

THE JAMBAR

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

THE SIDEBAR

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JAMBAR CALENDAR

To see your Youngstown event here, log in to the Web site and submit it for approval. Go to <http://www.thejambar.com/calendar/> and click "add an event."

EVENT #1
 *Event Title:
 Start Date:

YSU Open Mic Night at the Penguin Pre-Party

Campus Rec and Student Programming are offering free food, \$1.50 domestic beer, prizes and live entertainment tonight 7 to 10 p.m.

This week, entertainment is provided by YSU students in the Pre-Party's first Open Mic Night. There are still spots available. To sign up or for more information, contact Kelsey Rupert at klrupert@ysu.edu.

Today
 Early Rain | 72 52

Friday 69 44 Saturday 75 46



Remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar.

CAMPUS SPRINKLERS

STUDENTS AND STAFF GIVE SAY ON THE SPRAY



\$500 to \$1,800
 The cost of a new sprinkler head.

0.5 to 0.25 gallons
 The amount of water sprayed per minute on smaller areas.

3 gallons
 The amount of water Grounds tries to spray per minute on large landscaped areas.

\$294,787
 The cost of all water used on campus from July 2006 to June 2007, according to Facilities. John Hyden, executive director of Facilities, said there is currently no way to separate the cost of the water used for sprinklers from the water cost for the entire campus.

Sarah Sole
 News Editor

Freshman Mike Tokarsky said the sprinklers near Ward Beecher Hall are hard to avoid. He even got drenched once, he said. With hundreds of sprinklers irrigating the campus of Youngstown State University, the sight of spraying water is hard to miss.

"Bring you ponchos to campus," Tokarsky said. John Hyden, executive director of Facilities, said that some students view the campus sprinkler system as an inconvenience.

Sophomore Jessica Tedesco said she gets wet every time she passes a running sprinkler.

"The sprinklers are entirely too close to the walkways," she said. Sprinklers enrage Sophomore Callie Lowe.

"The university could probably do something better with the money spent on them," she said. Sophomore Nick Serra has a different attitude.

"I voluntarily walked through one — if it makes the grass greener, I'm all for it," he said.

Anthony Siracuse, associate director of Grounds, talked about the campus sprinkler system.

"Sometimes [the water] is hitting the sidewalk. It's not even hitting the lawn," he said, adding that Grounds tries to adjust sprinkler heads so they just catch the edge of the sidewalk.

There will always be some water runoff, Siracuse said, especially considering the current sidewalk configuration.

Aside from keeping up maintenance on the sprinklers, Grounds

focuses on using the sprinklers to supplement inadequate rainfall.

"That's the only reason we got green grass," Siracuse said.

Sprinklers stay on while it is raining, Siracuse said, to soften the ground and allow the rain to penetrate.

Some sprinkler heads are fitted with technology that allows them to measure rainfall and shut off automatically, Siracuse said.

The Mini-Click on some sprinkler heads works by collecting rain. When the water level reaches a certain point, the sprinkler stops.

Siracuse estimated that only a few of the sprinklers on campus have this feature.

Siracuse said the department should probably look into new sprinkler systems.

He also plans on rectifying the sprinkler situation on University Plaza next year.

When asked about the excess sprinklers in the new flower beds on University Plaza, Siracuse laughed. He knows there are ten sprinklers per bed, but he is at a loss as to why there are so many.

"You got me," he said.

Siracuse said an architect designed the beds with the sprinklers. Until the system operates according to the architect's standards, the architect cannot turn it over to the university.

Since the university does not yet control the sprinklers, grounds cannot change anything, he said.

The beds are four feet long, but the smallest nozzle sprays out five feet. With the sprinklers set to run for four minutes, the plants get four gallons of water, Siracuse said, and the time is reduced to prevent over-watering.



ALL WET — Sprinklers sprayed the grass, shrubs, sidewalks and the M5 lot sign outside Fedor Hall Thursday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. One sprinkler sprayed into the bushes while another was aimed directly at the parking lot sign. Meanwhile the storm drain on Elm Street filled with runoff water.

Obtaining an estimate of the amount of water used by the system would be tricky, Siracuse said, because of numerous variables.

The amount of water used by sprinklers varies each year, he said. Estimates vary further because of changing water pressure, which fluctuates daily from 50 and 70 pounds measured at the meter.

Pressure also varies throughout the system. By the time water sprays or gurgles out of a sprinkler nozzle, the pressure is down in the range of 30 to 25 pounds, he said.

Siracuse said the irrigation systems require constant maintenance. Sometimes Grounds will run the sprinklers throughout the day to test them, Siracuse said.

Campus police and custodial

maintenance often bring broken or worn-down sprinklers to the Grounds' attention, Siracuse said.

"We don't have enough people to constantly monitor," Siracuse said, adding that problems have to manifest before it can be noticed.

Dirt in the sprinkler heads can also diminish sprinkler efficiency, Siracuse said.

Clocks called controllers time sprinklers in a given landscaping zone, Siracuse said.

Siracuse said he would like to eventually update the controllers.

New remote technology could let groundskeepers run the controllers from the office or home by satellite. Two controllers have this capability already, although it hasn't been utilized yet.

YSU

B.S./M.D. students weigh 3:1 study expectation

Ashley Tate
 News Reporter

By rule of thumb, students at Youngstown State University observe that they should spend three hours studying or doing homework for every one hour of class time. But some B.S./M.D. program students said this idyllic suggestion is less than logical.

YSU student Parth Shah filled his semester with 17 credit hours and said he does not study three hours for every one hour of class time. Despite his deviation from the expectation, Shah said he puts in enough time to be academically successful.

Shah is a part of the B.S./M.D. program at YSU, which is affiliated with Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine.

Medical students complete two to three years of undergraduate studies at YSU, earn their Bachelor of Science degrees and then continue their education at NEOUCOM

"I don't think, by any means, that studying is a 'one size fits all.'"

Lakshmi Geddam

for four more years to earn their medical doctorate degrees.

Shah said that there shouldn't be a time restraint on how long students study as long as they can keep up with the material.

"Studying shouldn't be time bound, but rather effort bound," he said.

Student Christina Armatas disagrees and said that studying three hours for every one hour of class time is a logical expectation of students.

Armatas is also a part of the

B.S./M.D. program and is taking 22 semester credit hours.

"Believe it or not, studying that much really does help [you] learn, retain the knowledge and get good grades," Armatas said.

Armatas said study time should not be decided by watching the clock, but rather by the quantity of study material. She suggests spreading out paper writing and choosing relevant text passages to read and practice problems to complete.

Even though Armatas doesn't work, she said she still has to bal-

ance her classes and leisure time.

"I've definitely cut down on the number of movie, bowling and Hookah Bar outings that I was used to in the past," she said.

Armatas said she doesn't measure her academic success by how much she studies, but by how well she follows a schedule, keeps up with classes and asks for help if she doesn't understand a concept.

Student Lakshmi Geddam said she doesn't follow the 3:1 guide and feels that maybe she could study a little more, but in the end, that suggestion may apply to everyone.

"I don't think, by any means, that studying is a 'one size fits all,'" Geddam, also in the B.S./M.D. program, takes 23 credit hours and is a tutor for the Center for Student Progress, where she works five hours a week. She said she uses a planner to stay organized.

Geddam said she doesn't like having a set amount of time to

see STUDY, page 3

YSU

Students, professors disagree on attendance policies

Elizabeth Boon
 News Reporter

Youngstown State University freshman Kara Tobey thinks that she should not have to attend every single one of her classes.

"It's up to the student if they want to come. It's not like high school," she said.

Like Tobey, many students feel that they should be able to skip class.

Freshman Alicia Quinones said that her English professor has an attendance policy that restricts students from missing more than a few classes.

"It shouldn't be that way. You should be able to do what you want. It's your education and degree," said Quinones.

Sophomore Mark Sustar said that he has failed a class because he missed too many sessions.

"It should be my choice to come," he said. "I learn at my own pace."

While students feel that they should be able to come and go to classes as they please, professors beg to differ.

Dr. Kathleen Akpom, professor of Health Professions, said that it is very important for students to attend class every day.

Not only do students learn from the lecture, they also learn from each other said Akpom.

Professor of Allied Health Maria Delost has an attendance policy for her class that allows students to miss only one lab.

"It's too hard for them to make it up," she said, since missing a day puts students a week behind. "Students do better if you hold their feet to the fire," she said.

Delost has ways of requiring attendance.

"If they don't come to lecture, see ATTENDANCE, page 3

YSU

High enrollment yields extra \$2.5 million

Jenny Boyce
 Enterprise Reporter

Enrollment at Youngstown State University is at its highest in 13 years, according to the university's News and Information Services. The Office of Institutional Research reported a total of 13,497 students this fall semester, 200 more than the university had originally projected for the semester.

