

# THE JAMBAR

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931.



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THE SIDEBAR

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## Today

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Remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar.



# Barack the house

## Obama speaks in front of 6,800 with promise of hope, change in Youngstown

Sarah Sole  
News Editor

Presidential candidate Barack Obama told Youngstown he has talked to thousands of people, shaken thousands of hands, and eaten hundreds and hundreds of chicken dinners.

"After more than a year of campaigning I am here to report that my bet has paid off, and my faith in

the American people has been vindicated," he said.

Addressing a crowd of 6,800 in Youngstown State University's Beeghly Center Monday afternoon, Obama called for change and hope while promising to keep jobs in Youngstown instead of outsourcing them.

Spectators waited in a line that stretched past Beeghly, from Spring Street on campus all the

way to the corner of Arlington Street and Fifth Avenue. The crowd began cheering inside Beeghly's gymnasium even before the first glimpse of the Illinois senator, who took the stage shortly after 2 p.m.

Obama said he was thrilled to be at YSU.

"There's a good looking town here," he said to the audience.

OBAMA page 3

More Obama coverage PAGE 3

PHOTO BY CRISTINA CALA / THE JAMBAR

### CAMPUS

## YSU students complain Obama rally affects classes, parking

The Jambar

Sen. Barack Obama's political rally on campus brought changes to the typical Monday routine for Youngstown State University students.

Sophomore Matt Luzik thought the parking situation was "ridiculous."

"They should've just chosen one lot or parking deck to close, not all three," he said.

Several parking lots were closed to students, including the M7 lot, which was only open to guests, and F5 and F6, which were restricted to satellite personnel and VIPs. The M1 and R1 lots were open to students, faculty and guests.

Senior Brad Homer agreed that parking was worse.

"There's not enough parking as it is. Students who do have classes aren't going to be able to find parking," he said.

In addition to the changes in parking, classes in Beeghly Center were cancelled from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

"It doesn't bother me that he's here. I just wish I had classes in

"They should've just chosen one lot or parking deck to close, not all three."

Matt Luzik, sophomore

It doesn't bother me that he's here. I just wish I had classes in Beeghly."

Brad Homer, senior

Beeghly," Homer said.

While freshman Nick Manfredi said he was unhappy with Obama's visit to campus and doesn't agree with his views, he planned to attend the rally.

"I do feel that all of the classes at YSU should be canceled," he said.

Freshman Gary Provitt disagreed with Manfredi.

"I am extremely happy that Barack is here."

Provitt said he planned on skipping class to go to the rally.

Sophomore Denise Beatty is following Provitt's route even though she thought canceling classes in Beeghly was ridiculous.

"I am going to miss my 2 o'clock class to go the rally, though," she said.

Monday's rally drew about 6,800 YSU students, faculty, staff, local politicians and area residents.



YES WE CAN — Sen. Ted Kennedy spoke in Kilcawley Center at YSU.

### POLITICS

## Kennedy endorses Obama on campus

Courtney DiGiorgi  
Reporter

Loudly chanting "Yes, we can!" a large crowd of community members, leaders and students welcomed long-time Massachusetts Sen. Ted Kennedy to Youngstown State University Saturday.

The Kilcawley Center Chestnut Room was filled by 1:30 p.m.

Audience members like YSU English instructor Elizabeth Crowl said they were pleased with

Kennedy's visit.

"This is a wonderful endorsement for Obama," she said. "The Kennedys always helped the average American."

State Sen. Capri Cafaro described Kennedy as "a leader that understands what it's like to struggle."

Youngstown Mayor Jay Williams also welcomed Kennedy, calling him a "living testament of personal responsibility."

After one last warm welcome

KENNEDY page 2

### ACCREDITATION

## Higher Learning Commission returns to YSU after 10 years, hosts forums

Ashley Tate  
News Reporter

The Higher Learning Commission paid a visit to Youngstown State University this week, sitting down to chat with students about their likes and dislikes of the university.

The commission, visiting campus Monday through Wednesday, will be evaluating the university on strengths, challenges and recommendations that were noted in an accreditation self-study released by YSU.

Karen Whitney of the Higher Learning Commission is the vice chancellor for student life at Indiana University-Perdue University Indianapolis.

She said the purpose of the accreditation and evaluation is "a way that we can put the good housekeeping seal on YSU. There is a certain level of quality the university goes through."

The student forum took place Monday in Kilcawley Center's Ohio Room. Whitney said she was pleased with the turnout of students to discuss issues that are mean-

ingful to them.

Whitney and Jerald Henderson, also of the commission, faced a crowd of approximately 30 students who were ready to discuss issues like advisement, professors, student activities, class scheduling, overall campus surroundings and others.

Henderson, director of assessment and program quality of academic development at Chicago State University, said the commission wants students' input because they are important.

"The more information we get from you, the more we learn.

Students are extremely important because this institution or any other higher learning institution wouldn't be here if it weren't for you. They would cease to exist," Henderson said.

Whitney said the forum was meant to be a conversation beyond the self-study. The commission wanted to meet with students and staff to answer questions.

While the Ohio weather may be a curse to some students, one student said she thinks the campus looks better with all the snow covering the many hills when Whitney

asked about the appearance of campus.

Students also mentioned they were pleased with the distance between buildings in regards to the time it takes to get to them between classes.

But there were other pressing issues students were eager to talk about. One concern voiced by a student was the maintenance and upkeep of older buildings and facilities.

The student described walking into the Science, Technology, COMMISSION page 2

**TO THE POINT**

**Hillary rally set for tonight**

Ohio for Hillary will host a rally with New York Senator and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton Tuesday night at Chaney High School in Youngstown. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the event will begin by 9 p.m.

**Pops concert to play Butler**

The Butler Institute of American Art will present the free Annual New Music Pops concert Wednesday at noon.

**Green group plans to meet on campus**

The YSU Green Group, comprised of students, faculty and staff concerned with resource conservation, will meet Thursday at 3 p.m. in Kilcawley Center's Jones Room.

**Assistant professor to discuss his book**

Paul Carr, assistant professor in the Beeghly College of Education, plans to discuss his new book "The Great White North? Exploring Whiteness, Privilege and Identity in Education" Thursday at 6:30 p.m. The free discussion will take place at the Boardman Public Library.

**Faculty writers to present prose, poetry**

Three faculty members from the Northeast Ohio Master's of Fine Arts Program will read from their works today at 7 p.m. in the DeBartolo Stadium Club. Varley O'Connor, David Hassler and Neal Chandler have published poetry and short prose.

