

# THE JAMBAR

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931.



THEJAMBAR.COM

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## THE SIDEBAR



**NEWS** ▲  
*Live from YSU: Students get real telecommunications experience* ..... 2

*HPV vaccine worth the price in the long term*..... 2

**NEWS BRIEFS** ..... 2

**CLASSIFIEDS**..... 3

**FEATURES**  
*All I want for Christmas is to stay out of debt* ..... 4

**EDITORIAL**  
*Thanksgiving: The beginning of the end of fall semester*..... 5

**OPINION**  
*Why, as an American Indian, Thanksgiving is so difficult* ..... 5

*Clinton, Giuliani reinforcing voters' doubts* ..... 5

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR** ..... 5



**SPORTS** ▲  
*Women's team heads back to New York for LIU Turkey Classic* ..... 6

**SPORTS BRIEFS** ..... 6

## WEATHER

Today

Cloudy | 56 34

Wednesday 50 45    Thursday 50 36



Remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar.

## HEALTH

# College students hurt for health insurance

Ashley Tate  
News Reporter

When Youngstown State University junior David Munnell broke his ankle, he had to take care of it himself without the help of a hospital. Munnell has no health insurance and said because he is 24 years old, he is too old to be on his mother's plan. He can't afford to have his own.

"So I just took care of it like it was a sprain and stayed off of it, as well as making sure I didn't move it in any different positions to set the bone," he said. Collegiate Risk Management, a health insurance provider for college students, says that college students are a victim of the medical system. They can't afford insurance, but medical treatment without coverage costs even more. Senior Megan Douglass said

she is with her dad's health insurance plan, United Healthcare, but it will soon run out when she graduates in December. "I'm trying to get all kinds of vaccinations and checkups before December," Douglass said. "I am making a call tomorrow to see if the HPV vaccine is covered." Beyond that, Douglass said she doesn't know what she's going to do. Munnell said he doesn't even know where to begin to look for

health insurance, but has an "urge to find out." Douglass said it's essential for her to find out what she's going to do after graduation and what plan she will choose. "Although I'm young and healthy now I know that it will be important in the future when things start breaking down," Douglass said.

INSURANCE page 4

## VOLUNTEERING

# Students reach beyond campus with volunteering

Jeanette DiRubba  
Jambar Contributor

This holiday season, some Youngstown State University student organizations are giving back to surrounding communities. Marty Manning, associate director of Student Life, said that philanthropy is all about giving and commitment.

"Service to others is about truly giving back to your community," Manning said.

One student project in the works is the Emerging Leaders' annual Giving Tree Project. This year all proceeds will benefit lower income families from the Youngstown area.

Greater Point Youngstown, a social service and welfare organization, provides YSU with a list of families, and each family's name and needs are written on an ornament that hangs from giving trees around Kilcawley Center.

"Students can just pick a name right off the tree and know they are giving back to their community," Manning said.

The ornament guides students by giving a suggested donation, including clothing or shoe size.

After purchasing gifts, students can take them to the Office of Student Life on the second floor in Kilcawley Center at the end of this semester.

Manning said the families that receive these gifts are truly grateful.

Theta Chi Fraternity sponsored their annual food, clothing and monetary donation drive for the Salvation Army. The event, completed Friday, is a way for the fraternity to "give the gift of giving," said member Bryan Nelling.

The fraternity estimated that about 15 pounds of clothing, 51 pounds of canned goods and \$50 have been raised by the event this year.

Delta Zeta sorority is planning to put together care packages and letters for soldiers in Iraq.

Andrea Bonadio of Delta Zeta said the sorority hopes to raise awareness for individuals separated from their families by military service.

VOLUNTEERING page 4

## VOLUNTEERING



# Boxed In

## Student volunteers raise homelessness awareness

Sarah Sole  
News Editor

Freshman Katlin Knodel stood outside in the rain, watching in the cold night air as people prepared the boxes that would be her home for the night.

Planning to eventually arm herself with a sleeping bag and blankets, plus three layers of pants and five layers of shirts, Knodel said she would try to tough it out through the night.

Still, the weather was putting up a valiant fight.

"It's pretty wet and pretty cold," Knodel said.

Sleeping in cardboard boxes was the central theme during the 10th annual Shantytown, an event where honors students at Youngstown State University volunteered at inner city charities and slept outside their dormitories to increase knowledge about homelessness.

Junior Andrew Emig, one of the directors of the event, said time and money devoted to these charities makes a difference.

"I think action's what's really important," he said. "What does sympathy do?"

Emig said he thinks that if people decide to go inside during the night, it defeats the event's purpose.

"Some people don't have a choice," he said, of homeless individuals.

Still, though, Emig said the opportunity is there for people to have fun during the event.

Emig participated in Shantytown during his freshman year and said he got a chance to see that stereotypical attributes associated with the homeless, like laziness or drug use, were not always true.

A formerly homeless woman gave a speech during the event about how she worked with the Beatitude House and eventually got her general education degree from YSU.

"I had to open my eyes," Emig said.

This year's speaker, also a Beatitude House employee, showed the audience a DVD illustrating the process of taking in families. The presentation made him realize how dedicated the charity is to helping women and young families, Emig said.

While Emig said he wasn't sure how homeless individuals



TOP — Sophomore Jason Heyman puts down cardboard inside one of the box shelters built for Shantytown, a project to raise homelessness awareness. ABOVE — Two volunteers working off-campus for Shantytown.

would respond to the event, he said that he hoped they would view it as a positive effort.

Over 130 students participated in Shantytown, and each person contributed a minimum of five non-perishable items.

Emig said homelessness could be combated by supporting organizations such as the local Beatitude House.

"I was very impressed with their operation," Emig said, of the Beatitude House.

Nick Meditz, a freshman, said involvement in Shantytown is about as close as many students

can come to truly feeling homeless.

