



# THE JAMBAR

The student voice of  
Youngstown State University  
since 1931.

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## CLEANING UP THE DEBARTOLO POPULARITY CONTEST

THE SIDEBAR



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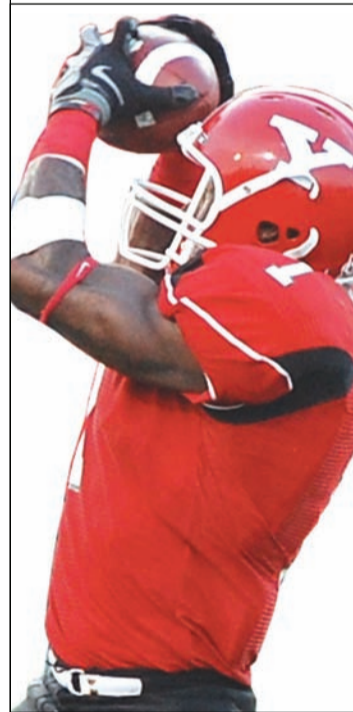
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**WEATHER**

Today ☁️ 53° 42°

Friday ☁️ 54° 43°

Saturday ☀️ 61° 40°

Sunday ☀️ 68° 44°

Monday ☁️ 73° 52°

Tuesday ☁️ 67° 55°

Wednesday ☁️ 65° 53°

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# Slanted coverage

## Negative ads target students, miss mark

Maeghan McNamara  
REPORTER

Despite the fact that many students say they are not influenced by this election's negative campaign ads, some have said they believe certain negative claims.

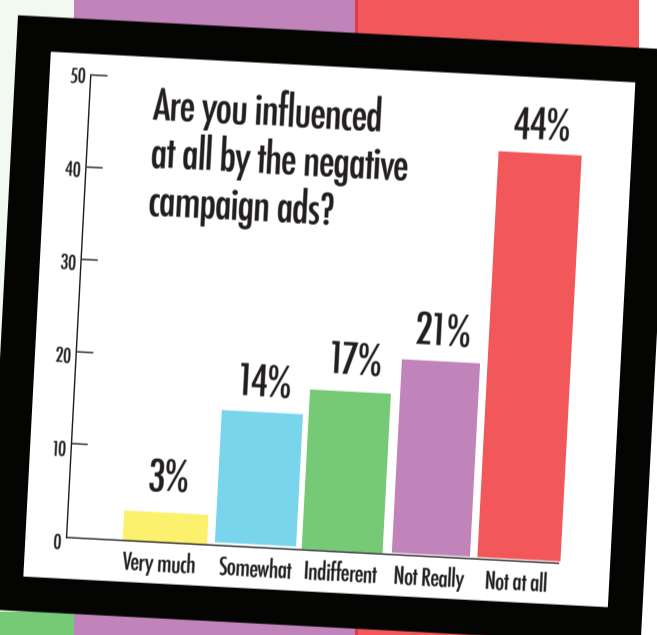
While some ads focus on the accomplishments of one candidate, others are designed to discredit the opposition.

The McCain campaign released an ad in late July showing images of Paris Hilton and

Britney Spears, calling Obama is "the biggest celebrity in the world." The ad went on to say that Obama was a worldwide celebrity, not a leader.

In early September, the Obama campaign released an ad portraying McCain as "the same" as George Bush, showing images of the two together and stating that McCain voted with Bush over 90 percent of the time. The ad's claims were that McCain and Bush shared the same attitude, failure to un-

CAMPAIGN page 3



## Unequal fact to opinion ratio creates unbalanced election

Lamar Salter  
REPORTER

The 2008 election has provided unprecedented coverage for both major presidential candidates. Many people on both sides believe that a biased media is creating an unbalanced election, though.

Conflicts have included Barack Obama's religious ties, John McCain's home-ownership and more recently, the personal life of Sarah Palin. Youngstown State University students and faculty

members' opinions on the media's involvement with this year's election vary.

"They're being too hard and being too easy on her at the same time because she is a woman," said Brandon Mcclendon, freshman, about the media coverage on Sarah Palin. Mcclendon said the media has been hard on Palin because of her personal life and family while not as hard on the issues because of her position as a female candidate in the election.

Junior Ben Mabbot said there has been a lot of cover-

age on the candidates' backgrounds and personal lives as well. "I think they're one and the same," Mabbott said about the importance of the candidates' personal lives and their political views. When asked about the increasing coverage on Palin's personal life in contrast to rival running mate Joe Biden, Mabbott said Palin, being relatively unknown to him before the election, was more relevant. "Biden's personal life isn't as interesting," he said.

Jim Shaw, president of the

FAIRNESS page 3

## Students refrain from buying unnecessary 'required' books for class

Courtney Denen  
REPORTER

Anthony Edmonds, sophomore, purchased a book that was required for a class at a price of \$200. "I still haven't taken it out of the plastic," said Edmonds.

Books may no longer be a necessity for some students on campus.

In a non-scientific poll taken by 100 students, 69 percent said last semester they did not use all the books that they purchased, and 90 percent of the polled students said they find that text-

books are overpriced. In addition to finding books overpriced, some students claim that not all of the textbook purchases they made were necessary.



Forty-two percent of students said they have spent \$200 on books they haven't ever read. All of these books were purchased under the terms of a professor's requirement.

Junior Marquis Grissett, who claims that he's never failed a class, has spent \$400 on books he's never used.

"I am a junior and I think this is the first semester a professor has required a text and we actually need it and use it," he said.

The poll has stated that other students also have gotten by without their books.

Ninety percent of students

said they have passed numerous classes without reading the supposedly "required" text.

Thirty-eight percent of the students admitted that they believe they have passed just as many classes not using a textbook as they have passed while using the text.

Danielle Dickerson, a graduate from Youngstown State University said, "I passed most of my classes without using the text. If the professor said we absolutely had to have the text, I would find ways to get around buying it. I wasn't willing to spend tons of

BOOKS page 3

## Students feel pressured to choose major

Courtney Denen  
REPORTER

Though sophomore Lauren Tucker has changed her major three times, she says she'll change her major as many times as necessary.

"This is what I'm going to be doing for the rest of my life. I want to make sure it's what I want to do."

Tucker is not alone.

In a non-scientific survey filled out by 100 Youngstown State University students, though 60 percent entered their freshman year of college with a course of study already chosen, 58 percent of students have changed their major once or more. Additionally, 57 percent of students also said they were being pressured to choose their major from an outside source.

Some students, however, remain uncommitted.