Due to the increase in fall enrollment, YSU is expected to receive about \$2.5 million in additional revenues this year.

William Countryman, interim executive director of enrollment services, agreed that growing enrollment will affect campus life.

"We'll see more traffic," Countryman said. "With more students living on campus, that will in turn affect the number of people using Dining Services and will also lead to an increase in activity at places on campus, like the Rec Center."

Countryman said YSU is becoming more of a residential campus, but that a lot of people still commute.

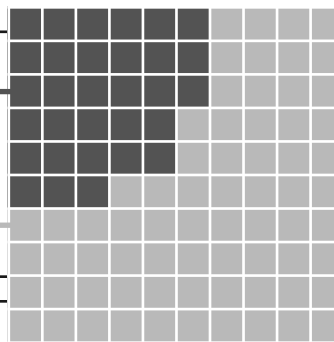
According to an analysis of enrollment figures released last year by the Ohio Board of Regents, YSU leads the state in the rate of enrollment growth over the last six years.

Tom Maraffa, special assistant to the president, said the university set an enrollment goal of 14,000 students by 2008, YSU's centennial year.

Did you cast your Homecoming vote?

31% YES

69% NO



next question

What's up with the sprinklers on campus?

This poll is not scientific and reflects the opinions of only those Internet users who have chosen to participate. The results cannot be assumed to represent the opinions of Internet users in general, nor the public as a whole.

TO THE POINT

GM, UAW Resolve Strike

According to a United Auto Workers press release, General Motors and UAW ended their two-day strike Wednesday, by tentatively agreeing to a contract. Most workers returned to work during the second shift at GM, though some trades workers were asked to report to work earlier.

Art exhibit

"Deerslayer and Other Recent Work," an exhibit of artwork from Richard Mitchell, is on display at the Howard Miller Student Center's Weyers-Sampson Gallery at Thiel College. Mitchell is the professor emeritus of art at YSU. The exhibit will run through Oct. 12.

Trustees Meetings

Youngstown State University Board of Trustees will hold meetings on Friday. The Internal Affairs Committee will meet in the President's Suite at Tod Hall at noon. The Academic and Student Affairs committee will meet at 1:30 p.m. The regular board meeting will be at 3 p.m. in the Trustees Meeting Room, also in Tod Hall.

WCBA reception

The Williamson College of Business Administration will host a reception in the DeBartolo Stadium Club at 4 p.m. Sunday. The reception is for donors and students who have received scholarships.

'Tech Belt' forum

U.S. Representatives Tim Ryan and Jason Altmire will host a forum aimed at fostering regional cooperation and integration at 8 a.m. Monday in the DeBartolo Stadium Club. The forum will bring together business, academic and foundation leaders from the Cleveland, Akron, Youngstown and Pittsburgh areas to discuss ways of creating a "Tech Belt."

Photo exhibit

The Genocide Awareness Project, a photo and mural exhibit sponsored by the Youngstown State University College Republicans, will be on display outside DeBartolo Hall from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday.

Nursing Workshop

Pre-nursing majors planning to go into the Fall 2008 BSN program can attend a workshop Monday to learn about the admission process. A U.S. Army representative and students from the Student Nurse Association will speak. The workshop will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Ohio Room in Kilcawley Center.

POLICE BRIEFS

Intoxicated Student

Youngstown State University police arrived to assist an intoxicated male student outside the YSU F7 parking lot booth Saturday night.

The student informed officers that he had been drinking since Wednesday, that he would black out for long periods of time and wake up in unknown places, and felt he was going to injure himself if he did not obtain help.

After advising police he was going to pass out, officers stayed with the student until paramedics arrived at the scene. The student was taken to St. Elizabeth's Hospital where the officer met with hospital staff and the student's mother.

Student driving on curb

Youngstown State University police responded to a call Sunday by a Lyden House resident assistant about a student driving onto a curb along Madison Avenue outside the residence hall.

The male driver, a resident of Lyden, was uninjured but admitted that he had been drinking. The driver said that he had just pulled out of the Lyden House parking lot and was attempting to go to his vehicle that was broken down along the highway. The vehicle he was driving belonged to his roommate.

Showing off YSU's SECRET GARDEN



Larry Tooker, YSU groundskeeper, speaks during a press conference at the Wick-Pollock garden Tuesday. Behind him are Erienne Raib, Student Government Association vice president for student affairs, and YSU President David Sweet. YSU students and SGA renovated the gardens. Photos courtesy of YSU News and Information.

YSU

Freshmen, upperclassmen deal with early anxiety as midterms loom closer

Jeanette DiRubba
Jambar Contributor

For transfer student Craig Dolan, reading his syllabi and knowing the exact dates of midterms does little to calm his nerves. Sometimes, he said, he feels overwhelmed by preparing for tests at Youngstown State University. "I have anxiety attacks," Dolan said. "I try to hang with friends to keep my mind off the preparation for the exams," he said.

Both Andy Thompson and Joe Deniakis seemed shocked that midterms were

around the corner. "Midterms are coming up? That's awful fast!" Thompson said.

Although Deniakis looked shocked that the semester is almost halfway done, he said he feels ready for the exams. "I go to class every day, and I feel prepared," he said. "I'm in my third year now, and I know how this works. I just didn't know midterms were almost here!" Deniakis said.

Thompson says he deals with midterm stress by relaxing and watching movies.

"I go to class every day, and I feel prepared. I'm in my third year now, and I know how this works"

Joe Deniakis, third-year student

"Anything that doesn't deal with school helps me keep my mind off exams," Thompson said.

John Brkic, senior music history major, doesn't have any studying to do for midterm exams.

"I don't have any midterms. In four years, I

don't think I've ever had a class that had midterms," he said.

Senior Dalene Scott, overbearing Brkic's remark, chuckled and said, "I'm not as lucky as John. I have four midterms!" she said.

Marie Meeks and Kelsey D'Amico, resident assistants

at Lyden house, are trying to overcome test anxiety by helping residents work on their healthier habits.

"Students kept coming to us and telling us that they were stressed out. A lot of freshman approached us because these are their first college midterms, and it has become very overwhelming for them," D'Amico said.

D'Amico said her program focuses on healthier eating options and how diet can reduce anxiety.

Meeks said her program, which she plans for Oct. 11 at 5 p.m. in the basement of

Lyden house, is also about diminishing stress.

Karen Becker, coordinator for the Reading and Study Skills Center, said that a YSU e-mail announced the study skills and anxiety sessions offered by the center.

"We have programs on how to deal with test anxiety, but we mostly try to help students understand the effective ways to prepare for their exams," Becker said.

Becker said useful information about the center and its workshop dates can be found at <http://www.ysu.edu/rdg-studyskills/>.

ARTS

YSU Dance Ensemble to host festival with guest artists

Sarah Sole
News Editor

The Youngstown State University Dance Ensemble is hosting the YSU Dance Festival Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. at Beeghly Physical Education Center.

Christine Cobb, associate professor of Human Performance and Exercise Science said the festival will

feature top notch professionals. Guest artists are Richard Dickinson, Susan Gillis, Marc Holland, Marlon Silva and Ursula Payne.

Students attending will learn the dance basics, but Cobb said she wants the students to also be exposed to diverse genres offered at the festival such as salsa, Japanese dance and classical Indian dance.

"First and foremost it's about

educating our students," Cobb said of the festival.

This year's courses include improvisation, musical theatre, salsa, contemporary partnering and motif writing and composition.

Fees for YSU faculty, students and staff are \$25 for the whole day, \$10 for half of the day and \$5 per session.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. in the lobby.

HEALTH

Bacteriology: Save it for class, not the kitchen

Karen Gaudette
The Seattle Times

When is that party pizza past its prime? The U.S. Department of Agriculture has a food-safety tip sheet for college students.

College: A time of cold pizza, microwaved concoctions and ramen. Lots of ramen.

Whether crammed into a dorm or an apartment, part of surviving college is learning to feed yourself away from the guidance of family. Many young cooks are pulling together meals with little to no knowledge of food safety, not to mention cooking.

So the U.S. Department of Agriculture hopes to help collegiate cooks with a tip sheet on food safe-

ty, including when tailgate food is past its prime to packing tips for road-trip food to when you should leave that old pizza be.

See the entire list at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Food_Safety_Tips_for_College_Students.pdf.

Here's a sampling of the tips. -Cold pizza for breakfast? Not if it's been out on the desk for more than two hours, even if it's meatless. Food-borne bacteria that may be present grow fastest at temperatures between 40 and 140 degrees and can double in number every 20 minutes.

-Keep perishable snacks cold during your treks around campus in an insulated lunch bag with an ice pack or double-bag items to create insulation. If there's a fridge handy,

stash food as soon as possible.