"It kind of gives you a real life encounter," he said.

Sophomore and event director Jason Heyman said Shantytown helps people realize that in addition to being in larger cities, homelessness occurs right here in Youngstown.

For his night in Shantytown, Heyman made sure his experience outside was as dry as possible, using cardboard as a floor and making a roof out of blue tarp.

BOXED page 3

## SERIES

# Interview with a YSU trustee

## Chairperson talks new community college building, NEOUCOM

J. Breen Mitchell  
Jambar Contributor

As the third part of a series, The Jambar talked to John L. Pogue, chairperson of Youngstown State University Board of Trustees.

Q: What are the board's objections to a merger with



Pogue

Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine?

A: The board believes that NEOUCOM is the single best example of collaboration among the Northeast Ohio Universities, and that the collaboration should be expanded to include Cleveland State. We also believe that the success of the NEOUCOM in fulfilling its mission to provide physicians for northeast Ohio is a strong argument that it [NEOUCOM]

remain independent.

Q: What is the current state of the proposed community college, and how are the plans moving forward?

A: We feel that we have made the case for a community college in Mahoning County, and we are optimistic that the chancellor's

TRUSTEE page 3

## VOLUNTEERING

# Putting a face on volunteering: YSU students get to know who they're helping

Jeanette DiRubba  
Jambar Contributor

To Youngstown State University students Audra Dill and Amber Gallagher, community service is about helping others to realize their own importance and worth.

Dill, a senior hospitality management major, is an active volunteer for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. She helps at the Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon where she records pledges and donations over the phone and walks for the annual Stride-N-Ride, a relay for MDA that also raises money.

Dill also volunteers at the annual summer camp sponsored by MDA for individuals with muscular dystrophy. Dill said each volunteer receives one camper, and the two bond over a week of activities designed to help those with muscular dystrophy realize their importance and value their worth.

"I have had the same camper for six years now, and we have definitely become very close," Dill said.

Dill said she has many enjoyable memories from her years at the MDA camp, but said she loves

HELPING page 3

**TO THE POINT**

**Youngstown named the fourth most dangerous city**

According to CQ Press's 14th annual "City Crime Rankings: Crime in Metropolitan America," Youngstown is the 15th most-dangerous U.S. city. This year's report shows the city moving up from its former ranking of ninth. However, Youngstown is currently the fourth most-dangerous city in the 75,000 to 99,999 population bracket.

**SIFE team takes first place**

The Students in Free Enterprise team placed first at the "Duel in the Keystone State," a regional competition. The four-student team will advance to the national "Duel in the Desert" in March at the University of Arizona. The event is a personal financial case study sponsored by Take Charge America, a non-profit consumer credit counseling firm based in Phoenix.

**Fortune 500 company gives job opportunities presentation**

"Your Future Career Opportunities," a presentation by Michelle K. Murray, will be held at noon today in the Cafaro Suite, fifth floor of Williamson Hall. Murray is consulting manager in SAP Consulting Services/Midwest SAPAmerica, Inc. SAP is a Fortune 500 company and is the largest business software provider in the world. The presentation is sponsored by the Association of Information Technology Professionals Student Chapter.

**Business seminar to be held at Southwoods**

A seminar detailing the exporting business, "Understanding Exporting," will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 28, at the YSU Southwoods Metro Campus in Boardman, room 228. The seminar will be presented by the International Trade Assistance Center and the Ohio Small Business Development Center at YSU in conjunction with the Williamson College of Business Administration. Cost for the program is \$10 and is due with completed registration by Monday.

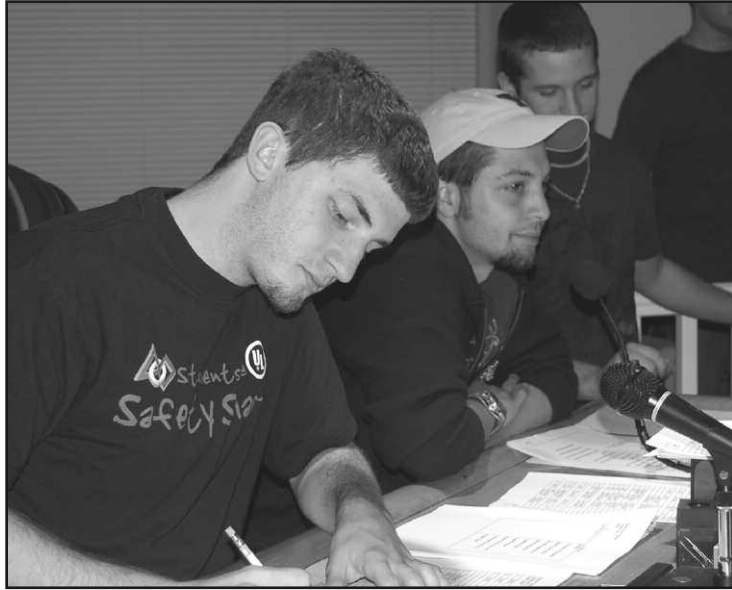
**Student organization collects baby items**

Student Social Work Association is sponsoring a Baby Item Drive Wednesday from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at Kilcawley Center in the lower arcade. Any item, new or used, for infants and children up to 2 years old will be collected for CareNet Pregnancy Center.

# LIVE FROM YSU



## Students get real telecommunications experience



**Chelsea Pflugh**  
Features Reporter

Every Tuesday and Thursday at 4:30 p.m. telecommunications students are busy inside the TV studio of Bliss Hall.

The pressure of putting together a live show doesn't seem to bother the students as they work efficiently together, despite the number of things that could go wrong.

Freshman Robyn Musgrove said that number is pretty high, but that's what makes it a worthwhile learning experience.

