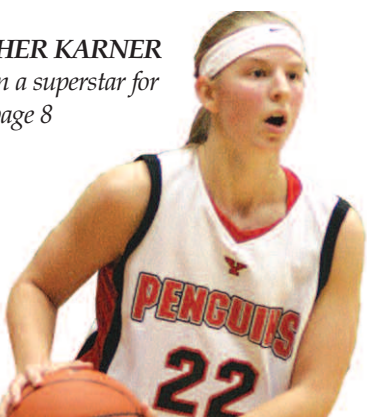


HEATHER KARNER has been a superstar for YSU, page 8



THE JAMBAR

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931.

CLINTON nomination not such a sure thing



THEJAMBAR.COM

VOLUME 90, ISSUE 25

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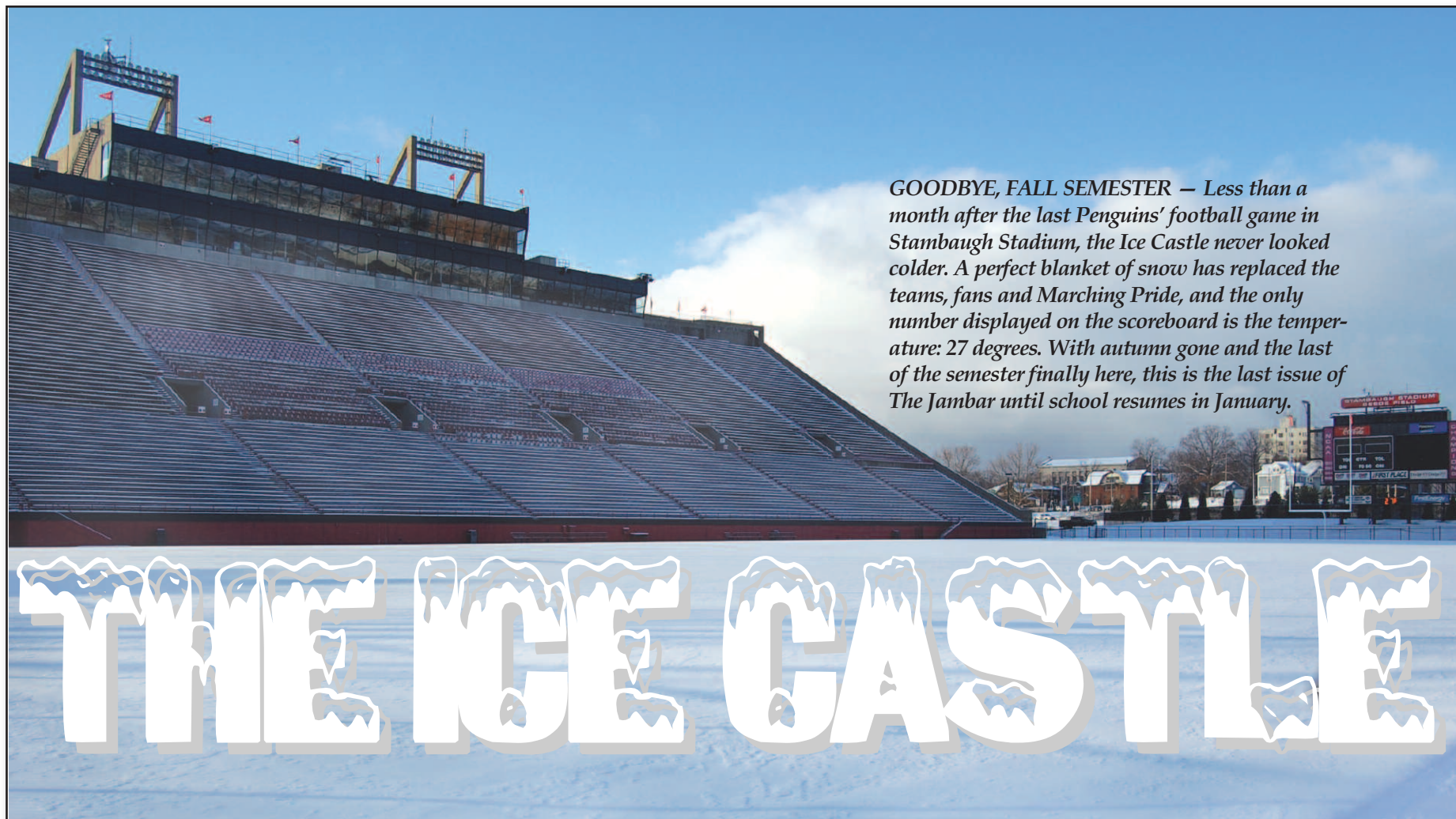
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Remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar.



GOODBYE, FALL SEMESTER — Less than a month after the last Penguins' football game in Stambaugh Stadium, the Ice Castle never looked colder. A perfect blanket of snow has replaced the teams, fans and Marching Pride, and the only number displayed on the scoreboard is the temperature: 27 degrees. With autumn gone and the last of the semester finally here, this is the last issue of The Jambar until school resumes in January.

PHOTO BY RICHARD LOUIS BOCCIA/THE JAMBAR

SERIES

Interview with a YSU trustee

YSU's NEOUCOM trustee talks

J. Breen Mitchell
Jambar Contributor

The Jambar spoke to Diane Bitonte Miladore after her recent appointment to the NEOUCOM Board of Trustees.

Q. Why do you believe you were chosen to represent YSU on the NEOUCOM Board of Trustees?

A. I have had a 30-year involvement with NEOUCOM. I began my first year of medical school in 1977 and graduated in 1981 as a member of the charter class. I am a proud alumna of YSU and NEOUCOM.

After residency training, I became a member of the clinical faculty in emergency medicine, became an instructor for the comprehensive clinical competency assessment, and a member of the admissions committee for Phase I at YSU, Phase II and advanced standing at NEOUCOM.

Presently, I am a parent of an M2 student at NEOUCOM and a

C2 student at YSU. This lengthy involvement will certainly bring a lot of history to the table in my present position as a Trustee.

Q. What do you expect to accomplish at NEOUCOM?

A. I expect to continue the mission of NEOUCOM, which is to graduate qualified physicians oriented to the practice of medicine at the community level with an emphasis on primary care: family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, and obstetrics/gynecology.

Additionally, the new College of Pharmacy is educating students from our area to assume the growing need for pharmacists. Finally, I expect to continue to offer affordable medical education to students, maintain the historical commitment with the original three consortium universities, YSU, KSU and AU, and secure funding for more research faculty, which in turn will lead to better health in northeast Ohio. Moreover, giving back as an alumna helps to assure a quality educational experience for the physicians who will follow.

BITONTE

Q. Are there any major changes expected on the horizon?

A. Changes: To expand and look for new partnerships with Cleveland State University in the BS/MD program, a current partner with the College of Pharmacy). In the future, the school may offer other professional doctorate degrees such as dentistry or nursing.

TRUSTEE page 3

Getting A's: It's not too late to pass the semester

Ashley Tate
News Reporter

This just in: You don't have to rip your hair out over the stress of looming final exams and projects. It is still possible to get A's in courses, even at the end of the semester.

Reading and Study Skills coordinator Karen Becker said one way to succeed at the end of the semester is basically to "stay calm and stay positive."

Many students stress out because final exams are approaching, but Becker offers some study tips that may help students ace those exams and projects.

"[Students should be] reviewing for finals. [They] should've started a few weeks ago. Use the syllabus as a clue to what's on the test and chapter reviews at the ends of chapters."

Senior Eric Daniels is a student who starts early.

"I usually study a week in advance and do a little at a time. If I try to cram it in, I don't retain any information."

Becker warns students against relying on professors to hand out study guides because some teachers don't.

Students should also take advantage of Web sites that correlate with classes and textbooks that include CDs. Making checklists of what needs to be studied can help too, Becker said.

These tips can be helpful for students who don't know how to study or have the best study habits.

Sophomore Jessica Tedesco said, "Honestly, I don't have any study techniques because I don't really know how to study."

Rewriting notes or changing them up can also assist with studying, Becker said.

"I use the example of the billboard you see a thousand times, then you don't see it anymore until they change it. Change your notes up. I'm not saying retype them, but make them organized so that they make sense to you," Becker said, so the information sticks wherever you see it, even after it's no longer in front of you.

Jay Kerns, assistant professor of mathematics and statistics, said

GRADES page 3

POLICY

Trustees may reduce refund window

Adrienne Sabo
Editor in Chief

If the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees votes accordingly at their next meeting, you'll have to be quick if you want your money back for dropping a class next semester.

Changes to the withdrawal date for courses at YSU will change the amount of time students have to drop a class and still receive a full refund.

In fact the trustees' decision will affect whether or not students receive any refund at all.

Beth Yeatts, interim director of student accounts and university receivables, said the new policy would allow students to drop a class up to 15 calendar days of the start of the semester to receive a 100 percent refund. After that date, students would not receive any refund.

The partial-refund policy that exists now would be eliminated if approved by the YSU Board of Trustees at the regular quarterly meeting Wednesday.

The new policy gives students additional time to drop a class and receive a full refund, but once that 15-day deadline passes, they're out of luck.

WITHDRAWAL page 3

STUDENTS

International students save big at Youngstown State University

Darlene Wagner
Jambar Contributor

Annette El-Hayek, international program coordinator at the Center for International Studies Programs is an import/export professional, but the commodity she moves is the human mind. She helps students make study abroad plans, and she takes her position very seriously.

Not only does she assist American students with study abroad programs, she also provides assistance to foreign students studying at YSU. She helps organize social events, clothing drives and other resources.

She has a network of families and friends that invite the students into their homes, giving them opportunities to learn American customs.

"It is important that they participate in activities off campus because they enrich our community so much," El-Hayek said.

One of the biggest misconceptions regarding international students is that they come to America and get a free education.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," El-Hayek said.