-When tailgating with friends for hours on end, store perishables like meat, potato salad and chicken in a cooler except when serving to reduce the risk of food-borne illness. Don't leave food out of the cooler or off the grill for more than two hours, or one hour when the outside temperature is above 90 degrees.

-The most important things to remember about food safety? Wash hands and surfaces often. Separate raw meat, poultry and egg products from cooked foods to avoid cross-contamination. Use a food thermometer to ensure cooked foods have reached a high enough temperature to kill any harmful bacteria that might be present. And refrigerate leftovers promptly.

BACK TO SCHOOL LIST

- Buy textbooks
- Get football tix
- Check out the student body, if you know what I mean :-)
- Visit www.one.org and begin changing the world

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ONE

JOB OPENING

Advertising Sales Assistant for The Jambar beginning Fall 2007. Must be self-motivated, detail oriented, and organized. Outgoing and friendly phone personality and Advertising sales experience is a plus.

The Sales Assistant is responsible for bringing in new advertisers, assisting the Advertising sales manager with ads and forming new contracts with potential advertisers. Must be a full-time student in good standing. Previous experience in sales is helpful, but not required.

To apply see Lynn Haug in the Kilcawley Center Staff Office, and ask for a Jambar application

Deadline to apply is October 12, 2007



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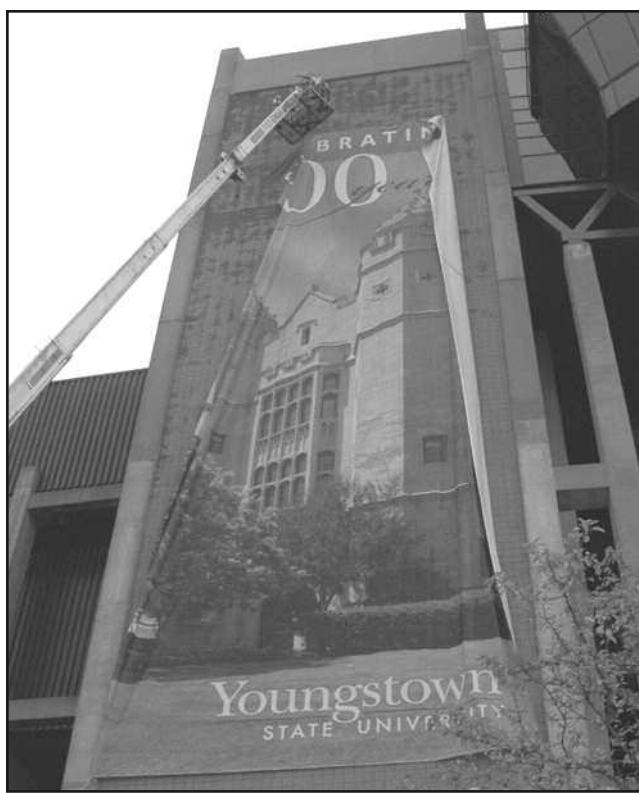
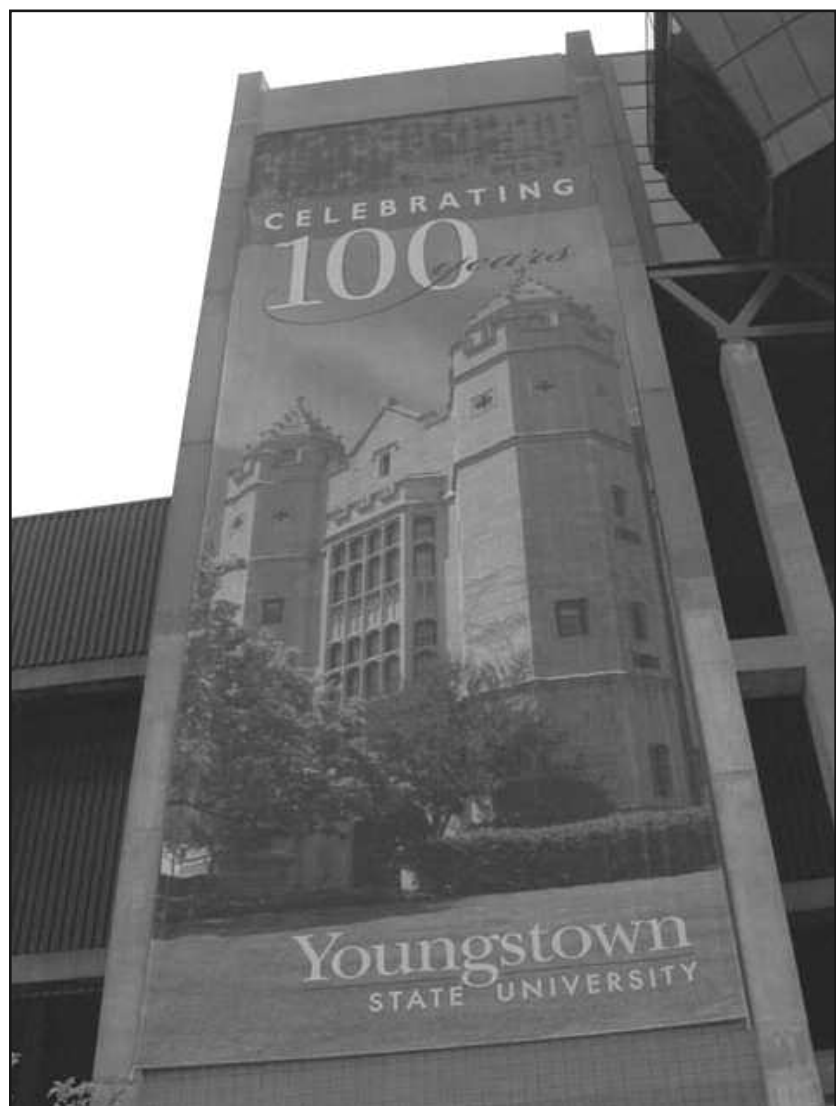
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CELEBRATION BANNER – Ken Russell and Pat Carey of Mahoning Lighting and Maint. Co. hang two YSU Centennial banners on the side of Stambaugh Stadium. One 80-foot banner shows Jones Hall with the centennial logo as part of the university's Centennial celebration. Photos courtesy of Melissa Mary Smith.

visit us online at:

www.thejambar.com

From *STUDY*, Page 1

study. Instead, she studies until she understands the concept.

"When you're in college, you know how much time you need to give yourself to learn, and this varies on the material that you are learning," Geddam said.

Sometimes it only takes 15 minutes to understand a concept but may take much longer for something more complex, Geddam said.

In her spare time, Geddam said she likes to spend time with roommates and friends by going out to dinner, to the movies or to get coffee. Hanging out with friends is important.

"I believe this is crucial, or I would

explode from all [the] work," Geddam said.

Shah said while keeping his priorities in mind, he likes to visit his family in Cincinnati, play football and basketball, watch movies, read philosophical books and hang out with friends.

Neel Parekh, also a student in the B.S./M.D. program, said he chose to take 13 credit hours this semester so he can spread his classes out over a three-year period.

He said taking extra hours was difficult for him.

"My first three semesters I took around 20 or more credit hours, and it was difficult, and sometimes it made me question my decision on being here," Parekh said.

From *ATTENDANCE*, Page 1

we don't provide the materials. They're on their own," she said.

Akpom expressed a similar view.

"We're teaching everyday and it's in their best interest to come if they want to master the material," she said.

Some students feel they can catch up on what they missed in class. Sophomore Nicole Briton said that most people can still get by if they skip.

"You can always get

notes from a friend," she said.

Tobey has found another way around coming to class by gathering lecture notes on the computer through programs like WebCT.

"They act like it's a big deal. It's just dumb. It's easy to catch up," she said.

Delost said that it is students' responsibility to catch up if they miss class.

"They just have to face the consequences," she said.

Jambar Classifieds

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WANTED: Students to assist with the YSU Fall Job Expo on Wednesday, October 3, 2007 in Kilcawley Center Chesnut Room. Employers will need help transporting their display materials and equipment from the drop off point to the Chesnut Room. Must be able to lift 50 pounds. Hours: 8:00 - 10:00a.m. and 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. **STIPEND: \$50 Interested:** Apply in person in the Office of Career and Counseling Services, 1034 Jones Hall.

Housing

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Miscellaneous

SUNDAY MASS The Newman Center, Catholic Campus Ministry, 254 Madison Ave. (across from Lyden House) every **Sunday @ 6:00 PM**. Call **330-747-9202**

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Classifieds

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OPINION

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OUR SIDE

Sprinklers wash YSU money down the drain

When visitors come to Youngstown State University, there are a few items they should notice. For starters, we have some recent constructions, like the Rec Center, the new gateway projects to the university, and, lastly, we have the greenest grass at any university in the state.

Thanks to all of the sprinklers installed across campus, YSU probably has some of the best cared for lawns and dirt in the area.

