

KEEPING AMERICA'S PROMISE - Caroline Kennedy stumps for Obama, page 6



THE JAMBAR

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931.

EXTRA!

BLACK HISTORY MONTH BONUS WEEK

PAGE 6

Black English be jus as good as standard

VOLUME 90, ISSUE 37

THE SIDEBAR

THEJAMBAR.COM

POLITICS

Students pick Obama by wide margin, survey says

Sarah Sole
News Editor

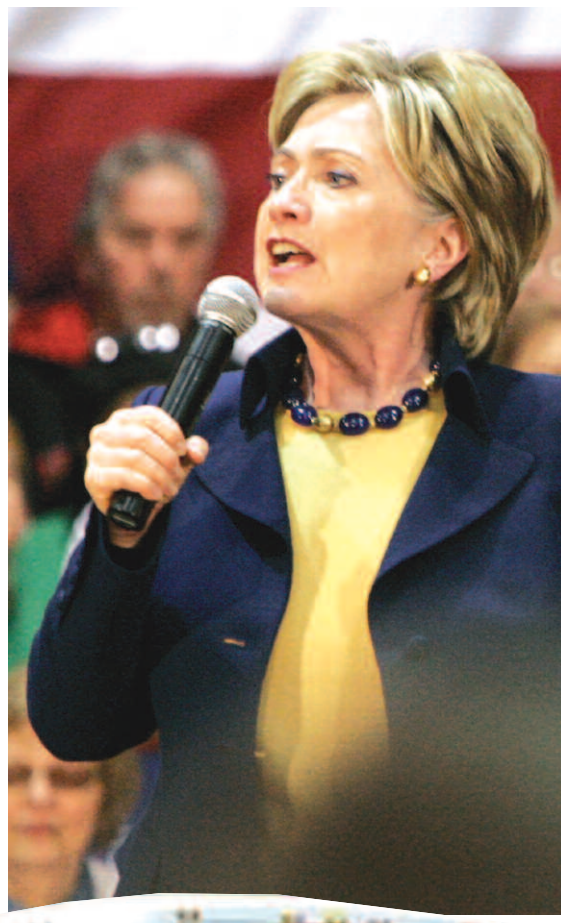
In a non-scientific Jambar poll, 41 percent of 187 Youngstown State University students said they will vote for Democratic presidential candidate Illinois Sen. Barack Obama.

Democratic candidate New York Sen. Hillary Clinton came in second among YSU students polled, at 25 percent. Republican candidate Arizona Sen. John McCain earned approval from 16 percent of students polled, and Republican presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee appealed to 5 percent of students polled. The remaining 13 percent of students polled said they were voting for an alternative candidate.

A total of 198 students completed the survey, which asked additional questions about the 2008 presidential campaign and today's Ohio primary.

Paul Sracic, associate professor of political science at YSU, said Obama's youthful demeanor and

SURVEY, page 2



YSU

YSU president steers clear of endorsing presidential candidate

J. Breen Mitchell
Reporter

Youngstown State University President David Sweet is not making any official endorsements in the Ohio presidential primary.

"I do not believe it would be appropriate for a university president to endorse a candidate, and while I am very interested in this year's election, I will not be discussing my party affiliation or preferred candidate with the media," Sweet said.

He said he believes it is important for voters to hear candidates in person rather than just through the media. He recalled a whistle stop campaign event in Rochester, N.Y. that he attended when he was in the eighth grade.

"In the old days," Sweet said, "candidates would get on a train and go town to town," speaking at railroad stations from the back of the last car, what Sweet called, "old time campaigning."

"Ever since, I have tried to attend campaign rallies to hear the candidates in person," he said.

Sweet saw Illinois Sen. Barack Obama when he spoke at a rally in Beeghly Center Feb. 18. Sweet also attended Chelsea Clinton's speech in Kilcawley Center Tuesday. Sweet said he hasn't attended any off-campus rallies.

"Anybody that comes to campus, I'd be happy to welcome them," Sweet said.

In the past, Sweet and his wife have made a few donations to campaigns or political action groups, but he said he does not regularly donate to political causes.

Notable donations in the past have included checks from both Sweet and his wife, Pat, to the Voinovich for Senate Committee. These checks were for \$300 from Sweet in June 2004 and for \$200 from Pat Sweet in November 2003. Pat Sweet also donated \$500 to CARE PAC, a Republican leadership committee, in July 2004.

Sweet did not comment on the donation to CARE PAC.

Sweet said his donations to Voinovich, a Republican, were based on the working relationship they had dating back to Sweet's days as the Dean of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University. Voinovich was mayor of Cleveland at the time.

One project was a comprehensive planning process called Civic Vision. Sweet said when he became president of YSU, he encouraged former Youngstown Mayor George McKelvey to implement a similar process in Youngstown, which Sweet said became Youngstown 2010.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer reports that Sen. Sherrod Brown will wait for the voters before endorsing a candidate, while Governor Ted Strickland gave his support to Clinton while Youngstown Mayor Jay Williams endorsed Obama.



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Remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar.

YOUNGSTOWN



If the levy passes, for every \$5,000 spent on taxable items, \$12.50 would go to supporting public transportation.

WRTA says YSU students riding on Issue 1

Darlene Wagner
Reporter

Western Reserve Transit Authority wants community support for Issue 1, the WRTA proposal that allows the restoration of the more than 40 percent of bus routes, making public transportation countywide again.

According to WRTA executive director, Jim Ferris, passage of the 0.25 percent sales tax would bring in \$7.5 million in revenue and elim-

inate the 5-mill property tax in Youngstown.

Ferris said restoring full service to Austintown, Boardman, Campbell and Struthers would help students who need a ride to school.

Youngstown State University senior David Munnell knows the feeling all too well.

"I take the bus to school every day, and not having full service effects me greatly," he said.

Munnell said he takes afternoon and evening classes and sometimes

getting home is a chore. Munnell also said he has to come to campus two hours earlier because buses run every other hour instead of twice an hour as they did in the past.

Junior Juleah Buttermore lives on campus and does not use public transportation, but some of her friends, like Munnell, rely on the bus. "I'm supporting the levy because it is necessary for my classmates," she said.

Ferris said that his plan includes park and ride service

to YSU students throughout Mahoning County.

"Students would be able to call for a direct ride from home to campus for a \$2 to \$3 flat rate," he said.

"This is an equitable sales tax. Youngstown has single-handedly bore the expense of supporting public transportation for years. We are asking that an equitable sales tax be applied countywide," he continued.