"These students have to show proof of financial responsibility to pay tuition, room, board, insurance and daily living expenses before they can even be considered for admission," she said.

According to Terry Hjerpe, secretary in the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, it is essential that foreign students have sufficient funds during their entire academic program.

The estimated cost for international students to attend YSU is \$16,609 per semester. Once the prospective student proves financial solvency, the university issues paperwork that the student can take to the embassy in their country to apply for a student visa.

According to the CISP Web site, tuition and fees for international students are among the lowest in Ohio for undergraduate and graduate students.

The university offers a limited number of academic and athletic scholarships, as well as numerous assistantships for graduate students. Students apply at their department of interest for work.

"Some international, non-citizen students are eligible for financial aid if they have an alien registration number, a permanent resident card or are seeking political asylum in our country. They have to meet federal regulations to qualify," said Hjerpe

Why YSU?

Currently, 153 international students attend the university. They come from countries as close as Canada and as far away as Taiwan. Of the 20 students interviewed, all agreed that YSU provides excellent educational opportunities at an affordable price.

Lagos, Nigeria is 5,675 miles away from Ohio. That's where Dare Banwo was born. For the past two years, he worked and saved, and shortly after his 25th birthday, Banwo made a life investment. He packed his bags, headed to America and became a YSU student.

His cousin attends school in Cleveland.

"I chose YSU because of the variable academics and it is much more affordable. [Youngstown] is a very quiet area. There is no hustle and bustle," he said, and he likes the noise level because he can relax more.

He said Youngstown also lacks the social problems of larger cities.

Banwo, a graduate assistant, said he was financially prepared to come here but he feels the lack of opportunity to work more than 20 hours a week is one of the downsides of being an international student.

"Limited work hours and only being able to work on campus does not give me a lot of opportunity to learn about the American work ethic and system," he said.

Amir Iqbal, a graduate assistant from Kuwait, previously attended college in Virginia. He learned of YSU from a friend. He too transferred here because of the affordability.

"I decided to come here because I know people here and it is much, much cheaper. I also like the multinational environment here in Youngstown," he said.

The Center for International Studies Programs hosts an international coffee hour every Friday in the first floor lobby at Jones Hall from 2 to 4 p.m. This event is open to all YSU students. El-Hayek's goal is to get more American students to attend.

"It is huge culture shock taking people away from their homes. By mingling, they adapt to our ways and get to know other students,"

Photo by Darlene Wagner/The Jambar



TO THE POINT

Sonja Williams to speak at annual Jabali African Cultural Celebration

Sonja Williams, coordinator of Upward Bound at YSU and wife of mayor Jay Williams, will speak at the eighth annual Jabali African Cultural Celebration on Friday in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center. There will be a social hour at 6:30 p.m. and a dinner at 7:30 p.m. Kent State University African Dance Ensemble and the YSU African Student Union are among the entertainment. Cost for the dinner is \$25, \$10 for students, or \$175 for a table of eight.

Salvador Barragan named new university archivist

Salvador Barragan, is the new archivist at Youngstown State University. The former director of government records at the Nebraska State Historical Society holds a masters' degrees in history and theology and undergraduate degrees in history and business. He was selected from a pool of 15 candidates in a national search.

Barragan replaces S. Victor Fleischer. Fleischer left YSU for a similar position at the University of Akron in the summer.

Holiday Breakfast reservations due

Payments and registration are due today by 2 p.m. for the 32nd Annual Holiday Breakfast. The Breakfast on Wednesday is sold out and reservations are only being accepted for the Thursday breakfast for the 8 or 8:15 a.m. seating.

Exam Jam to be held at the Wellness Center

Andrews Wellness and Recreation Center will be hosting Exam Jam, an escape for students featuring manicures, food, massages and games. Students must have YSU IDs to attend the event, which is Dec. 10 from 2-7 p.m.

YSU

Finding a job after graduation

Adrienne Sabo

Editor in Chief

They say the apple doesn't fall too far from the tree. At Youngstown State University, the saying rings true.

In the most recent study conducted by the Career and Counseling Center, the Graduate Employment Report for the 2005-2006 academic year, 82.4 percent of graduates with full-time employment did not relocate after graduation.

Bernie Cummins, director of the Career and Counseling Center, said in this area a high percentage of graduates stay here.

This most recent statistic is an increase from the 2004-2005 class with 80.2 percent staying in the area.

Only 8.7 percent of 2005-2006 graduates reported relocating out of state with full-time employment after graduation.

He said the report downplays the amount of students who might have relocated because those graduates are not contacted within enough time.

"When you lose contact, it's hard to relocate them," he said.

Cummins said this trend of staying in the area is not atypical of an urban institution like YSU and that he expects the percentage to decrease over time.

Ashley Anderson graduated from YSU in 2007 with a degree in psychology. She just finished her first week of work at Trumbull County Children's Services as a caseworker.

Anderson started her search for a full-time job in January and has just now landed one, with another offer from a job in Chicago after she accepted the position in Warren. She searched online to find jobs and said it is much easier to stay in the area because graduates have all of their resources here.

"I think a lot of people want to move out," she said, but many end up staying.

Anderson's search included Washington D.C., Chicago, Florida and the Valley. And she is not the only graduate having a hard time finding a job. Anderson said most of her friends, who have graduated within a semester of each other, are having the same troubles and have not found employment.

Before working for YSU, Cummins worked for a career center at a residential campus and said he had a much more "captivating audi-

ence" when it came to students coming for job-search help.

Betty Jo Licata, dean of the Williamson College of Business Administration, said she generally finds that YSU students want to stay in the area after graduating.

"I think our students need to explore options beyond our area," she said.

Every year, more than 250 students a year graduate from the WCBA. Licata said the area cannot absorb that amount of students and that the same is true of any area.

"The supply exceeds the demand," Licata said.

YSU President David Sweet said at urban institutions, like YSU, students have an affinity for the area.

He explained that while the university pulls in many Valley natives, its mission is to increase diversity, which extends beyond race and gender to geographic location, and that the university's recruiting efforts have broadened.

Besides the amount of graduates staying the area, the study also found that 65.6 percent of graduates from the 2005-2006 class are employed full time. This number is down from the previous class of 67.4 percent.

The percentages do not differ among genders, as they have in past YSU studies.

The report found 65 percent of female graduates and 67 percent of male graduates are employed full time. These numbers have increased from 51.9 percent for females and 67.6 percent for males in previous graduating classes.

A benefit of attending YSU is the work ethic of Valley natives, Sweet said.

"Our students come from working families," he said.

Cummins agreed that students who live and work in urban areas like YSU come out of college with a good work ethic and strong skills.

With a positive job market, it is important to begin the job hunt early.

Cummins said the biggest concern he has found with students is career direction. Students need to become more actively involved with the job search while still in school, he said.

He said he has found it typical of some students to finish a degree before beginning the job-search process. His advice is to incorporate the job search into senior year and treat it like a class. Spend a set amount of time each week on the

RESUME TIPS

The first step in any job search, and often a last minute effort by students, is building a resume.

Bernie Cummins, director of the Career and Counseling Center said one of the most serious problems with students, and any individual, is putting off the resume till the last minute. He said a proper resume should have drafts, revisions and critiques.

"You really need to let it take shape and work at it," he said.

His advice is to treat a resume like a small school project and spend the time developing it.

Cummins also recommends that students create their own resume design instead of using a template because they often have a limited format.

"Students are so computer literate now, take a clean document and do it yourself."

When building a resume try to keep it to one page. If it is more than one page, there might be information that could be deleted.

Cummins said while students do list relevant courses on their resumes, recruiters typically know what coursework is required. He said students can list any electives that they took that support their major or desired profession.

Think of it as a communication tool with an employer and get feedback from professors and others who can be critical of it.

Most importantly, Cummins said, "You don't want your resume to stand out for the wrong reason."

search.

Licata agreed that the process should begin early.

"Students don't always have the sense of urgency," she said.

Licata suggests students begin the search six to nine months before the intended start date.

Anderson said if she could do it all over again she would start earlier and try to prepare herself more with additional experiences in school.

Besides looking online to find a job, Anderson went through the phonebook and wrote down every phone number that had something to do with her desired profession. Once she compiled the list, she made a schedule of what she needed to accomplish each week.

After she made initial and follow-up phone calls to every number, she hand-delivered resumes and called each week to check up on the positions.

"I literally called until they said don't call anymore," she said.

Anderson's drive came from wanting to put her degree to use. She said she felt like she was wasting time.

Now that she's been hired, she

gives credit to her persistence. Anderson received three job offers in one week from employers who said they were looking for someone with persistence.

She said she wished during her senior year there was a class devoted to preparing students for the job market.

"I think a lot of people don't know how to get a job," she said.

Anderson had no guidance during her job search and said it was a weird feeling after graduating. "All of a sudden you have no one to tell you what to do."

Another option that's becoming a trend for graduates is continuing education with a graduate degree.

Of the graduates surveyed, 13.7 percent are pursuing full-time education, with over half working full or part time. Over 8 percent are continuing education on a part-time basis.

And over half those graduates continuing their education are attending YSU to do so.

Anderson said further education is something she plans to pursue, but for now she is comfortable with the work experience she will receive at her new job.

Internships can be part of career success

Adrienne Sabo

Editor in Chief

Whether an internship is required for a students degree or not, it can serve as valuable experience especially when it comes time to find a job.

Bernie Cummins, director of Career and Counseling Center, said from an employer's perspective, internships can be used a recruiting strategy, and interns are sometimes put to work on projects that might be on the company's back burner.

"It gives the organization a chance to evaluate the individual as a performer," he said.

According to a survey of companies by Experience, 65 percent of employers surveyed have internship programs and 22 percent are in the process of creating them.

Experience is a company that networks between employers.

The survey found that many employers bring interns back as full-time employees.