But spending money on sprinkler systems and their upkeep shouldn't be a top priority. Sprinklers that spray the dirt path, shrubs and F5 parking lot sign near Fedor Hall are unnecessary.

There are plenty of others ways to improve campus, and freshly watered grass shouldn't be at the top of that list.

The university should spend money on problems over which students continually gripe. There are no echoes across campus of "I just perform better on my early morning tests if the grass is well watered." Instead, one is more likely to overhear "I didn't get to finish my test because I couldn't find a parking space this morning!"

How about spending some of that money to build additional parking areas or replacing some of the outdated furniture that students have to sit on in the study lounges?

We don't typically get to have class outside, so all of the sprinklers don't serve the greatest need of students.

Does it make campus look nice? Yes. Is it of the utmost importance? No. Do students enjoy dodging the sprinklers' splashes on their way to class? Also no.

We understand that there are different funds the university can utilize for spending and that only so much money is allocated, but the issue is priority.

YSU President David Sweet addressed the ways in which the university is working to lessen its carbon footprint on the Earth. We already have some energy efficient light bulbs in buildings, but we're still watering students and concrete sidewalks with poorly-aimed sprinklers.

If the plan from the beginning was to undo the work of architects, then maybe YSU should rethink its agreement with contractors.

As paying customers, YSU should get what it expects and what it needs. Ten sprinklers in one flower bed by Coffelt Hall is not what YSU really needs.

POLICIES

The Jambar editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambar's editorial staff, which includes the Editor in Chief, News Editor, Managing Editor and Copy Editor.

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. E-mail submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com. All letters must be typed and must not exceed 400 words.

Submissions must include name and telephone number for verification, and letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. For Tuesday's edition, letters are accepted until noon on the previous Friday. For Thursday's edition, letters are accepted until noon Tuesday.

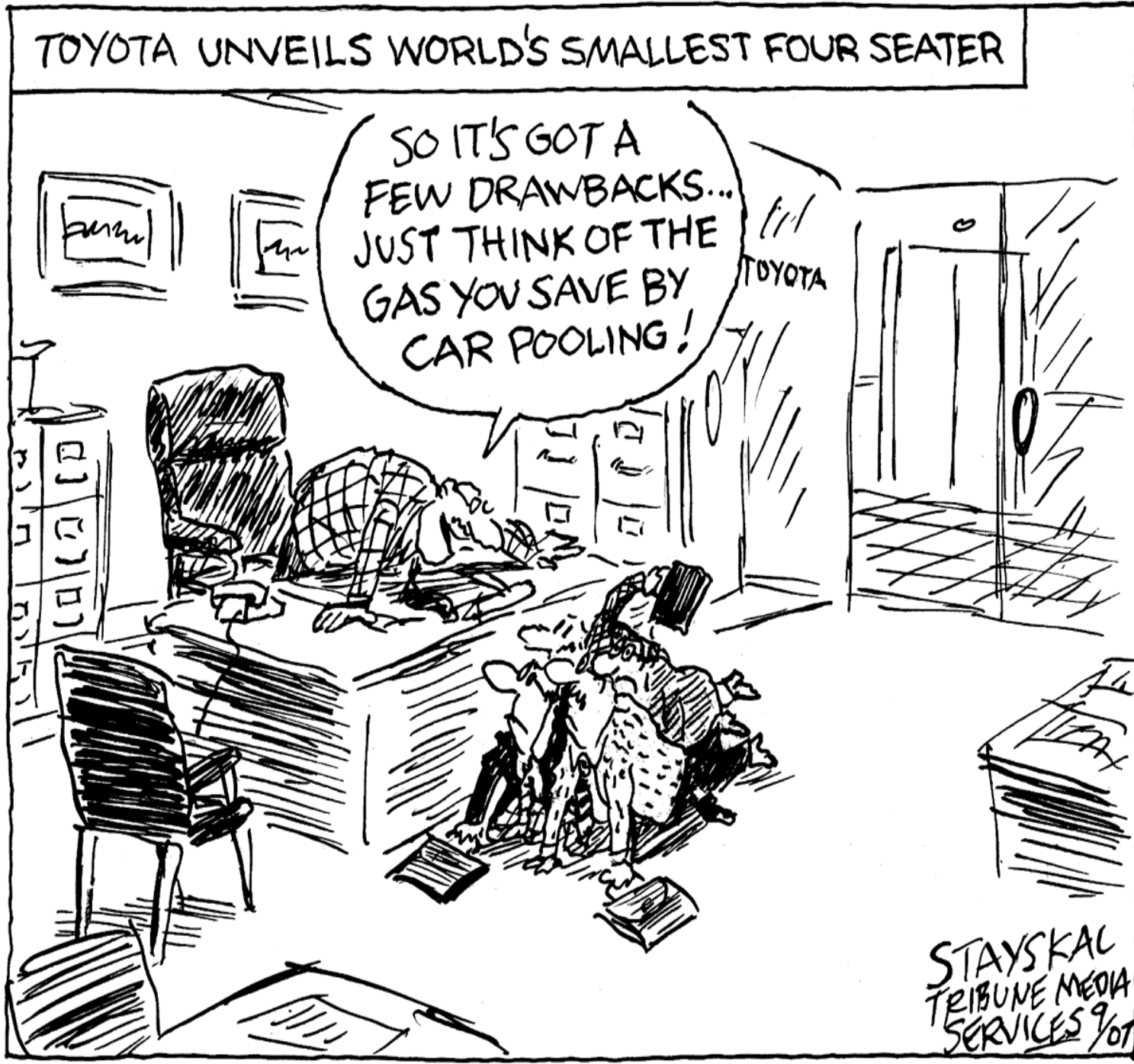
The Jambar will not print letters that libel others or threaten harm. The Editor in Chief reserves the right to reject letters that do not follow policy.

The views and opinions expressed in published letters do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff or the faculty, staff or administration of Youngstown State University.

ABOUT THE JAMBAR

The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the summer sessions. Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press Honors.

Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.



COMMENTARY

Candidates embrace their parties' view, after all

By Ellis Henican
Newsday

So Rudy Giuliani's a gun lover after all.

How much you want to bet the ambitious ex-mayor also turns out to be an ardent right-to-life, a staunch gay-rights opponent and a real immigration hawk before the Republican primary season is done?

It's amazing, isn't it — how an election can magically align a candidate's deeply held views with those of the party base?

Almost as amazing as Hillary Clinton's newfound appreciation for Moveon.org. Seems like just a month ago the fence-sitting New York senator was keeping her distance from the pugnacious anti-war group. Now the race is heating up. Why alienate potential voters?

Every poll can spell P-A-N-D-E-R!

These dramatic intellectual conversions keep happening at the most opportune imaginable times.

Rudy didn't turn into a rah-rah NRA'er, of course, when he was seeking re-election as mayor of gun-leery New York.

In his mayor days, he'd had a firm anti-gun stance, even suing big gun-makers. But standing before the National Rifle Association on Friday, he traded his James Brady applause lines for some red-meat Ted Nugent.

"It's people that commit crimes, not guns," he assured the crowd.

What a happy coincidence! Rudy and Hillary aren't this year's only convenient converts. And the just-in-time epiphanies cut across all party lines.

Mitt Romney, the former pro-choice Massachusetts governor, is a late-blooming abortion foe. Who'd have ever predicted?

John Edwards turned on the war in Iraq at the very moment that became politically expedient. Barack Obama sure sounds a whole lot more opposed to the war than when he was just an Illinois senator.

And please, remind me again why John McCain started cozying up to the televangelists. Could it have anything to do with how faithfully their faithful vote?

One of these days, some politician will actually flip-flop against public opinion at a politically dangerous time.

One of these days.

COMMENTARY

Searching for yourself in your resumé

Sarah Sole
News Editor

In the comfortable online bubble that is my Facebook profile, I feel content with who I am. My friends are numerous, although many of them can be better defined as acquaintances. Does it matter that only a quarter of my "friends" write on my wall? The idea is to get as many friends as you can, to show the world you do not live under a rock.

According to an article about MySpace from the May-June 2006 issue of "The National Psychologist," the amount of online friends people had was related to higher self-esteem levels.

This idea of asserting one's greatness through amounts does not only apply to frivolous activities like Facebook or MySpace. No, in an age of asserting one's individuality, we define ourselves by our accomplishments: We flaunt grade point averages, internships and activities. Instead of finding our inner confidence, we have found ourselves through our resumes. But

isn't that what true success is about?

The job market is a tough world, so you have to stay ahead of the competition.

When I was in high school, my teachers told me to be involved as much as I could. "Volunteer!" my advisers nearly shouted, "Colleges aren't just looking for brownnosers that make the grade, now they are looking for brownnosers that play board games with people in nursing homes!" Never mind helping others. By volunteering you are certainly helping yourself look good.