**University of North Carolina professor to give talk**

Heather Ann Thompson, associate professor and Soros Justice Fellow at the University of North Carolina, will lecture on the Attica prison uprising and its effects on working class politics in the '70s. The speech will be given Tuesday in Kilcawley Center's Gallery.

**Recycling contest to continue**

Along with 400 other campuses, YSU will race to see which campus can divert the most plastic, glass, aluminum, paper and compostable food from landfills in a competition called RecycleMania. The contest will last until April 6.

The Ohio State University, Miami University and Yale University are also competing.

Students can find the 2008 standings as of now at <http://www.ysu.edu/recycle>.

**Summer Art Festival application deadline approaching**

Summer Art Festival applications are due April 4.

Each applicant is required to send a \$20 jury fee and will pay a \$100 booth fee if accepted.

The Summer Arts Festival will be July 12 and 13.

**Penguin Club Scholarship Ring Banquet Rescheduled**

The Penguin Club Scholarship Ring Banquet will take place Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at Mr. Anthony's in Boardman.

**YSU**

**Cold Case class examines Niles homicide**

**Sarah Sole**  
News Editor

Journalism and criminal justice majors got a chance to delve deeper into an unsolved homicide Thursday when family members of Jane Kleese, formerly of Niles, spoke about Kleese's death in 2002.

The Cold Case class, the first of its kind at Youngstown State University, gives journalism majors an investigative background while teaching criminal justice majors how to use media to their advantage, instructor Jim Ciotti said.

Ciotti provides a criminal justice background for the class, while Alyssa Lenhoff, English instructor, teaches from a journalistic perspective.

The class was set up through grants from the Ohio Attorney General's office, Ciotti said. Eventually, he hopes students taking the class can be hired as research assistants for cold cases, helping professionals work the best possible cases, he said.

Beyond the opportunity to do research in their fields, the class also gives journalism and criminal justice majors a chance to work alongside each other.

"There's always been an attitude that these are conflicting forces, but they're symbiotic," Ciotti said, of the relationship between the journalism and criminal justice fields.

Rachel Detec, a criminal justice graduate student, said she thinks journalism students are learning more from the class than the criminal justice students are. However, she said that she has never been exposed to a class like this where

"I can be another body to spread the word. 'My role is to help the family.'"

*Roger Collins, senior*

she has actually did the legwork rather than reading about it.

"The farthest place I had to go was to Maag Library or to the computer," she said, of previous class research.

Having both journalism and criminal justice majors in one class does create some tension, though.

Group work creates some stress between the two majors, Detec said. Some criminal justice majors feel discouraged when they can't give a source for material, rendering the information useless to journalism majors, who rely on documented sources.

Though Detec said it is a shame some things are not working better, she said she enjoys the class and hopes that other students enjoy it as well.

Having an instructor like Ciotti who is in field is a great benefit to the class, she said.

"You only get that type of knowledge from someone who has experienced it," she said.

Lenhoff is experienced in her own field of journalism, having worked for the Youngstown

Vindicator and Charleston Gazette. Detec said she wished the class wouldn't dwell on what should have been done in a case.

"We obviously can't go back. We can only go forward," she said.

Though students are researching and analyzing cases, Ciotti said that they are only using the cases as learning tools.

"They are not the police and they shouldn't be the police," he said, of students.

That didn't stop some students from becoming interested in Kleese's story.

Sitting around a table headed by Kleese's relatives, students questioned Cheryl Boor, her husband Jerry, and Kleese's brother Tom Woodward about their sister's death on Jan. 23, 2002 by asphyxia.

Seeing Kleese's family members in person made journalism student Jessica Petrinjak more passionate about the case.

Petrinjak, a junior, said she feels frustrated that the case is unsolved. "Now I want the answers," she said.

Though she can't personally solve the Kleese case, she can obtain information about it that perhaps others can act on, Petrinjak said.

Roger Collins, a senior criminal justice major, agreed.

"I can be another body to spread the word," he said. "My role is to help the family."

Kleese's family members expressed gratitude for the students' interest.

Woodward said he looked forward to something coming out of meeting with the class.

"We look at this as another opportunity to get the word out," he said.

**KENNEDY page 1**

from the crowd, Kennedy approached the podium and welcomed those attending, including YSU President David Sweet and members of the YSU Board of Trustees.

"It's nice to be with a president I agree with," Kennedy said.

The senator spoke about health care, employment and foreign policy, expressing his confidence in Obama's solutions for each issue.

"We're going to end the war" with Obama in office, he said.

He also spoke about Obama's position on education.

"Obama understands the importance of education," Kennedy said.

The Senator also said Obama

supports the idea of loan forgiveness for those who have careers in public service, such as nursing or law enforcement.

Kennedy said Obama is the candidate for young people because of his new ideas.

"So many young people have been turned off from government," he said, "because we've had the politics of fear."

Kennedy ended with a play on words to remind people of Ohio's primary.

"March 4 is the date, Ohio is the state, and Barack Obama the candidate!" he said.

According to guests of the rally, Kennedy's appearance at YSU did

a lot for Obama.

Freshman Luke Metcalf, who was helping out with the event, said the rally "gets everyone fired up and ready to go!"

Senior Ceerairrah Van Cobb said Obama is "royalty in politics" and added that Obama would need no extra help getting a full crowd for his Monday appearance.

According to polls, the race between Clinton and Obama is a close one.

Christopher M. Bellas, part-time instructor of criminal justice, said Obama needs to strengthen his base, particularly in Youngstown.

**COMMISSION page 1**

Engineering and Mathematics College building as "walking into a really old high school," complete with locker doors falling off and paint chips everywhere.

Besides the physical aspects of YSU, other students expressed unease about professors and academic advising.

One student said that the advising is "very inefficient, confusing and frustrating for students. People who do the advising are not on the same page."

Another student agreed: "You may go to one adviser and [he or she] says 'take these three classes.' Then you go to the chair [of the department] and [he or she] says 'you only need one of those three but you need these four others.'"

Another worry of the students is whether their voices and opinions are actually being heard and taken

into consideration.

"When I give bad reviews semester after semester and the teacher is still here, you do not care what I have to say. Students picketed to keep a professor here because they liked him so much and the university fired him anyway; you do not care what I have to say," one student said.

Students expressed not only their concerns and ideas for improvement, but the strengths of the university as well.

Having professors that are willing to talk to students and work with them outside of class is strength YSU possesses, some students said, even though some explained that there are a few professors who aren't quite willing to do that.