Betty Jo Licata, dean of the Williamson College of Business Administration, said more students need to pursue internships and get involved in the community.

"From a competitive standpoint it's more important for students to have more than one internship," Cummins said.

One of the things employers are looking for is past performance, which Licata said is the best indicator of future performance.

If a student has been active and involved, then that behavior will continue, she said.

"Employers don't care if you were a commuter or resident," she said. They want career related experience.

If a student does not have some career related experience while in school they will struggle one graduated, Cummins said.

He said it is much easier for students to make the sacrifice at the early end then getting caught in end without the experience and needing to make the sacrifice later.

Within the newly formed College of Liberal Arts and Social Science, Dean Shearle Furnish said one of the things he would like to establish is more requirements for internships.

"I think they're vital," he said.

Internships will help to make a student more attractive to employers and easily recruited and hired.

While internships are not a requirement for students in the College of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics, it can result in a quick job placement after graduation.

STEM Dean Martin Abraham said many student chose to participate in either internships or co-ops.

Internships are individually designed by the students and co-ops are set up with the Williamson College of Business Administration.

Students that choose an internship learn more about the day-to-day work in the field, things that aren't covered in the classroom, he said.

Students can also, "get a leg up an everybody else."

Abraham said most internships lead to a full time job after graduation, with most STEM students completing an internship in junior, and sometimes sophomore, year.

Students volunteer to serve non-profits

Laura Neely

Jambar Contributor

The students of Eta Sigma Gamma are asking you to take a test. The health education organization recently participated in an AIDS and HIV education awareness project where the students passed out literature about AIDS and HIV and asked people to take a free AIDS test.

Community service through classes and student organizations at Youngstown State University gives students a chance to gain hands on experience and profes-

sional development.

"They get to see what they are learning and anyone doing service must pass a content test, study the subject and participate," Kathleen Akpom, advisor to the organization, said.

The Hospitality Management Society does community service outside the classroom by getting students to interact with other students and professionals in group activities, such as luncheons, receptions and trade shows.

Marketing and advertising and public relations majors get a chance to take part in community service in the basic public relations course.

The project provides community service to non-profit organizations by students applying what they learned in class. This semester the class has worked with organ donation education. The marketing research class held a focus group and asked students to fill out surveys to research the myths of organ donations.

The public relations classes used the research results to plan events where people signed up as organ donors.

"Student benefits from this by applying information they learned from class to the world and the non-profit organizations benefit from

the efforts of the student," Jane Reid, marketing professor and campus director of the center of non-profit leadership, said.

The University Honors Program and the Leslie Cochran University Scholar program give students a chance to receive scholarships for doing community service. The 350 scholars are required to put in 60 hours a year in order to keep scholarships. Students have worked with the Boys and Girls Club, The Children's Museum, Beatitude House, Rescue Mission, Habitat for Humanity and the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Community service helps build resumes for YSU students

Laura Neely

Jambar Contributor

During the holiday season many college students volunteer to help their community. This volunteer work may help their careers.

Bernie Cummins, director of the Career and Counseling Center at Youngstown State University said, "Companies look at community service because they like to see people involved."

Service experience also demonstrates that a student has an interest in getting engaged with their community, a trait that many employers find attractive. "It builds connections and a good image for the company, when employees get involved with the betterment of life such as helping out at food banks, or working with Relay for

Life," Cummins said.

In addition to being a resume builder, community service gives students opportunities to develop skills that are important in a variety of careers, such as problem solving, public speaking and leadership. It can also add hands on experience to classroom learning, helping students to get a deeper understanding of civic issues.

Senior Nicole Caravella gained experience outside of the classroom during a required project for her basic public relations class. Through the class, Caravella and other classmates volunteered for the Donate Ohio program's "Do it Now" campaign for organ donation that runs at 17 colleges across Ohio.

Caravella's class broke up into two groups for the project, one for the community and one for the university. Featuring the tagline, "Give and

Let Live," her class was challenged to recruit 35,804 donors from Mahoning and Trumbull counties.

As part of the university group, Caravella and her classmates targeted Penguin Pre-Parties.

"We've just been trying to raise awareness about organ donation," Caravella said.

Though the project is a class requirement, Caravella said the activity shows that she did something important outside of her schoolwork.

"Companies always like to see that you're dedicated to something," she said.

Volunteering is important for resumes, since it shows employers that people are willing to give up their time, she said.

"It's a character-builder, too," she said.

Additional reporting by Sarah Sole.

thejambar@gmail.com

www.thejambar.com

Lost
Lost
Gone!

All items FOUND this semester, that are not claimed by the end of finals week, will be donated to area charities.

FOUND: Keys, cell phones, hats, gloves, books, bags, etc. The campus LOST AND FOUND is located at YSU Info on the upper level of Kilcawley Center.

Kilcawley Center
www.kc.yosu.edu

From **GRADES** page 1

going over material covered in class and reviewing past exams and quizzes are some important tips for studying for exams.

Students should "make sure they are comfortable with material because it's likely to appear on the exam," Kerns said.

Junior Megan Shimmer agrees with Kerns and notes the importance of reviewing material before attending class. She suggests that students get to know their classmates.

"Network and make friends in case you miss class; you have a study buddy. Study buddies make the world go round," Shimmer said.

Junior Nina Stanislav suggests, "Befriend the professor. Sit in the front of the room and talk, and not to your friend."

Attending class can have a positive or negative impact on students' grades.

Junior Brittany Thomas said, "To get an A, you actually should attend class."

Becker said she is an "advocate" for students attending class; she doesn't encourage them to miss, but explains that there are ways to be successful if students happen to miss a few classes for other reasons.

Attendance at the end of the semester may be beneficial for students because professors may hand out study guides or give hints to questions that may appear on the final exam, Becker said.

Kerns said attendance is associated with good grades, "however, just coming to class won't get you a good grade. It's not a cause-effect relationship. But

students come to class and get good grades anyway."

Planning and setting time aside to study can help students achieve A's in their classes, Becker said.

"Building routine is helpful." She uses the example of studying for math every Monday from 1 to 2 p.m. If something should come up, for instance, if a student has to pick his or her car up from the repair shop, then they should "swap" hours with something else, like TV time so that the one hour of studying isn't lost.

Homer Warren, associate professor of marketing, said when students have a time set aside to study, "your mind is geared toward work at that time."

Kerns said planning is an "essential" when it comes to getting good grades.

"A study plan is the first step for success in class," he said.

Becker said students should also plan time to reward themselves. Other tips she suggests include getting rid of negative thoughts and feelings such as "the teacher sucks" or "I'm not ready for this."

Students should stay positive, identify their roadblocks and then get rid of them because we don't function properly or as well if we are stressed, Becker said.

"Get that bowl of ice cream or go out with friends. Reward yourself for the little things as well as the big things," she said.

Additional reporting by Diane Platten, Jeanette DiRubba and Justin Mitchell.

From **TRUSTEE** page 1

Q. What does each school involved with NEOUCOM bring to the table?

A. Each school (YSU, KSU, UA) has a partnership with NEOUCOM. Each school brings 35 qualified pre-medical students to NEOUCOM each year. In addition, each school is allocated 15 slots in each pharmacy class.

Twelve YSU students entered the first class of 73 (started fall of 2007).

YSU also has seven courses in the masters of public health program taught by faculty in the nursing, health professions, mathematics/statistics and the geological/environmental sciences.

There are 10 YSU students currently enrolled in the masters of public health and 29 YSU graduates since May 2002.

KSU and UA also participate in the College of Pharmacy and masters of public health program.

Q. What student concerns top the list of trustees' priorities?

A. To obtain the best medical education possible to be able to perform well on National Boards Part I and Part II, and to obtain competitive residencies throughout the state and the country.

All of this is with the understanding that tuition must be kept under control.

Q. What role can the board play in ensuring smooth and successful contract resolutions in the upcoming negotiations?

A. To start negotiating early (this is already in the process) and to remain open to comments made by the administration and the unions during the process.

From **WITHDRAWAL** page 1

Yeatts said there are many reasons for the change, the most prominent being the new software system, Banner, and trying to streamline the process.

The 15-day count was chosen to place a specific amount of time that would not change and it is after the add date for courses.

She said more students would benefit from the change, because the amount of time for a full refund is lengthened and most students will drop a class within the first week.

Kaitlin Byers, a YSU freshman, said she drops one class a semester, and drops if she thinks she is going to fail and agrees with the new policy.

"I feel that's enough time to [decide] if the class is going to work," she said.

Other YSU students disagree with Byers. Sophomore David Boyer usually drops one or two classes a semester — within the first couple of weeks. He said he disagrees with the new policy.

"If you're in class for more than two weeks and find out that the

teacher's a d- bag, what are you supposed to do?"

Freshman Abigail Drost said students need more time to decide. "I don't think that's fair. The first week you basically do nothing," Drost said.

David Spatholt, Student Government Association president, also questioned the amount of time students have to drop classes. He said a better idea for students dropping classes would be to wait until a class meets 15 times, instead of 15 calendar days.

Beginning next semester the registration system will switch to Banner. Yeatts said from what she has seen of the new system, it is a much nicer process.

Yeatts said the last time the policy changed was when the university switched from quarters to semesters.

Students who withdraw from classes after the allotted time for a full refund can still file an appeal with the Fees and Charges Appeals Board.

Additional reporting by Jumal Brown.

www.thejambar.com

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Miscellaneous

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 7:30 - Dinner
 The Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center
 Youngstown State University

Keynote Speaker: **Sonja Williams**
 First Lady of Youngstown
 Coordinator of Upward Bound

Topic: Upward Bound as an asset to Youngstown State University

Entertainment By: Kent State University African Dance Ensemble, YSU Student Union and others

Dinner: \$25.00 per adult, \$10.00 for students and \$175.00 for a table of eight.

Attire: Semi-Formal or African For more information, call the Africana Studies Program at (330) 941-3097.