Ferris said that without the pas-

WRTA, page 2

CAMPUS

Beating the rush: Survey says students want more time between classes

Samantha Pysher
Reporter

During the allotted ten minutes between classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, students at Youngstown State University partake in the campus dash.

Ten minutes is enough for some to make it to class, but others say a 15 minute interval makes more sense.

Senior Adie Kurtanich said the layout of campus is good, but if a student needs to get to the opposite side of campus, it can be tricky to get there on time.

Cynthia Hirtzel, executive director for the center for transportation and materials engineering, said YSU has tried to design the campus so that students can go to one building to another as conveniently as possible.

The Penguin Shuttle takes students up Elm Street, down Fifth

Avenue and across Lincoln Avenue.

"I've never used the shuttle. I don't know where it goes or how it works," Kurtanich said.

Kurtanich is among 76 percent of students who haven't used the Penguin Shuttle, according to a Jambar survey of 100 students.

The survey showed that 10 percent of the students use the Shuttle daily, 11 percent use the Shuttle monthly and 6 percent use the shuttle weekly.

Thelma Silver is an assistant professor of social work at YSU.

"We need to use what we already have transportation wise, like the Shuttle," Silver said.

Penguin Shuttle offers two routes with stops across campus.

For students without time to board the Penguin Shuttle, there are other ways to make the campus trek less rushed.

Hirtzel said if possible, students should try to schedule

classes so that they are not rushing from one side of the campus to the other.

"I know that that's not always possible, but if you can within the limitations of your schedule, it will be easier," Hirtzel said.

Students said one of the leading causes of the rush is the distance between some of the buildings.

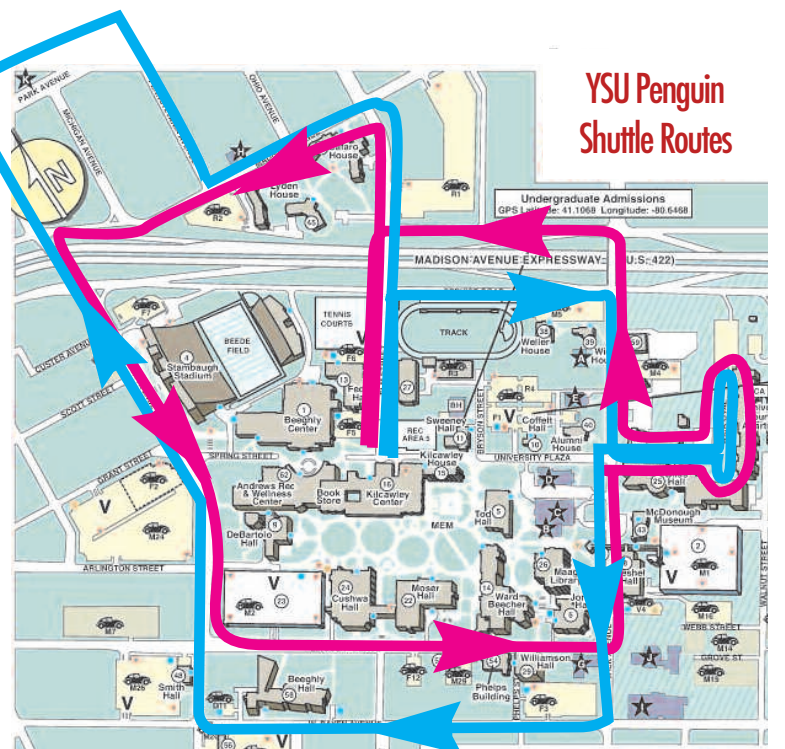
Forty-four percent of students said that 10 minutes is not enough to get from one building to the opposite side of campus.

"The distances between some buildings and the 10 minute interval is problematic," said Kurtanich.

The survey showed that 61 percent of students think a 15-minute interval is best, like the one between classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Hirtzel said that restructuring the schedule to allow 15 minutes between the Monday, Wednesday

RUSH, page 2



YSU Penguin Shuttle Routes

TO THE POINT

Sigma Xi to host evolution forum

YSU's chapter of Sigma Xi, the scientific research honorary society, will be hosting a forum on "Darwin and Evolution" in Kilcawley Center's Bresnahan I and II from 2 to 3 p.m. today. The forum marks the 199th birthday of Charles Darwin. The YSU professors presenting are Heather Lorimer, associate professor of genetics, Jodi Krontiris-Litowitz, professor of neuroanatomy and Shane Smith, assistant professor of geology.

Show opening at Youngstown Playhouse

"A Few Good Men" will open Friday at the Youngstown Playhouse and run through March 16. Friday and Saturday shows begin at 8 p.m. and Sunday shows begin at 2:30 p.m. Admission is \$16 for the general public and \$13 for senior citizens and students.

YSU to give full scholarship as science prize

The annual Lake-to-River Science Day will be held in Beeghly Center from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday for students in grades 5 to 12 from Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana and Ashtabula counties. For the first time, YSU will award a four-year full-tuition scholarship to the high school junior or senior with the best project.

Early retirement program continues

Forty-five YSU employees will be retiring March 1, including Bill Sperlazza, director of Housing and Residence Life. This brings the number of employees that have retired since April 2006 as part of an early retirement plan to 134. Altogether, the retirees gave over 3,500 years of service to the university.

Oakland opens "The Stage" to public

The Oakland Center for the Performing Arts will be holding its semi-monthly open mic event, "The Stage." Slated to perform is local author Chris Barzak, the Realtime Digimob and poet Mona Lisi. Local musician B.J. O'Malley will also be having her farewell performance. Admission is \$5 for both audience members and performers.

Campus Recreation accepting homecoming chair applications

Individuals who want to be 2008 Homecoming chair can give or E-mail a letter of interest to Greg Gulas, Homecoming Advisor. The application deadline is March 21 by 5 p.m.

The Center for Islamic Studies to hold presentation

The Center for Islamic Studies and the Judaic and Holocaust Studies program will hold "Studying the Jewish and Islamic Traditions: Revelation" on Thursday at 7 p.m. in Kilcawley Center's Jones Room. Revelation is the main topic to be discussed.

POLICE BRIEFS

Bag stolen in Ward Beecher

A theft was reported in Ward Beecher Hall Feb. 26. A female student said her bag had gone missing while she attended class. The student and professor saw no one out of the ordinary in the room.

Fire alarm reported

Officers were called to University Courtyard Apartments Feb. 27 in response to a fire alarm, which went off due to a smoky kitchen. No further incident was reported.