Musgrove is one of the students working on "Homework Express," a half-hour live television show run solely by students and aired live on Time Warner Cable's Channel 23. The show reaches up to 1.5 million households in northeast Ohio and western Pennsylvania.

She compared the live show with most telecommunication classes, where students tape shows

that they can fix later.

"Fixing those problems while being broadcast into people's homes is hard. It teaches us the professional way to cope with problems," Musgrove said.

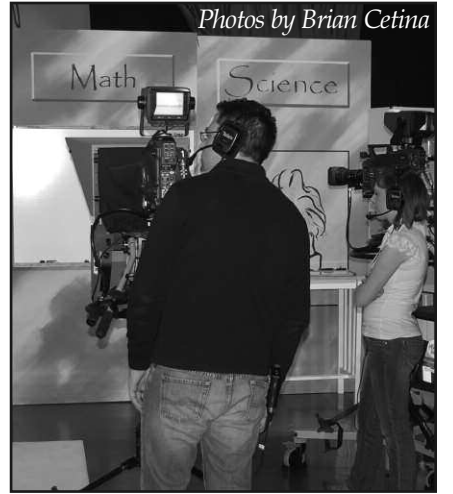
Job experience is one thing that haunts every student fresh out of college when they're applying for careers. For the students working on "Homework Express," job experience will not be an issue for their resumes; they're already getting one up on future job competition.

The show assists grade and middle school students with homework problems. Students call the show live and ask a teacher takes the problem apart step-by-step on a dry-erase board, showing how to solve the problem.

The show also tries to incorporate subjects outside of math that might be of some interest. The show has had specialists come in and teach kids about birds, bobcats and coyotes.



**LEFT** - Line producer Frank Bosak and director Tony Marr sit behind the scenes of "Homework Express."  
**CENTER** - "Homework Express" is broadcast live from the television studio Bliss Hall.  
**RIGHT** - Bobby Wolff works the camera while floor director Robyn Musgrove makes sure things go smoothly.



Perhaps because the show offers an easy source of academic help for students who may be afraid to speak up in class. The excitement of being heard on television may make homework more fun for student callers. For the YSU students that produce "Homework Express," that thrill comes from being behind the scenes.

They run the equipment, write the scripts, set up interviews and edit content. While professors are present to oversee, the emphasis is on student experience.

Sophomore Frank Bosak knows how unpredictable the environment of live television can be.

"Things go differently that you want," he said, and when talent says the wrong thing or makes a change live, it makes him crazy.

Bosak, the line producer for the television show, sits aside junior Tony Marr in the control room to bring the television show to life each day.

Also working the control room are graphics designers, soundboard and switch runners, and call screeners who answer the phones.

The control room is overseen by advisors and the professors in charge of the show.

On the other side of the wall, there are cameramen and a floor director who make sure everything goes smoothly on their end of the show.

There are also two teachers, each from a different local area school who accompany WHOT-FM's Kelly Stevens, the host of the show. "That's live television," Bosak said. "You've got one chance, so you make the best of it."

Aside from possible problems that could occur, students are thankful for the opportunity to build their resumes by working on "Homework Express," since students rarely get live-television experience.

"I've been told that Kent, Ohio

State, and Ohio University don't have anything like this. The leadership here at YSU has given us a great opportunity and they're really trusting us with a lot," Bosak said.

Many students on the "Homework Express" crew look for this as an opportunity to get their feet wet and plan to move on to bigger things such as television or movies once they graduate.

"Homework Express" airs live every Tuesday and Thursday and pre-recorded episodes are shown Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

Additional reporting by Brian Cetina.



# HPV vaccine worth the price in the long term

**Megan Villers**  
Jambar Contributor

Many have heard the commercials on television and have seen the ads with the catchy slogan, "You could be one less." This new phrase was made popular thanks to the new vaccine Gardasil.

The ads are targeted to young females claiming they could be one less person to get cervical cancer. With all the commercials for Gardasil, many women are wondering if they should get the vaccine.

Gardasil was approved by the FDA in June 2006 to protect women against several diseases caused by Human Papillomavirus. While HPV is common, some strains can cause precancerous vaginal lesions, genital warts and cervical cancer.

According to the Center for Disease Control, in 2005 an estimated 20 million people in the United States had the virus. HPV may not even show any signs or symptoms and for most people the virus does go away on its own.

The lack of symptoms means that HPV is very easy to spread.

Any person who has had any kind of sexual contact involving genitals, even if it was not sexual intercourse, is at risk.

Registered nurse Pat Sheen who administers the Gardasil shot at the Salem Health department reminds females that Gardasil only protects against diseases caused by certain types of HPV.

"Types 6, 1, 16 and 18 are protected against with the shot, but there are more than 100 types of HPV," said Sheen.

The four strains that Gardasil protects against cause 70 percent of cervical cancer and 90 percent of genital warts.

The vaccination can benefit any woman who hasn't been infected with all four strains of HPV that Gardasil protects against.

"Girls should know that the shot is not going to protect you from HIV/AIDS, herpes or any other STDs," said Sheen.

It is also important to remember that the vaccination is not a substitute for regular cancer screenings.

The vaccine isn't cheap. Gardasil must be given in three separate doses spread over six months.

The Salem Health department charges \$140 per dose, but the cost can be submitted for insurance reimbursement.

The Mahoning Valley Health department also offers Gardasil for \$135 for each injection for females ages 19-26. If you are under 18 the cost significantly drops to just \$35 per injection.

In fact, the advisory committee on immunization practices recommends that Gardasil be routinely given to girls when they are 11 or 12 years of age. Gardasil can be started as early as age nine and can be given to women as old as 26. Age groups above 26 have not yet been tested for safety, according to the Center for Disease Control.

Sheen suggests that the recommendation may become issue for many parents of young girls.

