming contest against Jim.

"Your focus is on your own team,"

please see Penguins, PAGE 2

YSU

'Hail to thee, O' Youngstown'

Christi Williams
Jambar Contributor

How much school spirit does Youngstown State University really have?

On the eve of the historic game against Ohio State University, The Jambar asks "do you know the fight song?"

Responses from students, faculty and staff may surprise you.

Response 1: "No"

"We have a fight song?" replied senior Sara Park.

"I don't think that I have ever heard it. Is that bad? I go to a lot of the football games, and I don't think that I have ever heard anyone sing it, at least no one in the stands," Park said.

Response 2: "Yes"

Senior football player Leon Edwards, on the other hand, knows the fight song backward and forward.

"Of course I know the song. The team

sings the song before games and after victories. The fight song gets us real hype when we sing it. The crowd never sings the fight song during games. I would love for them to sing it; I think

pieces of the fight song.

"I go to a lot of the football games, and when I hear the fight song, I usually hum along," she says.

"If I heard the song I would know about 50% of it. I know more of the parts like the 'Rah-Rah-Rah.' You know, the more emphasized parts."

Kestner thinks it's important for faculty and students to know the important half.

On the field

Sophomore Caitlin Hjerpe is involved in many activities at YSU. Majoring in secondary education, Hjerpe plays in the band and performs with the dance team and color guard.

"I know the fight song. We had to sing the fight song every time we marched off the football field," she says.

The average student probably doesn't know the song, though, she says — and she admits she wouldn't know it either if not for her band involvement.

please see Song, PAGE 2

YSU's Fight Song

The Red and White are waving
Over the field
Our teams are fighting
With a spirit that will not yield
Rah-Rah-Rah
Hail to thee, O' Youngstown
We'll fight for you
Once again the Penguins
Will win for YSU

that it would get us more fired up," he says.

Response 3: "Sort of"

Jane Kestner, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, has been at Youngstown State for 30 years. She only knows bits and

YSU

Students, event planners go to new lengths for OSU game

Ashley Tate
Reporter

One of the most highly anticipated Youngstown State University football games comes with a steep price: \$65 for student tickets, which have been free in the past.

William Duckworth, a marketing assistant in the YSU Athletic office, said that the prices were OSU most students know that OSU set the price.

Duckworth said that 4,700 tickets were sold for the game but that the Horseshoe in

Columbus seats more than 100,000 fans. There were 500 tickets reserved.

The 4,700 tickets included students, players, faculty members, season ticket holders and others, Duckworth said.

The Athletic office was

unsure of how well the student tickets would sell, Duckworth said, but students did not complain about the cost because they knew ahead of time.

Freshman Jeremy Oddo said he "would not miss [the game] for the world."

"I really wanted to go so I was willing to pay whatever."

Jeremy Oddo, Freshman

He said he and his friends are leaving Friday after class and getting a hotel.

For students who cannot drive down like Oddo, the Student Government Association and the office of Housing and Residence Life will be sponsoring a student fan bus that departs 8 a.m. Saturday.

Oddo said that he arrived at the box office at 5 a.m. on the day the tickets went on sale but then turned around to get breakfast at McDonald's when he real-

please see OSU, PAGE 2

YSU

University hires two new employees

Sarah Sole
News Editor

The university is making changes in administrative staff, recently hiring Craig Bickley as executive director of human resources and Charles Singler as interim associate provost.

As the newly hired executive director of human resources, Craig Bickley pledges to develop relationships and establish trust with university employees.

One of 51 applicants for the position, Bickley was chosen Aug. 27 and will officially start at the university on Sept. 17. He replaces Interim Executive Director Mary Jo Repasky-Skea.

Bickley's educational experience and his familiarity with Ohio public laws regarding human resources made him a strong candidate for the position, President David Sweet said.

Currently the executive human resources director for Columbus Public Schools, Bickley was previously the human resources director for Sandusky Public Schools.

In addition to working on the hiring and retiring process, Bickley will work with supervisors to enhance employee training, Sweet said. He will also be responsive to employees and their questions.

"We need to increase the focus on employee relations," Sweet said.

Bickley will work to reduce the need for labor unions to go to a formal grievance process to resolve issues, he said.

Improving labor relations is something Bickley is determined to achieve.

"My approach is more collaborative," Bickley said.

As mediator, he will press both groups to resolutions. This role is similar to the roles he performed in previous jobs, he said.

"I've got quite a bit of labor background," Bickley said. He has had previous work with faculty unions as well. In previous jobs, he has never had a work stoppage when working with unions.

"It's a commitment to solving problems as opposed to taking positions," Bickley said.

As Interim Associate Provost, Charles Singler will also deal with employees, although these will be faculty as opposed to staff.

please see University, PAGE 2



Game Information

- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted in Ohio Stadium. Guests identified with alcohol inside the stadium will have the alcohol confiscated and may be ejected from the stadium. Possession and consumption of alcohol in the stadium parking areas are subject to the laws and regulations of the state of Ohio and/or city of Columbus.

- Bags larger than 14-by-14 are prohibited in Ohio Stadium. A guest attempting to enter Ohio Stadium with a larger bag will be asked to return it to their vehicle. All bags are subject to search.

- Banners, posters and signs are not permitted in Ohio Stadium. You will be asked to return them to your vehicle or dispose of them upon entry.
- Cameras are permitted in Ohio Stadium. However, cameras with detachable lenses are not allowed. At no time may photography interfere with other guests.

- Guests may carry umbrellas into the stadium for use before and after the game, but umbrellas are not permitted to be opened in the seating areas of Ohio Stadium.

- Parking is available in the designated day-of-game lots on a first-come, first-served basis. The charge for these lots is \$10. Shuttle service to Ohio Stadium is available free of charge for guests who park on west campus.

- Disability parking is located in the lots north of St. John Arena. This area is accessible from the east and all vehicles will enter from Tuttle Park Place.

- Fans not attending can watch the game on the Big Ten Network available from DirecTV. Radio broadcasts of the game will appear on 570 AM for the Penguin broadcast team and 106.1 FM and 1390 AM for the Ohio State broadcast crew.

STUDENT LIFE

Al salaam a'alaykum and ni hao: foreign languages say hello to YSU

Sarah Sole
News Editor

Sophomore Brandi Mechling watches the comedy Scrubs and TV shows on the Discovery Channel, something that she may have in common with many YSU students. However, those are just about the only American shows that Mechling watches.

"Ninety-eight percent of the shows I watch are Japanese," Mechling said. "I've always liked the Chinese and Japanese culture."

Mechling's interest in this culture, along with her desire to someday travel and work in Japan or China, drove her to enroll in the Mandarin Chinese course offered at Youngstown State University for the first time this fall.

The new course offerings of Arabic and Mandarin have reached near full

capacity, said John Sarkissian, professor and chair of the foreign language department. Some students see bilingual abilities as a necessity for their careers.

"It looks good on your resume if you know Chinese or Japanese. If you're bilingual in any language it looks better," Mechling said.

Junior Tom Sung plans to capitalize on this need.

In business, Chinese is proving an important language for people to know, Sung said.

"It's starting now. Chinese is getting very popular in America," he said.

Sung wants to teach Chinese in the United States or teach English in Taiwan.

"Children at a very young age start English," he said.

In the United States, Sung's childhood was sort of the reverse.

Though he cannot read or write

Learning Mandarin Chinese is a powerful tool for students, Zhu said. "China is a big market from many perspectives."

Sarkissian agrees.

Growing business and other exchanges between the United States and China make Mandarin a language worth learning, Sarkissian said.

Sarkissian also recognizes the growing popularity of Arabic.

"I hope also that students would be in there because they wanted to read the Koran," he said.

Sarkissian said he has taught students who studied Greek to read the New Testament of the Bible. Reading a text in its original language eliminates the interpretation of a translator, he said, and may bring a student closer to the work.

The holy book of Islam is meant to be read in its original language, according to SOURCE.

Students take Arabic for a variety of reasons, Madeleine Maroun, Arabic instructor said.

Some are interested in learning about their heritage, while others have military or government aspirations.

"People are ready to learn more about the Arab world," she said.