One student mentioned YSU's open enrollment policy and how it

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**Help YSU GO GREEN!**

Campus-Wide Meeting

**Thursday, Feb. 21 at 3 p.m.**  
Jones Room, Kilcawley Center

You can make a difference in the global warming crisis, right here on campus!

The YSU Green Group is made up of students, faculty, and staff at YSU who are working to make YSU a more-sustainable institution.

**Get involved! We CAN make a difference!**

OBAMA, page 1

Rather than negative public relations or spin, the United States needs straight talk concerning politics, Obama said, adding that the public needs to challenge toxic politics.

"Change in America does not happen from the top down," he said.

Obama told the Youngstown audience that the hour of change is almost upon them. He spoke about education, global warming and the economy, among other issues.

The senator included college in his education reform.

"I don't know about you, but I think it's about time we made college affordable for everyone," he said.

Obama proposed a \$4,000 tuition credit for every student, where students will have to complete community service in return.

In addition to promising to raise minimum wage yearly to keep pace with inflation, Obama stressed rolling tax cuts back from the wealthy and providing them to everyday people.

"I believe in tax cuts; I just believe in giving tax cuts to the folks who need them," he said.

Obama was also adamant about ending the war in Iraq, calling it an unwise decision.

The government's incompetence, Obama said, will come to an end next year.

"The name George W. Bush won't be on the ballot," he said as

the audience roared in approval.

Obama also addressed critics who cited his lack of experience.

"I wouldn't be running if I weren't confident in my ability to lead the country in a new direction," he said.

Citing his 20 years of community organizing and his time as a U.S. senator, he said, "People just pretend that track record doesn't exist."

Specifically addressing Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Hillary Clinton, Obama rebutted her claim that he is all talk and no action.

"Speeches don't put food on the table. Well you know what? NAFTA didn't put food on the table, either," Obama said of the Bill Clinton-endorsed North American Free Trade Agreement, which removed barriers to trade and invest among the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Obama did not leave Republican presidential candidate John McCain out.

The crowd booed when Obama cited the projected Republican nominee's plan for the war.

"When John McCain talks about spending 100 years in Iraq, then that's a good reason not to give him four years in the White House," Obama said.

"We don't want to be the party of yesterday; we want to be the party of tomorrow."

Those in attendance voiced their own opinions about the candidate with his eye on the future.

Youngstown Mayor Jay Williams said Obama's work with community organizations in Chicago helped give him urban experience that's applicable to Youngstown.

"I appreciate the fact that he has that background," he said.

Additionally, Obama's hopeful outlook helps his popularity, Williams said.

"People truly respond to a message of hope," the mayor said.

Williams said he also experienced the Youngstown public response to a genuine message when he unveiled his Youngstown 2010 plan.

If elected president, Obama could help magnify the already successful 2010 plan by offering federal assistance to Youngstown, Williams said.

State Rep. Bob Hagan said Obama brings back hope for young people.

"It's all about hope," he said, adding that it is vital for young people to be involved in politics.

YSU President David Sweet said he hopes visits like Obama's will increase youth participation in voting.

"I hope we have more of it," he said of political rallies on campus.

YSU students at the rally had mixed opinions about Obama.

Junior Samantha Basile said Obama didn't live up to his media hype.

"He wasn't really exciting or as inspiring as the media made him out to be," Basile said.

Though Basile said she hasn't decided which presidential candidate to vote for, she said she would probably not vote for Obama.

Basile said she disliked how Obama neglected to talk about

important issues. Obama said he was sick of politicians saying what people want to hear, but he was kind of doing that, too, Basile said.

Jim Lewis, a senior, agreed with Basile about Obama appealing to the crowd.

"It seemed like he dumbed it down," he said.

Lewis said he would have liked

Obama to talk specifically about how he is going to solve problems. For example, Lewis said, Obama said he wanted to give people health insurance, but he never said how he was going to do this.

Though Obama is inspiring and gives the country hope, Lewis said, it seems as though he lacks an understanding of how complex issues are.

"I don't think that he would be able to change anything," he said.

Lewis said he will probably vote for Clinton in the Ohio primary on March 4, since she talks about her plans for issues.

Junior Craig Callow, however, said he was excited to see Obama speak.

Callow said Obama's speech was very good, and it addressed many important issues.

While many people are focused on the war in Iraq and jobs, Callow said, smaller details helped him decide to vote for Obama over Clinton. For example, he said, Obama emphasized government transparency and making congressional meetings public.

# Obama rally shines national spotlight on YSU



PHOTO BY DARLENE WAGNER/THE JAMBAR



PHOTO BY RICHARD LOUIS BOCCIA/THE JAMBAR

BELOW - Obama greets Rosemary Miller, member of Plumbers & Pipe Fitters Local 396, and her three children before speaking at the rally Monday afternoon. Miller introduced Obama to the crowd gathered at the Beeghly Center.



PHOTO BY RICHARD LOUIS BOCCIA/THE JAMBAR



PHOTO BY ANDREW BERRY/THE JAMBAR



PHOTO BY BRIAN CETINA/THE JAMBAR

ABOVE - YSU College Republicans stand outside the rally with signs in demonstration.

## College Republicans demonstrate outside rally

Jessica Petrinjak  
Reporter

During Senator Barack Obama's visit to Youngstown State University Monday afternoon, a group representing YSU College Republicans held a demonstration outside Beeghly Center, where 6,800 gathered to see the Democratic presidential candidate.

"We are here exercising our first amendment rights," said Vice President of College Republicans

Jim Shaw. About 13 students gathered in demonstration against the Obama rally and in support of Arizona Senator John McCain, the projected Republican presidential nominee. The students stood in front of Beeghly Center and the line that formed for Obama supporters to enter the gymnasium.

"For this to be happening at YSU and not be here would be an injustice," said President of College Republicans Alex Mangie, of braving the cold to support Republicans.

"This is our turf, and we want to keep it," Mangie said.

Mangie is supporting McCain for president.

"McCain is more experienced; he knows what is going on," he said.

One of the students in attendance was upset with class cancellations for the day.

"Thanks, Obama, for closing our department and prohibiting my education," said College Republican Sam Carbon.

ABOVE - A crowd lines up outside the entrance of the rally site on campus. The line wrapped around the sidewalk past Beeghly Center and ended at the entrance to the M2 parking deck.