"Undecided" was the second most popular major in the 2007-2008 school year, according to statistics obtained from Steve Taraszewski, senior research analyst for YSU.

Freshman Amber Gaetano, like many other YSU students, is undecided on her major, and said she is taking most of her basic classes right now.

"I want to go into the medical field, but I'm not sure what I want to do yet," Gaetano said.

Ken Holt, also a freshman, does not have a definite major in mind either. "I'm undecided, and am taking a lot of my general education classes like sociology and English," he said.

While advisers can help students explore areas of study and find a way to choose a major, 57 percent of the students said they feel that advisers can pressure a student to choose a major even if they are not completely sure what it is they want to study.

Sally Kenney, an adviser for the College of Health and Human Services, said she has seen many students who are very unsure of their majors. She believes that pressure students can feel comes from many directions, not just the academic advisers.

"We encourage them to take general education courses while they are in the exploratory stage of choosing a major. We try to make them come to terms with their abilities in dealing with many of the subject areas included in their potential majors," she said.

Advisers, however, are not the only source of stress for some students.

Out of the 57 students that said they were pressured into picking a major before they were ready, 39 said the pressure came from the family.

For some students, changing majors isn't an issue.

Freshman Ken Dutko is one of those who began college with a definite major in mind: English. This is mainly because he has wanted to be an author since the fourth grade.

Likewise, Shamariaa Coleman, junior, came to YSU as a psychology major and has not yet changed her mind.

"I knew that's what I wanted to do after taking a psychology class in high school," she said.

Other students need a second choice.

Jessie Knez, freshman, has changed her major once, arriving at YSU with an early childhood education major and changing it to finance last semester.

Although she chose her original major because she likes kids, she switched to accounting to make more money and said her adviser helped a lot with the work involved in changing her major.

MAJORS page 3

## News Briefs

*“Art and Advertising” featured in McDonough exhibit*

The explicit exhibit, “AGENCY: Art and Advertising,” will open the 2008-2009 season for the McDonough Museum of Art. It will run through Nov. 8, and will be open to the public from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. On Wednesday, the museum will be open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. The exhibit will feature works from advertising media like Marcel Duchamp and Jeff Koons.

*Accounting professor receives faculty advisor award*

Raymond Shaffer, professor of accounting and finance, was recognized as the Outstanding Faculty Advisor for Beta Alpha Psi, national honorary organization at YSU. They encourage and recognize for scholastic and professional excellence in the field of business information.

*YSU Poetry Center Reading Series starts this week*

The YSU Poetry Center begins this week with its 2008-2009 Reading Series. The first reading will be on Friday, Oct. 3 at 7 p.m. in Bresnahan rooms 1 and 2. The second reading is on Monday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. in the Jones Room in Kilcawley Center.

## Police Briefs

*Officer sent to investigate smell in Moser*

Officers, along with the environmental and occupational safety director, Dan Sahli, were dispatched to Moser Hall on Sept. 28 after 3:00 p.m. to investigate a strong chemical odor. After further investigation, the source of the odor was tracked to two cement canoes, which were recently painted with epoxy.

*Obscenity and disorderly conduct at Harrison Field*

An officer was called to Harrison Field on Sept. 28 around 5:00 p.m. to diffuse a situation involving a YSU student yelling obscenities at other members of the sporting team. One of the team members confronted the student and was asked to leave. The student initially refused, at which point the officer arrived on the scene. Neither of the students involved would comment on the incident.

*Door left open at Maag*

While making his rounds, an officer noticed an outer door of Maag’s education area was left open. The door was an emergency exit facing east toward Wick Avenue. The door was open, but the alarm was not set off.

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**“How His Bride Came to Abraham”**

- Spotlight Arena Theatre in Bliss Hall
- Oct. 25, Oct. 10-12
- Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, 3 p.m.
- Free with YSU ID, \$10 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens

**plan yo\* night**

**Open Mic night**

- Thursday, Oct. 2, 9 p.m.
- University Pizzeria

**Saturday night dance party**

- Saturday, Oct. 4, 9 p.m.
- The Wedge



Medical students Derek Ailes, left, and Daniel Orjuela, right, work to comfort and stabilize their patient, played by their instructor Rawnie Ruegner, as Maya Petersen, blue hat, checks her back for injuries during wilderness medicine training. MCT Campus photo

## Saving lives in the great outdoors

Barbara Anderson  
 MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Dr. Brian Horan gave the medical students a few minutes to grab what they’d need to treat patients for their final class exam: duct tape, hiking poles, some rope.

Not your typical medical supplies. But this was no ordinary medical school course.

During a two-week medical boot camp at the Wawona Campground in Yosemite National Park, the fourth-year medical school students had to treat three “injured” hikers in the pine forest using only rudimentary first-aid supplies they carried in back packs.

Teaching the outdoors class is part Horan’s job as University of California at San Francisco-Fresno’s first wilderness and emergency medicine fellow.

The one-year fellowship is the newest addition to the only program in the country that offers medical training for park rangers. And it comes as more medical schools recognize the need to graduate doctors who are comfortable treating snake bites, hypothermia and broken bones amid growing interest in outdoor and wilderness activities.

The fellowship at the Fresno campus of the university involves treating patients as well as working with emergency medical technicians and park rangers in the ParkMedic program.

It’s a good fit for Horan, 35, who spends much of his time mountain climbing, bicycling or scuba diving when he’s not treating patients in the trauma center at Community Regional Medical Center in downtown Fresno, Calif.

“In the ER, you see a lot of things that can happen in the outdoors,” Horan said.

The proximity of the medical school in Fresno to national parks — Yosemite, Kings Canyon and Sequoia — made it a good fit for a wilderness fellowship, said Dr. Lori Weichenthal, who directs the fellowship.

Weichenthal wants to do even more with the program. She envisions adding wilderness medicine classes for volunteers who participate in search-and-rescue missions. UCSF-Fresno could “become a center of excellence for wilderness training,” she said.

And she hopes Horan — who completed a four-year residency in emergency medicine at UCSF-Fresno last year — will stay on permanently to help the program grow.

Up until two years ago, there was only one wilderness medicine fellowship in the country connected to an academic institution. Fresno’s program now makes the sixth.

Stanford University offered the first fellowship five years ago. The University of Utah added a program two years ago and Harvard Medical School started one earlier this year.

A growing outdoor recreation industry is helping to fuel the proliferation of wilderness fellowship programs, said Loren Greenway, chief executive officer of the Wilderness Medical Society in Salt Lake City. The society provides guidelines for wilderness medical education and offers



Medical students carry their instructor, Rawnie Ruegner, playing the part of a patient up a hill after treating her injuries during a wilderness medicine training at Wawona Campground in Yosemite National Park in California. MCT Campus photo.

its own fellowship program.

