



Not quite 'the best damn thing' See page 4

THE Jambar

THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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SAFETY

YSU reacts to string of campus crimes

The last two weeks have seen a spree of campus and area crimes

Liz Boon & Shannon Mitchell
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTORS

Last week's rash of campus violence — coupled with Youngstown's high crime rate — has numerous Youngstown State University students questioning whether they are safe at school.

University President David Sweet is trying to calm those fears, while campus police have vowed to work their hardest to keep YSU students safe.

Sweet said the university is maintaining and improving campus security measures, but the crime is not limited to the buildings and areas patrolled by YSU Police.

In fact, in the past week, Youngstown Police have reported numerous criminal activities all within just miles of the campus.

On April 16 at 10:25 p.m., a drive-by shooting occurred on Dearborn Avenue, just three miles

away from campus, according to a Youngstown city police report. A grey Nissan came westbound on Dupont Street at a high rate of speed. The passenger had his arm outside the window with a gun in his hand. He fired two shots and fled northbound on Dearborn Avenue. A bullet hit the front door of a house on Dearborn.

The Uptown Video Store on Market Street, two and half miles from campus, was broken into at 2 a.m. on the same day. After Youngstown Police reviewed a surveillance video, a report indicated that a male pulled up on a bicycle and pried open the front door. Three DVDs were stolen, according to the report. Two witnesses walked up, noticed the lights on and walked inside. The report states that the witnesses called to see if anyone was around, and the alarm sounded, so they left. When the witnesses came home they called the city police department. They said in the report that they did not see anyone inside or around.

Sweet said he knows that YSU is surrounded by a city with a crime problem. The issue of campus safety is ongoing for the university.

"In general, there [are] concerns about universities like Toledo and Cleveland, cities where a campus is located in the downtown area," he said.

As of Wednesday, there have been four homicides in Youngstown. According to FBI figures, Youngstown is ranked as the country's ninth most dangerous city, with Cleveland ahead as the seventh most dangerous.

The recent crime spree at YSU included a robbery at the Wick Parking Deck on April 18 and three robberies on Sunday near Cafaro House and at the University Courtyard Apartments.

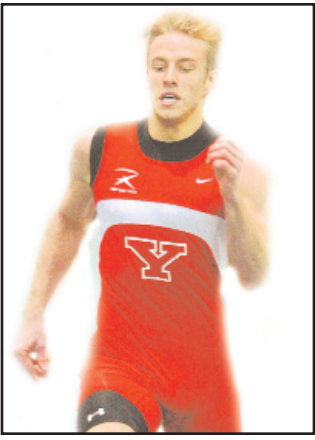
Although Sweet said the campus is safe, some students said they are still afraid of walking on campus.

"Campus safety is a top priority and we will continue [to uphold] what we believe to be a safe campus."



President David Sweet

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YSU NEWS

Panel discussion

The YSU Diversity Committee presents "Coming of Age' Rituals Dealing with Children Coming into Adolescence," a panel discussion at the Trumbull County Public Library at 6 p.m. today. Panel members include, Molly Seals, Senior VP Human Resources, Humility of Mary Health Partners, Rabbi Joel Berman, Ohev Tzedek Congregation and Victor Wan-Tatah, professor, Philosophy and Religious Studies at YSU.

Homecoming chair applications

The deadline for Homecoming Chair applications is Tuesday May 1st 5 p.m. in the Student Life office. Contact Greg Gulas at #3580 for further information.

Unlock Autism

The Youngstown Police Association and the city of Youngstown will host Unlock Autism Benefit from 5 to 10 p.m. on Saturday at 20 Federal Place. The event will feature live music, games and an auction.



Jambar / Rudi Whitmore

Fires break out near campus Monday night

Rudi Whitmore & Brian Cetina
JAMBAR

A fire whipped up the remaining chimneystack of a North Fruit Street home on Youngstown's east side Monday night. Youngstown City Fire Chief Robert Hian stood watch with his men, keeping a careful eye on the flames that peeled back wood and steel into a spitting pile of rubble, and his ear to the news of another fire on the south side of the city.

Hian explained that they tried to distinguish the fire on North Fruit Street but said that the house's balloon construction made it impossible to keep the fire under control.

"There are no plates that usually keep a fire — that starts in the basement — there," Hian said. "It's like a chimney then, and it got into the walls and got away from us."

The fire consumed the stairs of the home, sweeping behind the firemen who were attempting to fight it from

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ABOVE: Firefighters watch as the remaining section of a house on North Fruit Street burns to the ground

BELOW: The house walls burnt uncontrollably, keeping the firefighters from distinguishing the fire. Two firefighters were trapped on the second floor and had to be rescued through the upstairs window

Jambar / Rudi Whitmore



Engineering students share works

Jambar / Laura Neely



ABOVE: Dennis Flynn and Bill Pitoscia stand next to 'Concrete Pete,' which came in third at the engineering competition in Moser Hall

LEFT: A baja car built by engineering students is displayed in the competition

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Jambar / Laura Neely

YSU

Dean candidate holds forum

Adrienne Sabo
NEWS EDITOR

and mentor young faculty.

The last of the three candidates for founding dean of the Science Technology and Mathematics (STEM) College held an open forum for students, faculty and staff Tuesday.

Mark Tumeo, a former dean of the College of Graduate Studies at Cleveland State University, said, "This is an experience. I have something to bring to the table."

Tumeo said the newly formed college has a unique opportunity to bring about change, bring faculty together

He also suggested that the college connect with area industry and drive economic development in the community. Tumeo said the college would "create an environment where working across college lines is possible."

"The dean creates the culture. The creation and success of the program is the faculty," he said.

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TUMEO

Junior Ellen Stafford was recently faced with the choice of returning to her dorm, Cafaro House, alone at night.

"I didn't want to have to walk back by myself. I feel better if I have someone with me," she said.

Although she said she felt uneasy during her walk, Stafford said she was less afraid when she saw police present on campus.

"I saw police patrolling, and that made me feel better," she said.

Other YSU students share the same concerns about campus safety at night.

Graduate student Christa Welch said YSU is a safe campus, but students should still exercise caution.

"My big thing is I never go anywhere by myself, especially after dark," Welch said.

Safety at the parking decks on campus is another issue for students.