SURVEY, page 1

optimistic approach attracts young voters. Young people are more optimistic about government change than older people are, Sracic said. Their experience with government is limited, so they are not always aware of how slowly change happens.

Sophomore Stephanie Domenick took note of Obama's optimism.

Domenick said Obama's speeches were energetic and entertaining, and said she would probably vote for him. She liked the fact that he is liberal, and also liked his Iraq policy for troop removal and his energy plan, she said.

Rico Clark, a sophomore, will also vote for Obama. Clark said he liked the way Obama presented himself during his visit to campus Feb. 18. The senator sounded confident and spoke well without using notes, Clark said.

Clark is not the only student to pay attention to candidates' local visits. In the survey, 87 percent of 198 students said the candidates' rallies in Youngstown influenced their opinion.

Besides watching how Obama carried himself at YSU, Clark also watched the presidential candidate on the televised debates. Clark said Obama remained in

control, and the debates show that he can work well under pressure. "I think he was the best debater," he said.

Domenick also said she watched the debates, however, she said that a candidate's message matters more to her than whether the candidate won or lost the debate, she said.

Some people thought the debates wouldn't be as popular among voters as in the past, Sracic said.

"What we're seeing is just the opposite," he said.

Of 198 students surveyed, 53 percent said they watch televised primary debates.

Debates may be attractive to students because they are like alternative reality shows, Sracic said. It can be exciting for students to see the candidates' reactions during the debate.

While debates are interesting to some students, the survey showed that only 45 percent of 196 students look at campaign news online.

Sracic said that looking online for election information is not popular with most students. Many students are still finding out what they are interested in, he said. Upon getting older and becoming house owners, issues like taxes

will affect students more directly. Domenick said she would rather obtain information by viewing it on TV than by reading about it online.

Clark agreed, adding that he also prefers reading newspapers over searching online for information.

"I have no choice but to look at the newspaper," he said.

Though some newspapers have covered the issue of military experience in this election, 64 percent of 198 students surveyed said a president is not better qualified if he or she has military experience.

Domenick agreed, saying, "It could help, but I don't think it necessarily means that they're better."

Sracic said the traits that people look for in a presidential candidate change depending upon which issues are considered most important.

"That changes every four years," he said.

Since we are now concerned with the economy, military experience is not such a determining factor. However, in 2004, when there was a rampant fear of terrorism, military experience mattered more, Sracic said.

Polls for today's Ohio primary are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

WRTA, page 1

sage of the levy the economy in Mahoning County will be adversely affected.

"People had to quit jobs because they could not get to work. Not only that, students had to scuffle around for rides and drop classes because there was no bus service available to get them (to YSU)," he said.

Ferris also said there are plans to put a transit center on campus.

"This would be a nice marriage for the 2010 plan, furthering the regionalization," he said.

"We've always provided service throughout the county," he said, describing how the elderly, students and workers depend on WRTA.

"We have never told anyone they couldn't ride if they didn't live in Youngstown," said Ferris, answering opponents who say WRTA is a Youngstown issue.

"Youngstown is the county seat for education, employment, medical and social services. We get people where they need to go. The passage of this levy is instrumental in the continued economic development in the entire Mahoning Valley," he concluded.

RUSH, page 1

and Friday classes wouldn't be easy.

"That's a complicated issue because the state requires that classes meet for so many hours a week," Hirtzel explained.

"I don't know if it would be necessary though," said junior Shane Downing.

Downing said that he can make the walk between Debartolo and Bliss halls in 10 minutes.

"Students need enough time to get from class to class without being late, and in 15 minutes students should be able to get from one building to another," Silver said.

Sixty-five percent of students said that they feel rushed when traveling across campus.

"For instance, if I'm in the basement of Ward Beecher and I need to get to the fifth floor of Debartolo, it's impossible to get to the class on time," Kurtnich explained.

Thirty-nine percent of students said that they're late to class because of the distance between buildings.

If a student does have to rush

from one side of the campus to the other, Silver suggested what she calls the "Common Sense Strategies":

- Sit by the door
- Use the stairs
- Have items ready to go before the class dismisses
- Plot the quickest route to the next building

Another way to avoid rushing from building to building is to keep building distances in mind when scheduling.

Fifty-five percent of students said that they don't keep building distances in mind when scheduling, and forty-five percent do keep the building distances in mind.

Kurtnich suggested that departments keep their classes in the same building as their office for better organization and shorter travel times.

Although some students think that the layout of the buildings could be better, there is one thing to remember about YSU, according to Silver.

"Students make the atmosphere," she said, "not the buildings."

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upcoming events

Tuesday

The graphic imperative, international posters of peace, social justice and the environment 1965-2005-YSU McDonough Museum of Art
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Guitar Hero
The Cellar
8 p.m.

Open Mic Night
Barley's
10 p.m.

Simply Ed Karaoke
O'Donald's Irish Pub and Grill
10 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Open Mic Night
Cedars
10 p.m.

Wednesday

College ID Night
The Wedge
9 p.m.

DJ Killin
Barley's
10 p.m.

Simply Ed Karaoke-
Salty Grog's
10 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Thursday

Cornhole Tournament
The Wedge
8 p.m. - 2 a.m.

80's night with J-Scratch
Barley's
10 p.m.

Friday

Barley's second anniversary
celebration featuring Asleep
8 p.m.

Medic Medic, User Sets Mode,
Deathcrazed Teenage Superheroes
Cedars
11 p.m.

Saturday

Kitchen Knife Conspiracy's 10 Year
Stomp Core Celebration
The Cellar
10 p.m.

Strength of Strings 6
Cedars
10 p.m.



Sales Analysis

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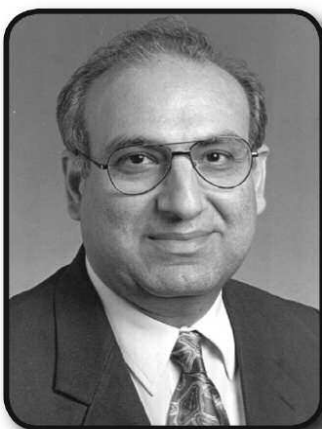
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Studying the Jewish and Islamic Traditions Revelation

Thursday, 6 March 2008 7 pm

Jones Room, Kilcawley Center
Youngstown State University
Youngstown, Ohio



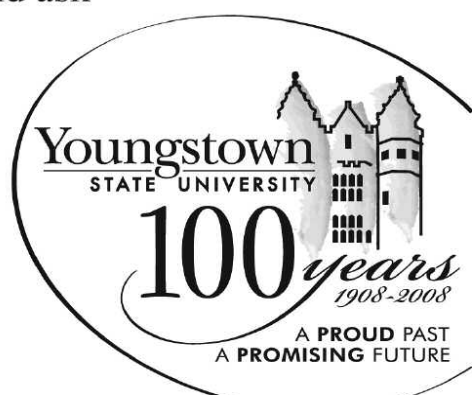
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OUR SIDE

Get that youth in the booth

Congratulations, Youngstown State University students, for shattering the stereotype that young people don't vote.