Geopolitical changes make learning Arabic important for American students, Maroun said, adding that Arabic looks great on a resume.

The language department has had an interest in offering both languages for some time, but the department had to find instructors, Sarkissian said.

"I hope that they work out and that students stay with them," he said.

"It looks good on your resume if you know Chinese or Japanese. If you're bilingual in any language it looks better."

Brandi Mechling, sophomore

From Song, PAGE 1

"But I do think that it would be nice if the students would learn it and sing it at games, so that the band isn't the only people singing," she said.

Ron Strollo, executive director of athletics and YSU alumni, will never forget how to sing along.

"The fight song is ingrained in my head. I played football for YSU from 1988 to 1991; I played for Jim Tressel. We would sing the fight song a day before our home games, then before playing and after a victory.

Strollo described the importance of remembering the song.

"It's a part of tradition; it's a part of our school."

Strollo said the vast majority of students don't know the song perhaps because YSU is mostly a commuter school. Still, he called YSU students spirited.

Head football coach Jon Heacock said he knows the song.

"If you're a person that is involved you should know it. It's apart of the university; the song has been here longer than us," he said.

"My team chants the song before games and after victories. It has become a tradition; I think that it is good and important for teams to know the fight song," he said.

"It's an investment," he said, "it makes you care about it a little more."

From OSU, PAGE 1

ized that there weren't too many people ahead of him.

Duckworth said that about 300 students were lined up outside the box office at 7 a.m. when they arrived, and by 9 a.m. when the ticket sale started, there were about 400 students. Tickets were sold out in three or three-and-a-half hours.

Oddo said that since the seats aren't great, the cost was a little expensive. Still, he was willing to pay it and waited in line for four hours.

"I really wanted to go so I was willing to pay whatever," he said.

Early childhood education major Mackenzie Zimmerman agreed.

"I think there should have been more available [tickets] with a cheaper price. I mean, come on, most of us are broke college students," Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman said the "one ticket with student ID" policy prevented some of her friends from going

to the game.

"I think the price was way too expensive. [A] lot of my friends wanted to go and were unable to for that reason alone. I also heard there was a small number of tickets available," Zimmerman said.

Though she will not be going to the game because of time and price issues, Zimmerman plans on watching the game from the LCD TV that will be set up at the Canfield Fair.

"My friends and I will definitely be out at the fair in lots of YSU decorations cheering on our Penguins," she said.

The home front

Students do not have to be at the game to celebrate and show Penguin pride.

Youngstown Sports Grille will be hosting the game for fans to watch on television and will have a special breakfast: all-you-can-eat "kegs and eggs" for about \$6.

Jeff Gordon, general manager of the Grille, said

they will open at 6 a.m. on game day.

Gordon said that even though football fans are "loud and boisterous," he isn't concerned about anyone getting out of hand.

"I can't recall any events when someone did get out of control — but if they do, we just talk to them, calm them down a bit if they get too rowdy," Gordon said.

Gordon said that they've been hosting all kinds of football games and they aren't concerned. They just have a good time with the fans.

The department of Campus Recreation and Student Programming and Buffalo Wild Wings in downtown Youngstown will host a tailgating party with beer specials, food, games and prizes for students who are who not attending the game.

The Penguins will face off against the Ohio State University Buckeyes Saturday in Columbus at 12 p.m.

From University, PAGE 1

Singler will communicate with colleges and departments to coordinate tasks, said Interim Provost Ikram Khawaja.

Singler has experience in a variety of positions, Khawaja said.

Besides being the dean of the former College of Arts and Sciences for nine years, Singler was also chair of the geology and environmental sciences department for eight years.

Describing his job as administering the academic sector, Singler said, "I would not put my personal goals ahead of what the provost would desire."

Singler anticipates his interim position to last for one year, while Bege Bowers works on the university's accreditation review.

"I'm just kind of filling in until all of this gets organized," Singler said.

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RIDE ON
Sandusky, Ohio

From Penguins, PAGE 1

Heacock said. "Once the ball goes into the air, you forget about who's on the other sideline."

Ohio State will parade many new faces onto the field in place of departed players. Since he has no film of the new OSU lineup to study, Heacock said the only way to prepare is to have his own team organized and ready for action.

"It doesn't matter who you're playing," Heacock said. "I think the bottom line is to be prepared ourselves and that's the key to this game."

Heacock is excited that his players have the unique opportunity to play at the Horseshoe, Amid the palpable excitement, Heacock is keeping the Penguin's best interest in perspective.

"I'm so concerned about my guys," he said.

"I want our guys to have success and the chance to have success. For us in the FCS it's all about getting to the playoffs, and that's what we're working for, and this game is the first game we play toward that."

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INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

CISP coordinator discusses study abroad opportunities

Going overseas can cost little more than attending YSU

Rudi Whitmore
Features Reporter

Before Annette El-Hayek became coordinator of international programs at Youngstown State University, it had never been an official staff position. She said she is the first staff member to sign up for the job.

In the past, coordinating efforts have been passed off onto graduate assistants, but under her care, programs at the Center for International Studies and Programs have begun to flourish.

This summer, students traveled to Argentina, Costa Rica, Spain, the Czech Republic, Germany and Australia.

"Last year we sent only nine people, and this year we sent nine out just in the summer! There are at least 14 people in the file for spring, and we've had 10 people come in and inquire," El-Hayek said.

The students

El-Hayek said that despite widespread opportunities to study abroad, few take advantage. "Those are the ones that move into the elite," she said.

El-Hayek said she's pleased that the number of YSU students studying abroad has increased, because the international experience is unlike any other. When students travel, it changes their lives.

"They will be in a whole new atmosphere, learning a new culture.

It does wonders for social and psychological growth," El-Hayek said.

El-Hayek said that studying abroad can also help a student's career.

"With the study abroad experience, it will push their applications for jobs and grad school to the top of the piles. It will make



EL-HAYEK

them stand out in a crowd," she said.

Colleges and employers are looking for something unusual in an application, she said.

The cost

The Center for International Studies and Programs strives to have an open-door policy and inquiring, said El-Hayek, carries no obligation.

Some programs have a minimum 2.5 or 3.0 GPA, but El-Hayek can work to make arrangements for students who don't qualify.

In her experience, El-Hayek said the biggest misconception is that people think they cannot afford the trip. Some programs cost the same as a semester at YSU.

Places like New Zealand or Great Britain are much more expensive, but not always out of reach.

"YSU just reached an agreement with Winchester University that it will only be a \$1000 more than YSU," El-Hayek said.

Financial aid is also available in the form of loans, scholarships or federal grants. El-Hayek tracks financial aid opportunities and emails them to students.

She refers students to Gina McHenry, assistant director or financial aid and scholarships. Students who go abroad pay the foreign tuition to YSU.

"With the study abroad experience, it will push their applications for jobs and grad school to the top of the piles. It will make them stand out in a crowd."

Annette El-Hayek, CISP coordinator

CAMPUS LIFE

Welcome Week 2007



Above: The foam pit in the Rec 5 area of campus was filled with students on Tuesday night. Photos by Elizabeth Boon.



Above: Two students box, one of the events offered at the Foam and Dance party.



Above: Students challenge each other at corn hole in the Rec 5 area.



Above: YSU students try out the Oxygen Saloon in the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center. The oxygen bar exposed students to 95 percent pure oxygen for relaxation.



Above: Students wait in line to get their images burned into a crystal at the Clearly You Crystals booth in the Arcade at Kilcawley.

CAMPUS LIFE

Partnership lets South Carolina students download tunes for free

Jason Ryan
McClatchy Newspaper
(MCT)

College students, the defenders of free T-shirts and free speech, have chalked up another victory: free music.

More than 40,000 University of South Carolina students heading to school this weekend will be able to download more than 2.8 million songs to their computers at no cost — thanks to a new agreement between the university and Ruckus online music.

USC joins 119 other colleges in its agreement with Ruckus. The company makes its money from online advertisements and charges students \$20 a semester for the ability to transfer unlimited songs to a portable music player after they've downloaded them to a computer.

"Downloading is free," said Kimberly South, public information coordinator for USC's technology services. "Transferring is not."

In January, the Recording Industry Association of America named USC as one of the top universities for illegally downloaded music.