Freshman Melissa Cardon said, "My boyfriend won't let me walk to my car alone. He's been walking with me every night," she said.

Kelli Carnahan, a senior, said she is most fearful walking to her car after a night class.

"I have this class from 5 to 8 p.m., and I always walk with someone to the parking deck. I think we need better lighting and more patrol at night," she said.

Stafford agrees that there should be more security on campus.

"More lighting and security cameras would help," she said.

While there are security cameras on campus, some students say they want more, specifically in the parking decks.

Junior Brent Styer said, "I think there should be more security in the decks. Cameras would be good; having security actually go through the decks more frequently would be better."

Styer only parks in the outdoor lots. He said does not park in the parking decks.

Sweet said the university is continually working to maintain and improve campus security by following the recommendations of YSU Police Chief John Gocala. Sweet said Gocala has increased security in the University Courtyard Apartments after the incidents.

University Courtyard Apartment residents received a letter from the Courtyard housing office encouraging them to program YSU Police Department's phone number into their cell phones and utilize their alarm systems.

"If you look back over our history, we have a record of being a safe campus," Sweet said. "Campus safety is a top priority and we will continue [to uphold] what we believe to be a safe campus."

Sara Schaefer, a senior, said she has been trying to leave campus earlier than usual for safety reasons, and she would never walk around at night.

"Even in the afternoon, when there are less and less people around, I still think about it more," Schaefer said.

The university's response time, when releasing information about the robberies, concerns some students.

Senior Zach West said he believes the warnings about the robberies have come too late after the incidents. He

said response time needs to be quicker than it has been in the past.

"No one got word of the robbery outside of Cafaro until about 17 hours after," he said.

Cardon feels that security on campus needs to be stepped up.

"It's a big campus. We probably should have more security," she said. "Right now, you wouldn't be able to find a security guard if you needed one," she said.

"I'm scared," sophomore Kendra McCoy said. "They need to tighten up security and patrol more frequently."

Sweet said that the issue was addressed during a cabinet meeting Wednesday morning. He said Vice President for Student Affairs Cynthia Anderson gave a full report at the meeting.

"I believe we have a sound plan and will continue it," Sweet said.

YSU

'Penguin Review' to launch longest issue in its history

Mallory Ward
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

The Penguin Review will hold a public launching of the longest issue of the magazine since it has been published in 1953.

The Penguin Review Launch is at 7 p.m. Friday in the Gallery of Kilcawley Center.

The Review includes writings from undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and staff, and regional and national writers, in addition to twenty pages of artwork, according to Karen Schubert.

The Review has been in print since 1953 and is published annually every spring. The arts and literary magazine open-submissions policy allows the magazine to accept work in areas of prose, poetry, art and photography. Any contact information can be found on the magazine's page located in the My YSU Groups Web page, which is a part of the My YSU Portal.

Schubert said this year's addition to the magazine is extremely special and beautiful. She also added that people can be a part of the magazine even if they are not artists or writers.

A Student's "write" to read

Victoria Henry
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Students gathered at Youngstown State University this week to express their "write" to read. Over 5,000 high school students visited Kilcawley Center Wednesday and today for the 29th Annual English Festival, which will end Friday.

English Festival Administrative Assistant Rick Williams said that every public, private, charter and home school within 50-miles of the YSU campus has been invited to the English Festival. Over 170 other schools as far as South Carolina have received permission to participate in the activities. Each participating student is required to read seven books chosen for their grade levels by the English Festival Committee and Advisory Board.

"The English Festival is a celebration of reading and writing," said Williams. "We are hoping to reach students of all levels, both the reluctant and advent readers, and anyone willing to go."

Williams, who is also one of the event coordinators, said that this year's event featured competitive literary games and contests, as well as a question and answer session with authors Joe Bruchac and Sara Holbrook.

"I got a new view on Joseph Bruchac," said Alexis Gorgacz, a sophomore from Western Reserve High School. "I learned a lot about writing [and] making your story short."

Bruchac is known for his Native American poetry and fictional works. His awards include the 1998 Writer of the Year Award and the 1998 Storyteller of the Year Award from the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers. In 1999, Bruchac received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Native

Writers Circle of the Americas.

Speaking to English Festival attendees interested in journalism and writing poetry and stories, Bruchac shared the platform in this week's events with Holbrook, who is known for her poetry, including her latest work, "Outspoken! How to Improve Writing and Speaking Skills Through Poetry Performance."

Also included in the events was a journalism workshop, where English Festival students attended a mock press conference held by YSU faculty participants, including Susan Russo.

"She blew me away," Lisa Burkhart, a junior at Windham High School, said of Russo. "I could be exactly like her when I get older."

The English Festival began in 1978 as a celebration of literature. Former English professors Thomas and Carol Gay collaborated with YSU's English department to create a literary enrichment program for students in memory of their daughter, Candace McIntyre Gay, who died of cancer.