"Some parents are not happy about the idea of giving their pre-teen daughters a shot that protects against an STD," Sheen said.

"We get a certain number of girls who are 14 or 15 and feel that since the vaccine protects against certain strains of HPV can be as sexually promiscuous as they want.

Contact the Mahoning County Health Department at 330-270-2855 for more information about Gardasil.

Parents and health care providers need to discuss the facts with young girls before they get the vaccine. There needs to be a mutual understanding of what the shot is intended to do."

The center for disease control has found no serious side effects in the tests that have been conducted for Gardasil. The long-term effectiveness of the vaccine will be revealed over the next few years.

Some young women at YSU are still not convinced that Gardasil is necessary.

Freshman Jessica Giblin said that she has seen the ads for Gardasil, but never really thought that it applied to her.

"I wouldn't consider getting the vaccine. I don't even get the flu shot," said Giblin.

"How do you really know that it is going to protect against cancer and what are the side effects? Plus there are other ways to prevent cancer, besides a shot," she added.

Sophomore Amanda Hardesty was also hesitant about getting the shot when she found out the cost and how many injections were required.

"I really don't think it seems worth the price. Maybe if it wasn't so expensive I would consider it," said Hardesty.

Still, Junior Jamie Parker has an open mind about Gardasil.

"My mom wants me to get the vaccine," said Parker.

"I've heard it was good, but who knows. I would consider getting it. I just haven't talked to my doctor about it yet."

**CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF YOUNGSTOWN. AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC - YOUNGSTOWN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT - SALARY: \$15.41/hr.** Candidates should have at least 2 years experience in maintenance repair, and installing of all parts, units, and components of gasoline and diesel operated vehicles. Must have a valid State of Ohio CDL license; must be a resident of Youngstown when appointed or must become a resident within 120 days following appointment. Applications for the civil service examination accepted at Civil Service Commission Office, 7th floor, City Hall, Youngstown, Ohio, from November 19, 2007 through November 29, 2007. Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (City Hall will be closed Thursday, November 22, 2007 in observance of Thanksgiving Day.) If you are a veteran and wish to claim the military preference credit, bring a XEROX copy of FORM DD-214 showing proof of honorable discharge. Examination will be given on Saturday, December 1, 2007, starting at 10:00 a.m. at Choffin Career and Technical Center, 200 E. Wood St., Youngstown, Ohio. For further information, call (330) 742-8798.

**CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF YOUNGSTOWN. SUBSTITUTE HELPERS. FOOD SERVICE DIVISION - YOUNGSTOWN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT - \$6.98 HOURLY RATE.** A Substitute Helper works as a Cooks Helper or as a Central Kitchen Packaging Helper. A substitute worker has to be available for work when called out, often on very short notice. Before starting to work as a Substitute Helper, an applicant will be required to take a drug test and fingerprinting, at his/her own expense (approximately \$52.00). Applicants must be in good physical condition. To be eligible for a permanent position, you must be a Youngstown City School District resident. Applications accepted at the Civil Service Commission Office, 7th floor, City Hall, Youngstown, Ohio, from November 19, 2007, through November 29, 2007. Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m, Monday through Friday. City Hall will be closed Thursday, November 22, 2007, in observance of Thanksgiving Day. The written exam will be on Saturday, December 1, 2007, at the Choffin Career and Technical Center, 200 E. Wood Street, Youngstown, Ohio, starting at 10:00 a.m. To qualify for Veteran's Bonus, submit a copy of DD-214 when you file your application.

From **TRUSTEE** page 1

[Eric Fingerhut of the Ohio Board of Regents] plan to create a university system will include support for a community college. If the chancellor includes a community college in his plan, we stand ready to take the necessary action to implement such a plan.

Q: Are there any major improvements or setbacks anticipated for fiscal year 2008?

A: We certainly don't anticipate any setbacks, and our most immediate improvement goal is to successfully manage the centennial celebration for the university and to take the centennial capital cam-

aign over its goal.

Q: Last month, a survey indicated that the trustees were "out of touch" with student and faculty concerns. Since then, is the board doing anything to try to work more closely with the greater university community to increase understanding between all parties?

A: The all-campus survey did not indicate that the trustees were "out of touch." That was the conclusion of the headline writer at the Vindicator. However, if you read the article, it indicated that the trustees acknowledged a level of dissatisfaction in the survey and a

willingness to address that problem. While dissatisfaction can arise from a number of sources, I believe the best way to deal with that issue is to operate the university in the best way possible and to remain open to constructive criticism and comment in the process.

Q: What do the trustees feel should be done with the old Williamson building when the new college of business opens?

A: Initially, we planned to use the building for temporary classroom assignments, while other classrooms are being upgraded and remodeled. We have not discussed

a long-term plan for the building.

Q: What issue facing the university is considered to be top priority among the trustees?

A: In the near term, the priority issue would be successful negotiations with our faculty and classified unions along with successful completion of our accreditation process. In the long-term, we need to be ready to articulate the mission of Youngstown State so as to successfully fit into the university system that is being suggested by the chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents.

From **HELPING** page 1

the feeling of being in a close family unit at camp.

"Every year for that week, we pick up right where we left off. We know everyone, and know that although we haven't seen each other for a whole year, that's okay because we're just one huge family, and we disregard that time apart," Dill said.

Dill said that she enjoys giving back to the community and wants to raise awareness about muscular dystrophy.

"I want to help people understand what muscular dystrophy is and not be afraid of it. I also know that I'm doing something good, and that I'm a part of something so big that's for such a good cause," she said.

Dill hopes she can motivate others to donate their time and give back to others.

"People should give volunteering a chance," she said, because of how much it can mean to the people who benefit from volunteer work.

Gallagher, a junior business marketing major, is the Mahoning County representative for the Ohio Health and Abstinence program.