At that time, the association sent the university 914 notices of copyright infringement for the school year. Clemson received 71.

In response, USC began negotiations with Ruckus, tightened its Internet policies and discussed music piracy issues at new student orientation meetings this summer, said Bill Hogue, USC's chief information officer.

Since February, the university has received no notices of copyright violations, he said. "We've gone from being on a list of notorious universities to being model citizens," Hogue said.

More than 5,000 USC students have started using Ruckus, which became available in June after the spring semester. Students have downloaded more than 1.4 million songs.

One drawback to USC's no-

cost partnership with Ruckus, though, is music downloads aren't available to Macintosh computer owners — 15 percent of students in 2006.

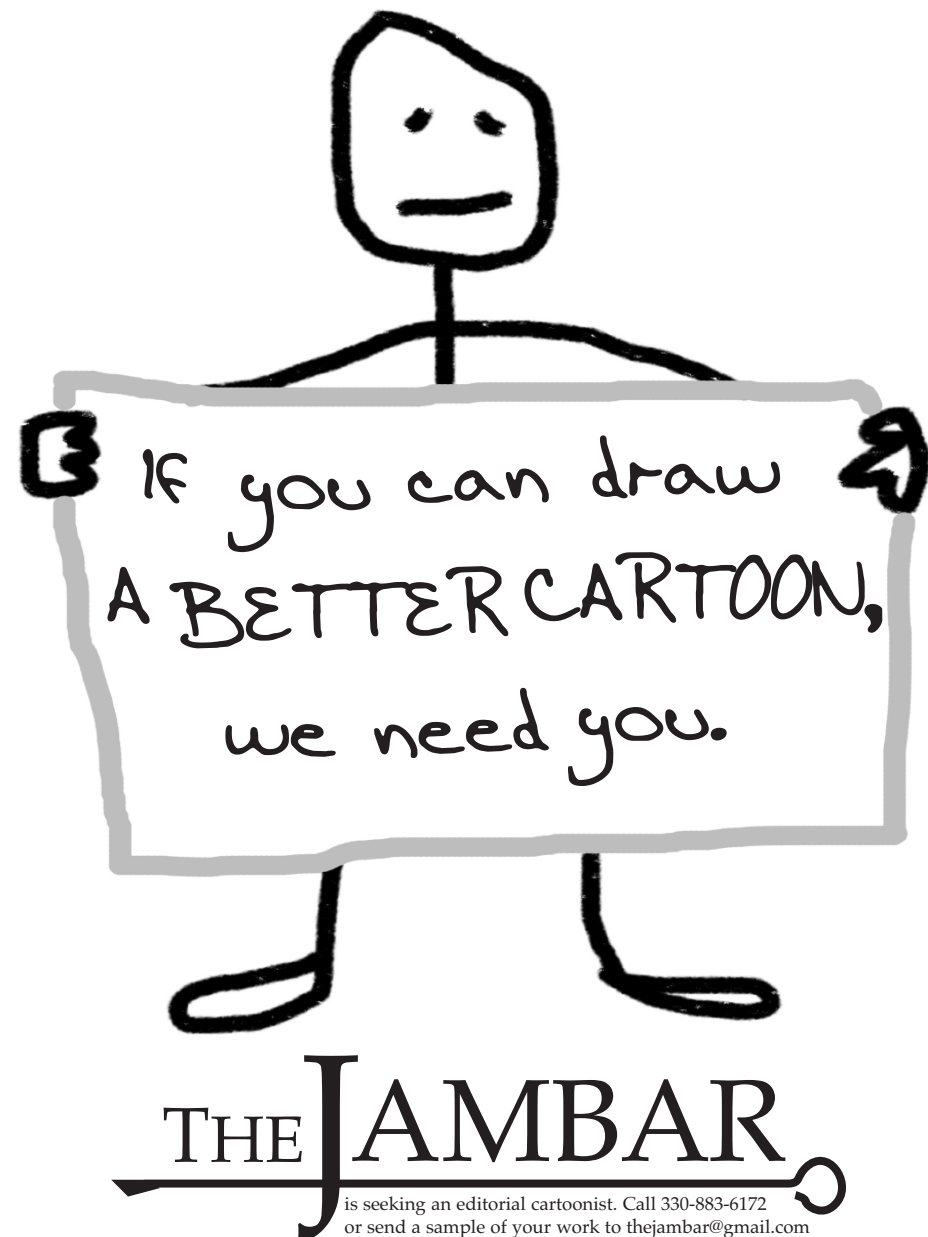
South said some Mac users are disappointed, but many already use iTunes to buy digital music.

Parents are happy to hear their students have a free, legal way to listen to music, South said.

The RIAA has sent 2,400 settlement offers to college students since February for copyright violations. These offers follow more than 18,000 lawsuits filed by record companies in the last three years for illegal music downloads.

Will Hall, a May graduate from USC, said he was always wary of being caught downloading music illegally in college, though some friends downloaded much more.

Hall said he doesn't expect his alma mater to offer free music to students, but "the fact that they do is nice."



is seeking an editorial cartoonist. Call 330-883-6172 or send a sample of your work to thejambar@gmail.com

Opinion

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THE JAMBAR
Since 1911 The student voice of Youngstown State University

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OUR SIDE

You can always go — downtown?

University of Michigan graduate students: your success is our story.

In your presentation at the Chevrolet Centre on Monday, you took a good look at Youngstown's efforts to revitalize and added your own suggestions, all with the goal of drawing more YSU students downtown.

With a campus so close to the business district, students should naturally want to go downtown. The changes are taking shape.

Several of the recommendations are in line with what college students would want: more restaurants, bars and nightclubs.

Part of the revitalization process will be continually promoting the fact that these businesses exist downtown. The designers also want to use the Mahoning River as a recreational attraction.

Though these are well-thought ideas, we cannot afford to leave them on the table for further consideration.

Talking and preparing is necessary, but the time has come for action.

The ideas from the graduate students are one step in the process of returning Youngstown to its better days, but the area still has a long way to go.

The mindset of many students, especially the locals, is that Youngstown's suburbs offer the only places to shop and eat. When deciding where to spend an evening, we rarely consider downtown Youngstown.

Especially if we need to buy some snacks or incidentals on the way — downtown lacks a convenience store or pharmacy.

Though there are some nightlife venues, such as The Core, Imbibe and the Draught House, the downtown area is a far cry from its high-flying heyday.

Youngstown's comeback will take time, teamwork and motivation. We already have motivation and so far we've been pretty patient. Now we just need teamwork. The open conversations to be held on campus should include downtown urban renewal as a part of their agendas.

YSU is missing the walkable downtown that many urban universities enjoy. Once students have something more to do downtown, they'll need to feel safe before they transition from driving everywhere to walking. Increased police patrols will have to accompany an improved pedestrian path to downtown.

These are the kind of questions that need to be asked at open forums, whether they are held on campus or downtown.

A round of applause should not usher in the end of the students' discussion. Rather, as a campus and downtown community, we need to work on turning these blueprints into reality.