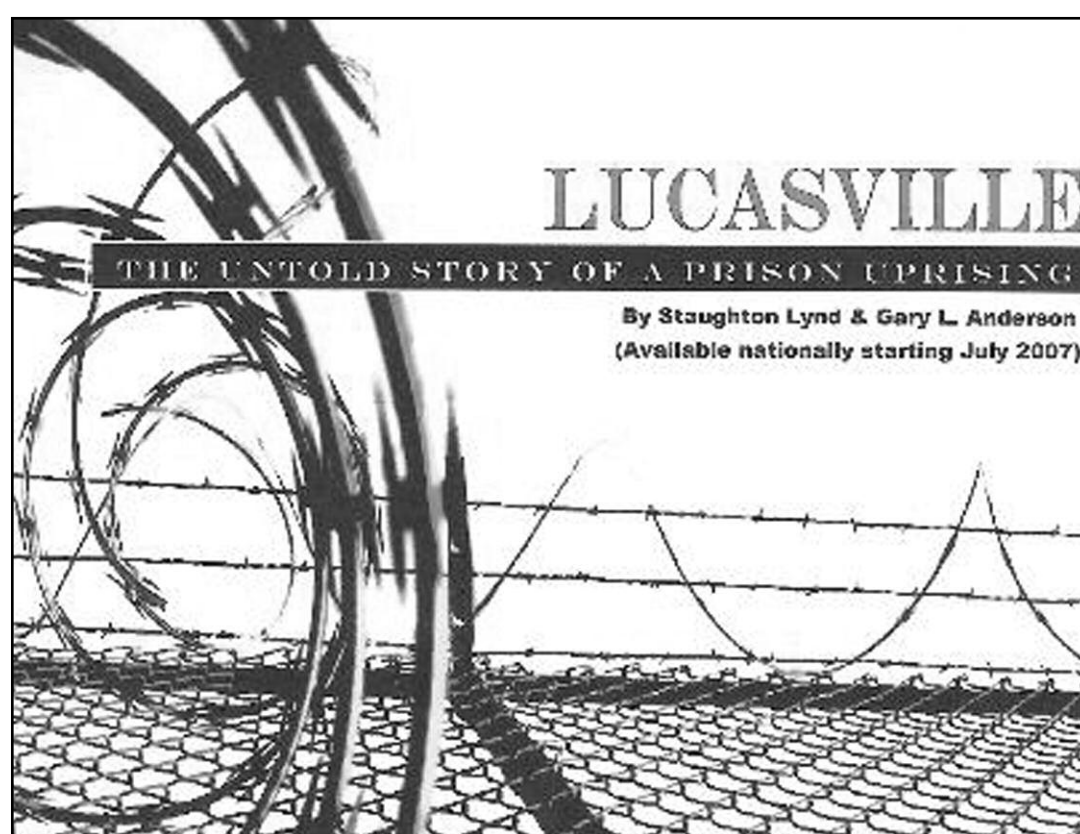
An awards ceremony at the end of each day of the festival recognized more than 200 winners. Prizes ranged from cash and books, to savings bonds and t-shirts.

For more information contact Rick Williams or Gary Salvner at 330-941-3414, or visit www.ysuenglishfestival.org



Susan Russo holds a mock press conference for high school students in Kilcawley Center for the English Festival.

THEATER



Source: <http://www.clarencedarrowgaryanderson.com>

'Lucasville' exposes judicial corruption

Jamie Fabian
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

In 1993, the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility experienced a prison riot that shook the prison and the town of Lucasville to this day. This riot and the following events led to convictions and death sentences for five men, referred to as The Lucasville Five.

The Lucasville story is on its way to Youngstown in the form of a play.

The play, "Lucasville: The Untold Story of A Prison Uprising," co-written by Gary Anderson and Staughton Lynd, is based in part on the book of the same title written by Staughton Lynd.

I had a chance to talk with Gary Anderson, who strongly opposes the death penalty. He said that with this play, he really hopes to

show people how corrupt the judicial system can be.

The riot was an 11-day ordeal led by prison inmates and resulted in the deaths of nine inmates and one hostage. An inmate involved in a deal with prosecutors identified "The Lucasville Five" as the men who led the riots and committed the murders.

This is where things get complicated.

There was no physical evidence supporting the claims. The only thing that got these five men — Jason Robb, James Were, George Skatzes, Sidique Abdullah Hasan and Keith Lamar — convicted and sentenced to death was the testimony of an inmate looking to make a deal, says Anderson.

Anderson went on to say that he wants "people to draw their own conclusions after seeing the play."

Ninety percent of the play is based on actual court transcripts and other documents involving the case.

Anderson reported that when he went to the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility, the prison warden told him he could not visit with the men.

This raises doubt in Anderson's mind.

"Why won't they let me speak with the men if they have nothing to hide?" Anderson asked.

He said the play has three overall themes: snitch testimony, a death qualified jury and the death penalty.

The play, which has been touring Ohio for most of the month of April, will be performed at the First Unitarian Universalist Church at 1105 Elm St. in Youngstown this Sunday April 29.

STEM, continued from page 1

During the session Tumeo was questioned about diversity in the engineering field. "This is one of the most difficult areas to have an impact in. They won't bare fruit for a long-time," he said.

Tumeo suggests the college begins targeting students at a younger age. "Go back to middle school and engage those students. Partner with education because they have the access," he said.

Some of the ways Tumeo suggest engaging students is with a diverse faculty because it is important for students to see a part of themselves reflected back in the faculty. "It's critical to be done, but it won't be quick," he said.

Tumeo said his potential beginning months at YSU would be spent setting aside one day a week to hold individual meetings with faculty. "I think that's critical. I have to learn what's

going on," he said.

He said a good leader for the college needs to be able to manage and lead.

"Management is the day-to-day decision making. Leadership is not command control; it's bringing people together. You have to be able to manage to achieve leadership," he said.

Tumeo said he would also want to meet with students and attend student organization meetings to better understand YSU students.

"Everyone has something important to say," he said.

Tumeo decided on a career change after recognizing what he likes to do. "I like new enterprising things. I wanted to do something a little different and never got to be in a faculty line position."

Classified

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OUR SIDE

Administration, keep working on that response time

The administration at Youngstown State University is improving its response time. After a complaint was filed at the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity about offensive photos in facilities' maintenance shops, the university took swift action.

General Counsel Holly Jacobs, Director of Equal Opportunity and Diversity Yulanda McCarty-Harris, and Executive Facilities Director John Hyden removed the inappropriate photos immediately.

The three walked into the maintenance shops just days ago and removed the photos that they thought would be offensive to others across campus.

For those who work on campus, it's a welcome sign to know that if we have a complaint about something that offends a large group on campus, the university can and will react quickly.

However, it would be nice to see swift responses to complaints on important matters that affect multiple people on campus. The "offensive" photos don't affect anyone on campus but the maintenance shop employees. No one else sees them.

The officials' meeting with maintenance shop workers Friday focused on YSU's sexual harassment policy. Hyden said, "It wasn't in areas that are generally accessible to the public."

Hanging posters of "scantily clad females" in these areas is not sexual harassment.

One of the common complaints on campus is that the administration is not adequately or quickly communicating or interacting with faculty and staff. The quick removal of the inappropriate displays will hopefully change that theory. This is a small step that's not quite justifiable, but the administration's quick action is a step in the right direction. We want to see swift action by our administration on matters that affect the general public at YSU.