More of the public is venturing into wilderness areas for recreation, he said. And doctors recognize “there’s a need to have people with good wilderness medical skills.”

National parks had 223.7 million recreation visits between June and September 2007, an increase of 2.8 million visits from 2006.

While nobody tracks wilderness-related injuries or deaths, a study of outdoor recreational injuries treated in emergency departments in the U.S. in 2004 and 2005 found an estimated 212,708 people were treated each year. The activities that resulted in the most injuries: snowboarding, sledding and hiking.

Medical students also are looking for a more stimulating environment in which to practice medicine than in a traditional hospital setting, Greenway said. “People who seek these fellowships are usually emergency medicine practitioners who want to combine medicine with their passion for the wilderness.”

The two-week UCSF-Fresno wilderness medicine class has become increasingly popular in the five years she’s offered it, Weichenthal said. The class attracted about 10 applicants the first year. This year, 30 students applied and 14 were chosen, she said.

Lauren Carpenter, 30, doesn’t plan to practice emergency or wilderness medicine, but she signed up for the course. “I like playing outside,” she said. And the class teaches “inventiveness with what resources you have at hand. And you get practice in hands-on skills,” she said.

For Stacie Solt, 27, who plans to practice pediatric emergency medicine, the class was life-changing.

“This has been an amazing experience,” she said. “At some point, it stopped being just about wilderness medicine and more about teamwork.”

Medicine on the wild side Earlier this month, the medical students split into teams for one last time to put the wilderness medical skills they’d acquired over the two weeks to a final test.

After a short hike from camp, they were briefed on their medical mission. Horan, Weichenthal

and Rawnie Ruegner, a fourth-year medical resident, would pretend to be a brother and two sisters injured while hiking.

Horan’s mock injuries were a dislocated knee and broken wrist.

Weichenthal feigned a broken ankle and broken ribs. Ruegner had a broken leg and dislocated shoulder.

The “injuries” meant the doctors could not walk out of the woods on their own power.

“We tried to make the injuries so they had to carry us out, put on splints, check airways and necks for injuries,” Horan said.

From what the students carried in backpacks or could find in the forest, they had to fashion splints and slings to stabilize broken bones and rope litters to carry the doctors out of the woods.

Before they had left camp, each student picked one thing from a pile of camping supplies. A couple of students took rolls of duct tape — good for wrapping bandages around dislocated limbs. Others grabbed hiking poles for making splints.

One team of students found Horan sprawled near a rotting fallen tree. He said he couldn’t bend his right knee and winced when he tried to move his left wrist. Ruling out Horan’s injuries as life threatening, the students devised a way using a sleeping-bag mattress pad as a seat to get the doctor up a steep hill covered in pine needles.

Horan said he doesn’t expect the students will necessarily choose careers in wilderness medicine, but they can apply what they learned to other situations, such as treating victims at the scenes of automobile accidents, he said.

Gerin River, 33, said the wilderness class gave him an opportunity to practice skills he can use for a career in international medicine. In undeveloped countries, patients can be miles from hospitals and in need of care, he said.

Besides teaching the medical students how to save lives in the outdoors, Horan and Weichenthal said they hoped the future doctors enjoyed the wilderness experience.

“They work really hard as medical students,” Horan said, “and they should have a little fun while they’re doing it.”

## Classifieds

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### FOR SALE

IKEA Dorm/Apt chair, coffee table, frame w/ drawers, file. Pics and info at craigslist youngstown. Click For Sale, search IKEA, see September 21.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Sunday Mass 6:00 p.m. at the YSU Newman Center, 254 Madison Avenue, 330-747-9202 if you have any questions.

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CAMPAIGN page 1

derstand the economy, tax cuts for corporations and the wealthy, questionable ties to lobbyists, and that McCain plans to spend \$10 billion a month in Iraq.

Keith Lepak, professor of political science, said candidates use whatever they think is going to work best in their campaign advertisements. For example, he said Obama and McCain use their advertisements to create a sharp distinction between themselves and their opponent, but also that both candidates definitely use negative ads to slam their rivals.

Lepak said effective campaign advertising combines both positive and negative messages, while their actual impact mainly depends upon how well the candidates read their audiences. What is key, he said, is for candidates to look for undecided voters and bring them to their side. Additionally, Lepak said some voters probably do rely on political advertisements as outlets for information about candidates. Also, in this election especially, candidates have "saturated different forms of media."

"They're not content with one medium," Lepak said. "You never know when a competitor or a rival will show up in a certain medium or market," he said.

The majority of students surveyed who said they would be voting in this election felt that their choice was based on the issues. Students also aid were not influenced by what the ads were saying. However, when asked what claims they believed in the ads, most leaned toward

the ones against either one candidate or the other, rather than saying that they believe none at all.

"I feel like they are focusing on putting each other down, instead of focusing on the things they are going to do for our country," said sophomore Eli Ducatel. "The negative things they say kind of affect me. You feel like you know everything about your candidate, then the next minute, you don't," Ducatel said.

Freshman Brittany Murphy agreed.

"Instead of focusing on the negative qualities of their competitor, they need to focus more on promoting their own views," Murphy said. She said she doesn't think that negative advertising is helpful for the campaigns.

"The more that they bash someone, the worse they look," she said.

According to CivicYouth.org, the Ohio youth voter turnout rose sharply during the 2008 primaries, with 444,000 voters under age 30 participating. Overall, national youth voter turnout showed an increase from 9 percent to 17 percent participation since the 2000 elections, with 6.5 million people under age 30 participating.

Senior Chad Gifford said, "It is more important to us now that we are older, because it deals with us more now than it has before."

Additional reporting by Emmallee Torisk and Samantha Pysher;

editor@thejambar.com

Survey Says

Students planning to vote:

92 percent - Yes  
8 percent - No

Have you chosen a candidate?

78 percent - Yes  
22 percent - No

On what did you base your decision?

Party Affiliation - 24 percent  
Issues - 70 percent  
Convention Speeches - 17 percent  
Debates - 9 percent  
Campaign Ads - 4 percent  
Don't Know - 6 percent

Are you influenced at all by the negative campaign ads?

Very much - 3 percent  
Somewhat - 17 percent  
Indifferent - 14 percent  
Not Really - 21 percent  
Not at all - 44 percent

Do you believe/not believe any of the following claims that are being made in the campaign ads?