"I'm trying to accomplish awareness of worth," said Gallagher.

Gallagher aims to organize a program for local middle schools that

deals with the issue of abstinence. The six-week program has already been accepted by St. Charles school in Boardman.

"My program is geared for the seventh and eighth graders. It's a way for them to learn that abstinence is okay. Students at this age learn from their peers, and I want them to be able to look at me and say, 'Look! Amber is practicing abstinence, so it must be okay to do that,'" Gallagher said.

Gallagher said girls have a low self-esteem at the middle-school age, and she hopes her program will help them be able to have a voice in their relationships so "they don't always have to feel pressured to have sex."

"I try to accomplish this goal of boosting self-esteem by making it present in my own family. I have cousins under the age of 12, and sometimes we all have a girls' night in where I talk about self-esteem issues with them. We just have snacks, watch movies, and stay up all night," Gallagher said.

Gallagher hopes that her program will soon begin so students will gain knowledge from the classes.

"If I can reach just one girl or boy, then I know that I did my job," Gallagher said.

From **BOXED** page 1

ice. "It's a way to let the soldiers know that people care and that they're not forgotten," Bonadio said.

"It's also a way to build a boost for them, especially around the holidays," she said.

The American Marketing Association worked at the American Cancer Society's Cattle Baron's

Ball to help raise money. The dinner with games and raffles brought it many local businesses, said Amber Gallagher, member of the American Marketing Association.

"We helped out with the events, and it was a lot of fun," Gallagher said.

The American Cancer Society raised over \$40,000 from the event.

# Irish Bob's Pub

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**10 pm**  
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The Brothers of Phi Kappa Tau present:  
**The 1st Annual Red & Gold Ethics Banquet**

November 29, 2007  
6 o'clock pm with a reception  
YSU Chestnut Room

Speaker Ronald A. DiNicola,  
President and CEO of the  
Muhammad Ali Enterprises

Meet Kelly Pavlik

Fundraiser for Phi Kappa Tau's Fraternity's national and local philanthropy. Ronald A. DiNicola will be speaking on the importance of ethics and personal experiences with Muhammad Ali. The event will include a full buffet and cash bar. Cocktail attire is appreciated. All proceeds benefit nonprofit organizations and charities.

**Tickets: \$35/person or \$60/couple**  
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**OUR SIDE**

## Thanksgiving: The beginning of the end of fall semester

Thanksgiving is a mile marker for college students. The serotonin wears off, and we wake from our post-turkey daze, rubbing our eyes as we realize that finals week is looming and that the holidays are practically upon us. When the leftovers have been put in their respective containers, the football games are over, and we have survived the worst shopping day of the year with minor battle scars, we will procrastinate as long as we can. On the Sunday after Thanksgiving, we break out the planners. The pressure is on. How did this happen? We dutifully recorded project due dates and finals schedules. Some of us fleetingly thought about our Christmas gift lists in October, amid our Halloween costume decisions. And even in the middle of these last few weeks, we somehow still seem to find a way to make gift shopping more important than school-work. The holiday season consumes us.

If college is preparing us for the bigger world, then we had better improve our time management skills before we get out there. While Thanksgiving may mark the beginning of the holiday season for most Americans, for college students it marks the closing of the semester and the beginning of the most hectic weeks in our lives. We switch from a moderate stress level to survival mode as we try to make our way through the last few weeks and toward the finish line. There is no satisfaction like handing in a paper or turning in a test, and completing yet another semester.

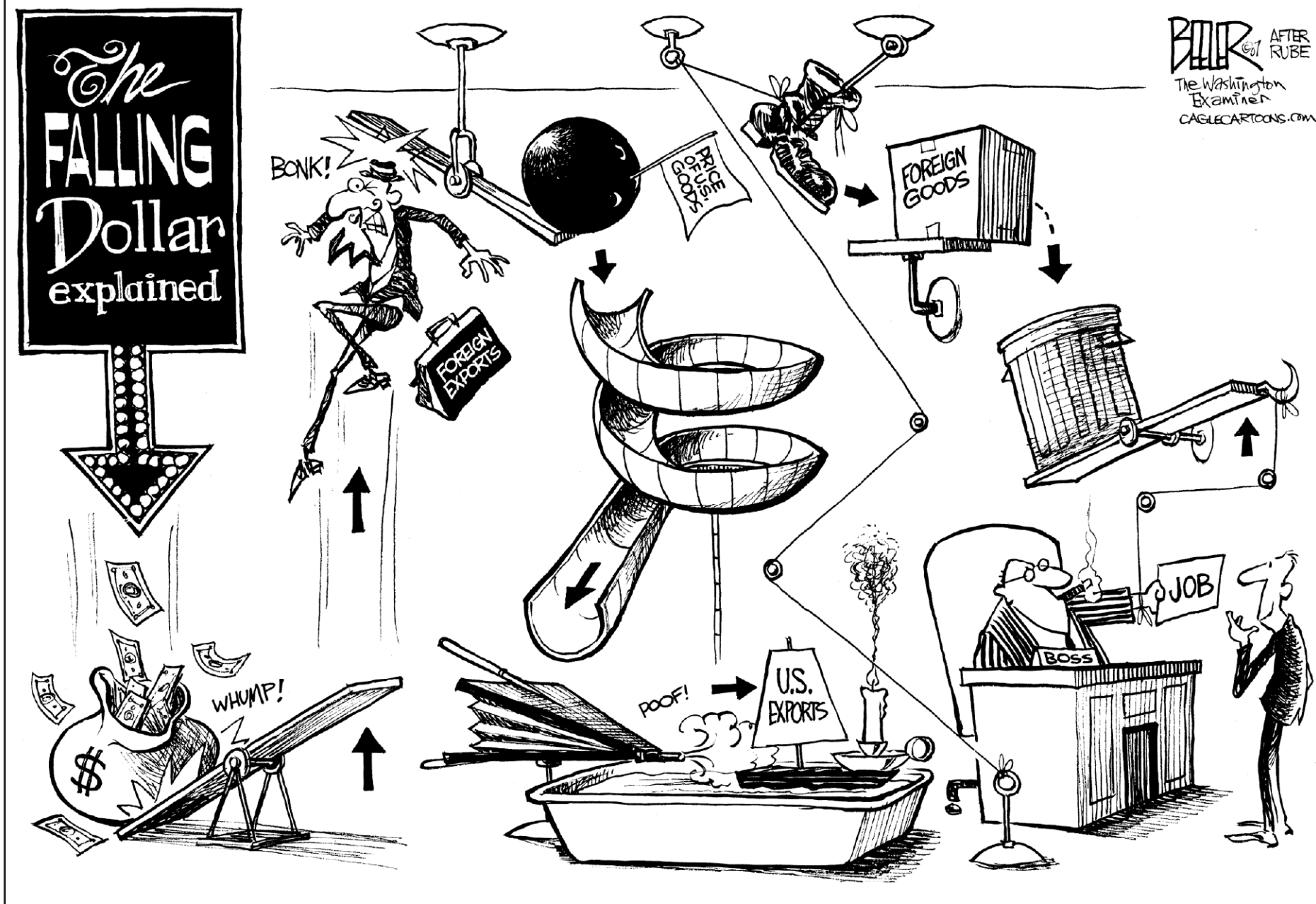
So let's finish strong this academic term. Crack open your planner for the last two weeks a few days earlier. Prioritize now, and Thanksgiving break can be even more enjoyable. The beginning of the end of the semester is a cause for celebration, but even more so if