OUR SIDE Trustees: give students a break on refunds

How fast can you reach for your wallet? It better be quick if the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees approves a proposal to change YSU's withdrawal policy for course refunds. How quick? Fifteen-days quick.

If the trustees move to pass the change in policy, students will only have 15 calendar days to drop a course and receive a 100-percent refund, starting next semester. After that 15 days is up, we would be paying up for a whole semester's worth of classes ... for being a student of the class for a measly two weeks.

And this isn't even counting 15 class days; it's 15 calendar days. Let's use a Tuesday-Thursday class as an example. It would go a little something like this:

Class 1: Get syllabus. Go around group circle, state name, major and interesting personal fact. Leave. Class 2: Read from lame textbook. Class 3: Turn in easy assignment. Class 4: Decide from three previous classes if professor sucks, class isn't right for you, and/or whether you're going to fail it. (Be sure to tap into your psychic skills for this one.)

While the current withdrawal policy gives students incentive to decide as early as possible whether or not they want to drop classes, or drop completely out of a semester, this new policy exhibits an all-or-nothing theory that is simply not applicable to the way a class is administered.

Many times, students seek to drop classes because they are too challenging. Sometimes, the fact that a course is too hard is not apparent until students receive test scores or assignments. All teachers most certainly do not return tests to their students within the first 15 days of class. Some classes do not even have first tests scheduled within that time.

And sometimes we are not even far enough into the courses or textbooks to even realize what we've signed up for. We don't want to be in the class any longer than need be, but, as they say, time is telling.

Furthermore, some money should still be rewarded to students who reach decisions later than two weeks after class starts.

It's absurd to think 15 days is enough time to decide to drop a class we might need to drop further into the semester. Students choose YSU for its low tuition. This policy is an undue condemnation on YSU's part. And this is supposedly because the new Banner system can't handle the old policy? Gee, thanks for putting the students first.

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 the-jambar@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.

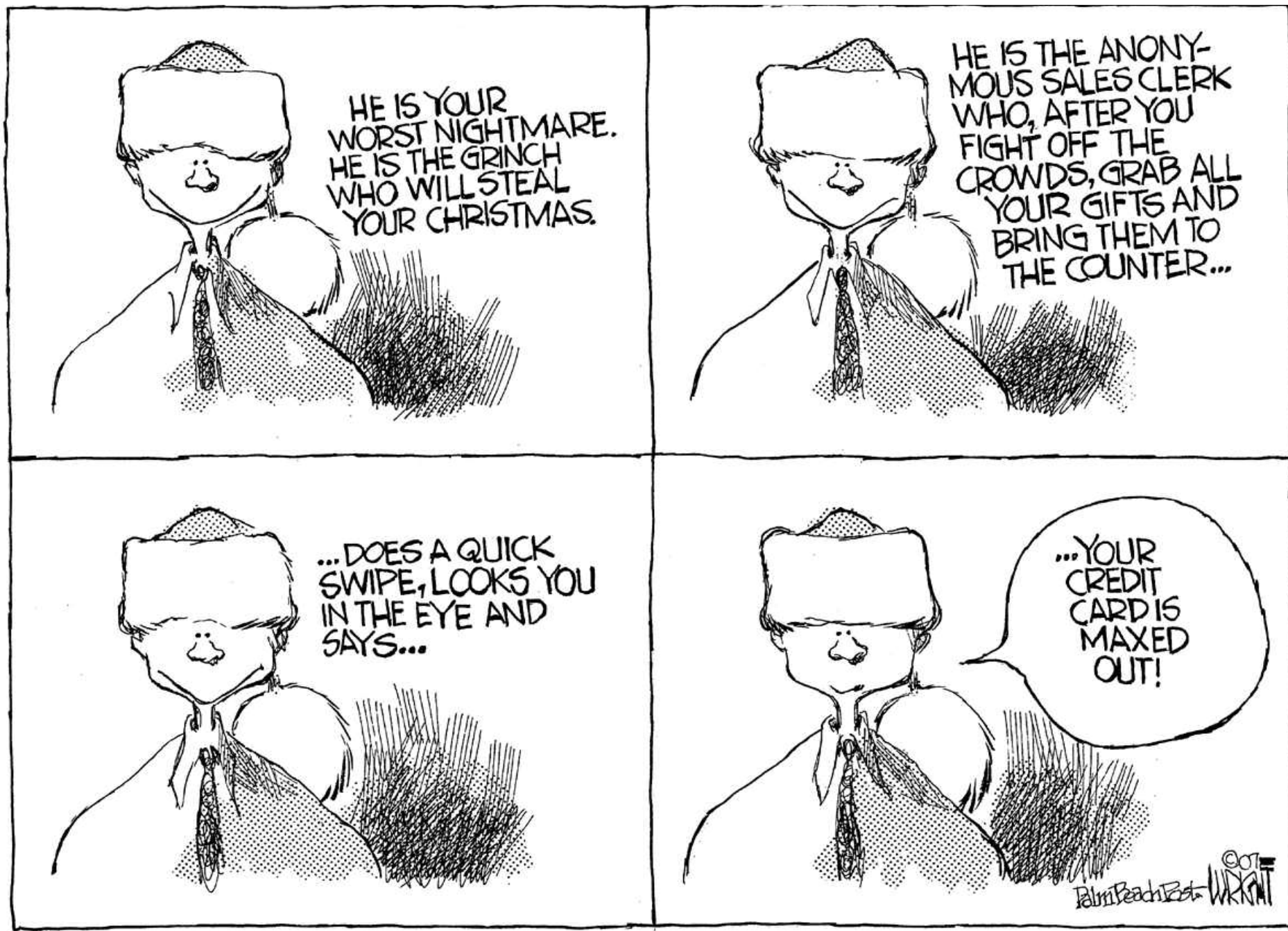
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The views and opinions expressed in published letters do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff or the faculty, staff or administration of Youngstown State University.

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

Clinton nomination not such a sure thing

Lee Bandy

McClatchy Newspapers

With her leads slipping, Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton suddenly finds herself embroiled in the fight of her political life.

Clinton could lose. Her once commanding lead has evaporated.

In mid-November, Clinton saw her lead in New Hampshire over her opponent Barack Obama — 23 points in September — fall to 14 points, according to a CNN/WMUR presidential poll. (Two subsequent polls found her lead had dropped to 12 points, then 11 points.)

The New Hampshire survey came out a day after another poll — this one in Iowa — found Obama, the U.S. senator from Illinois, taking over first place in that state, although his lead was within the poll's margin of error.

The news only got worse for the U.S. senator from New York as the days wore on. A new Zogby survey found that 50 percent of likely voters said they would never vote for Clinton, up from 46 percent in March.

Why? Voters don't like Clinton. If that weren't enough, the most recent poll taken of South Carolina voters, by Clemson University, had Clinton and Obama in a statistical dead heat.

A large number of voters remain undecided, however. Clinton has been at the top of the Democratic pack since Day 1 of the 2008 presidential campaign, casting herself as the inevitable victor. No one had come close to challenging her.

However, the most recent polls show the race for the Democratic nomination tightening a month before the first contest, in Iowa, that kicks off the state-by-state nomination battles.

Several Democrats have expressed concern about the former first lady's electability next November should she win her party's nomination. Obama, who would be the first black president in U.S. history, has stirred up enthusiasm among grass-roots Democratic activists. He attracts big crowds on the campaign trail. But for some reason he hasn't been able to break out of the pack. He has remained



Sen. Hillary Clinton answers a question during the Democratic presidential debate at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Tuesday, October 30, 2007. MCT Campus Photo

stuck in neutral.

Until now.

Thanks in large part to campaign gaffes, Clinton has given her foes an opening. Polls show her not doing that well with independents and younger voters.

"The questions about her electability have always been there," pollster John Zogby says. "This suggests that is a problem."

Front-runners generally can suffer one primary loss, says Emory University political scientist Merle Black. "But," he added, "two losses in a row would be difficult to survive."

Clinton is preparing to lose one primary. She is quietly building a firewall in New Hampshire — the "Live Free or Die" state — in case she loses Iowa.

Why? She can't afford to lose both Iowa and New Hampshire. If she did, that would be all she wrote. Meanwhile, the Clemson University Palmetto Poll shows S.C. Democrats — who will hold their party's third primary, if you count Michigan's disputed election — are having a difficult time making up their minds. At this late hour, nearly half — 49 percent — remain undecided.

"Voters in the state have not

started paying close attention to candidate activity ahead of the primary," said Joseph Stewart, chairman of Clemson's political science department.

He said most S.C. voters are likely to pay more attention to the candidates in January. "It's hard for the candidates to compete with Santa Claus," Stewart said, citing the holiday season as a distraction to voters.

The result of that distraction and lack of attention?

"South Carolina is up for grabs," he said.

In the past, candidates have lost Iowa and gone on to win their party's nomination and the general election. Among them have been Republicans Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

Despite those precedents, Clinton is in trouble.

In South Carolina, she is losing ground, said Bruce Ransom, a Clemson professor. "She can't run away from that. The question is: Can she stop the bleeding?"

That's a mighty tall order. Once a campaign starts unraveling, it's virtually impossible to put it back together.

What's it all mean? Hillary may not be inevitable after all.

COMMENTARY

The end of TV ... as you know it

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

On the morning of Feb. 18, 2009, some Americans will awake, flip on the television, and find ... nothing. Not a single channel in the vast sumptuous television banquet. Just snow.

They will wonder what happened. We will tell you what happened.

On that day — more than a year from now — TV stations will stop broadcasting an analog signal. In English, that means the old way of beaming television to the set, the way that millions of televisions still depend on, will cease. Only digital signals will be beamed. People will be slapping the box, and adjusting the ears and scratching their heads and blaming their teenagers. But it won't help.