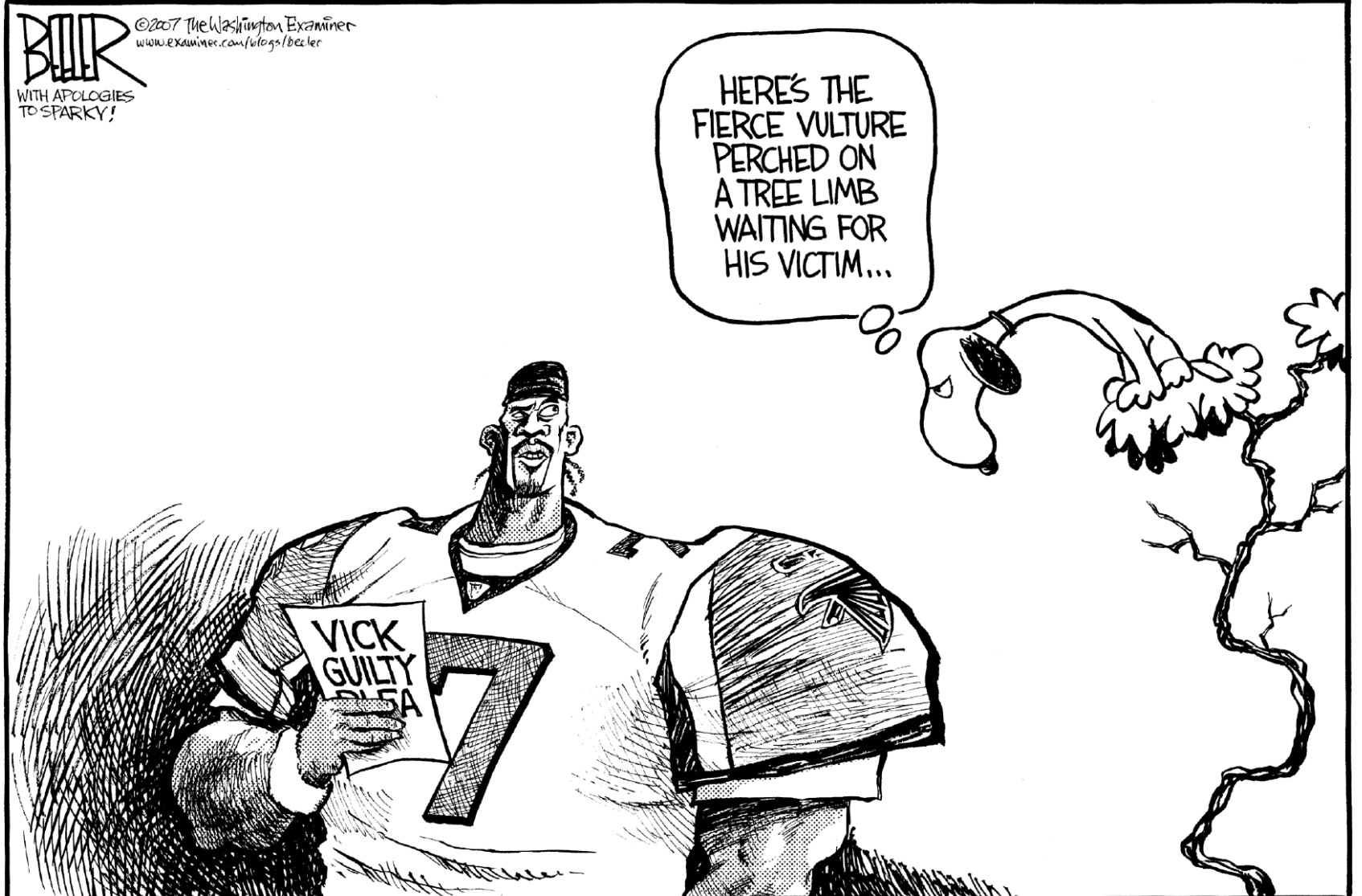
The Jambar editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambar and its Editorial Board members. Those wishing to schedule meetings with the Editorial Board should call the editor in chief.

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.

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WITH APOLOGIES
TO SPARKY!



COMMENTARY

College-loan industry: An obscene system

McClatchy-Tribune
MCT

The following editorial appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer on Monday, Aug. 27:

Why do we even have a "college-loan industry"?

In this country, where education is supposedly valued so highly and where almost every student is counseled to take courses beyond high school, why has usury become the vehicle that so many must endure to reach their desired academic goal?

Hear that? That's the sound of the "industry" crying foul. How dare anyone compare to usury the public service it claims it provides

But it's hard to not think of loan sharks when you read that the five top executives of Pennsylvania's government-run student-loan agency are being given bonuses totaling a half-million dollars. That's actually down from \$850,000 in bonuses last year.

Think that's obscene? Get this: The nation's largest provider of college loans, SLM Corp., is raking in so much cash that a group of investors wants to buy it for \$25 billion. If the deal goes through,

former CEO Albert L. Lord's share will be \$135 million

What's SLM? You might know it as Sallie Mae, a nickname it acquired when it began more than 30 years ago as a quasi-government agency similar to its banking cousins Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Unlike Freddie and Fannie, Sallie walked out on the government years ago, ostensibly to better serve its clients as a private company. Since then, it has become the money-making machine that two years ago was ready to plunk down \$1 billion to take over the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency.

The "industry" can't claim it has always been scrupulous in amassing its fortune. Substantiated charges that some of its minions bribed college officials to steer students to specific loan programs have given it a black eye.

The scandal has also spurred Congress to speak up for students. When it returns from summer recess, a conference committee will be set up to reconcile House and Senate bills concerning college loans. Proposed legislation would cut government subsidies to banks

and others that make college loans and use the cash to increase the amount of student grants that don't have to be repaid. The House bill would also halve the interest rate on government-backed loans to 3.4 percent.

The bills on Capitol Hill have the "industry" screaming like a baby being denied its bottle. If subsidies are cut, it says, many of the 3,500 lenders making college loans will opt out of the business. The lenders say they also will have to stop providing rate discounts and fee reductions, meaning students will pay more for loans.

That could happen. And the moon could fall out of the sky, too.

Then again, maybe the 2,000 to 3,000 or more lenders still in business will continue to offer discounts and reduced fees to remain competitive.

But if the federal government will handle more loan business directly and offer fewer subsidies to the fat-cat industry, then less money that ought to be used to help low- to middle-income kids go to school will end up in some executive's pocket as a bonus.

Congress is right to seek that goal. But it will have to overcome the objections of President Bush,

who threatens a veto if the bill creates a host of new entitlement programs to provide more student grants and loan forgiveness. Bush also wants to cut subsidies, but he has proposed a \$16 billion reduction, while the House bill requests \$18 billion.

Is it mere coincidence that, according to Bloomberg News, the agreement to buy Sallie Mae allows the buyers to walk away if the subsidy cuts total more than \$16 billion?

The loan industry is right about one thing: The cost of a college education itself is too high. Too many universities with gaudy endowments would do well to follow the Princeton example and use more of that money to pay the way for needy students.

Some competitive pressure needs to be brought to bear on colleges, so that cheaper credit for students doesn't simply lead to higher tuitions.

That said, there is no excuse for allowing the middle man - the college loan industry - to saddle students with unnecessarily high interest charges that they'll be paying off deep into their adult lives.

COMMENTARY

Don't let Gonzales' record taint all Bush appointees

William McKenzie
The Dallas Morning News

This isn't a popular thing to admit these days, but I thought President Bush had made a good pick when he selected Alberto Gonzales as attorney general. Many saw the Houston attorney as the epitome of Bush cronyism, but I saw the selection as the president putting somebody at Justice who could shoot straight with him about terrorism, the FBI, all sorts of law enforcement issues.

I was wrong. We'll have to wait for history to show us when or if Bush's fellow Texan shot straight with him. What we know now is that Gonzales clearly lacked the political skill and leadership ability to survive in a high-profile post.

His failure may stem from the fact that he has been a lawyer, not a manager. But his ineptness at Justice has fed the image that Bush has surrounded himself with incompetents whom he should have left behind in Texas or never brought into his inner circle.

That feeling is so strong these days that Bush has become a caricature to some, like a bumbling Warren Harding. People who buy into this picture will use this episode to say, See, told you, he's a dunce.

The truth is more complex.

If you're going to buy into the idea that President Bush has surrounded himself with incompetent cronies, then you're going to have to explain away people like Education

Secretary Margaret Spellings, White House Chief of Staff Josh Bolten, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Undersecretary of State Karen Hughes, former Budget Director Rob Portman and Deputy Budget Director Clay Johnson.

In one way or another, these people have been with George W. Bush since he first ran for governor or were part of his father's team or were friends from way back. They have earned high marks in their jobs from people across the aisle and, in some cases, around the world.

There also have been Bush pals who've handled tough assignments as ambassadors. Dallas attorney Bob Jordan stepped into Saudi Arabia immediately after 9/11 and steered a very sophisticated course. His successor in Saudi, Dallas businessman Jim Oberwetter, continued it by strengthening relations with Saudi Arabia while equally pressing the kingdom to modernize.

No easy task there, just as Bush pal Tony Garza has had to walk a fine line as our ambassador to Mexico. The Texan has pressed the Mexican government to do more about drug cartels while also making the case to Washington to modernize our immigration laws. Garza was Bush's first appointment as governor, but you don't hear charges of cronyism about him.