In our survey, 57 percent of 196 students said they always vote. OK, so this statistic is not exactly an earth-shattering one. True, there could very well be many others that weren't surveyed that choose not to vote.

This number is evidence that young people are excited about politics. Just ask students who volunteer for presidential campaigns — sometimes until 2 a.m. Just ask the students whose cheers mingled with the rest of the crowd's roar at Barack Obama's rally at YSU and Hillary Clinton's at Chaney High School two weeks ago.

The last three decades witnessed a declining voter turnout among the under-30 age bracket. The primary turnout for this year's election, though, is already proving those stats wrong. Washingtonpost.com reported that in 2008, some primary states have seen youth voter turnout double, triple and even quadruple compared to four years ago. Young people have plunged their presence in Democratic primaries this year as well, going from 9 percent of all voters in 2004 to 14 percent of voters this year, according to the source.

Our survey shows that 78 percent of YSU students polled plan to vote in the Ohio primary today. We're impressed, but that 22 percent without plans to vote should reconsider. Almost all of the students polled would agree: 93 percent of them think Ohio's vote will matter in the primaries. To cast your vote today, you would have had to register 30 days ago, but if you haven't, be sure to register for the general election in November.

If you are already an eligible voter, don't pass up the chance to speak out. This presidential primary might be more important than the actual election, if you're a Democrat at least. The competition between Democratic candidates Hillary and Barack is fierce in Ohio, and here in the Mahoning Valley. The Democratic contest at the polls today may be a closer call than the rivalry between elephant and donkey will become fall.

If you're still mulling it over, we'll make it easy for you. Where do you vote? Go to the designated polling place that serves the precinct where you live. Check with your county board of elections if you need a bit of geographical help.

How do you vote? Election officials will tell you when you get there.

Don't forget your ID.

POLICIES

Editorials in The Jambar reflect the opinions of the editorial staff, including the Editor in Chief, News Editor, Managing Editor and Copy Editor.

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. E-mail submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com

Letters should concern campus issues, 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. Items submitted become the property of The Jambar and will not be returned.

Letters will not be rejected based on the view expressed in them. Letters may be rejected if they are not relevant to Jambar readers if they seek free publicity or if the editorial staff decides the subject has not been sufficiently aired. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent.

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

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press Honors.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am not afraid of a female president. However, as we learned in South Carolina, most of America is extremely afraid of Bill Clinton manipulating his third — and possibly fourth — term as "Co-President" of The United States — via proxy. A former president back in the White House eight years later is not only strange; his agenda seems dangerous and vindictive. Hillary Clinton is not a bad person, but she cannot be president solely because her husband Bill would be allowed to set foot back inside the White House, let alone live there, gallivant around the world on Air Force One, Two, or Three — and then give speeches on national television to children and female interns for four or more years. Co-President Bill Clinton? No way. "Slick Willie" indirectly sharing the reigns of power in Washington again? That cannot be. I know of no greater filth, embarrassment, or ruin to our country as catastrophic as William Jefferson Clinton being allowed anywhere near The White House grounds ever again.

Baron Hanson

Dear Editor,

When I hear Barack Obama speak, hope rises in me in a way it has not done for many years.

For quite some time many people in this country have had reason to feel suspicious of politicians. Among other reasons, Sen. Obama is special because he expresses the hopes and desires of many Americans, and, indeed, he does so in a way that people really begin to believe, again, that they do in fact have a hand in shaping the course and history of this great nation. When people are united and inspired, change can and does come from the people. And that change, once unleashed, can move swiftly and profoundly. Sen. Obama speaks to this.

I favor Barack Obama, as I think he is brilliant, passionate and a spokesperson for a generation of Americans jaded by the status quo. He expresses the sentiments of a generation of Americans desirous of substantive change in domestic affairs and those in foreign policy.

Of all Americans, Sen. Obama keenly recognizes the idea that insanity is defined as following the same failed course. Barack Obama wants to elevate foreign policy by trying new and refreshing methods. I believe he wants to restore the stellar reputation this country once held among many nations.

I shall continue sending donations, when I can afford to do so. I hope that Sen. Obama is elected as the next president of the United States, and once he's in office I hope that he will be allowed to chart the course this country so greatly needs if ever it is to grow in maturity and sanity.

Whether he is talking about health care, jobs or foreign policy, I want him to be the next president.