PHOTO BY RICHARD LOUIS BOCCIA/THE JAMBAR

ABOVE - In his 45-minute speech Monday, Obama dismissed opposing arguments that he is inexperienced, talk without action and untested against the Republicans.

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## AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Youngstown State University

Proverb of the month: "If God breaks your leg, he will teach you how to limp"  
(The Dagbani of Ghana)

Saturday, February 2  
Noon-6:00 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center

### The African Marketplace

Join us as we begin the celebration of African American History Month with the African Marketplace. The Marketplace offers everyone the opportunity to view—and purchase—art objects, Afrocentric writings and a wide variety of goods and products that represent the creative genius of Africans and African Americans. Entertainment is provided by the dynamic and festive performances of the Harambee Youth Group and the Drum Circle of the Unity Building of Youngstown.



Saturday, February 23  
7:00 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center

### African and African-American Fashion Show

The runway comes alive with African and African American contemporary fashions, African hair designs, and other special features. The African and Pan African Student organizations are involved in this event.



Monday, February 25  
7:30 p.m., The Ohio Room, Kilcawley Center

### Selected Black Faculty Research Showcase and Panel Discussion

African American faculty at YSU will put their publications on display in the Maag Library Gallery, and participate in a panel discussion on their current and future research projects. Participants include Dr. Samuel Adu-Poku, Art Education, Dr. Cryshama Jackson, Political Science, and Dr. Tom Odeh, Physics and Astronomy, among others.



Thursday, February 7  
7:00 p.m., The McDonough Museum of Art

### Art Exhibition and Panel Discussion

by Featured Artists: Elizabeth Asche Douglas and Julius Lyles  
Exhibition at the Bliss Hall Art Gallery, College of Fine and Performing Arts

Elizabeth Douglas is an artist, musician and educator with degrees in painting and design from Carnegie Mellon and the University of Pittsburgh. Her professional exhibition record covers five decades. She has won many Art Awards, including the Arts Award from the Guild Council of the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. She also performs as a jazz and gospel vocalist.



Julius Lyles is a graduate of Kent State and Cleveland State universities, where he studied graphic design and photography. His colorful, complex work has been featured at several galleries in Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Washington D.C., New York, and Chicago. (Co-sponsored with the College of Fine and Performing Arts)



Wednesday, February 13  
6:00 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center

### Education Summit

This event will bring together stakeholders in the elementary school system in Youngstown, to recognize and learn from those whose performance, experience and success in producing exemplary models in the system are worth emulating. This event is a culmination of earlier effort by the Family Institute to identify positive trends in the Youngstown School system, begun last year by focusing on successful classroom practices. (Co-sponsored with the Family Empowerment Student Institute)



Thursday, February 14  
7:00 p.m., Youngstown YWCA

### Panel Discussion on African Development

Topic: Are Western Organizations and NGOs an Impediment to African Development?

A panel discussion will follow a lecture by Dr. Edward Elmendorf, an economist with the World Bank with extensive experience in the United National Development Program (UNDP), and World Health Organization Africa regional office. He has taught at a secondary school in Ghana, and currently spend his time with the World Bank and the United States UN Office (UNA-USA)



(Co-sponsored with Youngstown Chapter of the United Nations)

Saturday, February 16  
7:30 p.m., The Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center

### Keynote Lecture by Dr. Julia Hare

Topic: The State of the Black Family

Nationally recognized authority on broad range of issues in the African American community, Dr. Hare is a founding member of the Black Think Tank in San Francisco. She will address the history of black upheaval, the destruction and devastation of the black family -- and how to correct it, starting with Black Male/Female Relationships, including domestic violence, displaced rage and division -- and how to correct it. She will talk about the children and the thoughts behind her books, *The Miseducation of the Black Child*, *Bringing the Black boy to Manhood*, and *How to Find and Keep a BMW (Black Man Working)*, and address other relevant topics.



### Future Featured Skeggs Lecturer

Dr. Cornel West  
Professor of Religion and African American Studies  
at Princeton University

Monday, October 6

7:30 p.m., Stambaugh Auditorium

Dr. Cornel West is America's most preeminent and prolific public intellectual. He is a much sought-after speaker in universities across the country, and addresses a wide variety of topics across disciplines to different audiences. He is the recipient of more than 20 honorary degrees and a National Book Award. His many books include: *Prophecy*, *Deliverance: An Afro-American Revolutionary Christianity*, *Race Matters*, and *Democracy Matters*. Dr. West is a longtime member of the Democratic Socialists of America.



For further information, call the Africana Studies Program at 330-941-3097

Event parking is available at the Lincoln Deck and lot M24, next to McDonald's on Fifth Avenue.

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1. Make sure to consider all of your federal loan borrowing options before turning to more expensive private loans.
2. Don't be fooled by mailings from marketers or lenders that are designed to look like they come from the federal government.
3. Don't be enticed to take out loans from marketers and lenders who offer you prizes or sweepstakes. These incentives could distract you from learning the key terms of the loans these marketers and lenders are offering.
4. Beware of "teaser" or introductory interest rates; find out the actual interest rate and whether that rate will change.
5. Make sure a lender answers the following questions before you take out a loan:
  - ✓ What will my interest rate be? Lenders often advertise their "as low as" rates, but that may not be the rate you will get.
  - ✓ Will the interest rate change? If it will change, is there a cap on the interest rate?
  - ✓ What fees must I pay when the loan is disbursed?
  - ✓ What is the Annual Percentage Rate (APR)?
  - ✓ What will my estimated monthly payment be?
  - ✓ What is the total amount I will have to repay?
  - ✓ Is there a penalty if I repay the loan early?
  - ✓ Can I defer payments when I am in school, or if I am having financial difficulties?
  - ✓ How is unpaid interest capitalized (that is, added to the principal amount of the loan) during periods when I am not paying interest?
  - ✓ What benefits or rate discounts are offered, and what conditions do I have to meet to obtain the benefits?
  - ✓ If benefits are offered based on a certain number of "on-time" payments, how is "on-time" defined?
  - ✓ What will happen if I am late with a payment?
  - ✓ Will my loan be sold to another lender?
  - ✓ If my loan is sold, will the borrower benefits and interest rate discounts be lost?

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OUR SIDE

## Converging fronts: Weather, politics, boxing collide in Youngstown

Things just keep getting better for students at Youngstown State University.

First, a blast of winter weather cancelled classes, giving us a much needed rest from school.

Then the weekend saw us cramming into local bars and friends' homes to watch middleweight champion Kelly Pavlik continue his undefeated streak, winning his rematch against Jermain Taylor. Even though we didn't see any knockouts, the boxing match was a victory for Pavlik and a boost for Youngstown.