**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. The Jambar will not print letters that libel others or threaten harm. The Editor in Chief reserves the right to reject letters that do not follow policy. The views and opinions expressed in published letters do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff or the faculty, staff or administration of Youngstown State University.

**ABOUT THE JAMBAR**

The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the summer sessions. Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press Honors. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.



**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Editor,  
 As an astronomer, permit me to set the record straight about your recent cover story "Broadening Horizons - Students Ponder Life Beyond Earth."  
 First, a strong case can be made using statistics and probability arguments that there is indeed life elsewhere in the universe.  
 However, this does not constitute proof that such life actually exists.  
 Second, there is zero physical evidence that the Earth has ever been visited by extraterrestrials (certain occupants of Tod Hall notwithstanding).  
 These two points represent the

current scientific consensus.  
 In addition, it should be apparent to even a professional psychologist that people do not always tell the truth.  
 And even if they believe what they are saying, people can be fooled by events that occur in the night sky.  
 (My 3 year-old daughter once asked why the Moon was "following" us late one night in the car.)  
 Everyone, including myself, has seen objects in the night sky that they couldn't readily identify, hence the term "unidentified" flying object.  
 This doesn't mean that this is an ET; it simply means we don't know.

Anecdotal accounts are not scientific evidence, no matter how many of them we have.  
 Is it really rational to believe that the United States has been visited by aliens from another star system since the 1940s, that our government knows this but has managed to keep it a secret (like in the X-Files), that in 60 years of UFO sightings there exists absolutely no physical evidence of these myriad visits, and that all these creatures want from us is to probe our various body orifices?  
 I think not!  
 Ronald G. Tabak, Professor  
 Physics & Astronomy

**COMMENTARY**

## Why, as an American Indian, Thanksgiving is so difficult

Mark Anthony Rolo  
 (MCT)

Every year, I usually try to keep a low profile when Thanksgiving comes around. As an American Indian, one has to be careful about admitting to the guilty pleasures of enjoying a turkey feast. White liberals are shocked to learn that an Indian could celebrate a holiday that is essentially a funeral for them — "You're commemorating your own cultural death?" White conservatives like to use the holiday to make mention that "Indians are the ones who should be thankful for all we've done to civilize them."  
 Yes, considering that I spend most of the year thinking and writing about the plight of my Indian people, Thanksgiving is my day of rest. And considering what a lousy cook I am, imagine my delight last year when I discovered "turkey in a bag" for under 20 bucks. It's loaded with seasoning and does its own basting right inside the bag. Just pop it in the oven and in a few hours, juicy turkey is served.  
 Of course, it's tough to enjoy the bird when you've got white liberal guests reminding you that sports mascots like the Cleveland Indians' Chief Wahoo continue to degrade and dehumanize "your people." And it's even harder to taste the tart canned cranberries when you've got a white conservative telling you to quit the victim game and "learn to pull yourself up by your bootstraps."  
 My favorite part of the Thanksgiving meal is the microwaveable stuffing. Again, no bother with having to add seasoning. But the plight of American Indians intrudes again. "How can

you stuff your face knowing full well that the poverty rate on most reservations is among the highest in the country?"  
 "Is that so," I reply. "I never grew up on my reservation. But I have to tell you being the poorest family on the block on Milwaukee's south side, we were lucky to even have a turkey."  
 "More stuffing, please?"  
 White conservatives don't like to talk about genocide, land stealing and smallpox. "Please! With all the casino money you people are raking in, one would think you'd learn to forgive and forget."  
 That would seem to make perfect sense, except for the fact that I, like most other Indians in this country, are not members of those few tribes that rake in big casino bucks. "Anyone have room for pumpkin pie?"  
 Football truly rounds out the day of thanks. Naturally, you have to be discreet about which team you root for. Among white liberals, the Cowboys are not America's team. "I resent embracing the mythic reminder about how our rogue forefathers stole the West!" White conservatives do not really have much comment on the game, unless the Redskins are on the schedule. "What is so wrong with 'Redskins'?" Can't you see how your people's pride and warrior skills are being honored?"  
 A few years ago, I was stuck out of town on business and I decided to slip into a restaurant to enjoy Thanksgiving in peace, among strangers. But as I sat there enjoying my turkey plate special alone, I got to thinking that maybe I should talk about the Indian plight during the holiday. "After all," I said to the waitress, "Thanksgiving is the only time white people think about Indians."