If the deadline holds, about 20 million homes that rely strictly on antennas to receive free over-the-air broadcasting will suddenly go dark, the National Association of Broadcasters estimates. An additional 14.6 million households have cable in one room but also at least one antenna-powered television. In all, 69 million televisions will be affected, the association says.

So why are we telling you now, more than a year in advance? Well, for one thing, this is good to keep in mind for Christmas/Hanukkah buying season, particularly if you're in one of the households that rely on free analog television signals. For another, it's important that those who are shopping for a new TV make sure they know what they're buying. Some stores won't sell the analog sets anymore. But some will. Buying a new digital set is not the only way to stay connected after

the transition. You could also subscribe to a cable or satellite or telephone-company TV service provider and let it handle the details with your old set. Or you could buy a set-top converter box for \$50 to \$70 that allows you to watch digital programming on an analog TV.

The feds will even help pay for the converter box because they're commandeering the analog spectrum for advanced wireless services and public safety needs. Come Jan. 1, Americans can apply for as many as two \$40 coupons toward the purchase of converter boxes. (Call 1-888-DTV-2009 or visit dtvanswers.com for more information.)

Many Americans haven't heard of this coming change. Our guess: You'll be hearing about this a lot more. As U.S. Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., said at a hearing earlier this year, the lack of public awareness "scares me politically. There is no anger that comes close to the anger of an American that cannot get television."

She's right about that. You don't want to get between a television addict and his or her "24" or "Dexter" or "30 Rock" or "Friday Night Lights" or "The Office," "Reaper" or "CSI: Miami" or "Desperate Housewives" ... well, you make your own list.

For people who disdain television, who brag about not having one or about still owning a black-and-white set circa 1979, this is another reason to feel superior to the proles who sit slack-jawed in front of the set every night. What's the fuss, they'll ask snootily. High def? Who cares? Maybe they won't even replace the ancient television, content to believe that television is not necessary to live a fulfilling life.

Millions, though, will have to get ready for the great conversion.

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YSU

Three years later: Student lives one street over from where he was stabbed freshman year

Emily Thayer

Jambar Contributor

Looking down at the scar on his neck, Scott Kathary, a Youngstown State University junior, walks to class wondering if the guy standing next to him could be the same person who stabbed him during his freshman year.

"The jerk stabbed me and now I'm reminded of it every single day," Kathary said.

After attending his first YSU football game against Slippery Rock University in fall 2004, Kathary decided to stop by a party on Pennsylvania Avenue.

"Some random guy came up off the street onto the porch and put a knife to my neck," Kathary said.

Kathary said after he was stabbed everyone disappeared from the party. He rushed back to the Lyden dorms where his roommate took him to St. Elizabeth Memorial. He received nine stitches.

"I filed a police report, but nothing came out of it," Kathary said. "I don't know who the guy was or why he chose me."

Nobody was arrested for the crime.

According to the annual FBI crime statistics list of the nation's most dangerous cities published by Congressional Quarterly Inc., Youngstown has improved to 15th from 2006's ranking of ninth.

"It was ranked higher my freshman year when I was stabbed and I haven't seen improvement," Kathary said.

The Sept. 24 report looked at 378 cities with at least 75,000 people based on per-capita rates for homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and auto theft.

"Stats are stats, you can do what you want with the numbers," YSU Police Chief John Gocala said.

Detroit took over the number one spot from St. Louis, while Ohio alone accounted for four of the top 20 dangerous cities including

"Some random guy came up off the street onto the porch and put a knife to my neck."

— Scott Kathary, junior —

Cleveland (10), Cincinnati (16), and Dayton (19).

According to Ron Cole, manager of news and information at YSU, "Our campus has traditionally and still is safest in the state."

The perception of Youngstown across the country is that it's a dangerous place to live, but senior Kim Hanley said she feels YSU is not much different than any other college campus.

"I've been on several college campuses. It's just as safe here as it

is on other campuses, it's just our city has a bad reputation," Hanley said.

Hanley added that reputations are hard to change, especially for a city known as the "murder capital."

Cole said the university tries to show that despite a past reputation, campus is safer than people think. "Perceptions are not always reality," he said.

Kathary said this perception is a reality and after his assault he feels an individual can't ever be too cau-

tious of the people surrounding the campus.

One street over

Kathary, who attends YSU on a tennis scholarship, is originally from Columbus.

He now wakes up every morning in his Ohio Street apartment one street over from where he was stabbed.

"There is nowhere else to live at YSU," Kathary said. "My ideal choice of living arrangements does not exist in the city of Youngstown. There's no place that's safe or economical but I don't have a choice."

"Partnerships with the YSU and Youngstown police departments help strengthen the campus safety," Cole said.

Gocala said his hardest task is to fight the negative perceptions about Youngstown, but knows that crimes do happen but he does a proactive and aggressive job to fight crime at

YSU.

"Crime knows no person or place. If a criminal has a mind set to commit a crime, you can't stop them unless you see it before it happens," Gocala said.

According to the 2006 YSU campus crime reports, there were only two aggravated assaults and 11 simple assaults committed.

"Everything that happens happens off campus," Kathary said.

"Parties are held off-campus. No crimes happen on campus because most people live off-campus," he said.

YSU is a commuter school, but Gocala said it is important to let the police know what if anything out of the ordinary is going on whether or not you live on campus.

"We rely on faculty, staff, and students to report crimes," Gocala said. "If you see something that doesn't seem right call the YSU police department. Program the number in your phone and don't be afraid to make the call."

HOLIDAY

Stores market a 'green' Christmas with LED lights

Carol Polsky

Newsday

It's official: The White House Christmas tree is "green." So is the tree at Rockefeller Center.

Those trees will glow with light-emitting diodes — or LEDs — rather than the traditional bulbs of incandescent lights. Like driving a hybrid car and using recycling paper, stringing up LED Christmas lights is becoming a de rigueur gesture of eco-friendliness and environmental responsibility.

Retailers from high-end specialty shops to Home Depot and Target said the lights are also selling steadily. This year, customers have more LED offerings to choose from, and many seem willing to pay their extra cost in exchange for their energy efficiencies, vivid colors and longer lifespan.

Traditional incandescent lights glow when electricity passes through a filament in a glass bulb. Their colors come from the tint in the glass bulb itself. LEDs, on the other hand, are semiconductor chips, diodes that glow with the movement of electrons when activated by electricity. They don't burn out, they don't break and they don't get hot. Their red, blue or green color comes from a material at the diode's base, while white is achieved when strands of the three colors are combined.

"We have more styles this year than we ever had, as far as the shape of the bulb, the sizes, the colors," says Carrie Leopold, store director at Dobbs & Eder in Oyster Bay, N.Y., where customers were coming in with a Long Island Power Authority coupon giving them a \$2 rebate on LED lights.

"There are stars, acorn shapes, balls, snowflakes and LED lights in strings on garlands." One customer there, looking for a pre-lit Christmas tree, said she was open to LEDs if she could get the look she wanted.

"I'd say the eco-friendly (aspect) is secondary to looks unfortunately for me, but it is an important factor," said Cherie Hlady, an attorney who lives in Hicksville.

"I'm not making my own compost heap any time soon, but I try to be fairly green and eco-friendly," she added, "so I'd be willing to pay a little extra to do my part if I could get the look I wanted."

The cost certainly is a factor in LED sales: At Home Depot, a string of 100 clear minilights in traditional bulbs sells for \$2, while 50 LED lights were on sale for \$7.99. And at Walmart, a 7-foot-tall prelit tree cost \$59.84 with traditional lights — and \$92.84 with LEDs.

On the other hand, some Home Depot customers came in asking for the "bright lights" — meaning the vivid LEDs, said Sheriee Bowman, a New York-metro area spokeswoman for the chain.

"The LED Christmas lights are 80 percent more efficient, is how we are advertising it," she said, "and they last up to 20,000 hours or the equivalent of up to 20 years. We have 11 different styles for both indoor and outdoor use, and they are cool to the touch. ... Customers are coming in and asking for them. It's one of our most popular Christmas items this year."

Home Depot, as well as other big stores, offer interactive displays where customers can light both types of lights for comparison. Hlady, at Dobbs & Eder, said she saw little difference and would be happy with the LEDs.

Josh Thomas, a spokesman for Target, said the LED lights in those stores were selling "steadily," with the Farmingdale store, for example, reporting that the vivid blue and red lights were particularly popular.

The chain now also offers outdoor figurines in LED lights, such as a buck outlined in blue.

Neal Lewis, executive director of the Long Island Neighborhood

Network, an East Farmingdale-based environmental group with energy efficiency on its agenda, said the LEDs have caught on over the last two years with local stores. More stores are carrying them in greater variety, and stocking enough to meet demand. "It's the mainstreaming of an idea when you can find it at Walmart," he said.

He said that for most people, the energy and cost efficiencies of LEDs will mean savings over time for customers, although it may take several years to earn back their higher initial cost.

"If you look at it as a multi-year thing, then clearly that is where savings get to be more substantial," he says. LEDs are cool to the touch, lessening danger of burns or fire. Up to 20 strings of them can be put together. A string of them doesn't cease functioning if one light is defective. And they cost pennies to use during a season, versus about \$4.50 for a typical string of regular lights.

These advantages won't really apply to the tree at the RexCorp EAB Plaza in Uniondale, where Carol Allen, senior company vice president and organizer of the tree-lighting event Saturday, said that costs may actually be higher when they go green next year.

"We'd already purchased the lights for this year's tree," she explained, "so we could not go into an LED tree this year." Since the light cast by traditional and LED lights differ, the company may have to use more lights to get the same overall effect, she said. "We're studying it now. ... It may even cost us more to not only purchase but use the lights to get the same brilliance we want for the tree. But we are planning to do it because we want to be more energy conscious and eco-friendly."