Neither do you hear crony complaints about Margaret Spellings, the education secretary. The Texan has been with Bush since he first started running for governor in 1994. Today, Democratic education leaders like Sen. Ted

Kennedy and Democratic Rep. George Miller praise her for her handling of the No Child Left Behind Act.

She and Austin attorney Sandy Kress led the White House's effort to pass the education law in 2001, which drew both Democratic and Republican support. Now she's back at it with Kennedy and Miller to keep the bill alive while listening to the complaints about the measure.

My point is, there have been Bush pals who have made their mark and those who haven't. They aren't all Al Gonzaleses or Michael "Brownie" Browns, who have become the poster boys for Bush cronyism.

In fact, the Bush presidency took a turn for the worse when the ultimate Bush insider, Karen Hughes, returned to Austin in 2002. She's back now at the State Department, trying to breathe life into how America communicates to the rest of the world. But her presence was missed at the White House because she could speak plainly to the president about the mistakes she thought he was making with the broad majority of the public. After her exit, some Bushites tell me, Karl Rove had no equal before the president.

As a Bush backer and as an American, I'm as frustrated as the next person at this administration's problems. Some come from the president's stubbornness and impatience. But I don't buy the line that he's surrounded himself with a bunch of hacks who've yes-manned him. Al Gonzales and Michael Brown aren't the only ones around his table.

CITY REVITALIZATION

Making downtown worth the walk for YSU students

Sarah Sole
News Editor

Michigan graduate students proposed ideas Monday for drawing Youngstown State University students to the downtown area. YSU President David Sweet attended the urban development presentation at the Chevrolet Centre.

"There's a variety of no cost options for the university," Sweet said. Possibilities for new housing, jobs and internships could be linked to campus.

Visiting Youngstown this July, the students from the Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Michigan talked to bar and restaurant owners, political leaders and a wide variety of others to figure out how to strengthen the city.

Focusing on ways to attract YSU students to the downtown area, five student teams propose bringing theaters, museums, restaurants and clubs downtown.

The students stressed making the venues usable in all weather. For example, the Ribbon Pavilion that one team offered would hold summer concerts and winter ice-skating.

The students also stressed parking consolidation, showing the audience how parking lots were barriers in the downtown area.

Many teams stressed the recreational potential of the Mahoning River.

"The city was born on the river," Michael Johnson, a member of the second team said.

"There's a variety of no cost options for the university. Possibilities for new housing, jobs, and internships could be linked to campus."

— David Sweet, YSU President —

Team two also proposed using storm water in a creative and practical ways throughout the city. Storm water could be pipelined underneath roads to reduce winter plowing, Johnson said.

"A lot of cities have done this and have had a lot of success," he said. "This can be done."

The fourth team proposed a pedestrian streetscape corridor to encourage students to venture downtown.

"The draw would be at the end of the river," said Joshua Anderson, a member of that team.

The corridor could have a park and a farmer's market. An arcade could provide retail and eatery venues.

Sweet expressed his confidence in the progress of downtown revitalization.

Sweet said this kind of presentation helps expand one's thinking. "We're just pleased to have a collaborative environment," he said.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

SGA celebrates 30th anniversary

Adrienne Sabo
Editor In Chief

Monday was a day of firsts for some Youngstown State University students: the first day of college, the first day of the fall semester and the first meeting of the Student Government Association.

During the meeting SGA voted to create a resource page on its Web site and include a link to the Web site pickaprof.com, a site similar to ratemyprofessor.com

Erica Cross, SGA executive vice president, said the site allows professors to respond to the student comments written on the site.

SGA also passed the standing rules for this year's body, which included a change to the required constituency reports.

Chad Miller, SGA parliamentarian, said the old standard for representatives was to spend one hour a week in the office where they were available for their constituents. He said those rules

were replaced with the constituency reports that were used in past years.

Now SGA is changing back to representative hour.

Dave Spatholt, SGA president, said, "We found the reports to be ineffective." He said the representative hour is a better replacement.

At the end of the meeting SGA advisers offered advice to the students. Sunil Ahuja, associate professor of political science, encouraged every member to participate as much as he or she can.

Chet Cooper, associate professor of biological science and SGA adviser, agreed.

"This is going to be a very big year for YSU. Get involved and make a positive change for YSU," Cooper said.

Along with YSU's centennial, SGA is celebrating its 30th anniversary at YSU. Spatholt told the body to try new things and if it is wrong, he said, someone will tell you.

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Campus Life

Page 6

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Thursday, August 30, 2007

STUDENT LIFE

New evening entertainment on campus

Elizabeth Boon
Reporter

Peaberry's is bringing live entertainment, free food, drink specials and prizes to campus every other Thursday night in the new Penguin Pre-Party. The party starts at 8 p.m., providing a central location for students to get together before heading out bars, clubs and parties.

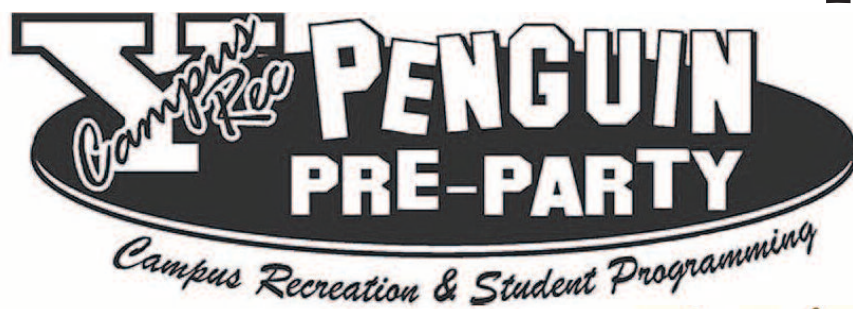
Junior Kelsey Rupert, a student who worked to establish the new Penguin Pre-Party, said Youngstown State University is trying to create programs that students want.

"We want to rejuvenate campus life," she said.

The Penguin Pre-Party was put together by the office of Student Programs and Special Events at the department of Campus Recreation.

Joy Polkabra Byers, the assistant director of programs and special events, said that the Penguin Pre-Party, put together by the Office of Student Programs and Special Events, was established to get students involved in activities on campus.

"We're trying to keep students on cam-



"Everything is free. There's no cover charge and lots of giveaways."

Kelsey Rupert, Junior



Students can sign up to perform comic routines or improvisational acts at the Student Programs office.

While students must have a YSU ID, there is no cover charge and students are allowed to bring friends from off-campus.

"Everything is free," Rupert said. "There's no cover charge and lots of giveaways."

Giveaways for this week's party include tickets for future events such as the OSU vs YSU game, Cleveland Indians games, and Penguin Production events.

pus during the evenings," she said.

The Penguin Pre-Party is offering several different types of entertainment throughout the semester including musical performances, magic acts and comedy routines.

Open mic nights turn the stage over to students on Sept. 27 and Nov. 8.

STUDENT LIFE

Welcome week movie corrals in large crowd

Chelsea Pflugh
Reporter

Wild West Welcome Week put its best boot forward Sunday night when students gathered on the lawn outside Cafaro and Lyden dormitories at Youngstown State University for the Movie on the Green, sponsored by Housing and Residence Life.

From the comfort of their own blankets on the lawn between the two dorms, roughly 150 students got the chance to see "Blades of Glory" starring Will Ferrell and Jon Heder.

The importance of freshmen getting to know each other before classes started was a common thought among students who attended.

"Getting college experience means to be social as well as being on top of studies, so it's a great chance to meet new people and get out of the dorm room," freshman Josh Simmons, a Lyden resident, said.

Sophomore Lelan Jones, a Lyden resident assistant, said "It's important that [the students] get comfortable with the other students they'll be living with and hopefully make a new friend."

Housing and Residence Life also provided refreshments and small souvenirs pertaining to the Wild West theme, such as trail mix in boot-shaped cups and country-themed decks of cards. A keg of root beer was also on tap.

Fraternalties and sororities attended the movie to promote student organizations and Greek Life.

Rob Johnson, Kilcawley resident assistant and member of Sigma Chi, was there to promote YSU student activities.