So I got involved. Every time I added something to my activities, I felt a little more accomplished. Now I am well rounded. Now I am complete. I wasn't responsible for becoming a better speaker; The Speech Team made me that way. I wasn't inherently intelligent; I was intelligent because I received good grades.

Good luck if you didn't have those things, the advisers said. Good luck if you didn't have good grades on; God forbid, if you didn't have a major picked out at age eighteen. You must not be very goal oriented, and if you are

not goal oriented — gasp — what good are you?

This trend continued into college. I didn't have a major and agonized over it daily. Then I found a major and started agonizing over a minor.

The search for what to do in one's life, it seems, becomes synonymous with the search of self. To be the best, we must have great jobs, because great jobs bring money, which brings security, which, obviously, brings happiness. Secure people are happy; plain and simple. They'd better be.

We're taught to become a part of that coveted cycle; we're groomed for it.

College is always an exciting time, right? Because it's the end of that grooming. We're running out of time; there is only so much more we can cram into four years that will get us ready for that outstanding job that we need. And oh, we need it; we crave it. Without it we're nothing, you see.

While preparation is necessary to find a good career, we've become increasingly obsessed with it.

According to <http://www.monstertrak.monster.com>, "85 percent of companies use internships and similar experiential education programs to recruit for their full-time work forces."

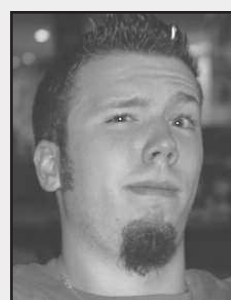
So we fight the good fight. We spell check the cover letter. We design the flawless resume. We set out to get the almighty internship. We want the experience that says we're good enough for those future jobs.

But are we good enough for ourselves? Thirty years from now when we are in our midlife crises, will we still be defining ourselves by our job titles? Will some of us luckier ones actually have become comfortable without a title?

Or will we again resort to the amount of friends we have on MySpace? A great man by the name of Ron Burgundy once said, "I'm kind of a big deal. People know me," in the movie "Anchorman." Well, Ron Burgundy, your friends know me too. We're friends on Facebook.

The Jambar asks:

What should YSU do with all the money spent on sprinklers?



John Schmutzer, Sophomore

"I have been sprayed by them before, just the other day i was walking to class with my friend and we got hit. More parking spots would help."



Lisa Russo, Freshman

"More Trees"



Kristen Burnett, Sophomore

"I get annoyed when I get sprayed in the face, but other than that I don't really care what the money goes towards."



Paul Morrison, Junior

"There are sprinklers every four feet in some spots on campus, put the money towards lowering the cost of our parking permits."



Jessica Shipman, Junior

"Use the money for more and better lab equipment."



Whitney Smith, Sophomore

"On-line bill paying and washers and dryers that you can use your swipe card with"



Jason Beckwith, Junior

"I didn't really know that people were complaining about the sprinklers, but everyone is complaining about parking so maybe put more money into that or maybe restoring the Wick-Pollack Inn."

DINING

Food fight: Noodles vs. Pete's Place

Melissa Mary Smith
Jambor Contributor

With a new menu, daily specials and updated décor, Noodles Restaurant transformed through the summer into Pete's Place.

The revamped restaurant is already making an impression on hungry YSU students.

"It's a really neat atmosphere, and it's a good place to come to meet friends for lunch," junior Carol Ann Pitcairn said.

While still honoring Noodles' tradition of a pizza and salad bar buffet, Pete's Place also offers a once-a-week dinner, every Wednesday night from 3-7 pm.

"I like the fact that we took the environment and made it more of a university-themed location; it helps with the speed of service and it just really gives the students and faculty and staff a really nice place to come and have lunch," said Tom Totterdale, YSU's general manager of Dining Services and Pete's Place supervisor.

Totterdale explained that when Noodles was in the process of becoming Pete's Place, meetings were held with Student Government Association, a food committee and students from residence halls in order to gauge what kind of an eating establishment would best suit YSU students. During these meetings, students expressed the importance of a restaurant that differed from anywhere else on campus and offered healthier menu options. Totterdale said the restaurant teamed up with a nutritionist to achieve a healthier menu that includes organic salad dressing, pizza baked with wheat bread as opposed to white, and romaine lettuce in place of iceberg for salads.

Despite the healthier menu, how do



Carol Ann and Lisa Pitcairn dine at the newly renovated Pete's Place. Photo by Melissa Mary Smith.

students feel about these overall changes?

"I know some of my friends don't like the changes they made to the menu because they miss the pasta selections," Pitcairn said.

While the menu at the former Noodles might have been comfortable and familiar to some students, some felt otherwise.

"They could have had more variety; pizza and salad got kind of boring," sophomore Diane Durochia said.

Durochia also commented on how she enjoyed the restaurant feel of Noodles in light of the predominately fast-food options in Kilcawley. Keeping with this restaurant feel, Pete's Place offers meals such as balsamic pork with garlic potatoes, crab and asparagus risotto, pesto chicken pizza, and tomato with crushed-basil-oil soup.

As it might have projected less fast food vibes than other places on campus, Totterdale feels that the vast changes made to the former Noodles dining space contributed, during the first three weeks of the fall semester, to 20 to 30 percent increase of customers.

"I liked Noodles' food better, but the atmosphere at Pete's Place is a little better," sophomore Dana Vlock said.

Funky, colorful interior decoration helps create the atmosphere of which Vlock speaks. Bright red booths, a buffet area, hippie-reminiscent silver beaded curtains and fully furnished bathrooms that look like something out of a nightclub all make Pete's Place a dining experience that even Noodles purists can enjoy.

"I like the fact that we took the environment and made it more of a university-themed location; it helps with the speed of service, and it just really gives the students and faculty and staff a really nice place to come and have lunch."

Tom Totterdale, general manager of Dining Services



SPORTS

Football fans opt for TV, radio broadcasts of YSU away games

Jumal Brown
Jambor Contributor

When the Youngstown State University football team opened the season against the Ohio State Buckeyes in Columbus, many fans felt an air of excited anticipation.

Though fans made plans to attend this game, some were not so quick to anticipate attending the rest of the Penguins' away football games.

For some, the games are too far away or the match-ups aren't a big enough draw to convince them to travel. Ticket prices can also sway fans.

Sophomore Rosita Santiago said she and her friends had been looking forward

YSU Away Games

Oct. 6 vs. Southern Illinois
Carbondale, Illinois

Oct. 27 vs. Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, Iowa

Nov. 3 vs. Indiana State
Terre Haute, Indiana

Broadcast Stations

TV:
WYFX FOX 17/62
Direct TV

Radio:
106.1 WBBG-FM
1390 WNIO-AM

to the YSU-OSU game.

"We even requested off work, and made it into ... a field trip. We all chipped in together on the money for tickets and gas," Santiago said.

Though she said the three-hour ride to Ohio State was not that long, Santiago

will watch the rest of the away games on television at home or at a bar.

Fans can watch games at various Mahoning area bars and restaurants that have contracts with satellite provider DirecTV. The FOX network airs Youngstown State football games.

Freshman Ryan Martin paid the \$65 YSU-student price for a ticket to the YSU-OSU game, but he said he plans to watch the rest of the away games on TV.

"Even though the price for the tickets for the Ohio State game were crazy, I went because of how hyped the environment of Big Ten stadiums always looks on TV," he said.

Fans can view Youngstown State football games on WKBN/WYFX, FOX 17/62, and listen to them on radio stations 106.1 WBBG-FM, and 1390 WNIO-AM.

The Penguins' next away game is Oct. 6 in Carbondale, Ill. against Southern Illinois University at McAndrew Stadium.

REVIEW

Foo Fighters' new release echoes previous album

Sarah Sole
News Editor

A little more on the acoustic side, but with enough guitar riffs and drums to keep it kicking, Foo Fighters' "Echoes, Silence, Patience and Grace" delivers some excellent songs, though the CD as a cohesive unit falls a bit short of "In Your Honor."

The album is a sort of marriage between the acoustic, folksy songs in "Honor's" disc two, and the high-octane rock characterized by "Honor's" disc one, now exemplified by such energized tracks as "Erase Replace."

As a new single, "The Pretender" is an obvious strong point, with its catchy refrain that stays true to Grohl's old-school scream. Characterized by a catchy guitar and drums, the song's end is reminiscent of the Foo's old track, "One by One."

Another strong track, "Let it Die" begins with an acoustic guitar riff that sounds hauntingly like something from Red Hot Chili Peppers' guitarist John Frusciante, and ends with a fast-paced, pounding guitar riff.

The song's acoustic musings are interlaced with a menacing electric guitar that gives the song its legs, while giving Grohl an excuse to make use of his primal scream at the song's close.