And with the Democratic primary grinding on, Ohio has become the center of the action, with presidential candidates wooing the state for what could be nomination-deciding votes.

Sen. Hillary Clinton made her first stop in the Mahoning Valley Thursday at the Lordstown General Motors plant. During her visit she spoke about job losses and of restoring the middle class in America.

Most important for students, she mentioned establishing a student borrower's bill of rights — a bill that would protect students as they pay back loans.

Clinton wasn't the only candidate in town.

Monday, Sen. Barack Obama held a rally in Beeghly Center, drawing a line that wound down the street.

And the crowd really went wild when Obama pointed out that no matter who wins the election, Bush will be out of the White House.

But however much attention the candidates got in Youngstown, the Democratic race still hasn't produced a candidate. Like Pavlik and Taylor, the fight may last to the final round, and college votes might make the difference.

Speaking from personal experience, we know that college students are a tough audience to hold.

We're a group with many concerns, from paying for our education to paying for what we did at the bar last night.

Picking a president may not be at the top of everyone's list, but it should be, especially when candidates care to fight for our vote.

POLICIES

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

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

All letters must be typed and must not exceed 400 words.

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

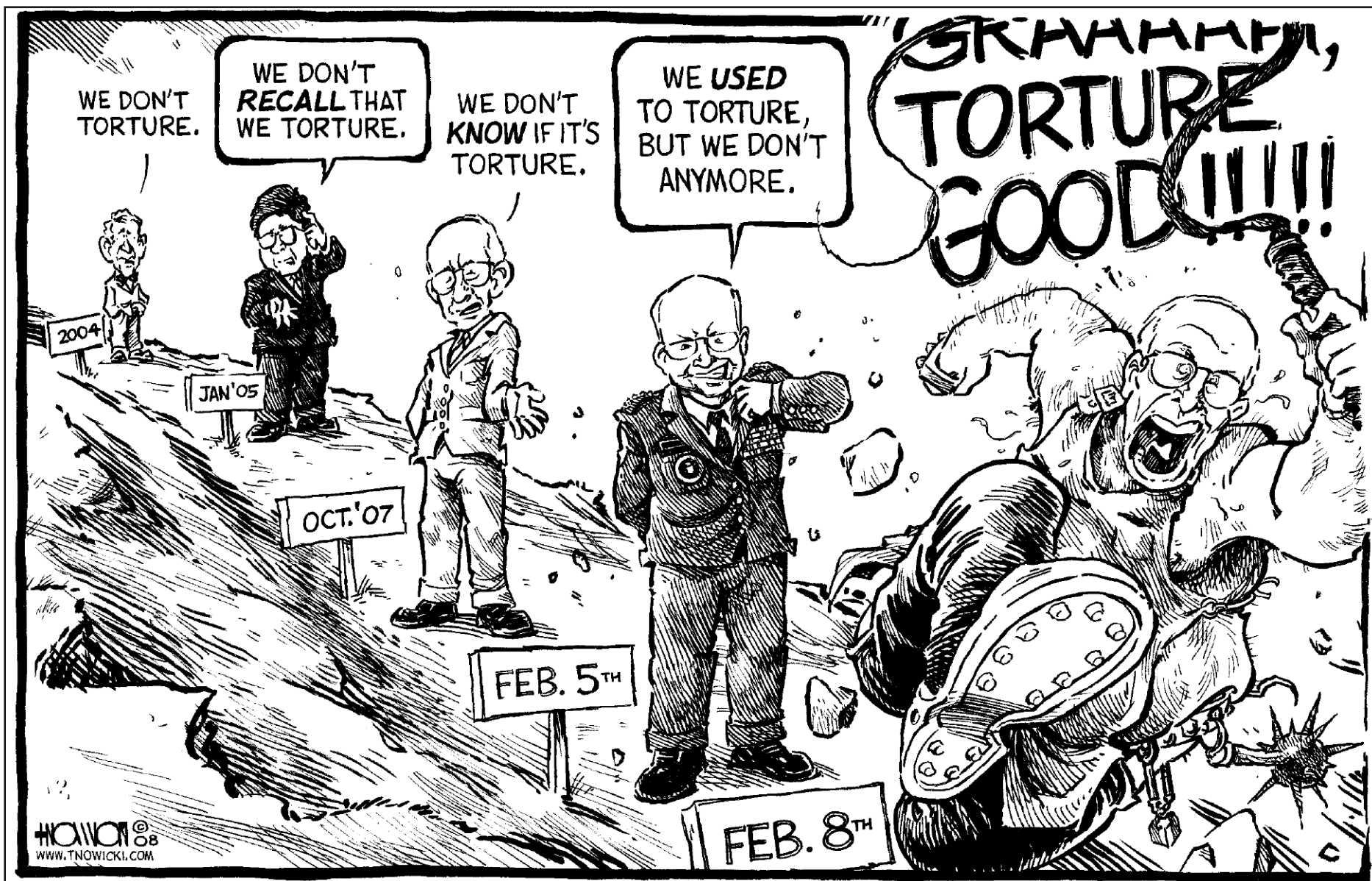
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The views and opinions expressed in published letters do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff or the faculty, staff or administration of Youngstown State University.

ABOUT THE JAMBAR

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Activism is afoot once again at Youngstown State University. In light of the recent appearances by Sens. Ted Kennedy and Barack Obama, I guess it could warm the heart of a conservative like me to actually see people involved, albeit how much I disagree with the principles of these individuals. To the Obama campaign, I say congratulations on your ability to shoot fish in a barrel.

In light of all the good that has happened with this event, I would like to make a few comments about the event generally. First, I would like to thank all of the College Republicans who came out for the event to peacefully demonstrate in what I will call a hostile environment. I would also like to thank the YSU police for making sure our right to demonstrate was protected

in such a hostile environment. The police have always been a big help to our events, and they deserve much respect.

As president of the College Republicans, I always stress the importance of peaceful demonstrations. However, I wish the Obama campaign would also endorse those values. In our time at the event, many of the Obama supporters were quite antagonistic. Aside from the barrage of swearing and angry comments thrown our way (which we have come to expect, though this was by far the worst we have ever encountered), threats of violence were delivered to us. Snowballs were thrown at us, which constitutes a legitimate assault. The police had to clear out the area so things would not get any more out of hand.