Above: Sarah Louk, Elizabeth Miller, Rob Johnson, Beth Eckberg, and Stephanie Triska await the start of the movie Sunday night. Photo by Chelsea Pflugh.

"It's great publicity for the Greek system to show up to these events. We like to let people know that YSU has a lot of activities to get involved in, and it's about working with other people — not about partying all the time."

Wild West Welcome Week activities continue until Saturday. Thursday at 11 a.m. in the campus core marks a fall sports kickoff with free food and prizes, games, and guests including coaches, team members, the marching band, cheerleaders, and Pete and Penny. Students can eat for free Thursday at the Welcome Back Picnic in the University Courtyard recreation area from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Penguin

Pre-Party at Peaberry's in Kilcawley features live music at 7 p.m., and Christman Dining Commons celebrates their grand re-opening from 4-8 p.m., both on Thursday.

Friday night's Party on the Plaza at Buffalo Wild Wings downtown features music and lasts from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Welcome Week wraps up with a YSU student fan bus traveling to Columbus for the YSU vs. OSU game at noon. Those who can't watch the Penguins play the Buckeyes in Ohio Stadium can tailgate and enjoy food and beverage specials at Buffalo Wild Wings downtown.

"It's important that [the students] get comfortable with the other students they'll be living with and hopefully make a new friend."

Lelan Jones, Sophomore

"It's great publicity for the Greek system to show up at these events. We like to let people know that YSU has a lot of activities to get involved in, and it's about working with other people - not just about partying all the time."

Rob Johnson, Sigma Chi member

MONEY

Take a seat, students: This is Debit Card Usage 101

Susan Tompor
Detroit Free Press
(MCT)



Joseph Rizk, 20, figures it was one trip to Taco Bell that sent his checking account over the edge.

When he was a senior at Wayne State University, Rizk pulled out his Chase debit card to get some fast food.

He spent about \$5 more than he had in his checking account. He didn't spot the trouble early enough and ultimately got hit with about \$350 in banking fees.

"I overdrew, and they pretty much pummeled me with charges," said Rizk, who graduated this summer with a bachelor's degree in biological sciences.

This is one story that's smart to share with anyone who is heading off to college. The debit card no matter how cute all those commercials might be isn't necessarily your best friend.

And at a time when many parents are struggling to cover higher tuition bills, the last thing a college student needs to do is trigger hundreds of dollars in senseless overdraft fees, too. The fees add up quickly at \$25 to \$35 a pop.

Overdraft charges are costing people about \$17.5 billion each year, according to estimates by the Center for Responsible Lending, a consumer group that analyzed data on overdrafts. Banks have made it easier for consumers to overdraw their accounts and rack up big fees.

Young consumers who prefer paying with plastic, instead of paper, are vulnerable.

About 45 percent of overdrafts are attributed to using a debit card or taking out cash from the ATM, according to the center.

Pulling out a debit card to buy fast food has turned into a financial tripwire.

"In the past you couldn't overdraft at McDonald's, now you can," said Eric Halperin, director of the Center for Responsible Lending's Washington office.

Three years ago, Halperin noted, most banks routinely denied debit card purchases at the checkout lane if you did not have enough money in your checking account.

"The fact that you can overdraft with a debit card is relatively new," said Halperin, who favors legislation that would require banks to, among other things, disclose the annual interest rate on what consumer groups call overdraft loans to consumers. (Banks call the charges overdraft fees.)

In the last few years, banks and credit unions began allowing more debit card purchases to go through at checkouts as a convenience to consumers, even if there is not enough money in the checking account. Most customers are routinely enrolled in so-called bounce-protection programs that, according to consumer groups, are not explained well and turn out to be expensive.

In many cases, consumers would pay less in fees if they went to the bank and set up a system to link the checking account to a savings account, a line of credit or a credit card to cover an overdraft.

For young consumers, the rules can be particularly tricky.

Some think they're in the clear because they've just checked their balances with tellers or online.

But that account balance often does not reflect how much money there is available to spend.

"We don't have real-time transactions. There will always be outstanding transactions that the consumer has authorized but have not hit the bank," said Nessa Feddis, senior federal counsel for the American Bankers Association in Washington.

It's easy to forget that the debit card is really just a plastic version of a check.

"You've got to keep track of what you're spending, just as you did in the old days when you wrote checks," said Mary Kay Bean, a spokeswoman for Chase in Detroit.

And if you wait until you see the next statement, it's too late. "The debit card is really where it's a serious problem," argues Ed Mierzwinski, the consumer program director of the U.S. Public Interest Research Group in Washington. "It's harder to keep track of your balance because of the tricks banks use."

Say you write a \$100 check to cover books and then put \$5 on the debit card for coffee, \$15 on the debit card for dry cleaning and then write a check for \$60 to cover a phone bill.

That's \$180 in transactions and checks. Say you had \$158 in the checking account. You're \$22 short.

Would you face one bounced check fee of \$34?

Probably not. The bank most likely would clear the \$100 check first. And then, the bank would attempt to clear the \$60 check. Whoops, you don't have enough to cover that check.

So then you're looking at three overdrafts the \$60 check, the \$5 debit card and the \$15 debit card.

At \$35 a pop, that's \$105 in fees.

Thursday, August 30

Weekly: Summer Classic Film Festival, Room 132 in DeBartolo Hall's Auditorium. Feature film is "American Graffiti," (1973). 7 p.m., Free

Weekly: Music in the Park, Maag Theatre, Boardman Park, 375 Boardman Poland-Road. Lawn seating and concessions. Tonight's feature: The EV2 Band. 7 p.m.

Cleveland Indians, Jacob's Field, 2401 Ontario St., Cleveland. 7:05 p.m. \$46-\$7.

Pittsburgh Pirates, PNC Park, 115 Federal ST., Pittsburgh. 7:05 p.m. \$110-9. Avalon Gardens: John Reese Project

Cedar's: Swing Dancing

The Core: Latin Night, 9 p.m.

McMenamy's: L80's Nite

Tully's: Acoustic open stage with Steve Vuich, 9 p.m.

Friday, August 31

Cleveland Indians, Jacob's Field, 2401 Ontario St., Cleveland. 7:05 p.m. \$46-7.

Avalon Gardens: Manhattan

Buffalo Wild Wings (downtown Youngstown): Party on the Plaza
Fifth Season: Ed Gorse, 6 p.m.

Frieda's: Live Music

Leo's: Jim Frank Trio, 6 p.m.

O'Donald's in Austintown: Guys

UPCOMING events

PENGUIN PROFILE

Storybook ending?

Quarterback enjoys final season in front of family, friends

Aaron Blatch
Sports Reporter

Youngstown State University quarterback Tom Zetts understands what football means to the community just as well as he understands the Penguin playbook. A graduate of Boardman High School, just a Hail Mary away from Stambaugh Stadium, Zetts fondly remembers attending YSU football games as a kid.

"My friends and I went to the games," Zetts said. "It was a big part of growing up. I remember how dominant they were and how excited the community was. This is a football town."

Now in his fourth season as starting quarterback for the Penguins, Zetts will have one final year of living a life that most athletes can only dream of — competing in front of family and friends at the college level.

"It's an honor and a blessing to me to be able to play in front of my family, first of all," Zetts said. "My two best friends from high school are YSU fans, and they still come home to see the games. It's great to be a part of what I thought was so great growing up."

The quarterback's goal for the season — "to win every game" — will be put to the test early, as the Penguins open with Big Ten power Ohio State on Saturday in Columbus.

Still, Zetts will treat the Ohio State game like any other, even performing a longstanding pre-game ritual. Since his junior year of high school Zetts has eaten exactly five packs of Smarties about an hour and a half before every game.

Why five?

"One for each quarter and one just because," Zetts said with a laugh.

Zetts has already established his place in YSU history. He ranks first in Penguin history in completion percentage at 58.9 percent and is near the top in several other passing categories

But Zetts does admit that the completion percentage mark is important to him.

"I think that the sign of an efficient quarterback is being able to get his receivers the ball," Zetts said. "That record says that I'm doing with the ball what the coaches want me to do with it."

Zetts' impact goes beyond what he has accomplished on the field.