• Obama: "Not ready to lead"  
Yes - 22 percent  
No - 78 percent

• Obama: Too much like a celebrity  
Yes - 28 percent  
No - 72 percent

• McCain: "The same as Bush"  
Yes - 65 percent  
No - 35 percent

• McCain: "Lives too much in the past and will not cause any change"  
Yes - 60 percent  
No - 40 percent

FAIRNESS page 1

College Republicans said while a biased media was present, the campaign has been relatively even as of late. Shaw also agreed that there was a sexist undertone toward Palin and said there has not been enough media coverage on Obama's personal life, specifically during the Reverend Jeremiah Wright issue. "I don't think the media gave it enough controversy," Shaw said as he explained the seriousness of the issue.

Joni Koneval, president of the College Democrats, said she is conflicted about her feelings on the media's coverage of candidates' personal lives.

"On one hand, it makes me sick, but on the other hand it is to be expected," said Koneval. She also said the campaign has been fair to both sides and has allowed each party to voice their opinion equally.

Faculty members are also

sharing their opinions on the media coverage of the election.

"The facts are boring," said Paul A. Sracic, professor and chair of the political science department, as he explained the reasons for a biased media and coverage of the candidates and their personal lives. "The opinions are more entertaining than news."

Sracic said he saw a moderately left-wing media in the election but that the mass media generally goes after whatever the people wants to know about in order to make profit.

Fred Owens, professor in telecommunications said the candidates themselves have made a strong media presence in this election. "These are interesting candidates and they have stories to tell," Owens said. "The media is having a paroxysm of joy with this election".

editor@themail.com

BOOKS page 1

money on textbooks I knew I would never end up needing."

Jeanine Mincher, a professor in the human ecology department disagrees with many students' opinions about not feeling the need to read the text. Reading is just as important as attending classes, she said.

"Coming to school is only part of an education; it is not complete without reading. We all must continue to read in order to be life-long learners," said Mincher.

For her part, Kayla Jeswald, sophomore, said she always ends up buying books even if they aren't needed. "I try and wait until the first week of school is over just to see if we need the books. Then I usually end up buying them and not ever using them," she said.

Mincher said she requires texts for all her classes, and uses the books regularly, though not daily.

"As an instructor you are placed in a very difficult position. If you don't use the book very much, students are angry that they purchased the book. If you use the book too much, they are

angry and say that they shouldn't come to class but should just stay at home and read the book. Balance is the challenge."

Mincher said her quizzes and exams are note based.

"My notes come from the book. I do put questions on the test that are strictly from the text. People who are reading are rewarded for doing so."

Despite this, Mincher admitted that students could find ways to get around this.

"I am sure students have gotten away without books. My classes are large so I'm not sure who has or doesn't have a book. I've heard students talking about 'getting away' with not buying the books. I know it's a temptation because books are so expensive," said Mincher.

Mincher said that despite the encouragement from professors students still aren't reading the texts. "I've been teaching at YSU since 1989 and I find that students are much less willing to read now than in the past. I'm not sure why that is."

editor@thejambar.com

MAJORS page 1

Junior Jennifer McAllister has changed her major several times. Initially as a freshman, she was a psychology major, but after her first year changed to family and consumer sciences. Finally in the second semester of her sophomore year, she switched to family and consumer studies with a minor in psychology.

"I realized there were certain things I didn't like about my major," McAllister said. "Luckily, I didn't have to make up too many classes. It all worked out in my favor."

Additional reporting by Emmallee Torisk

editor@thejambar.com

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## Staff and students give back to hard-working Debartolo janitor

Emmalee C. Torisk  
REPORTER

Although you may not know her by name, Katherine "Miss Kathy" Murrell is as familiar a fixture in Youngstown State University's DeBartolo Hall as the outdated bright orange sofas and triangular ottomans in the building's first floor lounge.

As the sole daytime janitor in the six-story building, Murrell is responsible for cleaning the entire space and is seldom spotted at rest. Murrell, who frequently dons a colorful smock, says she is often told she does her job better than other campus janitors.

From tidying up restrooms with the help of her ever-present cleaning cart, brimming with brushes, brooms, trash bags and various cleaning sprays, to picking up randomly abandoned books and wiping down tables, Murrell said she does whatever is needed to keep the building clean and is nearly always working to ensure that.

Even so, as a self-proclaimed "people person," Murrell is rarely too busy to stop and chat with any and all students or staff, if only to wish them a good day. This combination of hard work and friendly demeanor has made Murrell a favorite janitor on campus, as well as a friend to students and a genuine member of the DeBartolo Hall family.

With a grin, Murrell said the people in DeBartolo, both staff members and students who pass in and out, have her spoiled. Although constantly commended for her quality of work and the way she does it, Murrell's praises

extend far beyond friendly conversations and a regular barrage of compliments.

Students, whom she describes as "really nice kids," know her name and strive to include her or make certain that she feels appreciated for her work. In particular, Murrell remembered one time last year when students brought boxes of pizza into the DeBartolo lounge, but made sure to give her a few slices, as a sort of thank you gift for cleaning up after them.

Senior Lauren Kilpatrick-Matthews said from her experiences, Murrell has always been extremely friendly and talkative toward her.

"She asks me how my day is going and tells me to have a good day. I've never noticed anything dirty in DeBartolo," Kilpatrick-Matthews said. "She does a really good job."

Freshman Stephanie Vogel echoed those same thoughts.

"She is really nice and always talks to people," Vogel said. "I'll be walking up the stairs and she will say, 'Hi! How are you?'"

DeBartolo Hall staff members also appreciate her friendliness and strive to include her in nearly everything as well, mainly by inviting her to their parties and other events throughout the

school year.

"They make sure I don't miss out," Murrell said. "They appreciate the stuff I do for them that I don't have to do."

Murrell said they also always surprise her with gifts, including a "so cute" specially made T-shirt and even presents for her birthday and holidays.

Murrell recalled one year where the faculty members from a department in the building all put in money for a gift. When all was said and done, the gift amounted to more money than Murrell received for a month on her paycheck.

"I've never heard of that," Murrell said. "People don't do that for me. I couldn't believe I was at a place where they do stuff for the cleaning person."

Before DeBartolo Hall, Murrell began her work at YSU with a janitorial position in Kilcawley Center, but was disappointed by a lack of hours and actually threatened to quit because she was not making enough to pay her bills. However, her boss at the time encouraged her to stay because of the possibility of openings elsewhere on campus. Soon after, Murrell found out about a similar position in DeBartolo Hall with more hours, applied, got the job and began

working there a couple weeks later. That was a few years ago, but Murrell still thinks of DeBartolo Hall as her ideal work environment.