I am really surprised at the lack of class and respect. If I knew nothing about Barack Obama except for how his supporters act, that would be reason enough for me to vote against him. Some of you may believe that because this is Youngstown, the College Republicans are asking for trouble. While it is difficult, we provide an alternative to those individuals that don't want to go with the same old party line in Youngstown. We are the loyal opposition, and it is our job to provide an alternative. We respect the opinion of the Obama supporters, so please respect our opinions.

I am glad for the activism and I think it is really exciting for students to see a presidential candidate on campus. At the same time, I am truly astonished at how some people can act.

Alex Mangie  
 President  
 YSU College Republicans

COMMENTARY

## Doing right by the veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan

Joseph L. Galloway

McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

If a society is judged by the way it treats its military veterans, then we who live in the richest nation in the world and those who lead us should be condemned for our shameful neglect and callous disregard for those who defend us.

When 15 million Johnnies came marching home from World War II, a package of benefits enacted in 1944 and signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt was waiting for them, extending assistance for education, unemployment and the purchase of a house or a business.

More than half of those who served in World War II — 8 million of the 15 million veterans of that war — signed up and had their college tuitions or technical school fees paid by Uncle Sam. They also received monthly checks to cover housing and food.

It was expensive, but for every dollar the U.S. government spent on educational benefits for WWII veterans, the government recouped between \$5 and \$12 in taxes paid on the higher incomes earned by college graduates, says the Congressional Research Service.

Veterans of Korea and Vietnam got sharply limited benefits, and received only monthly checks for college education, and small checks at that: The government no longer paid for tuition.

By 1985, with an all-volunteer military and America at peace, Congress enacted an even more limited educational benefit, the Montgomery GI Bill. A young soldier now is required to request future college benefits upon enlistment, and also must agree to contribute \$100 a month from his or her pay during the first year of service.

In return, upon discharge, he or she can apply through the Veterans Administration for 36 months of support for college, but the checks are capped at \$1,100 a month, and in reality they average about \$800.

That was little enough 23 years ago, but it was considered sufficient for troops who'd served in peacetime. But that \$1,100 is worth about half of what it was in 1985 — and college expenses have risen much faster than retail prices have.

What's more, this isn't peacetime: We've been at war for the last six years, and we may remain at war for years to come. Many of today's young veterans have served two or three or more combat tours in Afghanistan and/or Iraq. Some of them arrive on campus missing an arm or a leg, or suffering from brain injuries or PTSD.

They want to get on with their lives and build a better future by getting the college education that they weren't ready for, or that their families couldn't afford, when they finished high school.

Sen. James Webb, D-Va., a Vietnam veteran, has been doggedly pursuing passage of a new GI Bill aimed at helping these new wartime veterans get that education by giving them much the same educational benefits that were extended to their grandfathers after WWII.

Under his bill, which has attracted three dozen other sponsors, the government would resume paying full college tuition for these veterans for a period linked to their times in uniform, but for no more than 36 months or four academic years. Every eligible college veteran also would receive a check for \$1,000 a month to help cover living expenses.

This would cost the government about \$2 billion a year, which is about what we're presently spending every 36 hours in Iraq.

President George W. Bush and the Pentagon oppose any such improvement of this miserly benefit for our young veterans. Why? The president says it would cost too much and be too hard to administer, and he's threatened to veto Webb's bill if it ever passes.

The Pentagon says that if you offer more realistic college benefits, too many troops might decide to leave at the end of their enlistments and take advantage of it. And that, they say, would only make it even harder to find and enlist enough recruits to man our wars.

Those arguments against doing the right thing for college veterans are, in the case of our "wartime president," about what I've come to expect of a man whose support for our troops has never extended past strutting through the latest photo op on a military base or an aircraft carrier.

The argument of the Pentagon bean counters — who in the best tradition of former Vietnam-era defense secretary Robert Strange McNamara know the cost of everything and the value of nothing — may be accurate.

However, it is cruel, callous and uncaring in the extreme not to give our troops any hope of a life beyond endless deployments for fear that they might opt for an education over the simple joys of killing and dying far from home.

Three former presidents, a dozen U.S. senators including Webb, several Supreme Court justices, 36 Nobel Prize recipients, and millions of American veterans got a leg up from previous GI Bills.

We owe our newest combat veterans no less. Write, call or e-mail your senators and your representative in Congress and ask for their votes in favor of Jim Webb's new GI Bill. If George W. Bush vetoes so modest a gesture of gratitude to the young veterans who've given so much in the wars of his making, then we can add hypocrisy and shame to long list of sins that are the hallmarks of his presidency.

COMMENTARY

## Economy tanks, but oil companies bank

Annette Fuentes

(MCT)

I still can't get over the fact that ExxonMobil made \$40.6 billion in profits in 2007.

While we were paying \$3 a gallon, ExxonMobil was cashing in.

Even more galling, though, is the knowledge that ExxonMobil and other oil companies are still enjoying lucrative tax breaks and production incentives from our own government.

And worse still, they are benefiting from billions of dollars in subsidies for drilling on land that you and I own, as citizens.

Federal lease agreements negotiated a decade ago with the oil companies contained a loophole big enough to drive an oil rig through, as New York Times reporter Edmund Andrews has revealed. These agreements exempted oil companies from

paying royalties on millions of barrels of oil they extract from federally owned fields.

Remember the apocryphal stories of welfare queens driving Cadillacs and cheating the government — and all of us? Well, everyone who got revved up by that image should be sputtering about this one. Big oil stands to save more than \$12 billion because of those incentives and tax breaks, passed at a time when oil prices were low.

Last year, the Bush administration asked oil companies to voluntarily renegotiate their federal leases, and some have. But the big holdout was none other than ExxonMobil.

Some politicians have noticed this corporate welfare and called once again for imposing a windfall profits tax on their earnings. When Congress tried two years ago to pass a \$5 billion windfall tax, President Bush and his Republican allies killed it.

Deciding what constitutes windfall profits can be difficult, says Jared Bernstein of the Economic Policy Institute, a liberal Washington think tank. And singling out the oil industry when others, like the pharmaceuticals, also reap enormous profits can be problematic, he notes.

Instead, Bernstein says the focus should stay on closing the loophole on oil royalties in those government leases.

"By stonewalling on the royalty payment issue, the oil companies are begging for a windfall profits tax," he says.

The Bush administration has been a good friend to the oil industry, so it's unlikely to push to renegotiate those leases as it limps into the final months of its term in office.

But that's no reason for Congress — and the presidential candidates — to ignore the billion-dollar welfare scam that big oil is running.