Charles St. James

Dear Editor,

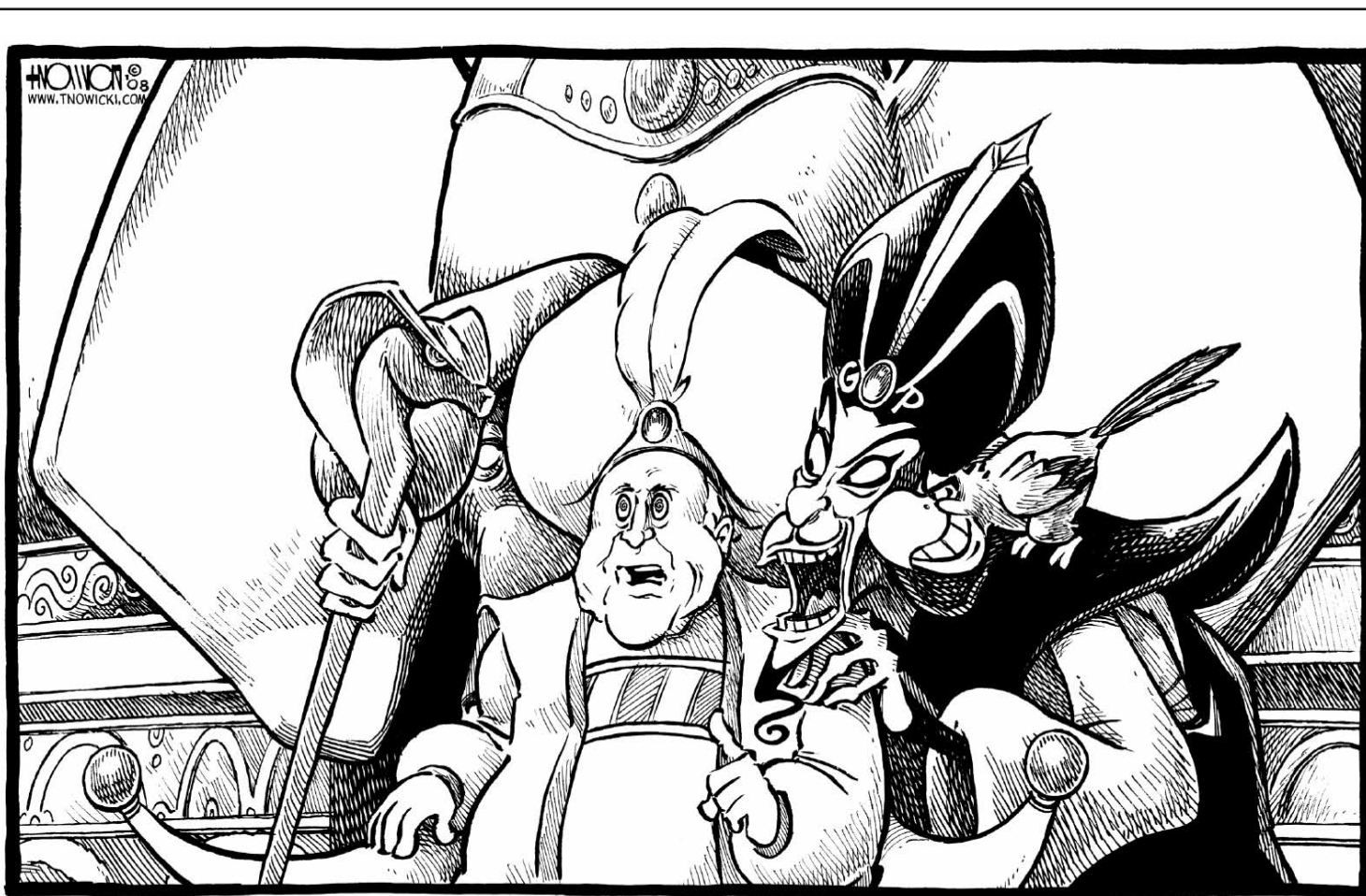
Since human kind advanced beyond the Mesozoic Era right up to the present Holocene Epoch, clearly the continued need for the Second Amendment amongst the higher vertebrates has greatly diminished [proof as seen in Japan and England].

In fact, such an Amendment cries out for vaporization into the ether. But nay, zealots hostile to stem cell research, abortion, and the end of this idiotic trillion dollar Bush-busy-work war view banishing guns as being violently against their religious belief that life begins at conception.

Therefore, because America is in the hands of you, the college student, please ponder at what point do we say enough is enough, and that it's not only guns that kill people but also angry college students? How many more parents' kids will die in a classroom before this selfish generation does what no political bill can: shoves it up the NRA's nose, if that's where we're talking.

Insist that both party candidates move aggressively to end gun terrorism throughout America — supposedly the greatest country in the world — where being shot dead is a greater possibility than being bitten by a deadly snake in the Third World as you harvest rice or opium.

Ted Williams
YSU alumnus, 1995



'MY FRIENDS, LET'S JUST FORGET ABOUT CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM. RULES WERE MADE TO BE BROKEN BY CONSERVATIVES. LIBERAL ATTACK MACHINE! LIBERAL ATTACK MACHINE!!'

COMMENTARY

U.S. has only a brief time to influence events in Cuba

Joel Brinkley

McClatchy-Tribune News Service (MCT)

I was chatting with a senior administration official about Syria not long ago. Why, I asked, does the United States maintain an embassy in Damascus if, as the administration claims, Syria is a state sponsor of terror providing support to Hezbollah in Lebanon and anti-American insurgents in Iraq?

"If you close the embassy," this official said matter of factly, "then you close off your ability to influence events there."

Which brings me to the subject of Cuba.

For almost 50 years, emotion-driven political considerations have governed America's relationship with Cuba — with a total absence of logic. Every presidential candidate feared alienating the 800,000 Cubans in South Florida who frame their lives around their fervent hatred of Fidel Castro.

Well now that Castro has retired, Washington has a brief, unique window of opportunity to influence events in Havana.

Cuba's relationship with America is a paradox. Castro built his career around vilification of Washington. And yet, for decades tens of thousands of Cubans have risked their lives to reach America. No country

has a greater potential to wield influence there. But time is short.

Across the island the promise of change hangs like humidity in the air, and right now the United States can wield influence with little if any political cost. Bush is not running for re-election. And if Cuban-Americans erupt in anger, John McCain can simply say he disagrees with Bush's decision.

On Sunday, the central committee selected Raul Castro, Fidel's 76-year-old brother, as president. In his acceptance speech, he said once again that he is unhappy with the status quo. While serving as acting president last year, he said more than once that he would like to improve relations with Washington. Now is the moment to see if that is so.

A year from now, after a new president takes office in Washington, Cuba's new leadership team will have settled into the palace — as well as the perks and privileges that come with absolute power. Their single ambition will be to hold onto their jobs.

A year from now, the new American president will already be worrying about re-election and the votes he or she may lose by alienating Cuban-Americans in Florida.

President Bush has a singular opportunity. But he says he will not talk to Cuba's leaders until they begin creating a democracy. That's

been the American line for decades. What other nation do we hold to that standard? Not China. Not Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Libya.

Part of the reason, Bush explained last week, was that the Cuban people have "suffered under Fidel Castro." No doubt.

But under Kim Jong Il's leadership, North Koreans are subjected to successive famines, floods, fuel shortages, pandemics and mass assignments to gulag labor camps. And yet, senior American officials have met with Kim and his aides several times in recent years, to discuss North Korea's nuclear program and other issues. This week, the New York Philharmonic is performing in Pyongyang.

The United States holds Omar al-Bashir, the dictator-president of Sudan, responsible for genocide in Darfur that has claimed more than 200,000 lives. But the United States maintains a full embassy in Khartoum. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and her deputies frequently meet with Bashir, including one time when his guards beat up members of Rice's staff.

The State Department has this to say about conditions in Zimbabwe last year:

"Unlawful killings and politically motivated kidnappings occurred. The state sanctioned the use of excessive force and torture, and

security forces tortured members of the opposition, union leaders and civil society activists." And yet the United States maintains an embassy in Harare.

Compared to citizens of those states, Cuba's people almost seem privileged. And given the economic deprivation of the last 40 years, Cuba stands as a hungry new market for American goods.