"I mostly like everything here," she said. "I'm happy with it."

The only problem? The messy men's restroom. According to Murrell, "anything's possible with guys," including gross activities like spitting on the floor. However, Murrell said she does notice the women's room gets bad occasionally as well.

Even so, she said most of the time she does not have too many problems with students. Murrell even gives students credit; she said they are "not bad," and that the condition of some buildings on campus is far worse than her own.

Though Murrell works at DeBartolo Hall Monday through Friday, some days her work does not stop there.

An avid volunteer, Murrell has several elderly clients whom she assists with daily tasks, such as cleaning and running errands. Typically, she does this on the weekends or directly after work. If she made a promise in advance, but is not feeling up to it when the time comes, Murrell explained, she still sticks to her word. After all, she would want the same for herself, and said she believes good things come to you when you help others, especially the elderly.

"I treat people the way I want to be treated," Murrell said. "Give respect if you want the same thing back."

Although it seems like Murrell is constantly working, she

said she has always liked to do so. Never one to sit back and wait around for a check, Murrell prefers to just work and make the money on her own. Describing herself as someone who has to work, Murrell has had a job since the ninth grade.

A lifelong Youngstown resident, she has worked at various places around the area like Wetherby Coats, various restaurants and a factory that manufactured swimming pool covers. Her most recent job before YSU was Mahoning Avenue's Village Discount Outlet. Though she worked as a cashier there for four years, Murrell found she prefers to work at steady-paced jobs and ones where she has constant interaction with others.

Despite her numerous occupations, Murrell has never had a few days or weeks in between them, aside from the one year she took off to be with her newborn son, who is now 33. If she is unhappy with one work situation, she will put in applications and call them, instead of waiting for them to call her, she said.

"I can't do nothing," she said, adding that she tries to keep busy in all facets of her life, including making sure

her house is as clean as DeBartolo Hall.

Aside from work, Murrell enjoys playing bingo or trying her luck at scratch-off lottery tickets. In her younger days she liked to go clubbing, but now she sticks mainly to bingo.

No matter what she does, though, she has to stay active and attributes this to her youthful attitude.

"You're only as old as you feel," Murrell said, adding that although she is 53 years old, she has hardly any wrinkles and does not wear makeup. "I'm just going to keep on living and working."

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**"I treat people the way I want to be treated. Give respect if you want the same thing back."**



Katherine Murrell, janitor



## Shoppers flocking to thrift stores

Bethany Clough  
MCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Maybe it's the \$10 Abercrombie T-shirt. Or the \$150 drop-leaf dining table and chairs. Or just maybe it's the \$5 Hello Kitty overalls.

Whatever the draw, customers are flocking to resale shops a sector that includes thrift stores, consignment shops and others. And sales are up dramatically.

Bad economic times are driving the traffic, experts say.

"Whenever there's a slow economy and the word 'recession' starts getting thrown around ... of course resale (sales are) one of the first things that comes up," said Adele R. Meyer, executive director of the Michigan-based National Association of Resale & Thrift Shops.

A survey by the association of its members found that 75 percent reported sales increases in April. The average increase in sales was about 30 percent. A more recent survey is turning up almost identical results, Meyer said.

Plato's Closet in Fresno, Calif., which sells used clothing geared toward teens, also is seeing a 30 percent increase compared with last year, assistant manager Britanni Piccolo said.

The store sells brands that many teens seek out, such as Abercrombie T-shirts the mall store sells for up to \$40. They sell for \$10 at Plato's Closet. High-end True Religion jeans sell for \$65 at the shop, but between \$200 and \$300 in other stores.

Customers like Robin Allen, 25, of Fresno have less money in their pockets these days. Allen is a server at Piazza Del Pane, and in the past took home \$70 to \$80 in tips. Now he brings home \$40 to \$50.

"Right now it's really hard on everybody," said Allen, who

still hit the mall last week. About Plato's Closet, however, he said, "I can always find something that's my style, my brand and it's cheap."

Because cash is tight, sales at luxury stores, department stores, even regular apparel stores are declining. All those categories declined between 3.5 percent and 5.5 percent during the first nine months of year, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers.

Resale shops join discount stores and wholesale club stores, such as Costco, as retailers that do well during economic downturns. Sales at discounters such as Target saw a 2.4 percent increase and wholesale clubs saw an 8.1 percent increase.

Off-price retailers such as Ross, Marshalls and T.J. Maxx also have reported increased sales.

Gwynn Clark, owner of Repeat Performance, a consignment shop on Van Ness Avenue in Fresno, said off-price retail stores still charge more than many consignment shops. Still, she said she has lowered prices about 25 percent to compete with discounters and off-price retailers, and sales are up about 12 percent recently.

"When you can buy things new at retailers for \$5, \$6 or \$7, places that are selling resale have to respond in kind," she said.

At Goodwill Industries, sales at San Joaquin Valley, Calif., stores during the first eight months of the year were up 6 percent compared with the same period last year, said Sally Wooden, director of public relations for Goodwill Industries of the San Joaquin Valley.

"In the retail business, any time you get 2 or more percent, you're pretty happy," she said.

Tough times also bring new customers who never shopped resale stores before, said Meyer of the resale association.

About 80 percent of her members saw an increase in new customers.

Sandi Meza, director of retail for all 13 Goodwill stores in the San Joaquin Valley, said some people say they didn't know Goodwill had a store in their city.

"The economy draws them in, but once they're here, people are usually pleasantly surprised with the quality of merchandise on the sales floors and they want to come back," she said.

The nonprofit organization, which uses its income to pay for job training and other services, is trying to be more like conventional retail stores.

We "don't want our shoppers to feel like they're in a thrift store," Meza said.

"We don't like to look at ourselves as a last-resort shopping facility. We consider ourselves a regular part of the economy."

The store is buying more overstock goods at discounts - about 12 percent of its merchandise is new - including children's clothing and Halloween costumes.

Donations are up, as well, according to Goodwill.

Other factors play into the increase at all resale shops, too, workers say. The public is becoming more aware of the importance of recycling, label lovers continue to search for designer brands at cheaper prices, and people are becoming more savvy about tax deductions from donations.

And young people who create their own styles - as 19-year-old Kenya Cavazos of Fresno and her friends say they do - scour thrift shops regularly for unique clothing.

Cavazos said tough times probably will bring more style-conscious shoppers to the resale shops.

"It probably is a double boost because of the economy and the trendy style," she said.