We hope that this will start the progression toward a better relationship between the administration and YSU students, faculty and staff.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fighting for a smooth transition

Dear Editor,
Tuesday, April 24, was a beautiful, t-shirt wearing kind of day. I was on my way to "Pie-a-Pi" (a Greek Philanthropy event to raise money for the community) outside of Kilcawley but wanted to stop in to see Greg Gulas in the Student Activities office to say hey. As I walked in and waited for him to finish his phone conversation, he handed me a copy of the Jambar. I usually will pick up a copy and read it at one point in my day to see what is going on around campus, but I hadn't had a chance to pick one up yet. When he got off the phone he asked me if I had read it yet. I said no. He flipped to the article in the Editorial & Opinion section that was titled "College is hardly the 'sanctuary' Bush, parents envision". I hadn't even gotten a third of the way through when I had already become angry. On April 16 a tragedy occurred, one that shook the nation, and in this tragedy a college campus, community, and nation are taking the steps to rebuild themselves both physically and emotionally. It is normal for us to ask why and how this happened and try to answer these questions with solutions, but taking a closer look at this article

it was evident that the author wasn't trying to come across with solutions but rather to bring specific groups down and scare students, perspective students, and parents away from the thought of attending college. Certain groups including college students and those of us involved in student activities, such as the Greek community, were mentioned. Being a college student myself, a member of the Greek community here at YSU and other student organizations, and having experienced bad publicity regarding DePauw University this year focused on the sorority I am proud to belong to, Delta Zeta, I have a pretty good understanding of the negative stereotypes and misinterpreted information that the media and public opinion can make. I have asked myself many times why some people will go to such great lengths to make someone or a group of people look bad. Is it because they want to feel like they were able to control someone's ideas about that person or group? And if so, what is that person really missing out on? Yes, there is alcohol in college, and yes, it is abused, and yes, that kind of stimulation can be serious and deadly, but it is also a fact that alcohol plays a key role in the working environment and is the cause of suicides, high workers



comp, depression, and assault or injury. Anyone can pull up statistics on alcohol; it is a problem everywhere, but that shouldn't be the reason parents keep their kids away from college. To stereotype Greek life with the negative effects of alcohol is also to misinterpret the value of student activities. Not only is a student required to have a certain GPA to become Greek but also to maintain his or her membership with the Greek organization. As sorority women we are required to maintain a zero substance tolerance as well as abide by national regulations regarding us not wearing of our letters in an atmosphere that involves alcohol. We volunteer thousands of hours to community service, promote academics, and provide a sup-

port system that is irreplaceable. This year Zeta Tau Alpha raised over \$49,000 for Breast Cancer Awareness, Alpha Xi Delta raised over \$2,500 for The Potential Development Program for the Children of Youngstown, Delta Zeta held their Dodge ball event to raise money for Youngstown Hearing and Speech, and Alpha Omega Pi raised over \$1,200 just yesterday for Dr. Martin Manning and will continue all this week with different activities, concluding Saturday with their annual Watermelon Bust. The Fraternities on campus annually host events such as Derby Days, blood drives, food and clothing drives, and working for Habitat for Humanity, among many other countless selfless acts. The rewards of a college

experience are much greater than what was given credit to. Not only are most students making a transition from child to adult, but they are learning about the world around them, interacting with diverse people, trying to solve issues that affect the real world in which they are a part of. It is my belief that this kind of stimulation far outweighs that of which can be dangerous and deadly. Virginia Tech is showing us how strong the ties are between their college campus and their community, so why shouldn't we support them by having strong college campuses around the nation, full of students eager to make that transition into the real world, a world that needs strong leaders.

Dalene Scott

No more second hand smoke

Dear editor,
In a few days the people across Ohio will be able to visit public places and not be subject to inhale the dangerous second hand smoke that once filled bars, restaurants, bowling alleys and other establishments. The rules of the Smoke Free Workplace Act will finally be implemented. Local boards of health will have the authority to enforce this law. While the majority of businesses in Ohio followed the law during the past five months by not permitting smoking, there were some businesses that neglected to follow the law and allowed smoking in their estab-

lishments.

On May 3, the law is enforceable. That means those who refuse to follow the law and permit smoking could be subject to a warning letter and then monetary fines will be imposed for each violation to smokers and businesses.

This life saving law was made possible because of the hundreds of American Cancer Society volunteers who helped collect signatures, post yard signs and distribute literature to friends, families and others during the past two years. Also, nearly 600 businesses, agencies and health organizations worked to ensure that every Ohioan could breathe fresh, clean indoor air. In November

of 2006 more than 2 million Ohio voters decided it was time to eliminate secondhand smoke in the places they work and patronize.

Everyone in Ohio will have the opportunity to breathe safe indoor air when they decide to dine out or go out to enjoy themselves. Those who once neglected to visit establishments that were smoke filled, will now be able to enjoy food and entertainment without having to smell like smoke, or more importantly breathe the dangerous toxins that once filled these establishments.

This law will have a positive impact on everyone. This law will save lives. It will reduce cancer incidence and other health problems associated with

secondhand smoke exposure. Clean indoor air to protect employees and people becomes a reality on May 3.

Some groups put their effort behind defeating this law and hoped that it would fail. Yet, there were hundreds of others statewide who worked harder to ensure this law passed.

Those who diligently worked to ensure there would be clean indoor air for everyone should be commended. They can now breathe a sigh of relief. And in a few days, that breath will be fresh, clean indoor air.

Jay Bice, Board of Directors
American Cancer Society,
Ohio Division

COMMENTARY

Boris Yeltsin: He did it his way

Vladimir Simonov
(MCT)

MOSCOW — President Bush sees Boris Yeltsin as a historic figure who served his country at a time of great change.

Prime Minister Tony Blair recalls the Russian leader as an outstanding statesman who realized how much Russia needed democratic and economic reforms.

Javier Solana, a European Union official and former secretary-general of NATO, thinks that Yeltsin displayed incredible foresight and courage when he decided to sign a hitherto unthinkable agreement with the North Atlantic alliance in the early 1990s.

These statements could be summed up in the following words, which the West could write on a wreath to lay at the grave of Russia's first elected president: "We are grateful to you for creating a Russia that no longer scares us." In other words, Yeltsin made Russia look normal in the eyes of the civilized world.

He gave his people three simple, fundamental rights that citizens of civilized countries have enjoyed for a long time. Under Yeltsin, Russians received the opportunity to say what they thought, elect who they liked to major posts, and own private property, be it a house in the Moscow suburbs or a villa in Nice, although the majority could buy the latter only in theory.