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## staying strong

From a slight pain in her side to a stomach so swollen she looked pregnant, this YSU freshman survived liver problems and now works to encourage organ donation awareness.

Jeanette DiRubba  
Reporter

The only way freshman Rachel Hawkins could keep her mind off a life-changing medical process was to say, "If you don't laugh, you're going to cry."

Hawkins received a liver transplant five years ago and is the model student of this semester's theme for the American Humanics Club, said member Justine Banks. She said the club hopes to get as many students as possible to sign up and become organ donors. Stations around campus will be set up with information soon.

Hawkins received her liver transplant after several trips to different doctors' offices in order to receive multiple opinions, she said. What initiated these trips was a slight pain on the left side of her body during a volleyball game. All the opinions reached one conclusion: Hawkins had a severely enlarged liver and spleen, and, after a week spent at Cleveland's Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, it was conclusive that she needed a liver transplant.

"When I found out, I wasn't really freaked out on the outside because everyone else around me was," Hawkins said. "I felt like I had to be strong. I was their pillar. I kept my fear bottled up," she said.

Hawkins said that friends told her family about Teralynn Landis' family. Landis, who just recently

### According to the Ohio Donor Registry

"The Ohio Donor Registry was established by the 123rd Ohio General Assembly through Senate Bill 188. The legislation was signed into law by Governor Bob Taft in December 2000 and the Donor Registry became operational on July 1, 2002.

The Ohio Donor Registry gives all Ohioans the opportunity to make a personal decision concerning donation. The Registry also allows you the opportunity to indicate restrictions or specifications to your anatomical gift.

To become an organ donor, sign up when you obtain or renew your Ohio driver license or state ID card at an Ohio BMV by saying "YES" when asked if you want to be an organ donor, or register online at [www.donatelifehio.org](http://www.donatelifehio.org)."

passed away from her fourth liver transplant, had already received three liver transplants, and thus was able to help Hawkins deal with the reality of transplant surgery. The Landis family recommended the Hospital of Pittsburgh, the premiere transplant hospital in the United States, Hawkins said.

After being put on an organ donation list, Hawkins' name was skipped over several times because she was so healthy. Hawkins had Bud Chiari, a disease where all the veins in the liver cut off and obstruct blood flow that results in clotting. This disease was controlled by medications that enabled her to remain healthy. It wasn't until Hawkins developed Ascites

— a condition where fluid is collected and remains in the abdomen — that the doctors started to actively look for a liver donor.

"Because I had all this fluid in my abdomen, my belly was huge! I couldn't bend over to tie my shoes!" she said. "I looked like I was pregnant, and, being only in eighth grade, I was so embarrassed. I wore big sweatshirts to class because I was so afraid people would spread rumors that I was pregnant."

Thankfully, Hawkins said, that didn't happen. She was able to wait about one and a half years before receiving her liver transplant in December 2002.

"When the Pittsburgh doctors

called to tell me I had a liver, I was at school," Hawkins said. "I thought I was going to die on the way to the hospital because my dad was driving like a maniac," she said.

Hawkins said she doesn't remember much right before or after surgery, but her memory cleared up about three days after the operation.

"I do remember going into the bathroom right when I got to the hospital before surgery," she said. "I wanted to look at my stomach because that was the last time I would have it without a scar on it."

Hawkins' surgery lasted about 16 hours, and the doctors extracted 10 liters of fluid from her



Rachel Hawkins

abdomen.

To date, Hawkins said she's had no problem with the liver transplant. Her body accepted the organ, but the new liver did not help shrink her enlarged spleen.

"The doctors didn't remove my spleen at first because they would bring it down to size, but that didn't help," she said.

Hawkins had her spleen removed three years ago, and, even with another operation, her body still has not rejected the liver. Hawkins said she must take multiple medications daily and for the rest of her life to stay healthy.

After surgery, she was tutored at home because she couldn't attend school for over two months. She was so weak she couldn't even pick herself up off a chair, Hawkins said.

Five years later, Hawkins said she is still known as "the girl that

got the liver transplant."

"I know that my liver is a part of me, and I accept that, but I just don't want to be known for it," Hawkins said. "I hate when people are like, 'Oh, you're the girl with the liver!'" she said.

Every year since her transplant surgery, Hawkins attends a transplant summer camp called Camp Chihopi, where she serves as a camp counselor.

"This place is somewhere kids don't have to feel different for four days," she said. "When the kids go swimming, they compare scars from their surgery. I go so these kids can see that I'm older and I look fine, even years after my surgery," Hawkins said. "I want to be an example for them."

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Diversity Leadership

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Nominations are being accepted for the Youngstown State University Diversity Leadership Recognition Celebration sponsored by Key Bank to be held Thursday, April 10 in the D. D. and Velma Davis Educational Center at Fellows Riverside Gardens. Nominations are being accepted in the following categories:

Leader of Tomorrow – Recognizing a current, upper division YSU student.

Campus Leadership – Recognizing a University faculty member, administrator, staff member, campus organization, or campus initiative.

Community Leadership – Recognizing an individual, business, group, agency, organization, or community initiative. Sponsored by the DeBartolo Corporation

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**MEN'S BASKETBALL**

# Penguins look to rise up against Phoenix

**Aaron Blatch**  
*Sports Reporter*

A once promising season for the Youngstown State men's basketball team hit its low point on Saturday as the Penguins dropped a 77-58 decision to Valparaiso, giving the team its third consecutive loss and ninth defeat in 10 games.

The Crusaders dominated the Penguins, who connected on just 38.9 percent of their shot attempts while allowing 54.2 percent shooting. After a 3-3 start in the Horizon League, the team's overall league record is 4-13.

The Penguins will look to get back on the winning track at home Wednesday, when they face Green Bay (13-12, 7-8 in-conference). YSU played a competitive contest on Jan. 26 with the Phoenix before losing 66-58. They will try to make use of their home court advantage in this game, because all three conference victories have taken place at the Beeghly Center.

In the first meeting the Penguins were solid defensively, holding Green Bay to 44.2 percent shooting, below their season average of 45.8 percent. A bad second half and errant shooting ended the team's bid for an upset, despite solid games by freshman Vytas Sulskis and senior Byron Davis.

Here's a look at how the Penguins match up position by position with the Phoenix.

**Backcourt**

Mikko Niemi has made nine straight starts at the point for the Penguins and has struggled mightily on the offensive end. The junior rarely looks for his own shot and is averaging just one point a game. Despite Niemi's starting role, the majority of the point-guard minutes to go freshman Vance Cooksey, who is more of an offensive threat.