## 'Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist' is smart new age romantic comedy

Roger Moore  
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL



"Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist" is one of those magical, near-perfect youth romances, a film that so vividly reminds you of the glories of young love that you wish you were 18 again, full of hope, not jaded by life and love lost.

Sassy, savvy and wistful, it throws two strangers together for one wild, unsupervised night in Manhattan, a night of searching for a lost, drunken friend and a mysterious, mythic band about to play an impromptu gig, of nightclubs that apparently never card anybody because these kids are too young to drink.

But that's OK. They're both "straight edge" types, as in edgy, hip kids who don't do drugs, booze or tobacco.

Nick (Michael Cera) has just been dumped. Norah (Kat Dennings, adorable) is alone "again" at a bar where Nick's band is playing. She goes to school with Nick's ex, Tris (Alexis Dziena, believably needy and cruel). She's been picking Nick's soulful mix CDs out of a trash can the trashy Tris has dumped them in. Imagine her surprise that the

guy she begs "Be my boyfriend for five minutes," just to impress Tris, turns out to be the sensitive, cute but still shell-shocked Nick.

Norah has a pal, Caroline, transformed by actress Ari Graynor into the funniest underage blond drunk in New York City. She goes off with Nick's gay bandmates (a cute touch), who lose her. And Nick and Norah - whom the band (Aaron Yoo and Rafi Gavron) and we know were meant to be together but who can't seem to connect - must dash hither and yon through the night in Nick's battered yellow Yugo, which every drunk in Soho thinks is a taxi.

There's a lot more of "Juno" about this Peter Sollett film of the Rachel Cohn/David Levithan novel than just the casting of the boy-nextdoor Cera in it. The dialogue is glib and too-too cute, full of

put downs and hipster-kid jargon about "JAPS" (Jewish American Princesses, which Norah kinda-sorta is) and "bridge and tunnel" boys (non-Manhattanites).

She's "Englewood, up to no good," and he's "Hoboken, no jokin'." It'll never work.

Except that we know it will, despite the wild odyssey Caroline leads them on, staggering from train station to gutter to toilet, re-using the most disgusting stick of chewing gum in the history of the Big Apple.

It's smart. It's romantic. It's not coarse, crude, sexist or homophobic. It's "High Fidelity" meets "Sixteen Candles," not that your average teen will spot that. But they won't need to. "Nick and Norah" is now, their generation's "Say Anything." Don't let them keep it to themselves.





**OUR SIDE EDITORIAL**

## Give us unbiased news

**RELATED STORY**

COVERAGE, page 1

THE JAMBAR EDITORIAL BOARD

When elections come down to a few hundred thousand votes, it's even more important that those votes be informed.

Voters rely on news media to arm them with facts, not to steer them in a certain direction.

Coverage of candidates, like all news, is supposed to be an unbiased collection of facts. The leanings of the reporter are never supposed to be apparent.

This is because citizens rely on a free press to ask tough questions of everyone equally. There should be transparency on all sides of an issue, and no viewpoint or political party should be given a pass.

During this election cycle, as with many others, there have been numerous instances of the media figures displaying their preferences.

Most recently, Gwen Ifill of PBS was tapped to moderate the vice presidential debate between Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin and Delaware Sen. Joe Biden, despite having written a book entitled "The Breakthrough: Politics and Race in the Age of Obama" in which she openly praises the Democratic nominee.

Other instances have included ABC's Charlie Gibson distorting a Bible verse recited by Palin to sound like an endorsement of holy war.

These distortions exist across the political spectrum.

In a study conducted by liberal watchdog group Media Matters for America, conservatives outnumbered liberals on Sunday morning talk shows 58 percent to 42 percent during George W. Bush's first term.

It is inappropriate for the media to distort anyone's words. In effect, it takes away their right to expression. Furthermore, it violates trust between the public and the media.

We hold our press to a high standard. Part of that ideal is letting the people decide for themselves.

**OUR SIDE POLICY**

The editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor and news editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and draw on the opinions of the entire writing staff. The Jambar's business manager and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

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The views of this syndicated artist do not necessarily agree with those of The Jambar.

## Americans need to be asking hard questions

Jack Z. Smith  
 MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Prior to joining the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in 1977, I worked for a newspaper in the North Texas town of Sherman. One of the few perks that the paper offered was a big Butterball turkey for Christmas.

I knew times were tough during the 1974-75 recession when that perk was downgraded. My wife, Nina, couldn't conceal her disappointment when I came home not with the prized Butterball but instead with the newspaper's cheap substitute gift: a puny little Cornish game hen about the size of a softball.

That's when the recession really hit home for me.

I hate to lay the bad news on John McCain and Barack Obama, but whoever is sworn in as president on Jan. 20 can expect a brutally difficult 2009. Some economists are forecasting a real turkey of a year. To me, it's looking even worse — a Cornish game hen year.

Indeed, the chickens are finally coming home to roost, due in great part to America's many irresponsible actions, both collectively and individually. It looks as if we're headed not only for a national recession, but also a global economic downturn. The world's financial markets are in a debilitating dither, the U.S. stock market has been cratering since October, energy prices re-

main high and America has lost 605,000 jobs in the past year.

We're finally starting to pay the price big-time for these sins:

Record federal budget deficits under President George W. Bush, resulting from excessive tax cuts coupled with runaway spending exemplified by the needless war in Iraq.

Our failure to craft long-term funding solutions for Social Security and Medicare, two potential disasters looming ever closer on the horizon.

Ineffective energy policy, with a gross under emphasis on energy conservation and developing alternative energy technologies, as well as a failure to sufficiently expand domestic oil and natural gas production.

A housing crisis fostered by greed, a lack of accountability and absurdly lax lending standards.

A health-care system that somehow manages to be both high-cost and exclusionary, leaving 46 million Americans without insurance.

A business mentality that lavishes excessively large compensation on CEOs (even when they fail), while often treating low- and moderate-income workers as dispensable grunts who don't merit health insurance and sometimes don't even get any paid vacation after a full year's work.

A federal government, plagued by bitter partisanship and gaping ideological divides between Democrats and Republicans, that

appears unable to deal with major issues until they become national crises.

America also needs to re-examine its moral fiber.

We need to ask ourselves whether we are increasingly becoming a nation of selfish, shortsighted people who lie about our incomes to avoid taxes or buy homes we can't afford; irresponsibly ring up huge credit-card debts in our quest for instant gratification; insist on cutting federal income tax rates and expanding deductions but aren't willing to take the tough fiscal actions needed to slash federal budget deficits; complain about high energy costs but buy 4,000-square-foot homes and drive behemoth gas-gulpers; and fail to vote in local elections but gripe when City Hall doesn't do what we want.