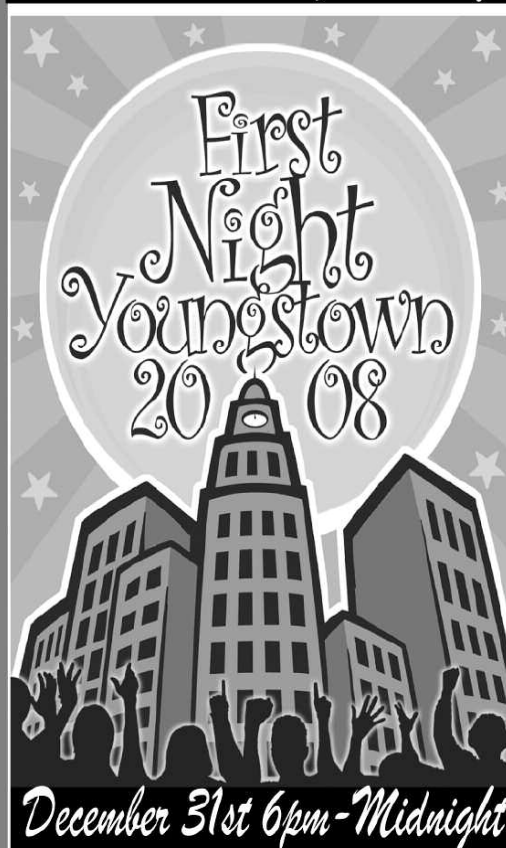
"Our goal is we want to match the same brilliance," she said. "We don't want to have a dull tree."

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FASHION



Aspasia Lyra, right, and models showing off some pieces from her store, Ohio Vintage.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ASPASIA LYRA



FASHION IS NEW AGAIN AT YOUNGSTOWN'S OHIO VINTAGE

Elizabeth Boon
Reporter

Shoppers who are tired of the same old chain clothing stores may find retail happiness in Youngstown's only vintage shop, Ohio Vintage. Featuring men and women's vintage clothing as well as pieces from local designers, the store mixes vintage and modern.

The store's owner, Aspasia Lyra, was inspired to open her own vintage shop on Market Street near Shields Road when Sassy Pants Vintage, a former vintage shop in Youngstown, closed.

"There was no vintage store here," she said. "Other college towns had vintage boutiques, but not Youngstown."

Lyra, who also sells vintage clothing on eBay, said she thought Ohio Vintage would fit in well with the new bars and restaurants that are opening as part of Youngstown's revitalization.

"In this town it's hard to do something creative and make money. When people buy their stuff it makes me happy," she said.

Lyra said that her shop is like a service for vintage seekers. She looks far and beyond thrift shops to find clothing for her store. She has even gone to the homes of people who are looking to get rid of clothing and is proud to offer clothing from blossoming Youngstown area artists.

Lyra looks for vintage pieces that are different, but still in style.

Popular vintage items for women include miniskirts and mini dresses. To Lyra's surprise, flannels are also big sellers.

"They are wearing them without a shirt underneath and with skinny jeans and pumps. They are also taking an old flannel and pairing it with a wide belt," she said.

Sequined holiday and party dresses are also top requests this season, said Lyra.

In the accessories department, pendants are very popular.

"They are beautiful and they stand out. You can throw one on and not think about it," she said.

The store also offers a wide variety of clothing for male shoppers.

"A lot of people told me not to focus on guys, but there are a lot of guys coming in. It's wonderful," she said.

While basics like sweaters and jackets have been selling for men,

vests are also trendy with Ohio Vintage shoppers.

"Vests are definitely coming back right now," said Lyra.

Lyra said some people can pull off wearing vintage clothes from head to toe, but most people are better off mixing.

"You can do all vintage. You just have to make it work," she said.

For people searching for vintage, the store offers many sizes.

"The sizes range from itty bitty small to plus sizes," said Lyra. "My demand is small and extra large for guys and girls. I do try to get bigger sizes."

Because the customers are mostly from high school and college, prices are kept low. Dresses are priced under \$60, and some shoppers have found prom dresses at the store.

The vintage clothing offered at the store is much lower priced than what it would be in a bigger city, said Lyra.

"If it's worth too much, I eBay it," she said.

Lyra is meticulous about the condition of the garments she sells.

"A lot of people have an image of thrift shopping in their head," she said about the cleanliness of wearing thrifted clothing. "If something has a spot or odor, I won't put it up. Everything is cleaned."

ENTERTAINMENT

Brothers and sisters bare their fangs on the big screen

Chris Vognar

The Dallas Morning News

It's that time of year when intimate strangers come over to eat large birds and drain your liquor cabinet. You know these people from childhood, but your lives have diverged since then. They have their own kids now, and their own interests that don't dovetail with yours. But here you are, ready to pretend to put all that aside.

We speak of siblings, those creatures from your past with whom you may or may not still be bosom buddies. If you are, it's all good. If not, you've got drama.

Drama, as we all know, is what makes the movies go 'round. And movies, among their countless other attributes, are great at making you realize maybe your sibling rivalry isn't all that bad. At least not compared with the barbed brotherly and sisterly love proffered in "Margot at the Wedding" and "The Savages."

Though they're technically comedies, "Margot at the Wedding" and "The Savages" are of a different kin. They have about as much sentimentality as a fine filet mignon has gristle. They thrust and parry in passive-aggressive combat, picking at an old wound here, reviving a petty resentment there. In the parlance of the day, they keep it real — so real you might fight the urge to flinch.

These aren't holiday movies per se, but by appearing between Thanksgiving and Christmas — that 33-day zone that has slowly become one long slog of joy — they elicit instinctive reflection, and perhaps a hearty sigh, "There but for the grace of God go I." That can be just as good as catharsis.

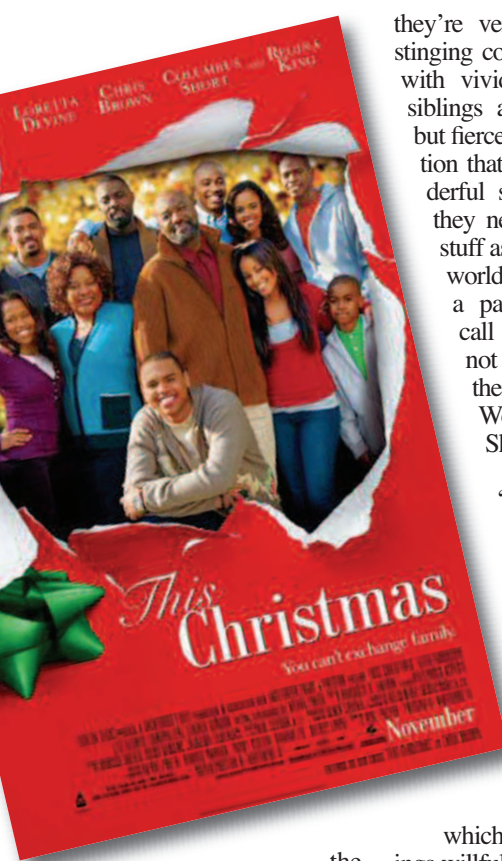
So bring your beloved sister out to see "Margot at the Wedding," and be glad your beloved sister isn't

Margot. As played by Nicole Kidman and written by Noah Baumbach (the man who birthed the blunt-object divorce drama of "The Squid and the Whale"), she carries a sharp verbal needle with which she habitually, quietly jabs whoever is nearest.

Sometimes that's her adolescent son Claude (Zane Pais), hauled by train to the Eastern shoreline where Margot's sister Pauline will be wed to an underachieving but somehow appealing slob (Jack Black). But usually it's Pauline (Jennifer Jason Leigh). These sisters have a history, and it wafts to the surface each time Margot, a successful but spiteful fiction writer, opens her mouth. The insults are artfully indirect, even obtuse, often filtered through a third party.

"Margot at the Wedding," like many families, operates in a reverberating echo chamber of recrimination. Enter at your own risk.

Then we have those bickering Savages. Jon and Wendy (Hoffman and Laura Linney) aren't mortal enemies, nor are they terribly close. But their dad (Philip Bosco) is dying, and he was never much of a dad to begin with — which doesn't get the adult siblings off the hook when it comes time to guide him through his final months. So they scoop him up from his sterile Arizona community, plopping him in a Buffalo nursing home (both siblings have settled, alone, far away on the East Coast), and go through the unseemly process of becoming angry kids again, like adults reduced to childhood emotions upon visiting youthful haunts for



the holidays. Sleepwalking through life, Jon and Wendy are jarred awake by old feelings they've long left out of sight and out of mind.

Jon, a Brecht scholar, is appropriately alienated. Wendy, a struggling playwright, is guilt-ridden. Jon is cold; Wendy is a liar. He's resentful; she's almost nostalgic. She loves the old man, while he, on a very basic level, hates him. The miracle of writer and director Tamara Jenkins' screenplay is that both brother and sister are not only funny but so simultaneously identifiable and specific that it hurts.

At this point you may be asking yourself: Why in the name of all that is yuletide cheery should I see either of these upcoming alleged comedies? The easy answer is that

they're very good, imbued with stinging comic voices and stacked with vivid performances. These siblings are emotionally stunted but fiercely articulate, a combination that gives forth some wonderful screenwriting; it's as if they need to strut their verbal stuff as a means of keeping the world at bay. Jon, trying to end a panicky midnight phone call from his sister: "We are not going to have to go out there and find him, Wendy. We're not in a Sam Shepard play."

More important, "Margot" and "The Savages" are bravely planted in the present. They don't flash back, they rarely reminisce, and though they gloss over past insult and injury, they refrain from wandering off down memory lane (especially "The Savages," which leaves dad's wrongdoings willfully vague).

These are movies about brothers and sisters living now, as we all must do. The past lies latent in every flicker of emotion; there's no need to make it literal on-screen. This also comes back to quality of screenwriting: When your characters are all there, you don't need to jump through narrative hoops to show how they got there.