Washington fought hard to win a free-trade agreement with Costa Rica, which has a population of 4.1 million. "A lot of people are benefiting" from that agreement, Bush averred last year. Cuba's population is nearly four times as large. Wouldn't the benefit be four times as great?

Why not task Thomas Shannon, the assistant secretary of state for the region, to meet with Cuba's new leaders. I know and respect Shannon; he is not an ideologue. I bet he would relish the assignment.

Perhaps he could lay out a reciprocal series of steps Cuba and the United States could take with the eventual goal of normal relations. To start, the United States could liberalize visitation policies for Americans while Cuba begins releasing political prisoners.

Tell me: What harm would come from trying?

Irrelevant at any speed

McClatchy-Tribune

News Service

(MCT)

Ralph Nader was just 31 years old when he burst into public consciousness by practically inventing a new role: consumer advocate. His 1965 book "Unsafe at Any Speed," which portrayed the Chevrolet Corvair as a scandalously dangerous vehicle, not only helped push the model off the market but induced the federal government to mandate a variety of safety features in cars, from seat belts to safety glass.

Never mind that the Corvair was eventually exonerated by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration — Nader's reputation was established. He went on to push consumer-minded initiatives in other industries and founded public-interest groups dedicated to his causes. His energetic efforts attracted scores of young people out to change the world. In the process, he became one of the most notable social activists in American history.

But over time, his influence ebbed. His more pragmatic ideas, such as expanded regulation to promote safety in cars, food, and the workplace, found plenty of support among conventional politicians. His more radical ones, such as forcing companies to pay a "living wage" and withdrawing from the World Trade Organization, have never caught on with the general public.

Nader's endless denunciations

of corporations don't get much traction among the American people, many of whom value the jobs, goods and services that such companies provide. So he's grown increasingly irrelevant, seen by many as a humorless scold or a strident dogmatist.

Nader also did himself great damage among many liberals who will never forgive him for running for president in 2000 and — in their view helping elect George W. Bush by taking votes away from Al Gore. So whatever Nader has been saying in recent years, not many people have been listening.

But he found in 2000 that if he can't get public attention any other way, he can get it by running for president. His announcement this week that he'll enter this year's race as a third-party candidate got the spotlight turned his way, at least for the moment.

He says he's doing it because so many of his goals from cutting the defense budget to creating a "single-payer" health care system are being ignored by the major candidates. But maybe that's because the candidates don't see sufficient public support for them, in which case it's the public that is mostly to blame.

In any case, Nader's previous races for president don't appear to have helped those causes in the least. About all they've done is force people to pay him a bit more attention than usual.

Maybe that's the whole idea.

Ask me no idiotic poll questions, I'll tell you no lies

Peter Callaghan

(MCT)

How do pollsters know what Americans are thinking? With sophisticated polls like this:

Thank you for taking the time to respond to some questions about the upcoming election.

If the election were held today, which presidential candidate would you vote for?

- a) Hillary Clinton
- b) John McCain
- c) Barack Obama
- d) Joel and Ethan Coen
- e) Lou Dobbs

When thinking about the future direction of the country, would you say the United States is...

- a) On the right track.
- b) On the wrong track.
- c) Up the creek without a paddle.
- d) Up the creek with a paddle.

What is most important to you this election year?

- a) The Iraq war
- b) The economy
- c) Education
- d) Transportation
- e) Why my husband never picks up his clothes even though I ask him and ask him over and over until I'm ready to explode. I really mean it this time.

What effect will Ralph Nader's candidacy have on the presidential campaign?

- a) Focus public attention on consumer protection and Ralph Nader.
- b) Force the Democratic nominee to move to the left.
- c) Cause Hillary Clinton to punch him in the pants.
- d) Make John McCain seem young.

What is your main complaint about the mainstream news media?

- a) It is a tool of the liberal left.
 - b) It is a tool of corporate owners.
 - c) It is sensationalistic and cares only about which of Britney Spears' children are in rehab.
 - d) It still leaves the paper on the steps even though I want it next to the screen door so I don't have to open the door all the way when it's cold out.
 - e) It ignores vital stories about missing white women and Satanic cults.
- Which of the following do you think deserves the most blame for the wretched condition of America?
- a) The Bush White House
 - b) The Democratic Congress
 - c) Big corporations
 - d) Illegal immigrants
 - e) The mainstream media.
 - f) Steroids.

Now for some demographic questions: What is your approximate age?

- a) Older than dirt.
 - b) Young at heart.
 - c) What business is it of yours?
 - d) Old enough.
- What is your household income?
- a) Upper middle class
 - b) Middle class
 - c) Lower middle class
 - d) Upper middling middle class.
 - e) Dirt poor.
 - f) Less than Paul Allen but more than my worthless brother-in-law.

Which party do you most closely identify with?

- a) Republican
- b) Democrat
- c) Libertarian
- d) Taliban
- e) Beach

That completes this survey. We'll use the results to predict the outcome of the next election before you actually get to vote. Thank you and good night.



Caroline Kennedy stumps for Obama at YSU, few students attend

Richard Louis Boccia,
Managing Editor



ANOTHER KENNEDY AT YSU — Former first daughter Caroline Kennedy spoke for the Obama campaign at Youngstown State University Friday in the Butler Institute of American Art. Fewer than a dozen students attended, despite exit polls that show Obama

as the favorite among young voters, according to NPR. Senior Alex Mangie, president of YSU College Republicans, said he totally disagreed with Kennedy. "I'm just checking out the competition," he said. "In my opinion, I don't think Obama or Hillary can

beat John McCain," he said. Junior Alison Kukla, president of Mahoning County Young Democrats, worked at the speech for Obama. "I know a lot of undecideds are here," she said, adding that she hopes Kennedy's "inspirational"

speech swayed them to Obama. Sophomore Mark Sullivan stood in the back near the volunteers during the speech and got his hands on a campaign sign after the event. "I'll make sure I have this in my car window," he said, for undecided voters.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Linguists say black English be a real dialect, jus like standard

Ashley Tate

News Reporter

It cold in here.
It be cold in here.
Which is correct? Linguists on the campus of Youngstown State University say both are right when speaking African American Vernacular English, also known as Ebonics or black English. While the dialect doesn't have the same status in America as standard English, it follows its own grammar rules, and has some features that are better than standard. YSU English professors Steven Brown and Salvatore Attardo wrote the textbook "Understanding Language, Structure, Interaction, and Variation," used at YSU to teach about dialects. "Even if you don't think you speak a dialect, you do. We all do," Brown said. His book explains that "it be cold in here" from black English has a slightly different meaning than "it's cold in here," with the "be" signifying ongoing action. "It be cold in here" means "it's always cold in here," but with fewer syllables. Barbara Nykiel-Herbert, assistant English professor at YSU, said "it is cold in here" in standard has no more meaning than "it cold in here" in black English. The "is" is a vestige, and cleaning it out "makes the system more symmetrical, more economic," she said.