Having embarked on the path of democracy and the market economy, no matter how awful it seemed to some initially, the mysterious and dangerous communist-controlled Russia turned into a sensible and understandable country. Russians became more like Westerners. Perhaps at that moment, when differences were swept away, the Cold War came to an end. Credit for this historic accomplishment largely goes to Yeltsin as well.

By the end of his eight-year-long rule, Boris Yeltsin had lost the admiration of his compatriots. His popularity in Russia, but not in the West, had gone down. Well-to-do analysts watching events in Russia from afar thought that nothing tragic was happening. To be more precise, they

believed that Russia had to go through its ordeals like any country undergoing a great change.

The West shares our grief because it also understands the greatness of the late Russian president. After all, it was Yeltsin who buried communism and made Russia part of the free world. In history textbooks he will always be remembered as a giant Russian standing on a tank, the man who prevented his country's return to the gloomy era of totalitarianism.

Frank Sinatra once sang "I did it my way." The same words can be applied to Yeltsin. He did it his way, and both Russia and the West are grateful to him for choosing freedom.

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.

JAMBAR Entertainment

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Thursday, April 26, 2007

THEATER

Double-cast operas offer double dose of music

Rudi Whitmore
FEATURES REPORTER

The Performing Arts Series will be presenting two one-act operas, opening tonight. Each opera has been double cast in the majority of the roles, providing theater and music students more role opportunities since the Youngstown State University only does opera a year.

"The Impresario"

Diana Farrell, the Madame Heartmelt who will be onstage tonight and Saturday in "The Impresario," said, "It's an opportunity for more students to do roles. Doing Madame Heartmelt was a great experience, and we're getting a lot more out of it. The students who aren't in both shows get to watch the other groups rehearse more. It's really like two classes in one semester."

The operas are stage-directed and designed by W. Rick Shilling, with music direction and vocal coaching by Misook Yun, and conducted by John Wilcox.

"The Impresario," by Wolfgang Mozart, centers

around two divas vying for what they think is the same role in a play directed by Mr. Cash, played by Randall Huffman and Richard Bell. The Madame Heartfelt role is filled by Farrell and Lillian Chambers, and Madame Warbewell, the rival-singer role, is double-cast with Carrie Minenok and Noel King.

"Dramatically," Farrell said, "the performance is the same, but how we all achieve them is different."

"It's the same music, same notes," Farrell said, "and the voice direction was fantastic. I was very excited to work with Dr. Yun, because we didn't all have her for private voice lessons. She's great at showing you how to give emotion to your voice instead of just walking around the stage."

"Gianni Schicchi"

Giacomo Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi" is the second one-act opera. The plot whirls around a family who finds that a wealthy relative dies and leaves his fortune to a monastery, and who tries desperately to change the will. The wily lead character, Gianni Schicchi, is played by Max Pivik. Gianni's daughter, Lauretta, is played by both

Leanne Phillips and Carrie Minenok, and her love interest is Rinuccio, played by Josh Lewis, the only non-theater or music major in the bunch.

"Yeah," said Lewis, "I'm a medicine major." He said his time in the opera has been good. "In an actual real opera, you need a lot of rest and concentration."

Lewis also worked with Yun, and got some extra lessons.

"I did need more lessons," he said, "His [Rinuccio] style is very long and very big, so you have to sing differently."

Lewis is not double-cast in the opera, so he will be performing every night.

"Everyone has to be there for every rehearsal, and you see what other people are doing. We learn off each other," he said.

The operas will be performed today through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Butler North-Annex Dennison Education Center on Wick Avenue. There will be an opening-night buffet at Winslow's Café for a package price of \$25 for dinner and a ticket. Regular ticket prices are \$15 for general admission, \$10 senior citizen discount and \$5 for students.



Photo courtesy of Michele Lepore-Hagan

Carrie Minenok, Randall Huffman, and Diana Farrell pose for a production photo of 'The Impresario.'

CD REVIEW

Lavigne's latest release not quite 'The Best Damn Thing'



MCT Campus

Avril Lavigne released her third full-length album, "The Best Damn Thing," last week.

Britta Snowberger
FEATURES REPORTER

At 22 years old, Avril Lavigne has progressed beyond the tie-wearing, boy-chasing flair she boasted when her first album, "Let Go," hit the music scene in 2002. A tie-free and married woman, Lavigne

finally had the opportunity to prove her emerging maturity and experience with last week's release of her third full-length album, "The Best Damn Thing."

She didn't. With the exceptions of tracks like "Innocence" and "When You're Gone," Lavigne's writing style appears reminiscent of her "Sk8er Boi" days — shallow and far from intellectually stimulating.

On the new album's first single, "Girlfriend," Lavigne bashes a friend's current girlfriend

with the hard-hitting line, "She's like so whatever." Also, despite the fact that the fourth song, "The Best Damn Thing," is the album's title track, it does not escape her lyrical regression. It provokes dry heaving in older listeners with teenage drama like, "I hate it when a guy doesn't understand / why a certain time of month I don't want to hold his hand."

Perhaps in an attempt to appeal to those over the age of 14, Lavigne injected profanity into her new songs. With a cuss count of nearly 30, the singer earned herself an "edited" album version. Luckily, her targeted audience of junior high students will be able to purchase this version at Wal-Mart with little or no parental supervision.

If immature lyrics weren't enough, the artist chose to deliver them in a style suitable for young cheerleaders. Replacing her neckties with pom-poms, Lavigne leads chants in three songs, all of which may remind listeners of Toni Basil's 1982 hit, "Mickey."