So what might Margot, Pauline, Jon and Wendy say to each other at a Christmas party? They'd probably start by eyeing each other nervously and making small talk. But after a few spiked eggnogs, they might begin to unbuckle — a confession, a frustration. And before long they'd be laughing to keep from crying about their respective broods.

It is, after all, a holiday tradition.

HOLIDAY

Students would rather hear "ho, ho, ho" from Santa, even if it sounds offensive

Megan Villers

Jambar Contributor

YSU students are shocked by Australia's ruling against Santa Clause. As Yahoo news recently reported, Santa Clauses in Sydney's shopping malls are instructed to say "ha, ha, ha" instead of "ho, ho, ho" since Father Christmas's catchphrase sounds a little too close to the slang word for prostitute.

Weststaff, a company that places Santa look-alikes in Australian malls, stated in a company memo that the idea of banning the popular Christmas phrase was actually to keep children from getting scared.

National Santa coordinator Sari Hegarty commented saying she wanted the mall Santas to be mindful of the children's first Santa experience.

"We ask our Santas to try techniques such as lowering their tone of voice and using "ha, ha, ha" to encourage the children to come forward to meet Santa," said Hegarty.

YSU students are not convinced that the ban of the phrase will accomplish anything.

Freshman Kahla Walls said she is completely against the idea.

"Part of Christmas is Santa being jolly and saying ho, ho, ho," she said. "Ha, ha, ha just doesn't sound right."

"It goes against everything Christmas is about," she added.

Senior Kayshia Washington also laughed at the idea.

"That is stupid. It's just messing up the whole Christmas thing from when we were kids. Besides little kids aren't even going to know any other meaning for the word ho, ho, ho," said Washington.

Father of five and YSU student Vince Martin even suggests that Santa saying "ha, ha, ha" may even-

"What if the little kids think that Santa is laughing at them? That will be a whole other set of problems."

Vince Martin

ually become a problem as well.

"What if the little kids think that Santa is laughing at them? That will be a whole other set of problems," said Martin.

"First we had to stop saying 'Merry Christmas' because it was not politically correct. Now they have taken it one step further by removing Santa's traditional phrase," Martin added.

Santa Clause at the Eastwood mall laughed at the idea of not being able to say "HO HO HO".

"Nobody told me anything about that," said Santa. "I could not imagine saying anything else to greet the kids." When asked if the mall gave him any formal instruction on how to interact with the children, Santa also chuckled. "I've been Santa Clause for 14 years; there is really no need for any training, just ask the kids what they want. It really just comes naturally," he said with a smile.

Female athletes conceal pregnancies, infant deaths

Emily Thayer

Jambar Contributor

Earlier this semester, two female college athletes were accused of killing their newborn babies after concealing their pregnancies from their coaches and teammates.

Teri Rhodes, a sophomore at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa. was allowed to play volleyball two days before giving birth.

Rhodes, 18, birthed a 39 1/2 week old baby girl at her on-campus apartment on Aug. 12. The baby lived for approximately 10 minutes until Rhodes placed the baby in a plastic bag, sources say.

"This is an ongoing investigation in which the coaches and athletic administration will be involved," said Jason Knavel, sports information director at Mercyhurst College. He then had no other comments.

Being referred to as a copy-cat murderer, Kathryn McCoy, 18, executed almost the same murder

as Rhodes only two months later killing her baby girl.

McCoy, a sophomore at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Ky., had been competing on the women's golf team without notice of her pregnancy.

On Oct. 6, McCoy gave birth to her daughter, then allegedly let her fall into the toilet, causing her death. Reports say she put the baby in a garbage bag and discarded her in the trash room.

Her roommate called 911 after finding the bag and brought it back to their dorm room. McCoy then stuffed the dead infant into her gym bag to hide from authorities.

John Spugnard, Media Relations at Bellarmine University, stated that the university had no comments since the incident is under police investigation.

YSU women's volleyball coach Joe Bonner said it is unlikely a situation like this could happen without a coach's knowledge.

"I feel I have an open-door policy," Bonner said about his team. "The girls know they can talk to me if they have a problem."

Unlike Mercyhurst College and Bellarmine University, YSU has a policy set in place for pregnant student athletes.

"In this sort of situation, I would

ask the girl what they want to do and be there to support her and guide her through the process," Bonner said.

Both females athletes were attending religious-based schools it comes to question if these schools pressured the girls into hiding their pregnancies.

"We need to help faith-based institutions. If they believe in forgiveness and truly value life, I say a faith-based institution really needs to have a pregnancy policy to provide help for these individuals," Elizabeth Sorensen, assistant professor of Nursing at Wright State and NCAA faculty athletic representative, said.

With the issue of NCAA athletes losing scholarship money for pregnancy being exposed, people might even question the possibility of the murders being based on that exact issue.

"We have to seriously figure out what happened and see if these females were on scholarship and if that was the issue," Sorensen said.

Rhodes was charged with homicide, abusing a corpse and concealing the death of a child. A coroner ruled the death a homicide, saying the infant was suffocated.

An autopsy showed that McCoy's baby died from drowning. She was charged with murder, tampering with evidence, and concealing the birth of an infant.

Both girls were let free on bail and await their trials.

YSU STUDENT ATHLETES SPEAK OUT

"Athletes should feel confident with the athletic department supporting them in decisions they are forced to make," said YSU junior women's tennis player Nicole Haralambopoulos.

"Maybe the schools could discuss opportunities for becoming pregnant such as funding, day-care, and counseling. Having a child isn't the end of the world for student athletes," said YSU senior softball player Bethany Hatley.

"I think that coaches push the problem away sometimes instead of addressing it properly. They teach student athletes that it's not okay and treat it as a punishment," said YSU senior basketball player Jessica Schloemp.

Emergency: Pregnant student athletes faced with big decisions

Emily Thayer

Jambar Contributor

For female student athletes in college, pregnancy could result in losing financial aid, which ultimately could risk their chance for college education.

There is no policy in place by the National Collegiate Athletic Association on loss of scholarship because of pregnancy. The decision is left to each individual university on whether or not preg-

nant female athletes can keep their athletic scholarships.

"Based upon news coverage lately, some institutions are using pregnancy policies to cop out of having to pay for athletes' financial aid," said Elaine Jacobs, associate athletic director at Youngstown State University.

Due to media pressures, including an "Outside the Lines" segment on ESPN, the NCAA Academics Eligibility and Compliance Cabinet moved an emergency legislation through to add medical conditions such as pregnancy and eating disorders to the 15.3.4.3 bylaw of the NCAA handbook.

The bylaw now states that student athletes may not be revoked of their financial aid due to injury, but does not specify whether pregnancy is included.

On Oct. 22, the NCAA Division I Management Council denied the move to add proposal No. 2007-110 to the handbook, which would give pregnant athletes rights to aid, as an emergency adoption.

The NCAA and management council members did not respond back to comment.

"All colleges receive federal funds in some form," Elizabeth Sorensen said.

"If there is any connection to government funds, even a penny, then the schools must abide by Title IX."

Sorensen, assistant professor of nursing at Wright State and NCAA faculty athletic representative, is advocating for a change in the NCAA policy.

Title IX has huge importance when it comes to the well-being of female student athletes.

In Section 106.40 on marital or parental status, Title IX states "A recipient shall not discriminate against student, or exclude any student from its education program or activities, including any class or extracurricular activity, on the basis of such student's pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy or recovery therefrom..."

Sorensen said it would be difficult for any university to not take some sort of government funding, but there is a slight chance it could be done.

Jacobs said YSU didn't have to put a policy in place to know what the right decision was for these

pregnant female athletes.

YSU's does not violate Title IX permitting pregnant female athletes to maintain their financial aid as long as they remain a full-time student. If doctors approve, the athletes can still compete up to 14 weeks into their pregnancy.

Sorensen's conducted an electronic research to find out how many universities have pregnancy policies in place.

According to her results, only 69 NCAA and NAIA schools have a pregnancy policy in place. However, YSU was not included in this data because their policy did not show up electronically.

Without policies in place at universities, female athletes across the country can feel pressure from coaches, athletic departments and teammates to make life-changing decisions.

"The athletic department is put in place to meet the university's needs, which is to educate the public," said Sorensen.

"Every university should be behind these policies in order to let students continue their education."

Here's an accounting of the major events that have shaped Title IX since it was signed into law by President Richard Nixon on June 23, 1972:

Title IX's 35th Anniversary Timeline

May 20, 1974: Senator John Tower proposes an amendment that would exclude revenue-producing sports from determinations of Title IX compliance. The amendment fails.

May 27, 1975: President Gerald Ford signs the Title IX athletics regulations, a product of a year of research and debate. Feb. 17, 1976: The NCAA challenges the legality of Title IX.

Dec. 11, 1979: Department of Health, Education and Welfare issues a policy interpretation on Title IX, featuring a three-prong test to assess compliance.

1980: The Department of Education is established and given oversight of Title IX through the Office for Civil Rights.

Feb. 28, 1984: The Supreme Court, ruling on Grove City v. Bell, limits the range of Title IX solely to the area of athletic scholarships. The Court concludes that Title IX only applies to specific programs that receive federal funds.

March 22, 1988: The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 becomes law after it was vetoed by President Ronald Reagan. This reverses Grove City v. Bell and requires athletic departments to again comply with Title IX.

Sept. 6, 1988: Haffer v. Temple University toughens the Title IX law by insisting on new standards for budgets, scholarships and participation rates of male and female athletes.

Feb. 26, 1992: The Supreme Court rules in the Franklin v. Gwinnett County Public Schools case that monetary damages are appropriate in Title IX cases.

Jan. 16, 1996: The Office for Civil Rights issues a clarification of the three-prong test that measures an institution's compliance with Title IX.