President Bush suddenly has discovered, as has Republican presidential nominee John McCain, that the economy is in the pits. Hence, Bush is pushing for a \$700 billion financial bailout, with U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson as the chief pitchman.

But even if the bailout is approved, there will be many more home foreclosures, job layoffs, business failures and homes that owners can't sell without taking a financial bath.

Instead of a big Butterball on the Christmas dinner table, we could be nibbling on Cornish game hen.

## Sarah, talk; Joe, stop

McClatchy-Tribune  
 NEWS SERVICES

John McCain is still keeping running mate Sarah Palin far away from reporters and their pesky questions. In New York this week, Palin hobnobbed with foreign leaders and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, all in a news-free cocoon that allowed only the briefest glimpses for photographers and imposed a virtual blackout on questions from reporters.

You have to wonder, why is the McCain campaign so afraid?

Maybe Palin isn't a whiz on international affairs yet. But she certainly couldn't be any more gaffe-prone than her Democratic counterpart, Joe Biden.

He's living up to his reputation as a human gaffe machine.

Biden, commenting this week on the Wall Street crisis, said we should learn from FDR. "When the stock market crashed, Franklin D. Roosevelt got on the television and didn't just talk about the, you know, the princes of greed."

Oops! FDR wasn't president when the stock market crashed in 1929. And nobody had TVs back then.

Biden recently suggested that Hillary Clinton might have been a better choice than him for vice president. (Now he tells Obama!)

At a Democratic rally, he ebulliently urged a wheelchair-bound state official to "stand up."

He said one of the Obama campaign's anti-McCain ads was "terrible."

He told a stirring story of how a helicopter he was riding in was "forced down" on "the superhighway of terror" between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Turns out it had to land because of bad weather. "We were going to send Biden out to fight the Taliban with snowballs," joked fellow passenger John Kerry ... Other than getting a little cold, it was fine.

Oops! Oops! Oops! Oops!

The mistakes and misstatements can be telling. We know Joe Biden is given to exaggeration. (He's also proof of the classic Michael Kinsley line, "A gaffe is when a politician tells the truth.")

And Palin? Well, we learned this week that she knows the name of Afghan President Hamid Karzai's child (Mirvais), and what it means (light of the house). But as Andrew Sullivan of the Atlantic noted, in the last few days Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has given more press conferences than she has.

Voters don't demand or expect perfection on the campaign trail. The McCain campaign really needs to let her be heard in more forums where she isn't heavily scripted. One vice-presidential debate and a couple of TV interviews won't cut it.

She'll probably have a gaffe or two. But even then she'll have a long way to go before she catches up to Joe Biden.



## How did you choose your major?



Cierra Sterbian, freshman

"I chose mine because I'm good with kids and I love children. I want to be a pediatrician."



Elizabeth Upshir, junior

"I'm education and it's because I don't have to study for the classes I take."



Ryan Dutton, freshman

"I don't really know. My major is marketing."

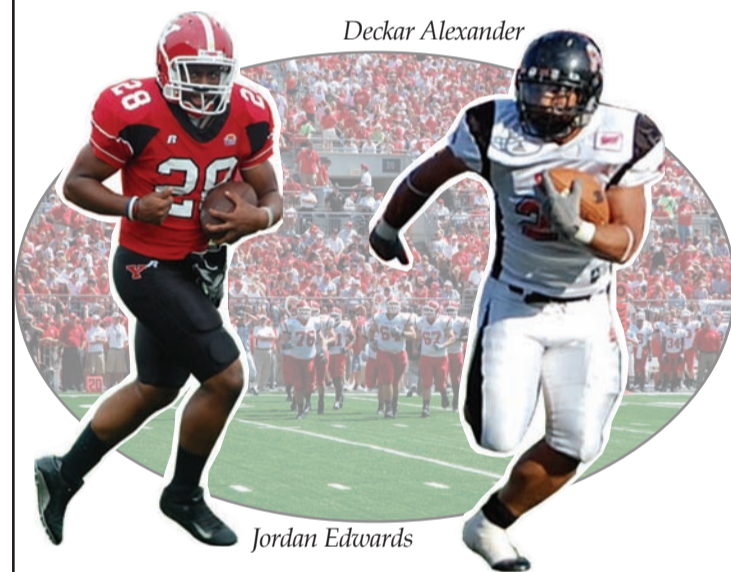
## IMPACT MATCHUPS



Kamryn Keys

## Penguin Offense vs Thunderbird Defense

While the Penguins had success through the air against the Liberty Flames, the running game was non-existent after two solid weeks of production. As head coach Jon Heacock said before, running is critical, and it will be critical to get the ground game back on track at Southern Utah. Look for redshirt freshman Kamryn Keys to play a major role if junior Jabar Scott is not fully recovered from the injury he suffered against Liberty.



Jordan Edwards

## Thunderbird Offense vs Penguin Offense

Southern Utah had its most successful game of the season offensively and sophomore Decker Alexander had a major impact in the Thunderbirds 34-20 win over Texas State. Alexander carried the rock 32 times for 114 yards and a touchdown as the team rushed for a grand total of 199 yards. Look for the Penguin linebackers to shut down Alexander and force the Thunderbirds to take to the skies on offense.

## Penguins prep for grudge match

*Despite injuries and losses piling up, the Penguins remain confident in their quest to capture the conference crown and a playoff berth.*

Andrew Berry  
SPORTS EDITOR

Despite its record falling to 2-3 after losing a heartbreaker to Liberty University, the Youngstown State University football team hasn't lost hope.

The team has suffered two non-conference losses to the Ohio State University and Liberty. With only one conference loss thus far, the Penguins are still in the running for the Missouri Valley Football Conference title, and winning the conference championship would mean an automatic berth into the playoffs.

Brad Samsa, a senior on the offensive line that has been part of the Penguins' past playoff hunts, believes the team's goals are still attainable despite struggling through the early portion of the schedule.

With six games remaining against conference opponents, Samsa pointed out that nearly every team has a loss thus far and the parity within the division can work in the Penguins' favor.

"The last place team could beat the first place team any week and that's how it is," Samsa said. "You just have to keep playing every week knowing there's a chance in the conference."

Through the first month of the season, the Penguins have been decimated by injury. Saturday's defeat to Liberty resulted in both a loss in the record books and a further loss of personnel.