Unfortunately, Lavigne produced only a partially bash-

Review

Best songs:

"Innocence" and "When You're Gone,"

Rating: 2 out of 5

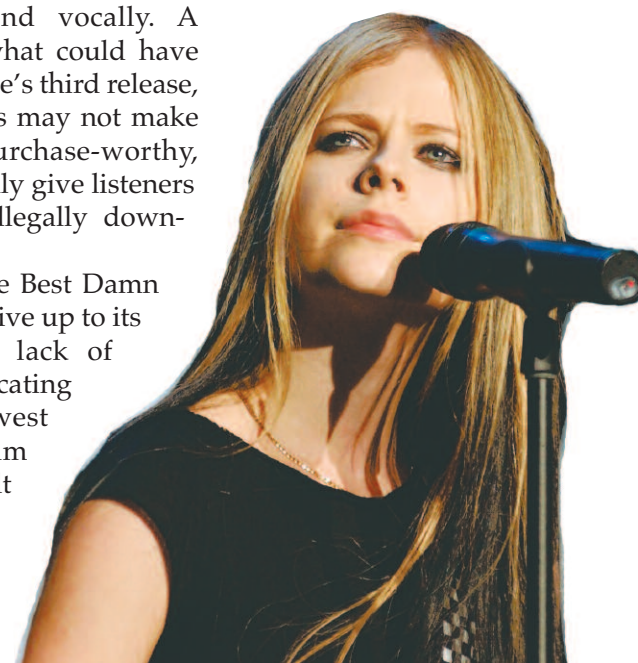
Sounds like: Avril Lavigne, 8 years ago



worthy album. Her radio-favorite track "Keep Holding On" and piano ballads "When You're Gone" and "Innocence" demonstrate the Canadian singer's true abilities, musically, lyrically and vocally. A glimpse into what could have been for Lavigne's third release, these few songs may not make the album purchase-worthy, but they certainly give listeners an option to illegally download.

Overall, "The Best Damn Thing" fails to live up to its name. With a lack of maturity suffocating Lavigne's newest CD, the album may leave adult listeners disappointed, if not downright annoyed.

Perhaps Lavigne's most accurate criticism comes from the new album's second track title: "I Can Do Better."



Upcoming events

Thursday

The Isley Brothers at The Chevrolet Centre, 8 p.m., tickets available at all GetTix locations and at The Chevrolet Centre.

Rockstar Karaoke at The Wedge, 10 p.m., 18 and over, \$2 cover.

Jim DeCapua and Zach Paxon at La Nai Lounge in Boardman, 10 p.m.

Friday

The Legends of Hip Hop Tour at Stambaugh Auditorium, 7:30 p.m., tickets available online.

Pete George at Funny Farm Comedy Club, 9 p.m., 18 and over, \$13.50 admission.

River's Edge, A Dramatic Ending and Never Say Forever at The Cellar, doors open at 7 p.m., show begins at 7:30 p.m., 18 and over.

Saturday

Pete George at Funny Farm Comedy Club, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., 18 and over, \$13.50 admission.

Red Wanting Blue at The Cellar, doors open at 7 p.m., 18 and over, \$10 admission.

Oral at Cedars, 8 p.m.

Grand Fury and Something to Shelter at Bottom Line in Austintown, 8 p.m.

The Roadogz at The Dash Inn, 10 p.m.

YSU

YSU Engineering students display design projects in Moser Hall

Laura Neely
REPORTER

Youngstown State University's Rayen College of Engineering and Technology presented the Annual Engineering Careers and Student Design Project Displays in the lobby of Moser Hall on Wednesday.

One of the projects on display was the winning YSU Steel Bridge. The bridge team, made up of YSU engineering students, placed first in the Steel Bridge Competition at the American Society of Civil Engineers' Ohio Valley Regional Conference, which is held at The Ohio State University. After the YSU team placed first at Ohio State, it will advance to the national competition on May 25 and 26 at California State University.

"This project was mainly done outside of class; it was an extra curricular activity. It took a lot of hard work," said Bill Pitoscia, one of the members of YSU's steel bridge team. Along with Pitoscia, the team includes Kevin Lynch, Mike Lyda, Bryan Kopachy, Mike Grumley and Nick Sanford.

Another project that was displayed was The Human-Powered Vehicle, which is designed much like a bicycle.

"It's a good alternative means of transportation, for short travel," said Andrea Fryda, one of the team members to the project. The vehicle will be going to the East Coast Chambers Competition in Orlando, Fla. this year.

Robert McCoy, professor of mechanical and industry engineering, was among the faculty attending the presentation.

"I think this event is good for the students; it gives them a chance to have a hands-on experience and to develop their skills," McCoy said.

Other projects that were on display were a baja car, a wind turbine and a simulated moon buggy.

"I think these projects get you ready for the real world [because] you get to design and use creativity," said senior David Gaffney, one of the team members for the moon buggy project.



Jambar/Laura Neely

ABOVE: Erik Beegle, Andrea Fryda, Mark Arnio and Bill Tutor demonstrate the Human Power Vehicle. It was one of many projects on display in Moser Hall.

YSU

Sorority supports recovering professor

Rudi Whitmore
FEATURES REPORTER

Marty Manning, associate director in the Office of Student Life and an instructor in Counseling and Special Education Department for the Student Affairs Leadership and Practice Masters Programs, was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor in mid-February.

Following his surgery and start of chemotherapy treatment, the Alpha Omega Pi sorority included him in its annual Watermelon Bust Philanthropy Project, which benefits the Easter Seals.

Alpha Omega Pi is throwing a benefit dinner for Manning and his family on Friday at the Newman Center.

Stephanie Asch, president of the sorority chapter, said other Greek organizations supported the sorority's decision.

"We've had great turnouts from other Greek students," she said. "We wanted to help in any way we could. It was so tragic, they [The Mannings] just had their third child."

Director of Student Life Greg Gulas concurred with Asch. "Isn't it just typical of Youngstown and YSU that when someone has an adversity that someone else steps up to the plate to help them out? It's typical YSU and typical Greek."

Gulas said, "It does our hearts good to see him doing good. I don't know when they think he'll be back, but Marty's a fighter. He'll be back earlier than the target date."

The benefit dinner will be Friday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Newman Center. Tickets are \$10 a person and donations are accepted. There will be basket and 50/50 raffles. Carryout dinners will be available for guests who cannot stay.

FIRES, continued from page 1

within. They were briefly trapped in the upstairs of the vacant home, Youngstown City Fire Lieutenant Bob Eckenrod said. They were given a ladder to escape by their comrades-in-arms and arrived safely back to their trucks.

Hian estimates the damage at \$20,000 and the cause as arson, after speaking to the owner of the home, who said that the building had been broken into and the

"pipes and copper were stolen." Hian also said that an Oldsmobile had been seen in the parking lot before the fire and wasn't there after it ignited.

The arson investigation will begin today. Two buildings also on the property had been burned two weeks ago, but the Youngstown City Fire Department had managed to save the building that burned Monday night.