Nov. 21, 1996: A federal appeals court upholds a lower court's ruling in Cohen v. Brown University, finding that Brown University discriminated against female athletes. Brown had argued that it did not violate Title IX, because women are less interested in sports. Source: The University of Iowa's "History of Title IX Legislation, Regulation and Policy Interpretation."

Title IX has shaped 35 years of college sports for male and female athletes

Emily Thayer

Jambar Contributor

"Without Title IX, I probably wouldn't be here," Youngstown State University junior softball player Kristen McDonnell said.

Title IX has granted females equal opportunities in college sports for 35 years.

Part of the education amendments signed by President Richard Nixon in 1972 gave several rights to women, not only in educational institutions, but also the right to be treated equal with males in college athletics.

"If it weren't for Title IX, as a woman, I might not have been

able to play college sports," YSU senior tennis player Michelle Fuleky said. "It gives women more opportunities."

Female college athletes like McDonnell and Fuleky understand the importance of Title IX and know that without it their sports could be in jeopardy.

Some male sports, however, face problems of their own when Title IX is involved.

"It reserves equal rights for both sexes, but at the same time I think they should take out football from the males' resources because it takes so many funds that it's not equivalent to female sports," YSU men's tennis player Ryan Trapp said.

Football is a dominant sport in college athletics around the country.

In 2006, football accounted for \$1,405,778 of the \$1,956,126 total athletic income at YSU according to the YSU Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act.

"Football is where the interest lies at this university and in our community," YSU senior quarterback Tom Zetts said.

"Men's sports still generate the revenue at the universities, especially football," said Tom Murrella, assistant athletic director.

"But I don't think that school's minor sports are directly suffering because of football," he said.

Trapp disagrees.

"Tennis is being cut out because of Title IX; there would be more tennis teams across the country if football wasn't involved."

So should revenue really matter in college sports?

According to Zetts, "It's fair if it's possible. In a place like Ohio State, who receives millions of dollars in funding, of course all the sports should be treated the same. However, in a university that receives minimal income, it's questionable. It places a burden on the university to provide financial support for the teams that do and do not make money."

Female athletes understand the difficulties of getting people inter-

ested in their sports.

"Society today wants to see male sports. It's more competitive. That's in any aspect. When do you ever see WNBA on TV? Male sports get more recognition," said McDonnell.

In 1996, Title IX was challenged by Brown University in Cohen v. Brown University on discrimination. Brown University tried to argue that women are less interested in sports, but the federal appeals court upheld Cohen's case.

"Everyone that competes in high school with a desire to play in college ought to at least have the opportunity to do so," Zetts said.

Section 106.41 of Title IX

"No person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be treated differently from another person or otherwise be discriminated against in any intercollegiate, intercollegiate, club or intramural athletics offered by a recipient, and no recipient shall provide any such athletics separately on such basis."

PENGUIN PROFILE

Finding a home

LEADING THE WAY — Senior guard Heather Karner has been the top scorer this season for the Penguins while the team has rebounded for its 0-2 start. Photos courtesy of Ron Stevens.



Senior guard Heather Karner has been a superstar for the Youngstown State University women's basketball team, but her journey from junior college to playing for a D-I basketball program began with uncertainty.

Aaron Blatch
Sports Reporter

Heather Karner still remembers stepping to the foul line her senior year at Lutheran South High School with the game's outcome at stake. The memory of her team losing the game because of that errant free throw has stayed with the Youngstown State senior guard ever since.

After Saturday's victory over St. Francis (Pa.), Karner will now have a fonder foul line memory to look back on. The senior scored the winning point from the charity stripe with 5.4 seconds remaining to give the Penguins their third consecutive victory after a potentially disastrous 0-3 start.

"It was such a relief because I thought about that game a lot," Karner said. "It was really exciting to have that opportunity again."

Finding opportunities hasn't always been easy for Karner but she has embraced a great one at YSU. Despite averaging over 20 points a game throughout her high school career in St. Louis, Karner was barely recruited, she said. She went to Midland Junior College in Texas and averaged 2.3 points and 1.2 rebounds a game. After her freshman season her coach told her that she wasn't going to get much playing time so she decided that she needed a change.

Karner transferred to Western Nebraska and was the leading scorer on a 29-2 team. While playing in the national tournament Karner was contacted by YSU and decided that she would take the opportunity to play Division I basketball.

The adjustment on the court was a natural one for the

shooting guard, as she started 19 games and finished the season as the team's leading scorer, with 10.9 points per game. The hardest part was leaving a team that competed for national championships to join one that finished just 7-21 last season.

"It's always tough when you go from winning a lot of games to not

Karner earned a spot on the Horizon League All-Newcomer Team.

"That meant a lot to me because I've been to so many places and struggled and had so many coaches that didn't believe in me and now I have coaches that do," she said. "That helped give me confidence to help the team as much as I can."

So far this season Karner has helped an improved Penguins team to a 3-3 start by averaging 13 points and 5.5 rebounds a game. Karner said that the team's poor play in the first three games has been corrected by playing together and executing on both ends of the floor, areas that she expects the team to improve on throughout the season.

Karner said that because of the transfers

she is not certain when her graduation date will be. She is unsure of exactly what she plans to do after graduation but said that she would like to eventually coach college basketball. Judging from her track record, if she

is given an opportunity for success, she will likely capitalize on it.

"If you come in and work hard I think that spreads to everybody else. A lot of my teammates came from winning programs in high school too so I think they have that same kind of attitude."

Heather Karner, senior guard

winning many," Karner said. "But when I came here I knew the program was building so I was prepared for that."

Losing is not something that she plans to accept, though. Karner feels that since she has been a winner throughout her basketball career she can bring a winning attitude to the court everyday.

"I go in to every game wanting to play hard," she said. "If you come in and work hard I think that spreads to everybody else. A lot of my teammates came from winning programs in high school too so I think they have that same kind of attitude."

For her solid first season as a Penguin,



SEASON STATS - HEATHER KARNER, NO. 22

Points Scored	78	Field Goal Percentage	.351
Points Per Game	13.3	Three Point Percentage	.302
Steals	5	Rebounds	33
Assists	12	Minutes Played	201

HOCKEY

Woes continue for hockey squad in first half

Andrew Berry
Sports Editor

Not much has gone right for the Youngstown State University hockey team this season.

Crippled by numerous injuries, the team is struggling to find consistency as it continues to skate through a tough schedule filled with one nationally ranked opponent after another and has limped to 3-16-2 record in the first half of the 2007-08 campaign.

The team's most recent pair of setbacks came last week during the Blizzard in Buffalo tournament in Buffalo, New York.

The Penguins were able to force overtime against the Villanova Ice Cats in the team's first contest of the weekend. The game ended in controversy however, as the game winning goal for Villanova was originally ruled to have banded off the crossbar and out of the net. After a short discussion, the referees reversed the call and gave Villanova the 4-3 win.

In the next day's consolation game, the Penguins had no better

luck against the tournament's host team, the Buffalo Bulls. Scoring was scarce as the Bulls pulled ahead for a 3-1 over the Penguins.

Sitting in last place in the College Hockey Mid-America conference, the team is set to return to the Ice Zone in Boardman after an extensive road trip that saw the

team remains optimistic about his team despite its season long struggles.

"With all that's happened this semester, it'll be good to be back in the comfort zone of our own arena," Russo said. "It feels like it's been forever since our last home game."

It took some time, but the sched-

expect Ragone to return to the ice until January when the team resumes practice following the holidays.

While the team may have a laundry list of hurt players, the break could not have come at a better time for the Penguins. Russo said that other than Ragone, every other player who has an ailment should be available in as little as two to three weeks.

But to get to the break, the Penguins will first have to get back at conference opponents Slippery Rock and John Carroll University. Both teams have 10 wins this season and have been tough opponents for the Penguins in the past.

Russo said that sticking to the game plan and staying focused on their own strategy will be keys for his team's two remaining games this weekend.

"With the amount of injuries we've had, we can't be worrying about what the other team is doing," Russo said. "We need to take care of things on our side of the ice and focus on ourselves."

The final game of the first half of the season against John Carroll is slated for a 7 p.m. puck drop on Saturday. The Penguins will then take the holidays off and return to practice the first week of January to prepare for its first game of 2008 against the Pittsburgh Panthers.

Russo believes that getting a win to end the first half would be a significant moral boost for the team going into the break.

"Our coaching staff has been preaching the second half of the season and we have the skill and talent level to be a really strong team," Russo said.

"With the amount of injuries we've had, we can't be worrying about what the other team is doing. We need to take care of things on our side of the ice and focus on ourselves."

Rocky Russo, head coach Penguins hockey

team play eight games with no contests at home since Nov. 10. When the puck drops Friday at 7 p.m. for the Penguins match-up with Slippery Rock, it will have been 27 days since the previous puck drop on the Penguins' home ice.

Head coach Rocky Russo

ule is finally working in the favor of the Penguins.

With the semester about to end, the team will play its final two games of the first half at home. Once play resumes in January, the schedule lines up so that the Penguins don't have to play more than one game at a time on the road between home games.

For now, Russo said he would be more than happy just to get to the break without further injury to his squad.

"The big thing will be getting through the last two games without losing anymore players," Russo said. "We're looking to get to the break intact and try and steal these last two games."

The latest Penguin to go down with a serious injury was defender Jeremy Ragone. Having suffered a broken jaw, Russo said he doesn't



SHIFTING FOCUS — Forward Michael Stoker and the Penguin hockey club will finish the first semester of action with a weekend series of games. The team will first host Slippery Rock on Friday and close out 2007 play with a home contest against John Carroll on Saturday at the Ice Zone in Boardman at 7 p.m. Photo by Andrew Berry.

College Hockey Mid-America Standings

West Virginia	15-5
Washington & Jefferson	12-8
Slippery Rock	11-7
John Carroll	10-7
Pittsburgh	9-6
Duquesne	7-9
Indiana of Pennsylvania	5-13
Youngstown State	3-16