The quarterback has joined other seniors in showing the team's 33 newcomers what it takes to be successful, or as he puts it, "familiarizing the young guys with what makes us a quality program."

The senior says that he has greatly progressed as a quarterback since his days at Boardman High School, and his love and appreciation for the game have grown with his skills.

"I'm from a football family and a football town," Zetts said. "The game has brought me closer to God, closer to my family and closer to my friends. I'm now able to appreciate all of the positive things football has taught me."

Zetts is pure Youngstown. His humble description of himself,

"I love Youngstown. This is the only area I have ever known and I have no reason to know anywhere else."

Tom Zetts, Quarterback

including touchdown passes and passing yards. But the quarterback speaks more about his leadership skills and the virtues of his teammates than about his individual talents.

Ask Zetts about his legacy and he'll first mention all of the greats that played in Stambaugh Stadium before him. Ask him if he feels added pressure on himself with the graduation of standout running back Marcus Mason and he'll point to strong groups of wide receivers and tight ends accompanied by a talented, if unproven, trio of running backs.



ABOVE: Senior quarterback Tom Zetts goes to hand off during last year's playoff game against Appalachian State University. An Honorable Mention All-Gateway pick a year ago, Zetts currently ranks fourth all-time among Penguin quarterbacks. Photo courtesy of YSU Sports Information

"scrappy; competitive," sounds as much like a steelworker as a quarterback. He has embraced the role of the hometown kid living a dream: leading the city's team into what could be another long playoff run.

The First-Team Academic All-Gateway selection is majoring in sec-

ondary education integrated mathematics and has no plans to leave the area in which he has grown up.

"I love Youngstown," Zetts said. "This is the only area I have ever known, and I have no reason to want to know anywhere else."

Career Statline



Pass Attempts

817

Completions

481

Yards

5,788

Touchdowns

44

COMMENTARY PREVIEW

Experienced soccer squad aims to climb Horizon ranks

Andrew Berry
Sports Editor

The 2006 season was a tough pill to swallow for the Youngstown State University women's soccer team. The Penguins managed just a 3-14 record

with a win coming against league counterpart Cleveland State in the final weeks of play.

But the worst part of it all was having to watch the Milwaukee Panthers take home the Horizon League title for the seventh consecutive year.

Nearly a decade has gone by since a squad other than Milwaukee has been standing atop the league at season's end, but the rest of the Horizon lineup is solid, and the deck could be reshuffled by the end of 2007.

Head coach Anthony James has the luxury of welcoming back all 11 starters and 16 letter winners from last year's team. With an experienced squad, the Penguins could be moving up in the standings and away from their seventh-place finish a year ago.

Sophomore Jordan Gapczynski was a freshman sensation last year for the Penguins and looks to be a bright spot on the roster again this season.

Gapczynski led all YSU scorers with five goals, accounting for half of the total offense the team produced in 2006. The 5-foot-6 forward scored in each of the Penguins' three victories and earned a spot on the league's All-Newcomer Team. Gapczynski's five goals were the most by a Penguin starter since 2003.

Gapczynski will also have a well-rounded supporting cast with sophomore Jodi Bowlen, senior Christi Williams and junior Keeley Rice patrolling the field of play. The three aforementioned teammates tied for second in goals scored with three markers apiece.

What will allow the Penguins to keep games close and pull out more victories in 2007 is the presence of sophomore goal-

keeper Caitlin Bodzioney.

Bodzioney, one of only two players to have started all 17 games for the Penguins last season, had an excellent 2006 campaign with 133 saves. Bodzioney's strong play between the posts earned her a national ranking of 14th-best goalkeeper averaging 7.82 saves per match last season.

Even with a complete unit returning to the field, the Penguins still have a tough road ahead as the league looks to be more competitive than the previous year.

Both the defending champions Milwaukee and Loyola earned spots in the NCAA tournament with the Panthers advancing to the second round with an upset over Michigan. Last year's top two teams are talented enough to have similar performances and will be difficult to dethrone.

New to the league will be Valparaiso University after leaving the Mid-Continental Conference earlier this year.

But the Valparaiso Crusaders aren't coming in to be the new league doormat. The squad produced a regular-season title in its final year as a Mid-Con constituent. The group returns 10 starters to a team that posted a 12-4-3 record.

Expect Valparaiso to continue its success in its new league for many years to come.

The team will have to travel early and often, but the league schedule falls into the Penguins' favor. If the squad can take advantage of five home games against league opponents, there could be a major change in the ranks of the final standings of the overall Horizon conference rankings.

2007 Season Schedule

- Aug. 31 at Pittsburgh
- Sept. 7 at Jacksonville State
- Sept. 9 vs. East Tennessee State
- Sept. 12 vs. Robert Morris
- Sept. 14 vs. Albany
- Sept. 16 vs. Howard
- Sept. 19 at Kent State
- Sept. 21 vs. IUPUI
- Sept. 23 vs. Bowling Green
- Sept. 28 vs. St. Frances (PA.)
- Sept. 30 at Canisius
- Oct. 5 at Green Bay
- Oct. 7 at Milwaukee
- Oct. 12 vs. Cleveland State
- Oct. 14 vs. Wright State
- Oct. 19 vs. Valparaiso
- Oct. 21 vs. Loyola
- Oct. 26 vs. Butler
- Oct. 28 at Detroit
- Oct. 30 Championship First Round
- Nov. 3 Championship Quarterfinals
- Nov. 9 Championship Semifinals
- Nov. 11 Championship Finals



ABOVE: Sophomore Jordan Gapczynski (7) takes on all opponents en route to the goal. The Penguins leading scorer a year ago, Gapczynski must carry over her early success to the 2007 season. Photo courtesy of YSU Sports Information.

Sports

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FOOTBALL



ABOVE: Senior tight end Louis Irizary makes a diving catch for the Penguins and should have the chance to make a big impact against Ohio State. The former Buckeye recruit will return to the Horseshoe in Columbus for the first time since transferring to Youngstown State University two years ago. Photo courtesy of Ron Stevens.

Penguins plan to crack Buckeyes

Andrew Berry
Sports Editor

Now that September is just around the corner, the Youngstown State University football team will have more to prepare for than just scrimmages against themselves.

First on the list for the defending Gateway champions is perennial powerhouse Ohio State, last season's Big Ten champion and participant in the BCS National Championship game.

The Penguins will have the opportunity to take on the Buckeyes in the Horseshoe when they make the trip down to Columbus for the noon game this Saturday where the team's defense of its first outright Gateway title will begin.

While the chance to play in such a venue against a team with a national following, the Penguins aren't letting the hype surrounding the contest smother their focus.

For senior defensive back Bob Perez, it's about time to play football. "My emotion is: it's game week," Perez said with excitement.

"It's no longer red versus white on

the practice field. We're going down there in white jersey's, together as a group and we've got to see what we've got," he said.

Sharing Perez's thoughts, middle linebacker James Terry showed the same enthusiasm as kickoff draws near.

"It's been a while since we've been able to experience it, and it's here now," Terry said.

For locally grown-quarterback Tom Zetts, who had the chance to witness the Jim Tressel era first hand, playing Ohio State and the former Penguin coach takes on special meaning.

"It's really an honor, and coming to Youngstown State it's something I didn't think I'd have a chance to do," Zetts said.

"It's like an added bonus to be able to say I did that," he said.

Saturday's game won't be the first time the Penguins have gone up against the big sluggers of Division I football. Last season the team traveled to Happy Valley and played Penn State.

The team held its own early on, but was unable to overcome the odds

en route to a 37-3 defeat.

Terry said playing Penn State and Pittsburgh gave the team the experience it needs to be able to face Ohio State with its focus intact.

"The number one thing is, you can't teach experience," Terry said. "After Pitt and Penn State, Ohio State is going to be less of a shock."

Zetts was quick to agree.

The senior quarterback stressed the mental preparation of younger players who don't know from experience what lies ahead.

"It'll be a little overwhelming at first, but what it comes down to is once the ball is snapped it's just playing football and everything else gets blocked out," Zetts said.

Getting back on the field is what the team has been looking forward to no matter where that field is.

Perez said he anticipates the thrill of representing his squad and the fans back home.