When speaking of the past, both dialects use "it was cold" since the verb carries important meaning. Nykiel-Herbert said Russian and Chinese work the same way. In this way, black English is more efficient, she said. Brown said not everyone whom we would assume to speak a dialect speaks that dialect, and not all black people speak black English. "I once had a student who was originally from Vietnam who spoke African American English because all his friends in high school did. That's the variety of English he knew," Brown said. "All dialects, all varieties are a matter of percentages," he said. "That can't be stressed enough."

In the case of Youngstown and the rest of eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania, Brown said these residents speak a regional variety. Brown said linguists are more apt to use the term "variety" instead of "dialect" because languages vary according to where people live. Brown said when he grew up in California, people couldn't say, "The car needs washed." They had to say, "The car needs to be washed." Vigliotti said speakers use dialects for two social reasons, either to identify with a certain group or to keep people out. Groups enhance their solidarity by sharing a dialect, according to Brown's book. Vigliotti described word choice as one part of dialect. "You might have had grandparents who said icebox instead of refrigerator. In Cleveland, it's yens. Down south, it's ya'll. It's a different way to say things." At college campuses like YSU, where people speaking different language varieties mix, some people say "pop" while others say "soda." Another factor of dialect is accent, which Brown explained as pronunciation. Beyond that, grammar rules determine the arrangement of words in sentences, another characteristic that can vary by dialect. Junior Shaleea Thurston said she first heard of black English in her African studies class, although

she is black. She said no one speaks correctly in terms of grammar. "Nobody speaks proper English, not even professors, so they can kick rocks with that one," she said. Vigliotti said she doesn't think there is such a thing as improper grammar or English. "You may not be pronouncing something grammatically correct, just as long as the communication is successful. You get my point and I get yours," she said. Brown said the question of proper and improper occurs based on situation. "Using dialect when standard is called for and standard when dialect is called for" is what Brown would call improper English. Nykiel-Herbert said speaking black English in situations where listeners expect standard is like speaking Swedish to a room where everyone speaks Danish. The Danes would understand, but might say that the Swedes are speaking bad Danish. Senior Sara Wise, a white student, also said she didn't know black English was a dialect. She said she would've categorized it as slang or improper English. Wise said her family and friends from her hometown in Bellville make comments about how she talks and wonders if black English is how she's being taught to speak in Youngstown. "My dad corrects me all the time. I usually say, 'Oh, whatever Dad. I know the correct way; I know the difference.' If I wanted to say it correctly I would have," she said. Brown said some people may

say black English is incorrect grammar because it is not standard English. He categorized it into two parts. "There's standard written English, which we tend not to speak, and standard spoken English, which we use in public, but probably not with our friends," he said. Junior Lisa Jones, a black student, didn't know about black English as a dialect, but said there is a time and a place for it. A job interview is not the place, but while hanging out with friends it's OK. Sometimes, talk show hosts Oprah Winfrey and Tyra Banks switch back and forth between standard spoken English and black English. Vigliotti called this code switching. "You can move freely (between dialects) depending on how fluent you are," she said. Vigliotti said some parts of black English originated from Southern whites who brought their own dialects from the British Isles, and mixed them with the pidgins that were formed

between West Africans and sailors. According to Brown's book, a pidgin is a "simplified language originating from the mixture of two or more languages used primarily for trading purposes." When it comes to writing papers, Jones said she sometimes catches herself writing how she talks. "I just need to go over it again and catch things, like, 'Ooh, that's wrong,' and then make it grammatically correct," Jones said. Thurston said she doesn't find it hard to write differently than how she talks. Wise agreed, saying, "I know the right way to write. When I'm talking it flows better, but when I'm writing a paper, I'm focused on how it's supposed to be." Brown said students tend not to know much about black English, "unless they've taken linguistics and stayed awake." "(They) tend to learn it for the test and then let their own prejudices override anything they've learned," he said.

BLACK ENGLISH
"it be cold in here"
=
"it's always cold in here"
STANDARD ENGLISH

BLACK ENGLISH
"it cold in here"
=
"it's cold in here"
STANDARD ENGLISH

THE ARMY ADVANTAGE FUND. BECAUSE SOLDIERS DESERVE MORE.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Hunt for Horizon crown begins

Penguins draw a favorable first round matchup in the Horizon League Tournament against Illinois-Chicago.

Aaron Blatch & Andrew Berry

The Jambar

Although they are just the number-nine seed in the Horizon League Tournament, the men on Youngstown State's basketball team got a first-round matchup that they know they can win.

On Jan. 3, the Penguins knocked off Illinois-Chicago at YSU's Beeghly Center for their second of a season-long three-game win streak. They will look for a similar

came in the other matchup with the Penguins, who sit at 5-13 in the league and 9-20 overall. On Feb. 2 YSU suffered an 86-72 loss at UIC. The home win was nothing new for the Flames, who finished the regular season 11-2 on their own floor.

Despite missing out on home-court advantage in the first round — something the Penguins enjoyed a year ago — Davis is more than ready to play in front of an opposing crowd engulfed in the electricity of a playoff atmosphere.

"When we played at their place

Sulskis will need to continue being an important contributor with the defense likely focusing on seniors Byron Davis and John Barber, YSU's leading scorers on the season.

In turn, the Penguins' defensive game plan will be centered on stopping junior guard Josh Mayo. He is the only Flames player averaging double figures in scoring with 17.5 points per game and has averaged 19 this season versus YSU. He is part of a loaded backcourt that contributes the majority of UIC's scoring output, much of which come from behind the 3-point arc. The Flames shoot over 40 percent from behind the line, led by Mayo's 48.6 percent.

UIC is a decent matchup for the Penguins, who are undersized up front. Four of their five leading scorers are guards, with the only exception being junior center Scott Vandermeer averaging 9.5 points and 7.4 rebounds a game. While talented, these guards do not present a major size disadvantage for YSU's guard rotation of Davis, Sulskis, Vance Cooksey and Mikko Niemi.