**COMMENTARY**

## Clinton, Giuliani reinforcing voters' doubts

McClatchy-Tribune News Service  
 (MCT)

The following editorial appeared in the Dallas Morning News on Wednesday, Nov. 14:  
 There's a good reason the recent controversies surrounding front-running presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Rudolph Giuliani matter more than they may initially appear. For most voters, politics is less about rationally choosing candidates based on policy positions and more about picking whose overall appeal strikes a resonant chord.  
 Political consultants Matthew Dowd, a Republican, and Doug Sosnik, a Democrat, call this making a "gut values connection." Clinton's slip-ups and Giuliani's dodgy friendships risk highlighting voter doubts about their character and judgment.

She may be riding high atop the Democratic polls, but Clinton suffers from high negative ratings with the general public. Many see her as controlling and manipulative — a legacy of her husband's White House tenure, in which the term "Clintonian" came to describe a particularly slick, lawyerly way of conducting politics.  
 The mini-scandal over candidate questions that Clinton campaign staffers planted among Iowa rally-goers reinforces suspicions that Clinton is willing to behave dishonestly for political gain. She's done a creditable job shedding the negative baggage of her husband's presidency; she cannot afford to have her character and credibility held up to question.  
 Giuliani, whose lead is much narrower nationwide, has less room for error. Yet his close association with indicted former New York Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik could hurt him. That, and the

discomfiting fact that Giuliani employs an old friend who was suspended from the Catholic priesthood after sex abuse allegations, calls his judgment into question.  
 To his credit, Giuliani last week acknowledged his Kerik "mistake," indicating that he's learned from President Bush's politically deleterious refusal to admit error. But has Giuliani learned from the president's more consequential mistake: valuing personal loyalty over more substantive qualities? His opponents will surely keep the question open.  
 The political is, for better or worse, personal. Rudy Giuliani and Hillary Clinton are two of the strongest personalities in the 2008 race. This past week, though, these New Yorkers' personalities have exposed potential weaknesses. Primary balloting is just weeks away; time for both campaigns to do a political gut-check.

## JOB OPENING

Advertising Sales Assistant for The Jambar beginning Fall 2007. Must be self-motivated, detail oriented, and organized. Outgoing and friendly phone personality and Advertising sales experience is a plus.  
 The Sales Assistant is responsible for bringing in new advertisers, assisting the Advertising sales manager with ads and forming new contracts with potential advertisers. Must be a full-time student in good standing. Previous experience in sales is helpful, but not required.  
 To apply see Lynn Haug in the Kilcawley Center Staff Office and ask for a Jambar application.



## MENS BASKETBALL

# Penguins' hot start will be put to the test against Fighting Irish

Aaron Blatch  
Sports Reporter

After putting thirteen players in the scoring column, including five in double figures, in a 95-55 win over Division II Lock Haven, the Youngstown State men's basketball team will face a more difficult test Saturday when it travels to Notre Dame.

The Penguins (2-1) will put their two-game winning streak on the line in their second ever meeting with the Irish (2-0).

YSU assistant coach Brian DePaoli said that Notre Dame will be a different kind of match-up because of their size and the ability of their big men to step away from the basket and shoot perimeter jump shots.

"They have almost as much size as UCLA," DePaoli said, referencing the team that handled the Penguins 83-52 in the season opener. "Rebounding will be a major point of emphasis in the game. Also they only have two kids that usually play the post. They pose a different look for us in how their bigs can step out."

Maybe the biggest match-up problem for the Penguins will be Rob Kurz, a 6-foot-9 forward who can shoot the ball from every spot on the floor. The senior averaged 12.6 points and 8 rebounds a game last season while shooting 50 percent from the floor and 42.9 percent from the three-point line. Kurz is

"The guys that have been here two years have played at Michigan, Michigan State, Ohio State and now UCLA. The environment factor becomes less of a factor because we've been in these kinds of environments before."

Brian DePaoli, YSU assistant basketball coach

off to an even better start this season, averaging 17 points in the Irish's first two games.

The Penguins will have to decide how to play Kurz, either covering him with a bigger defender who is not as accustomed to stepping away from the basket or guarding him with a smaller player who he could try to back down or shoot over.

Kurz is just part of an Irish attack that relies on ball-movement and penetration from its guards. Notre Dame essentially starts two-point guards in Kyle McAlarney and Tory Jackson, who combined to average close to 10 assists a game last season. The Penguins will have to keep them out of the paint to prevent kickouts to open jump shooters.

DePaoli said this is harder than it

sounds because of the guards' ability to shoot from the outside. Penguin guards Byron Davis and Vance Cooksey will have to put pressure on McAlarney and Jackson without much help behind them for the defense to be successful.

"You get burned one way; you might get burned the other way," DePaoli said. "We have to stay in front of them and try to contain. We have to play them straight up because they can all shoot and create off the dribble."

DePaoli said that two more keys against the Irish will correct two areas that have plagued the Penguins in the young season — turnovers and rebounding. In three games the team has turned the ball over 54 times. These mistakes must

be limited to compete with a team that returns four starters from an NCAA Tournament team last season.

The Penguins put a halt to their rebounding difficulties in a big way Saturday against the Bald Eagles, out-boarding them 62-32. A repeat of that performance will obviously be difficult against the Irish, whose frontline stands 6-9, 6-8 and 6-7. Notre Dame starts relatively small guards at 5-11 and 6-0 so the Penguin backcourt may be able to help their big men out by crashing the defensive boards.