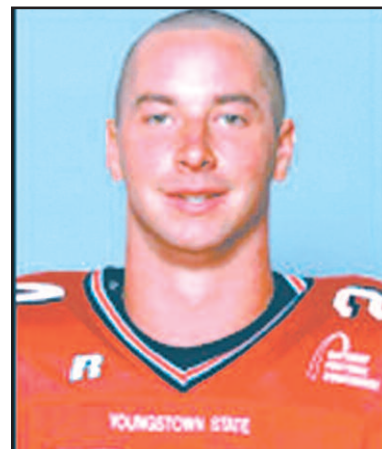
"It's exciting anytime the ball gets kicked off," Perez said. "You're defending your team and defending your town."



VS



Impact Matchups



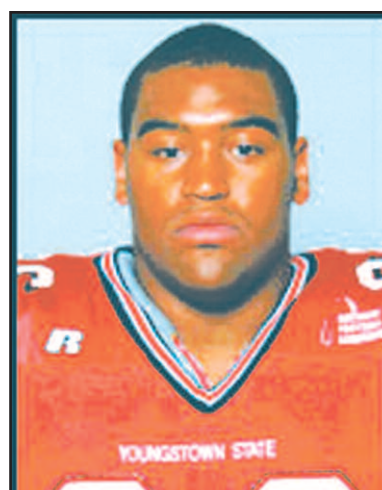
VS



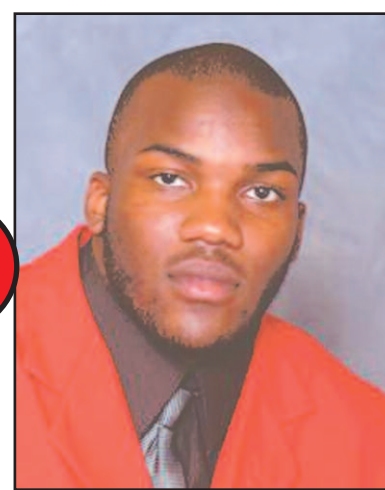
Tom Zetts
Quarterback

James Laurinaitis
Linebacker

Roaming the middle of the field, Laurinaitis is as deadly as they come from the linebacker position. His ability to put himself in position to make a play nearly every down has solidified the Ohio State defense for the next two seasons. The Nagurski Award winner posted team bests of 115 solo tackles and five interceptions in 2006. What works in the Penguins favor is how much difficulty the Buckeye defense had with scrambling quarterbacks late last season, most notably with Juice Williams of Illinois and the one-two Florida Gator punch of Chris Leak and Tim Tebow. Zetts possesses the mobility to escape danger and make plays on the run. Taking care of the ball will be a priority, especially when throwing over the middle when Laurinaitis is sitting in zone coverage. The defense will have its hands full containing the Penguins versatile gunslinger, but it would be in Zetts' best interest to avoid the ball-hawking Laurinaitis at all costs.



VS



Mychal Savage
Defensive Tackle

Chris Wells
Running Back

The Buckeyes find themselves in a similar situation to the Penguins as both teams spent the off-season rebuilding their respective offenses. The early departure of wide receivers Ted Ginn Jr. and Anthony Gonzalez along with the graduation of Heisman quarterback Troy Smith could mean the return of "Tressel ball" for the Ohio State offense. Sophomore running back Chris Wells will now be responsible for carrying the load. For the Penguins, shutting down Wells and forcing the Buckeyes to pass will help win the battle of field position. Having Savage on the defensive line should be enough of a barricade to prevent Wells from finding a hole up the middle. If Savage gets the chance to take Wells on in the trenches, the defensive tackle should do his best to force a fumble. Wells coughed up the rock three times in four games late last season.

Keys to Victory

1 The wide receivers of Ohio State and secondary of Youngstown State are both young and inexperienced units. With the Buckeyes having to break in a new quarterback, the edge goes to the Penguins if the new starters at cornerback can keep their assignments close in man-to-man coverage. The Penguin secondary will have to be careful to not bite on play-action pass plays or the Buckeye receiver could wind up with an easy touchdown. Senior safeties Bob Perez and Dorian Chenault will provide adequate protection deep on plays where the receivers make dead sprints for the endzone. Playing physical, smart coverage schemes and keeping opposing receivers in check will keep Ohio State from putting points on the board at will.

2 The Penguin offense must find a way to get into a steady rhythm quickly against the potent Ohio State defense. Developing a solid rushing attack is crucial if the Penguins want quarterback Tom Zetts to survive the game. Mixing up the play calling with draws, counters and screens from different formations will keep the Buckeye defense honest. The Penguins will also want confidence in the ground attack when situations of third down and short come up throughout the game. If the running game goes stale, and Zetts is forced to throw a ridiculous amount of passes, don't expect the chains to move very often late in the game for the Penguins.

3 Playing away from the Ice Castle is hard, but the challenge to win on the road will be even harder inside the Horseshoe. The defining roar from the sea of Buckeye fans will be enough to drown out communication between the players on the field. The Penguin offense will face the critical task of being on the same page from the time they walk on the field to the last play of the drive. The defense of Ohio State can pounce quickly and force turnovers when the opposing offense is running out of sync. It will be important for the players of the YSU offense to take their time and make sure the entire unit is ready for the play before snapping the ball.

COMMENTARY PREVIEW

Volleyball team starts regular season strong

Aaron Blatch
Sports Reporter

Last season was tough for the Youngstown State University volleyball team. Relying heavily on freshmen and sophomores, head coach Joe Bonner's squad struggled to a 10-22 record and was eliminated in the first round of the Horizon League tournament.

However, after the Penguins' season opening tournament, the frustrations of 2006 may be written off as a useful learning experience. The team posted a 4-0 record Saturday and Sunday at the Temple Invitational in Philadelphia, capping off the weekend with an impressive victory over the host school, the favorite in the Atlantic-10 East Division.

Bonner downplayed his team's performance, but admitted that the tournament was a positive experience.

"I was excited to see the girls compete," Bonner said. "We responded very well against Temple, and that win was a big confidence booster for us."

Leading the Penguins to just their second 4-0 start in school history was senior Jessica Fraley and a host of talented underclassmen. Fraley earned a spot on the All-Tournament Team along with freshman Abigail Drost.

Bonner looks forward to big things from Fraley, a right-side hitter who was sidelined through much of last season with an abdominal injury. The coach will look to his only senior for leadership, as well as to junior setter Karla Everhart, who he describes as "the heart and soul of our team."

Perhaps the volleyball program's biggest cause for optimism is a stel-

lar group of sophomores who ranked as one of the top 100 recruiting classes in the country a year ago by prepvolleyball.com. Bonner said that group has progressed nicely.

"That group was able to contribute right away as freshmen last year," Bonner said. "They're seasoned veterans now with a winning attitude."

The jewel of the sophomore class is middle hitter Ruth Boscaljon.

Boscaljon, the Horizon League Co-Newcomer of the Year and team leader in kills and blocks, became the first volleyball player in Penguin history to be named All-Horizon League.

Boscaljon's success is largely due to a strong work ethic and team-first attitude, her coach said.

"She has such high expectations for herself," Bonner said. "She's not satisfied with being average. She's very driven and is always more worried about the team than herself."

Bonner said that while much of his current team earned valuable playing time last season, they are still very young. With only Fraley, Everhart and junior outside hitter Ebony Barbosa having played more than one year on the college level, the team is comprised of four sophomores and six freshmen.

The poise of the underclassmen will be tested early, as the Penguins begin the season with 13 consecutive games away from the Beeghly Center. Bonner said he is not concerned about the road games because with trips to Kent State and Duquesne, the team won't stray too far from Youngstown.

The Penguins have two weeks to prepare for a tough Horizon League schedule that includes perennial favorite Wisconsin-Milwaukee and contenders Cleveland State and



ABOVE: In position for a spike, senior Jessica Fraley is one reason the Penguins are finding success early on. Photo courtesy of YSU Sports Information.

Valparaiso University. Bonner hopes that his team will compete by building off its strong start and learning how to finish matches.

If that happens, the list of Horizon League contenders could include a team that is turning last season's struggles into this season's success.