Starting slowly as an acoustic tune, the rhythmic drums in "Come Alive" are a sort of segue, slowly evolving the song into an energy-sat-

urated soundscape awash with Grohl's mad refrain and high-powered guitar riffs.

Continuing in the same vein previously showcased in "In Your Honor," the band still pays close attention to their acoustic side.

An acoustic pleaser, "The Ballad of the Beaconsfield Miners" is an instrumental medley of intricate guitar-work, which exemplifies the band's talent for folksy songs.

"Summer's End" is also a song that refuses to fade into the background. Though the lyrics are not all that introspective, they do the job.

"Meet me in the summer time," Grohl sings, immediately introducing a strong melodic refrain that will carry the song. The band echoes classic rock exceptionally well, with a simple guitar riff that adequately closes the song.

The album shows the band's growth, namely with slower paced songs that give Grohl a chance to bear his soul.

"Stranger Things Have Happened" is an introspective acoustic melody, exhibiting a strong acoustic solo midway through the track, while also showcasing Grohl's vocal capacity. While the typical,

realistic lyrics place you at the scene, it is the pleading raw emotion in Grohl's voice that draw you into the song.

The band also expertly utilizes piano in an almost Paul McCartney-esque manner, with the slow and somber "Home," and the guitar-laced "Statues."

The album is not without

forgettable tracks. Though "But Honestly" sheds its sleeper-like qualities by the song's end, the repetitive "Cheer Up Boys,"

Your Makeup is Running," and the unremarkable "Long Road to Ruin" don't quite meet expectations.

Despite these small pitfalls, the Foo Fighters still manage to put out a strong album, not forgetting about their pen-

chant for rocking out while still exploring a softer, more introspective sound. For the most part, the blend is a successful one. Most fans will not be alienated by the band's evolution.



The Foo Fighters pose with the Grammy they won during the 45th Annual Grammy Awards at the Madison Square Garden in New York City. MCT Campus photo.

UPCOMING events

Today

Open Mic Night
Peaberry's
7 p.m.

Up A Creek Karaoke
Karaoke by DJ Simply Ed
Up A Creek Tavern
10 p.m.-2 p.m.

Swing Night
Cedar's Lounge
10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Friday

Truck Night
Mud-pits, rock crawl, and more.
Yankee Lake: 1800 S.R. 7
NE, Brookfield OH
6 p.m.

Disney's Beauty & The Beast
Touring Production
De Yor Performing Arts
Center
8 p.m.

Comedian John Rathbone
Funny Farm Comedy Club
9 p.m.

Saturday

The Huckin' Fillbillies
Ice House Inn, Austintown
10:30 p.m.-2 a.m.



Compiled by Diane Platten, Jambar Contributor

THURSDAY

Ugly Betty

Season premiere tonight on ABC.

Amanda is having a hard time dealing with the revelation of her real mother, Betty refuses to accept that Henry's leaving has affected her, and Wilhelmina uses all the despair to her advantage.

Grey's Anatomy

Season premiere tonight on ABC.

Meredith, Izzie, Alex, and Cristina are now residents and get their own interns to mold, while George is forced to repeat his internship after failing his exams. Callie is the new chief resident, Meredith's half sister Lexie interns at Seattle Grace, and the doctors must calm down their stressed-out interns when a three-car accident sends multiple casualties to the hospital.

The Office

Season premiere tonight on NBC.

A freak accident at the Fun Run that Michael hosts makes him think that the office is cursed and questions his employees' religious beliefs. Mutual feelings between Pam and Jim flourish, and Dwight and Angela continue their relationship.

Supernatural

Season premiere Oct. 4 on The CW.

Brothers Sam and Dean return to their hunt for evil. The brothers set out with the help of a married Hunter couple to find the seven demons based on the seven deadly sins.



FRIDAY

NUMB3RS

Season premiere Friday on CBS.

Don and the team seek out Colby when he escapes from custody after the events surrounding "The Janus List," but things may not be as they seem. Val Kilmer guest stars as Mason Lancer, who revealed Colby as a Mole.

SUNDAY

Desperate Housewives

Season premiere Sunday on ABC.

The news spreads through Fairview about Edie, Lynette battles her cancer with chemotherapy, and new neighbors move into Wisteria Lane.

MONDAY

Aliens in America

Season premiere Oct. 1 on The CW.

An all-American teenage boy's mother tries to help her son become popular and make friends by hosting an exchange student, but the family gets a surprise when they meet their guest — cultural misunderstandings abound.

TUESDAY

Reaper

Premiered Tuesday on The CW.

A 21-year-old finds out why his parents have always gone easier on him than his brother. Turns out mom and dad sold his soul to the devil, and on his 21st birthday, he must become Satan's own personal bounty hunter.

WEDNESDAY

Pushing Daisies

Season premiere Oct. 3 on ABC.

Ned seems to lead a normal life, but with a touch of his hand, he can wake people from the dead. He uses his ability to solve crimes, temporarily waking murder victims so they can identify their killers. He finds one case more difficult than the rest when he wakes his childhood crush and is tempted to keep her alive.

Gossip Girl

Premiered Sept. 19 on The CW.

A privileged group of prep school teens are kept up-to-date on the latest gossip about their exclusive circle by the mysterious blogger known only as Gossip Girl. Based on the popular books by Cecily Von Ziegesar.



LEADERS ARE MADE

At work today, I took charge of the team. Afterward, my boss asked where that came from. My answer was easy.

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Kilcawley Center Chestnut Room

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AFLAC
Ajax TOCCO Magnethermic Corp.
Air Force Reserve Officer Recruiting
Allied-Gator, Inc.
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ARAMARK
Ardex, LP & W.W. Henry, LP
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Gateways to Better Living, Inc.
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Hill, Barth & King LLC
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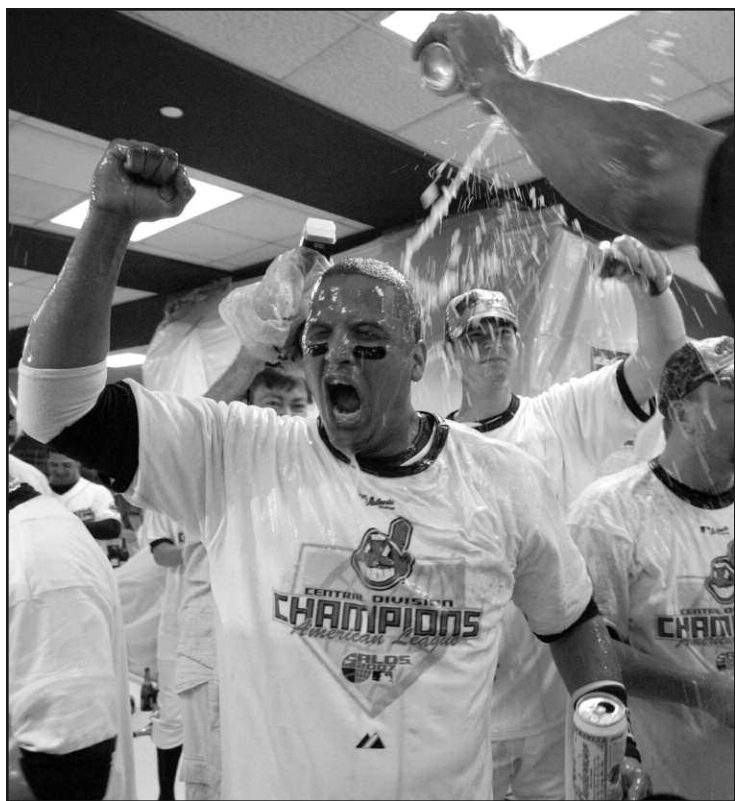
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

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COMMENTARY



Party Time — The Cleveland Indians' Victor Martinez celebrates in the clubhouse after clinching the AL Central Division with a 6-2 victory against the Oakland Athletics Sunday. Photo courtesy of MCTcampus.

Indians give fans reason for optimism

Aaron Blatch

Sports Reporter

With a deep pitching staff, a new management philosophy and countless pies to the face, the Cleveland Indians are on top of the American League Central for the first time since 2001.

While this Indians lineup may not boast 30-home-run power up and down the order like its mid-1990's counterparts, it may give the suffering city its best chance at its first professional championship since Jim Brown took handoffs in the Browns' backfield.

C.C. Sabathia and Fausto Carmona headline a starting rotation that leads the American League in innings pitched and have carried the Tribe into contention for the best record in baseball. Unlike in previous years when the Indians would have to out-slug the opposition in double digit scoring affairs, they can now just as easily win 1-0.

A winning team would have been enough to satisfy Cleveland fans, but the way that the victories have come is even more special. Every home win is punctuated by a pie in the face during the post-game interview. Every game is played until the final out. And every player seems to honestly be a good guy.