The Phoenix also give a freshman minutes at the point. Rahmon Fletcher is off to a solid collegiate career, averaging 10.1 points and 2.9 assists per game. He is one of five Green Bay starters shooting over 47 percent from the field.

The two-guard position is the Penguins' biggest strength, as senior Byron Davis has played solid basketball all season. Davis is the team's leading scorer at 14.7 points per



**REACH FOR THE SKIES** — Junior forward Jack Liles leaps from a swarm of defenders for a score. The Penguins have lost nine of their last 10 and look to turn it around back in the comfort zone of YSU's Beeghly Center Wednesday. Photo courtesy of Ron Stevens.

game and is also a solid passer, after playing mostly at the point last season. He scored 16 points in the first meeting with Green Bay.  
 Green Bay shooting guard Ryan

Tillema, a junior, is a capable shooter from all areas on the floor. At 6-8 he is one of the biggest guards in the Horizon League but prefers to shoot from long range rather than bang around the basket.

**Frontcourt**

Sulskis and Green Bay junior Terry Evans have both been effective this season,

despite differing styles. Sulskis has emerged as the Penguins' best jump shooter and has had some big offensive nights, including a 19-point game against the Phoenix. Evans is only 6-5 but plays bigger, leading his team in rebounding with seven a game. Evans is not the threat from outside that Sulskis is, and has struggled from the free throw line this year.

Dwight Holmes has been a recent addition to the Penguin starting lineup and is coming off a solid game against Valparaiso. His best attribute is that he is a high-percentage shooter, connecting on nearly 52 percent of his field goal attempts and 72 percent of his free throws.

For the Phoenix, forward Mike Schachtner is arguably the best shooter in the Horizon League. Averaging 16.7 points per game, he will be the Penguins' first priority on the defensive end of the floor. YSU did a nice job defending Schachtner in the first match-up, holding him to just 11 points.

Rounding out the Penguin starting lineup is senior forward John Barber, who has been inconsistent of late. Barber is capable of huge offensive nights, but scored just 1 point in the loss to Valparaiso and was held to 2 points against Green Bay. The Phoenix will likely see a better version of Barber this time around, as he is usually good for 13 points and 7 rebounds a game.

Randy Berry is a solid scorer around the basket for Green Bay, averaging 7.2 points and 5.2 rebounds per game.

**Bench**

The majority of YSU's bench production comes from forward Jack Liles and Cooksey. Liles averages double figures in points and is tied with Sulskis for second on the team in rebounding. Cooksey has been up and down in his freshman season but leads the team in assists and is a capable scorer.

The Penguin reserves should hold a major advantage, as Green Bay gets few points from its non-starters.

Following its contest with Green Bay, the Penguins will hit the road for Buffalo, New York where the team will play its bracket buster game against the University of Buffalo Bulls.



**Mike Schachtner**  
 Junior - Forward  
 No. 43

410 points  
 16.4 ppg  
 116 rebounds  
 18 assists

381 points  
 14.7 ppg  
 75 rebounds  
 65 assists

**Byron Davis**  
 Senior - Guard  
 No. 3



**GREEN BAY VS YOUNGSTOWN STATE - MATCHUP PREVIEW - KEY PLAYERS TO WATCH**

**PENGUIN SPORTS TO THE POINT**

*Women's basketball picks up league win over Wright State*

The Youngstown State University women's basketball team ended its three-game losing streak with two league wins last week.

The most recent win for the Penguins came over the Wright State Raiders with a stellar performance coming from the Penguin shooters as YSU claimed a 66-58 win on the road Saturday.

The Raider defense was unable to put up a barrier as the Penguins put four players in double figures and the team shot a combined 50 percent from behind the 3-point line.

Senior Heather Kerner led the Penguins (12-12, 7-6 Horizon League) with a game-high 19 points while senior Lauren Branson scored 17 points. Junior Tiara Scott added 12 points and senior Jessica Schloemp contributed 10 points.

In the first half, the Penguins trailed 7-6 but used a 16-3 run to take a 12-point lead, 22-10, midway through the first half. Kerner paced the Penguins during their run with two 3-pointers and a jumper.

Next on the schedule for the Penguins is an in-state rival game against Cleveland State Saturday at 2:05 p.m. Last time out, the Vikings defeated the Penguins on their home court 77-64.

**PENGUIN PROFILE**

## Talented youth: Roman helps fuel strength of track and field squad

**Keith Langford**  
*Reporter*

Fresh off a season-best time of 2:21.18 in the 800m, Jennifer Roman anchors a strong women's track and field team at Youngstown State University this season.

Roman, a sophomore, said she decided to go to YSU because she thought it was a good school, and the university offered her a full athletic scholarship for track and field. Roman, however, said she is relatively new to the sport, since she has only been running track for seven years. Basketball was her first love, but she slowly started to realize track was her passion.

"It was really my second choice of sports," she said of track. The light clicked on for her around her sophomore year in high school, and there has been no looking back.

Participating in a college sport and going to school can be rough, but Roman manages to keep a level head.

"It's kind of hard, but you can get through it with the help of others," she said.

Roman's teammates and coach appreciate Roman's efforts.

Junior Emily Wollet, Roman's roommate and fellow track mem-

ber, described Roman as unselfish and caring.

"She is hard working at track and school and is a good role model for a lot of people," Wollet said. "She knows what she wants and works hard to get it."

Head coach of track and field Brian Gorby had nothing but uplifting comments about Roman as a person and as a student athlete.

"She has great responsibility and great character," Gorby said. Though last year Roman was

adjusting to the college level, this season she is coming into her own, he said.

"I want her to get two or three more seconds off her 800m time before the Indoor Track and Field Championships come, and I think she can do it," Gorby said.

The Penguins will compete in the Kent State Tune-Up as the team's final meet before YSU plays host to the Horizon League Indoor Track and Field Championships in May.

**RUNNING FREE** — Sophomore Jennifer Roman sprints for the Penguins during a relay. Photo courtesy of Sports Information.



**Penguin Bio**

**Jennifer Roman**  
 Middle Distant Runner  
 Cross Country  
 Rank: Sophomore  
 Hometown: Cleveland  
 High school: James Ford Rhodes

**FLICK PICK**  
 "Transformers"

**FAVORITE FOOD**  
 Pizza

**TOP TUNE**  
 "No One" by Alicia Keys

**ATHLEITC IDOL**  
 Marion Jones