BELOW: Fire trucks from the Youngstown Fire Department try and slow a burning house fire on Monday night



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Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

CRIME, continued from page 1

Junior Ellen Stafford recently faced with the choice of returning to her dorm, Cafaro House, alone at night.

"I didn't want to have to walk back by myself. I feel better if I have someone with me," she said.

Although she said she felt uneasy during her walk, Stafford said she was less afraid when she saw police present on campus.

"I saw police patrolling, and that made me feel better," she said.

Other YSU students share the same concerns about campus safety at night.

Graduate student Christa Welch said YSU is a safe campus, but students should still exercise caution.

"My big thing is I never go anywhere by myself, especially after dark," Welch said.

Safety at the parking decks on campus is another issue for students.

Freshman Melissa Cardon said, "My boyfriend won't let me walk to my car alone. He's been walking with me every night," she said.

Kelli Carnahan, a senior, said she is most fearful walking to her car after a night class.

"I have this class from 5 to 8 p.m., and I always walk with someone to the parking deck. I think we need better lighting and more patrol at night," she said.

Stafford agrees that there

should be more security on campus.

"More lighting and security cameras would help," she said.

While there are security cameras on campus, some students say they want more, specifically in the parking decks.

Junior Brent Styer said, "I think there should be more security in the decks. Cameras would be good; having security actually go through the decks more frequently would be better."

Styer only parks in the outdoor lots. He said does not park in the parking decks.

Sweet said the university is continually working to maintain and improve campus security by following the recommendations of YSU Police Chief John Gocala. Sweet said Gocala has increased security in the University Courtyard Apartments after the incidents.

University Courtyard Apartment residents received a letter from the Courtyard housing office encouraging them to program YSU Police Department's phone number into their cell phones and utilize their alarm systems.

"If you look back over our history, we have a record of being a safe campus," Sweet said. "Campus safety is a top priority and we will continue [to uphold] what we believe to be a safe campus."

Sara Schaefer, a senior,

said she has been trying to leave campus earlier than usual for safety reasons, and she would never walk around at night.

"Even in the afternoon, when there are less and less people around, I still think about it more," Schaefer said.

The university's response time, when releasing information about the robberies, concerns some students.

Senior Zach West said he believes the warnings about the robberies have come too late after the incidents. He said response time needs to be quicker than it has been in the past.

"No one got word of the robbery outside of Cafaro until about 17 hours after," he said.

Cardon feels that security on campus needs to be stepped up.

"It's a big campus. We probably should have more security," she said. "Right now, you wouldn't be able to find a security guard if you needed one," she said.

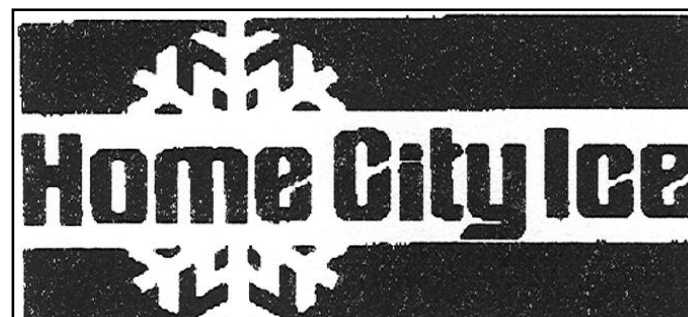
"I'm scared," sophomore Kendra McCoy said. "They need to tighten up security and patrol more frequently."

Sweet said that the issue was addressed during a cabinet meeting Wednesday morning. He said Vice President for Student Affairs Cynthia Anderson gave a full report at the meeting.

"I believe we have a sound plan and will continue it," Sweet said.

The Home City Ice Co., based in Cleveland, Ohio, is opening a delivery driver terminal in Austintown, Ohio.

Looking to hire students to work during school and summer break. Excellent pay and flexible scheduling for delivery driver positions. Average \$9.00 to \$14.00 per hour. Please call 1-800-376-5388 or visit homecityice.com to submit information online.





Inter-fraternal Council will host a softball game, fundraiser for the Manning family on at 2 p.m., Saturday. The game will be played at Harrison Field and the student activities group will be the participants. A 50/50 raffle will be held during the game and the event is open to the public with no cost to attend.

TRACK AND FIELD

YSU track team heats up down the stretch

Streiner and Anderson take on leadership roles during outdoor season

Aaron Blatch
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

The Ohio weather has finally warmed up and it couldn't have happened at a better time for the Youngstown State track team. With the outdoor season nearly over, the team has only two meets left before competing in the Horizon League Championships.

"The weather has kind of affected practices because when it is cold and raining we can't really do anything outside," junior thrower Bethany Anderson said. "Since the weather has been nice we've had better practices."

The majority of the Penguins will travel to Berea, Ohio to compete in the Sparky Adams Invitational this weekend while the men's distance squad will instead run in the Hillsdale "Gina" Relays before one final tune-up May 4-5 at the Campbell/Wright Open.

The team is coming off of a solid showing at the All-Ohio Championships in Cincinnati last weekend led by a record-breaking performance by Anderson.

The Women's Squad

The two-time defending Horizon League Women's Track and Field Athlete of the Week broke her own school record in the

hammer throw with a third-place mark of 187'1", a distance that ranks her 10th in the Midwest Region and 39th in the nation.

"I have regionals and nationals on my mind," Anderson said. "My goal is to be in the top five in regionals and advance to nationals."

Anderson was not the only bright spot for the Penguin women at the last meet, as Kari Kreutzfeld had four top-10 finishes, Aaliyah Gillespie placed fourth in the 100 meter hurdles and Jacqueline Clonch was sixth in the discus.

The Men's Squad

The YSU men also had a strong showing at their last meet.

The team was led by Shayne York's eighth place finish in the long jump, Michael Perri's 12th place finish in the high jump and Scott Streiner's 15th-place time in the 200 meters.

Although the Penguins routinely post solid distances and times, Streiner said that the team's biggest strength is its positive attitude and the runner has taken it upon himself to be a team leader.

"We're like a family; we look out for each other," the junior sprinter said. "I want to be a good team leader and help us reach our full potential."

With some key performers from the

indoor season now redshirted and some other team members injured, that positive attitude will be important if the young Penguin team is to make a run at league favorite Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the Horizon League Championships.