Sophomore fullback Kyle Banna suffered a serious injury after his knee was struck with a defender's helmet Saturday and could possibly miss the rest of the season. If the final diagnosis prevents Banna from suiting up again, he would join seniors Mychal Savage and Jarvis Richards on the list of players that have been lost for the year.

Along with Banna, the Penguin running backs have taken a beating in recent weeks and the offense is still without junior run-

ning back Kevin Smith.

Samsa said the amount of injuries the team has suffered this season has been the most the senior lineman has seen since joining the program. Faced with adversity, Samsa said the Penguins can overcome the odds if the squad plays as a unit.

"As long as we stick together, there's nothing we still can't accomplish that we want to accomplish," Samsa said. "It's still there that we can win the conference."

Before the Penguins can return to conference play, the team will square off with the Southern Utah University Thunderbirds on the road Saturday.

Last season the Penguins held on to a slim lead and escaped with a 23-22 victory after a field goal attempt by the Thunderbirds fell harmlessly to the ground in the final seconds of regulation.

Southern Utah is in a funk similar to the Penguins as both teams enter the weekend with 2-3 records. The Thunderbirds do have momentum on their side after picking up an impressive 34-20 win on the road against Texas State University.

The team failed to win a game last season but has already shown vast improvement under first-year head coach Ed Lamb. Head coach Jon Heacock said the teams are similar but the Penguins will be facing a talented team and a long road journey Saturday.

"They've had a season similar to us," Heacock said. "We'll have a tremendous challenge on our hands. We have a long travel."

Heacock hinted that the key to the game could be field position and special teams. The Penguin coach acknowledged the Thunderbirds' solid special teams unit and recalled watching film of the Southern Utah punter booting a 91-yard punt that rolled out of the back of the end zone.

But Heacock was also quick to address the adjustments the Penguins will have to make following

the loss to Liberty.

The Flames effectively shut down the run after the Penguins had enjoyed two straight weeks of a strong rushing attack.

"We did not play as sharp up front as we had been," Heacock said.

A dormant running game allowed junior quarterback Brandon Summers to flourish against the Flames. Heacock believes Summers is improving each week and is a dangerous threat under center while first-year coach Mark Spencer said Summers is a unique presence on the field because of his ability to turn a

broken down play into a positive gain.

Spencer, who works mostly with the running backs, will look to coach his unit back into form this week to give Summers and the Penguin offense more stability against the Thunderbirds.

Junior running back Jabari Scott is listed as the starter for Southern Utah, but was banged up against Liberty and finished the game with just three carries. Redshirt freshman Kamryn Keys could see an increased workload Saturday.

"Kamryn is the guy in my mind who is the edge player," Spencer said. "He can two-step you, he can make you miss and the thing I really like about Kamryn is his explosiveness."

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*"As long as we stick together, there's nothing we still can't accomplish that we want to accomplish,"*

Brad Samsa, senior offensive lineman

## League official offers clarity to Saturday's unclear call

Andrew Berry  
SPORTS EDITOR

It could possibly go down as the most infamous non-call of the season.

Tied 28-28 late in the fourth quarter of the Youngstown State University football team's home game against Liberty University, the Flames were driving toward a potential game-winning score when an incomplete pass suddenly became the biggest play of the contest.

With one minute to play and the ball on the 42-yard line, Flames quarterback Brock Smith threw a pass on first down that sailed high and out-of-bounds on the Penguins sideline. With no receiver in the vicinity of the pass and Smith having not left the tackle box, referees threw a flag and it appeared an intentional grounding penalty was about to be enforced.

After conferencing midfield with the officiating crew, referee Ron Snodgrass waived the penalty off. Ed Tschannen, coordinator of officials for the Missouri Valley Football Conference, said that waiving off the penalty for intentional grounding was incorrect.

"After reviewing the play, it is in my opinion that the [quarterback] was under duress and the referee erred in his judgement in making the call and Liberty should have been penalized for intentional grounding," Tschannen said in an e-mail.

Tschannen said that "a passer who stays between the tackles may not try to avoid losing yardage by throwing the ball to an area where no eligible teammate has a reasonable opportunity to catch the pass."

Tschannen explained that by inference, it is not a penalty if the quarterback is in danger of losing yards. After reviewing the play with officials, Tschannen said it was determined that no receiver could have caught the pass but the question of duress was what caused the referee to waive off the penalty.

The announcement of the penalty not being enforced brought down a rain of boos and YSU head coach Jon Heacock was visibly upset as the referee explained the reasoning for the penalty being reversed.

After bettering their field position, the Flames kicked the game-winning field goal with no time remaining for the 31-28 win.

In the postgame press conference, Heacock said the referee had told him that the quarterback "was not under duress."

During Tuesday's press conference in the DeBartolo Club of Stambaugh Stadium, Heacock sounded confident that it should have been a penalty.

"It became a critical call at that point in time because it's a loss of down," Heacock said.

The NCAA Football 2008 Rules and Interpretations manual identifies that it is not intentional grounding if the quarterback

throws an incomplete pass beyond the neutral zone extended if he is outside the frame of the normal tackle position and is in danger of losing yards.

Referees determined that Smith was not in danger of losing yards and therefore simply threw an incomplete pass despite being inside the tackle box and having no receivers within the vicinity of the ball.

Heacock said during Tuesday's press conference that the missed call alone was not ultimately responsible for the Penguins' loss Saturday.

"That's part of the game," Heacock said. "That's not why we win or lose."

After tying the game 28-28, the ensuing kickoff flew out of bounds giving the Flames superb field position at the 40-yard line to begin its drive for the game-winning score. With the kick going out-of-bounds, the Penguins did their own team damage before the questionable intentional grounding play occurred.

In response to the explanation provided by Tschannen, Heacock and his team are moving forward as they prepare for Saturday's contest against Southern Utah University.

"We appreciate the league reviewing that particular play thoroughly. We have moved forward and hope to use this as a learning tool in the future," Heacock said in an e-mail.

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## Volleyball squad set to spike two league foes

Andrew Berry  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Youngstown State University volleyball team is slated to play a pair of conference road matches over the weekend as the Penguins look to climb the ranks of the Horizon League standings.

After beginning 1-2 in conference play, the 8-5 Penguins have a chance to get over .500 beginning with a pivotal contest



TOUGH DIG — Freshman Amanda Gray catches the serve and sets the ball up for her teammates. The Penguins return to conference play Friday with Butler.

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Senior Ferlando Williams

PHOTO BY ANDREW BERRY / THE JAMBAR

PHOTO COURTESY OF RON STEVENS

PHOTO BY ANDREW BERRY / THE JAMBAR