Although Sabathia and center-fielder Grady Sizemore have nationally become the faces of the team, no two players better embody the Indians' season than do Carmona and third baseman Casey Blake.

Last season the 23-year-old Carmona had a historically bad campaign, going 0-5 out of the Indians' bullpen while blowing all five of his save opportunities. The team fell out of contention early and staggered to a 78-84 record as Carmona's troubles became a national storyline.

When starter Jake Westbrook suffered an injury in spring training this season Carmona was forced into the starting rotation. The sinkerballer has answered all of his doubters, winning 18 games and joining Sabathia in Cy Young discussions.

Blake's humility is almost shocking in today's world of "me first" athletes. A natural third baseman, Blake has been frequently moved around the field during his tenure

with the Tribe. When asked by management in the off-season to move to the outfield to give the unproven Andy Marte a chance to play everyday Blake agreed. When Marte soon faltered, Blake — who turned out to be a very good outfielder — willingly agreed to move back to third base.

Rarely do you find a group in any profession without any questionable personalities, but that seems to be the case with the 2007 Cleveland Indians. From Sizemore's Little League style hustle to the veteran leadership of pitcher Paul Byrd and outfielder Trot Nixon to the quiet toughness of catcher Victor Martinez, the Indians are the most likable group of athletes in recent memory.

This hasn't always been the case. The period between division titles was a failed attempt at building around players like the combustible Milton Bradley — yes, the same guy that injured his knee earlier this week trying to fight an umpire — and the arrogant Brandon Phillips, who showed up his rookie season with "The Franchise" written on his shoes.

The decision to build around high-characters players coupled with some intelligent moves by general manager Mark Shapiro have put the team in a position to contend for years to come. Every major contributor is signed to a long-term deal except for Sabathia, and the minor league system is filled with high-level pitching prospects.

Despite its solid foundation, the team still has its flaws. The offense struggles to move runners and manufacture runs and the back end of the bullpen is still questionable. But with Boston fading in the AL East and the Yankees lacking a consistent rotation Cleveland fans finally have a reasonable cause for optimism.

Sabathia and Carmona can match up with any one-two combination in baseball at the beginning of a playoff series and relievers Rafael Betancourt and Rafael Perez will ensure that a lead will safely get to closer Joe Borowski.

If the offense, rejuvenated after a mid-season slump, can continue to put four or five runs on the board there is no reason to believe that Jacob's Field won't once again be packed deep into October.

YSU Sports in Brief

Lape earns Horizon League honors

Andrew Berry

Sports Editor

Youngstown State freshman Jake Lape was named the Horizon League Men's Cross Country Athlete of the Week.

The award selection was announced from the league office on Tuesday.

Lape, a native of Boardman, Ohio, finished 76th to lead the

Penguins to their best-ever finish at the Iona Meet of Champions on Saturday.

Lape was one of three freshmen among Youngstown State's five scoring runners at the meet. Lape ran the 8K course at Van Cortland Park in 27:09.9 to lead the Penguins to a 10th-place finish.

Lape is the first YSU freshman to earn the league's weekly honor since Lisa Davies in 2003.

Rowan nearly recovered from injury

Andrew Berry

Sports Editor

The Youngstown State football team is close to having its back-up quarterback dilemma solved.

Sophomore quarterback Todd Rowan began the season with an injury and was unavailable for the first four games.

Head coach Jon Heacock said that Rowan is near 100 percent.

Rowan took his first snaps under center as a Penguin against the Lock Haven Bald Eagles when he stepped in for Zetts after the game was well in hand.

Although Rowan did not throw a pass, Heacock wanted his young quarterback to get some reps and work on getting his timing back.

"He's improving. We're still very cautious on what we do with him in practice, but he's getting better," Heacock said.

ATHLETE PROFILE

Change of perspective

Out of eligibility, former Penguin punter now experiences the game from a different point of view

Courtney DiGiorgi

Jambar Contributor

With just the current semester left in his college career, Youngstown State University football team punter Joe Bishop's eligibility to be on the Penguin's gridiron has run out.

While that doesn't stop the senior from enjoying Youngstown State football games, he does have to experience that enjoyment from a completely different perspective.

Bishop has extra free time on his hands but said he has no problem filling the gap.

Without constant practices, meets and workouts, Bishop said he finds it easier to enjoy both NFL and other college football games.

"When I was playing, I didn't care about anything but our team," Bishop said.

Though he is a longtime Notre Dame and Cleveland Browns fan, Bishop made it known that YSU is his favorite team to watch.

"I miss my team — the players, the coaches and even the locker room," Bishop said.

He also reminisced about the

fun of game days.

"I miss [game days]; it doesn't matter if it's home or away. I miss the catered meals and meetings we had in the hotel rooms," he said.

Of course, there are also parts of being a college athlete that Bishop doesn't miss, such as the 6 a.m. workouts during the off-season.

Bishop said he enjoys watching the games, but at times the criticism from

the fans is hard to handle because he knows firsthand how hard the Penguins work.

Though he's a retired college athlete, Bishop still plans on meeting up with his former team and coaches during their in-season practices.

As for a continued career in sports, Bishop sent a DVD of his highlighted moments during his college football career to all 32 NFL teams, but has yet to hear back from any of the organizations.

If no offers come back for the former Penguin punter, and if the opportunity arose, Bishop said he would be glad to coach.



Photo courtesy of Ron Stevens

2006 Achievements

Gateway Player of the Week versus UC Davis

Gateway Player of the Week versus Southern Illinois

First Team All-Gateway Selection

Punts	Yards	Average
59	2,203	37.3

SOCCER

Team prepares for Horizon League schedule

Aaron Blatch

Sports Reporter

The Youngstown State soccer team has posted a 1-3 record and now faces what could be a make-or-break stretch leading into Horizon League play.

If they fail to add to their win total in the next few contests, it could be a long season at Stambaugh Stadium.

The Penguins will host Saint Francis University from Loretto, Pennsylvania on Friday before traveling Sunday to Canisius College in Buffalo, New York. League play begins Oct. 5 at Green Bay in Wisconsin.

All three opponents have losing records, making these games an opportunity to start a winning streak heading into the squad's second league game against Milwaukee, the winner of six consecutive Horizon League championships.

Freshman forward Lauren Brennan said that despite the team's record, the players have kept a positive attitude and are looking forward to their next win.

With their next three opponents struggling to find victories, the Penguins have a chance to get the wins they need to set the stage for an exciting Horizon League season. Brennan also said that though the team's next several opponents are not elite teams, it is important not to look past them.

"Every game we go in looking to get a win," she said. "We can't look at their losing records and play down to their level."

If Brennan continues her recent play, the Penguins' offense should be able to come up with enough scoring to be in a position to win. She has scored seven of the team's 10 goals and has assisted on two others.

Brennan said that she hopes her offensive production will lead opposing defenses to focus more



KICK BALL — Senior Tessa Brookman (9) attempts to block a pass by _____ of Robert Morris (10). The YSU soccer team hosts St. Francis (Pa.) Friday at 7 p.m. Photo by Andrew Berry.

attention on her.

This could make things easier for the other Penguin scorers and lead to a more balanced attack.

Brennan said that she hopes that team members can develop familiarity with one another in the next few games to prepare for the league season.

"As a team we need to get used to playing with each other even more," she said.

"I'd like to develop our connections

and team unity more and just keep trying to get wins," she said.

The team will have their first chance to put up a united front when they play St. Francis, a team that enters with a 3-5 record.

The Red Flash have lost four straight games, including three straight by shutout, after a three-game winning streak earlier in the season.

After that, the Penguins will open a three-game road trip beginning at Canisius.

Canisius has won back-to-back games but has struggled to score throughout much of the season, being shut out in four contests. Their overall record is 2-4-1.

The Penguins' first Horizon League game is against a Green Bay team that has yet to register a victory. They have been outscored 20-5 on their way to a 0-8-1 record. The Penguins will be trying to make up for last year's 1-0 loss to the Phoenix.

"As a team we need to get used to playing with each other even more,"

Lauren Brennan, freshman forward

"I haven't noticed more attention yet because I've just been playing hard," Brennan said.

"If that were to happen I think it would create more opportunities for everyone else to step up," she said.

FOOTBALL



RUNNING WILD — Sophomore running back Jabari Scott finds open space against the Lock Haven defense. Scott is leading a surging running attack for the Penguins this season. Photo by Andrew Berry.

Race to Gateway crown begins with Missouri State

Andrew Berry
Sports Editor

The Youngstown State University football squad is more focused than ever this week.

The Penguins will open Gateway conference play with Missouri State on Saturday after finishing the early, out-of-conference portion of the schedule with a 3-1 record.

For the final contest of the four-game home stand, the Penguins will face a much improved and dominating Missouri State team. The Bears are also sporting a 3-1 record, one win more than the team produced all of last season.