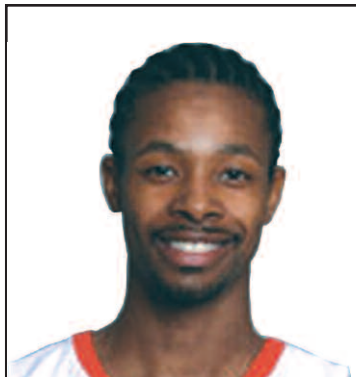
One aspect that DePaoli doesn't expect to have a major impact on the game is the atmosphere at Notre Dame's Joyce Center. The coach doesn't expect the Penguins to get rattled in South Bend since they've already got a game at UCLA's Pauley Pavilion under their belts.

"Playing at UCLA definitely helps," DePaoli said. "The guys that have been here two years have played at Michigan, Michigan State, Ohio State and now UCLA. The environment factor becomes less of a factor because we've been in these kinds of environments before."

The game against Notre Dame will tip off at 4 p.m. Saturday and is the first in a three-game road trip for the Penguins that also includes St. Francis (Pa.) and Eastern Kentucky.



Photo courtesy of Ron Stevens



## PLAYER TO WATCH

*Byron Davis*  
Senior - Guard  
No. 3

## SEASON STATS

49 points scored  
16.3 points per game  
11 assists



## PENGUINS SPORTS TO THE POINT

*Pitching and catching camp to be held in Beeghly Center*

The new Youngstown State baseball coaching staff will host its first camp for high school pitchers and catchers on Friday.

The camp will run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Beeghly Center. The cost is \$100, which includes instruction, videotaping and reviewing of players' skills in hitting, catching and pitching.

The camp will be limited to players in grades nine through 12. Players will have to bring their own equipment.

YSU assistant Craig Antush and volunteer instructor Ray Antonelli will also be at the camp along with the Penguin baseball team's new head coach Rich Pasquale.

Players can register for the camp using the online brochure available at YSU's athletic Web site at [www.ysusports.com](http://www.ysusports.com) and mail the form to the address included in the brochure. Players can also register over the phone by calling the baseball department at (330) 941-3485 or registering the day of the event from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. in Beeghly Center.

The camp will be indoors on the long deck of the basketball court of Beeghly and will take place regardless of weather.

## WOMENS BASKETBALL

## Women's team heads back to New York for LIU Turkey Classic

Jumal Brown  
Andrew Berry  
*The Jambar*

The first-ever meeting between the Youngstown State women's basketball team and the Long Island Brooklyn Blackbirds will be a quality test for the Lady Penguins. On Friday, in the Courtyard by Marriot LaGuardia Turkey Class, the Penguins will take on the No. 1-ranked team on the NEC preseason polls.

The Blackbirds are coming off a year with a school record of 22 wins, earning 15 conference wins, along with an invitation to the Women's National Invitation Tournament.

The Blackbirds' coach, Stephanie Gaitley, has compiled a 383-225 career record in her six seasons with the program. Gaitley is in the works of making the Blackbirds an annual competitor for a national title with last season being a huge step forward.

"Last year was really our year to get over the hump," Gaitley said. "We've been working hard for six years recruiting players, but it takes a few years to reap the benefits of a solid recruiting class."

Long Island is a guard-oriented team, as they start a small lineup, which displays and complements the strengths of their gifted guards.

The Penguin defense will have its hands full with reigning NEC Player and Rookie of the Year Valerie Nainima. The 5-foot-5 sophomore guard from Fiji leads the guard-heavy attack with an average of 22 points per game. Gaitley described Nainima as a player who is constantly involved on the court while leaving room in the spotlight for her teammates.

"The ball is in her hands a lot, and she makes everyone around her better," Gaitley said.

Nainima is joined on the court by guard Mikaelar Whippy, also from Fiji, who is averaging six points and four assists per game. Whippy's excellent ball control skills earned her the second highest ranking in the conference last year with a 1.65 assist-to-turnover ratio.



**OUT OF THE WAY** — Senior guard Heather Karner pushes her way through the defense to break into the interior. Karner has scored 37 points this season is averaging 18.5 points per game. The Penguins return to action Friday at Long Island. Photo courtesy of Ron Stevens.

Sophomore Connie James and senior Anna Dziadkowiec round out the guards for Long Island. James averages 12 points per game, six rebounds per game and shooting .667 percent from the field. James is a valuable player on both ends of the court as she is viewed as primarily (383-225) being a defensive stopper, whereas Dziadkowiec is being looked upon as a vocal leader and shooter.

Forward Sara Oblak, who is averaging 11 points per game, is considered the accurate shooter of the team, and has an international style of play, being able to play face up, or back to the basket. Rounding out the forwards is talented freshman Chelsi Johnson, who is averaging 6 rebounds per game.

The Blackbirds as a team average 57 points a contest with 30 rebounds a game, 11 assists a game, with 19 turnovers a game and 8 steals per game. On defense, the Penguins will look to keep the Blackbird shooters as far away from the basket as possible. The Blackbirds shoot a modest .460 percent from the field but are just .265 percent from 3-point range.

Even with the Penguins off to a slow start, there is still time to right the ship before the crucial conference schedule kicks in and the Horizon League contests begin.

Gaitley said that with every team starting with high goals, the early games of the regular season do not necessarily set the tone for the entire year.

"Everybody starts the season with high expectations and you try to learn from the early games what works and what doesn't," Gaitley said. "One reason we have these tournaments is for teams to play against teams they normally would not and see different styles of offense and defensive schemes."

For the Penguins, getting out to a decent lead and maintaining the advantage late in the game will be a considerable factor if the Penguins want to pick up their first win of the season. If the game comes down to the wire, the Blackbirds will have the upper hand since all of Long Island's games this season have come down to the final shot.