One area that clearly favors the Flames is bench play. The UIC bench has outscored YSU's reserves 57-36 in this season's head-to-head contests. They boast one of the Horizon League's deepest rosters with seven players averaging over 5 points per game and 10 players making at least one start. The Penguins' reserves will have to match the intensity of their counterparts.

One reserve who could make a difference is junior forward Jack Liles. Averaging 9.9 points per game, Liles brings Horizon League Tournament experience to the table, as he started in last season's first-round win over Detroit, scoring 13 points. He has been up and down this year, but a big offensive game in support of Davis and Barber would be a major advantage for the Penguins.

The winner of the game will go on to face the winner of Loyola/Milwaukee in the second round. Davis said the team has looked at film and scouting reports heading into their first round contest and hopes to reuse the strategy that earned the Penguins their early season win over UIC.

Having played in the Horizon League for his entire college career, Davis said this year's bracket is the toughest he's ever seen. He stressed the importance of the team keeping its bearings on an extremely competitive field.

"It's important to be confident," Davis said. "With Butler being ranked high this season and other teams having good seasons, it's going to be one of the toughest tournaments we've played in."

TOURNAMENT BREAKDOWN

#10 Detroit (7-22; 3-15)
at #3 Wright State (20-9; 12-6)

Though Detroit has suffered through a miserable season, the team should actually be able to give the third-seeded Raiders a tough game. Detroit has played well on Wright State's floor this season, losing a 59-58 decision after Vaughn Duggins made a last-second shot for the Raiders. The first meeting was also a close game, with Wright State again winning 66-57.

Detroit head coach Perry Watson has been in the Horizon League for 15 years, so he should have his team prepared to play against a solid, but not dominating, Raider squad.

#8 Loyola (11-18; 6-12) at
#5 Milwaukee (14-15; 9-9)

Loyola will have to get over the mental damage caused by being blown out in Milwaukee last week, 68-53. The Ramblers did get an overtime win on their home floor over Milwaukee in December, but that must seem like an eternity ago for a struggling team that has dropped five of its last seven games.

If a lack of confidence does not end Loyola's season, expect Paige Paulsen, one of the best players in the Horizon League to do so. Paulsen is averaging 16.5 points per game in the two meetings between the teams.

#7 Green Bay (15-14; 9-9)
at #6 Valparaiso (19-12; 9-9)

Easily the best first-round matchup, these teams split regular season meetings in high-scoring fashion. Each team won on its home floor, with Valpo overcoming 34 points from Mike Schachtner in a January meeting to get an 82-73 win, and Green Bay returning the favor in February with a 76-71 overtime victory.

Each team has played well lately, with Valparaiso winning four straight games and Green Bay winning their last two. With even league records and two competitive head-to-head games, this one is too close to call.

outcome, this time on UIC's home floor, in tournament play today at 8 p.m.

Senior guard Byron Davis, the Penguins' second leading scorer during the regular season, is looking forward to taking on the Flames in the first round.

"We feel good about the matchup," Davis said. "It's a real good matchup for us, and it will be a good game."

The Flames enter as the four seed, at 9-9 in the conference and 16-14 overall. One of those wins

they had a good crowd," Davis said. "I like that. Playing in front of fans that are intense is fun because it's March Madness. It's tournament time, and it's going to be intensified again."

One Penguin who should be thrilled at the tournament bracket is Vytas Sulskis. The freshman guard had two of his best games of the season against UIC, lighting them up for a season-high 26 points in the first meeting and leading his team with 18 points in the second game.



UNDER PRESSURE — Freshman guard Vance Cooksey gets under the UIC defense for a short shot in the paint. The Penguins and Flames split the season series and will face each other for the third time in 2008 tonight. Last time out the Penguins traveled to Chicago and lost a hard fought contest to the Flames by the final score of 86-72. YSU also dropped its last two regular season games. Photo courtesy of Ron Stevens.

Player to Watch

Vytas Sulskis, Freshman No. 44, Guard

2007 Horizon League

All-Newcomer Selection

Season Stats

263 points

126 rebounds

57 assists

30 steals

Versus UIC

44 points

14 rebounds

3 assists

3 steals



DISHING THE ROCK — Sophomore guard Kaitlyn March swivels around the defense to dish the ball outside. The Penguins will play two more league games before the tournament. Photo courtesy of Ron Stevens.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Penguins to host first round tournament game, drop league contest to Valparaiso Crusaders

Aaron Blatch

Sports Reporter

For just the second time since entering the Horizon League and the first since Tisha Hill was named head coach in 2003, the Youngstown State women's basketball team will host a first-round league tournament game. The Penguins' opponent has not been announced, but the game will be played at 7:05 p.m. Monday at YSU's Beeghly Center.

News of the home playoff game comes days after the Penguins spoiled a chance to win their final regular-season home contest of the year. At halftime of Saturday's game versus Valparaiso all was going well for the Penguins, particularly for its seniors looking to get a win on their Senior Day. The second half, coupled with some tough Crusader defense, was not as kind to the Penguins.

Youngstown State (12-15, 7-9 in the Horizon League) shot 50 percent from the floor in the first half

and took a 37-34 lead into intermission. That hot start would not hold up, as the team was limited to just 29.9 percent shooting in the second half and lost 70-59.

Seniors Heather Karner and Jessica Schloemp both had solid performances on their Senior Day. Karner scored a game-high 21 points, and Schloemp put together one of her best all-around performances of the season with 16 points and 10 rebounds. Fellow senior Lauren Branson added eight assists, and senior Kira Mowen made her first start of the season in her final home game.

The second half went back and forth before the Crusaders took control of the game. After falling behind, the Penguins took their final lead of the contest at 52-51 on a Karner jump shot with 11:29 remaining. Following Karner's jumper, the Penguins fell into a drought as the Crusader offense came alive. The Penguin defense did all it could to break out of the funk but fell victim to a 19-7 Valparaiso run to finish the game.

Despite their third straight loss, the Penguins still have a chance to finish the Horizon League regular season with a .500 record. The final two league contests are at Loyola Thursday and at Illinois-Chicago Saturday. The Penguins beat each team in their first trip through the conference schedule earlier this season. Youngstown State is already enjoying a two-win improvement in the league from last season, when it was 5-11 in conference play.

"It's always great to play for the home crowd. We'll use the last two games to work on moral and give our team confidence a real boost for the tournament."

Kelsey Gurganus, junior guard

TOURNAMENT GAME INFORMATION

March 10, 7:05 p.m.
Beeghly Center

Tickets go on sale today

General Admission: \$6
Reserved: \$10

Students get in free with a valid YSU Student ID