"This year we've been beat up by injuries so we've had to work hard and try to meet our individual marks," Streiner said.

Anderson agrees, saying, "It's a team success. I've been meeting my goals and everyone just wants to hit their personal marks and better themselves."

If they can have quality performances in the final two meets of the regular season, the Penguins will go into the league championships with momentum matching the temperature in Youngstown - rising.

Penguin junior sprinter Scott Streiner will look to get in championship form at the Sparky Adams Invitational in Berea, Ohio this weekend. The squad will compete in the league championship beginning May 10.

Photo courtesy YSU Sports Information



FEATURE

Valparaiso raids Horizon League with talented squads

Andrew Berry
SPORTS REPORTER

Much as the spring school semester nears its end, so does the 2007 athletic season for the nine constituents of the Horizon League.

The teams are running down the home stretch toward the regular season finish lines where the respective championship tourna-

ment battles await. Once the dust is settled, the smoke is cleared, tears are shed and champions are crowned, the focus of each team will quickly transfer to the fall and the beginning of next season.

And with the ending of the 2007 season comes a new beginning for the Horizon League as Valparaiso University will become a full-time Horizon League affiliate when its mem-

bership card is activated on July 1st.

With the spring sports teams of the Horizon League currently locked in battles of epic proportions on the field, the Crusaders are currently finishing their final spring as an associate of the Mid-Continental Conference, the former stomping grounds of the Penguins before making the jump to the Horizon League themselves.

The addition of Valparaiso gives the league several new and worthy squads that will enhance the image of the already respectable collection of universities.

While there is still plenty of time to scout the Horizon rookies, there's nothing wrong with getting the homework started in advance to see how YSU will fair against their newest league opponent.

Baseball

2007 Record: 14-20 (3-1)

While the team's current record may not impress you on its face, it shouldn't be taken lightly. The Crusaders stumbled out of the gates with a 1-8 record with a tough first-half schedule to their credit. Following a 5-0 loss to the University of Chicago-Illinois, the defending Horizon League champions, the Crusaders have turned their season around. Once sitting in the basement with a 5-15 record, Valpo has stormed back and now boasts a 14-20 record having won six of its last eight games.

Outlook: Good news for the Penguins in 2008; Valparaiso will be graduating its top three hitters and star pitcher, all but guaranteeing the Crusaders inaugural season will be a rebuilding one.

Softball

2007 Record: 24-11 (6-3)

The Valparaiso softball team began their season with a win an 8-2 over the University of Detroit-Mercer of the Horizon League. After three consecutive losses, the Crusaders ripped off eight straight wins and have put together a marvelous season since. During the month of April, the Crusaders have won 10 games while losing just three.

Outlook: Penguins beware in 2008: the Crusaders will return their best hitter in junior Shannon Robinson along with their entire starting rotation. The three starting pitchers have a combined 24-11 record and 2.78 ERA going into the latter part of the season.

Women's Soccer

2006 Record: 12-3-3

Much like the rest of Valparaiso's athletics this year, the Crusader soccer squad had a slow start to their 2006 campaign, but caught found a way to get hot and stay hot. Horizon League teams were 1-2 on the soccer field against Valparaiso in 2006. In a close contest, the Penguins were unable to capitalize on early open shots and fell to the Crusaders 3-0.

Outlook: Three players will graduate, which means the majority of the same team will be back in the fall of 2007, including the team's best player in Sarah Jewell who scored 10 goals and added two assists in her freshman campaign.

Volleyball

2006 Record: 21-12 (9-3)

The season began with two wins over Horizon League teams in UIC and Loyola, which is the kind of start that the Crusader will hope for in the fall when league play starts. But the season didn't end so well for the four-time defending Mid-Con champions. The Crusaders fell one game short of ending their tenure in the Mid-Con with five consecutive titles.

Outlook: It won't be long until the Crusaders find themselves in the mix of Horizon League championship run. Next season, the team returns all but two players and is loaded with talented underclassmen.

Basketball

2006 Men's Record: 16-15 (9-5)

The men's basketball squad was a solid team this past season but couldn't avoid numerous losing skids throughout the year. The Crusaders posted either back-to-back wins or losses all but one time during the course of the regular season. Butler defeated Valparaiso 60-47 that contributed to the Crusaders eight game losing streak at the time in the first-half. Since the season ended after a Mid-Con tournament first round exit, the team has had one player transfer and another quit to pursue other opportunities.

2006 Women's Record: 20-11 (11-3)

The team put together a solid season, but did not fair much better than the men's team in the conference tournament, winning just a single game before being eliminated in the second round. In their only contest against a Horizon League opponent, the Crusaders squeaked past Loyola University 77-74. The game saw five different players wearing Valpo jerseys score in double figures.

Outlook: Don't expect a repeat season for the Lady Crusaders in the fall as they will lose their top three players to graduation. The men's squad will return its top three scorers, however, all of which are still underclassmen and can score points at will. Guard Samuel Haanpaa is a threat from the perimeter and scored 347 points as a freshman.

Tennis

2007 Men's Record: 4-16 (1-4)

It was a tough season for the men's tennis team as they managed a single win in their final seven contests. Against the Horizon League, the Crusaders took down Green Bay 6-1, but fell 5-2 to the Butler Bulldogs. Sophomore Alex Lau

had a strong season going 18-12 in singles play to lead the team.

2007 Women's Record: 11-10 (5-2)

After winning back-to-back Mid-Con titles, the Crusaders bid for a three-peat ended on Friday with a first-round loss in the conference tournament. The squad opened up its terrific season with a 5-2 win over Butler of the Horizon League.

Outlook: The men's side has a lot to overcome in terms of consistency and focus while the women's reign at the top will end with the switch to a new league and the graduation of their top three performers.

Women's Swimming and Diving

2006-07 Record: 3-13

Qualifying for the team Academic All-American award in the fall of 2006 having registered a team GPA of 3.10 for the fall semester, the Crusaders are one of the brightest teams in the country. The group's out-of-conference schedule was a slew of Horizon League teams that included Butler, Cleveland State University, the University of Milwaukee-Wisconsin and the University of Milwaukee-Green Bay.

Outlook: The team went 2-2 against its future league counterparts, but didn't fair well for much the rest of the year. The Crusaders will need contributions from the underclassmen to compete for a title next season.