With conference play about to begin, Penguin head coach Jon Heacock said he believes the contests will be full of playoff implications hanging in the balance from this point on.

"The automatic berth to the playoffs is winning the conference outright. That starts this week and I think it juices it up a bit," Heacock said.

Heacock said the preparation for Gateway conference opponents doesn't change throughout the week in practice. The team will focus on improving its game using the same methods that have won the Penguins three games in a row.

Senior safety Bob Perez said that what does change is the magnitude of the contest. With five teams ranked in the FCS Top 25, the power of the Gateway is undeniable.

"Hopefully the younger guys understand the magnitude of these games. Everything counts from here on out. We can't leave it in the hands of someone else at the end of the season," Perez said. "We have to win the conference."

While the Bears are not one of those five ranked teams, Heacock said the game against Missouri State will be a tremendous challenge for the Penguins.

The Bears' offense is as high-powered as they come, averaging over 41 points and 451 total yards of offense per game.

Led by true freshman quarterback Cody Kirby, the Gateway Offensive Player of the Week, the Bears have been running on all cylinders.

"Everything has worked for them. You watch the film, and you see they're playing with a lot of confidence," Heacock said.

Kirby may have the most confidence of any of the Bears' players heading into Saturday.

Kirby won his first start against Central Arkansas last week on a touchdown pass with 21 seconds left in a thrilling 42-31 come-from-behind victory. The winning score was Kirby's third of the contest.

Up until the win over Central Arkansas, Missouri State had gone with a quarterback by committee system. Kirby's performance in the team's most recent win has cemented him as the starter against Youngstown State.

Heacock compared Kirby to Tim Tebow of the Florida Gators: a stocky, athletic quarterback that has a strong arm and can pick up the tough yards with his feet.

Perez thinks it will take a little something extra from the Penguins to shutdown Kirby and the Missouri State offense.

"He's a good player, but we have to put pressure on him and mix it up. He's not making a lot of mistakes, but we have to force him to make mistakes," Perez said.

To be compared to the Gators even more, the Missouri State offense runs a spread style scheme

that gives Kirby full use of his athletic talent.

Perez said the team cannot afford to have any minute miscues or repeat any previous errors from the Penguins' recent three-game winning streak, especially against a team running the spread offense.

"In games like this, little mistakes are going to have a bigger impact because you have a lot of talent on the field," Perez said. "We have to make sure we're on top of their routes, make plays and make it hard for that quarterback to see the route."

The Penguins' secondary will have a lot of ground to cover as several of the Bears' receivers already have 10 or more receptions thus far in the season.

Perez noted that the receiving core of Missouri State is loaded with talent. For the Penguins to succeed, Perez said YSU's defensive backs will have to stay focused at all times.

Senior wide receiver Rory Berry said he thinks the team performed well during the home stand and that the Penguins can still be a better team.

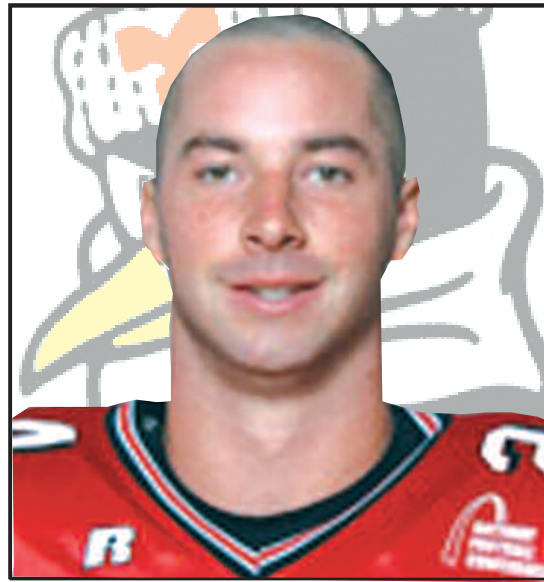
"I don't think we've played the way we can play, but I'm not really worried. We just have to bring it together. We have talent and good athletes," Berry said.

While the Penguins own the Bears with an all-time series record of 10-1, Heacock is not convinced that record accurately reflects the hard-fought battles between the two teams.

"Our guys know the impact of playing and winning and home. Their guys are playing with great confidence, and our guys want to defend Stambaugh Stadium for the 25th anniversary," Heacock said. "It'll make for a great football game."



This Week's Impact Match-ups



Tom Zetts
Quarterback
No. 24

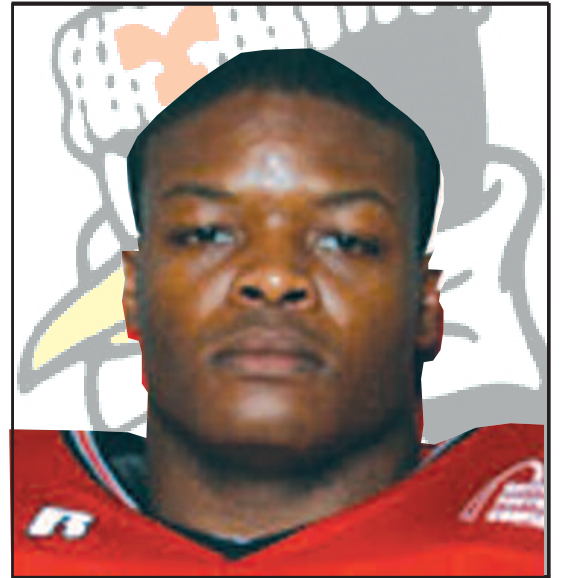
The Penguin offense has been putting up points in bunches having scored 35 and 42 respectively in the team's previous two wins. Since Missouri State runs a high-powered offense that is averaging over 41 points a game, senior quarterback Tom Zetts will have to direct his offense to keep up with the Bears or they'll be playing catch-up. Zetts has completed 63 percent of his passes for 539 yards and three scores thus far, but is only averaging 134.8 yards per game through the air. While Zetts' ability to scramble can keep the offense on the field, the Penguin field general may not get much of a chance to run from the pocket for big gains as he did against Lock Haven. Standing in his way is the Bears' leading tackler, Jeron Poole. Poole is a 6-foot-1-inch 240 pound roadblock Zetts will want to steer clear of in open space. Zetts should have more success from the pocket as the Bears are giving up an average of 301 passing yards per game.



Jeron Poole
Linebacker
No. 47

Jeremiah Wright
Linebacker
No. 25

Senior linebacker Jeremiah Wright currently leads the Penguins with 36 tackles in four games with 16 solo tackles to his credit. While he has been highly productive for the team during its three-game winning streak, Wright will have to step up this Saturday against Missouri State. Wright's teammate, senior linebacker James Terry, won't be standing beside him on the field for the entire game as Terry is suffering from an injury sustained against Lock Haven. With Terry likely out for a majority of the snaps on defense, Wright will have more responsibility on his shoulders to put a stop to Gerald Davis and the Bears rushing attack. Davis has run the ball 61 times for 346 yards and is averaging an impressive 5.6 yards per carry. Davis is also no stranger to the end zone, having scored six touchdowns. With Missouri State running a spread style offense, Wright will have to account for a large chunk of space behind the defensive line as the secondary concentrates on the receiving core.



Gerald Davis
Running Back
No. 6



GATEWAY

Weekend guide to Gateway football



No. 7 Southern Illinois
Indiana State
Sept. 29, 12 p.m.



No. 3 Northern Iowa
No. 16 Illinois State
Sept. 29, 2:30 p.m.

Keys to Victory

Missouri State is coming off a 2-9 season in 2006, but the young talent has gelled quickly and produced three wins to start the season. The Bears have replaced several players from last season, and true freshman quarterback Cody Kirby has been a surprise for the team. Kirby's performance in the Bears comeback win over Central Arkansas last week earned him Gateway offensive player of the week honors. The YSU defense will have to get inside the young quarterback's head early in the game and not allow the offense to find its rhythm.

While the Bears have benefited from a powerful offense, the other side of the ball has been a concern for Missouri State. The Bears' defense has been having trouble stopping anything and has allowed an average of 40 points a game. Putting the ball into the hands of playmakers Ferlando Williams, De'Angelo Wilson and Jabari Scott could give the Penguins the opportunities they need to put up points at will. carry the rock. Continued success in that aspect of the game should keep the Missouri State offense watching from the sideline.

Turnovers have been a big part of Youngstown State's three home wins this season. The defense has caused opponents to give up the ball nine times in 2007, putting the Penguins turnover margin at plus four. The secondary has been playing extremely well hauling in six interceptions, two by defensive back De'Angelo Wilson. Missouri State will send out a trio of wide receivers that each have 10 or more catches going into Saturday. Winning the turnover battle is critical and the secondary should come up with more picks.