

THE JAMBAR

The student voice of
Youngstown State University
since 1931.



PAGE 6

Baseball and softball season preview

VOLUME 90, ISSUE 35

THE SIDEBAR



FEATURE ▲
Not so regular music 6

NEWS
Government plans to shoot down falling satellite..... 2

NEWS BRIEFS 2

CLASSIFIEDS..... 2

OPINION
Keeping the Grand Canyon grand..... 5

Obama sounds good, but words aren't enough..... 5

Bush must pressure Sudan on Darfur..... 5

EDITORIAL
In candidate visits, three's the magic number 5

LETTER TO THE EDITOR 5

SPORTS
Players to watch..... 6



RALLY PHOTOS 4

WEATHER

Today

Snow | 34 23

Friday 26 16 Saturday 32 19



Remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar.

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'Let's get real'

"(It) is not whether we can build the future, it's whether we will."

Hillary Clinton, New York Senator



Pro-labor Hillary backs working class Ohio

Cristina Cala & Sarah Sole
The Jambar

Cancer survivor Katy Scali has been left out before, and she's not willing to chance it again when she votes in the Ohio primary March 4. When the Youngstown State University senior had to take a semester off from school for chemotherapy, her health care was cut off because she was not registered as a full-time student at YSU. "Hello! That's when the bills are rackin' up!" Scali said. She said she wants the health care coverage Sen. Hillary Clinton promises for every American.

"I will not rest until every American is covered. That is my solemn promise to you," Clinton said to a Youngstown audience at Chaney High School Tuesday. Local news outlets estimated 2,000 people in attendance. "My opponent leaves out at least 15 million Americans," she said of Democratic presidential candidate Illinois Sen. Barack Obama. Universal health care was just one of the promises Clinton made during her 25-minute speech at 9:30 p.m. during her Solutions for America Rally. The New York senator tailored her agenda to Youngstown's middle class and working families who

are "just one paycheck away from losing their homes" when she spoke about the city's economy. She promised to retain Youngstown businesses and to create "green collar" jobs for the Mahoning Valley. She proposed \$30 billion to help families and communities avoid home foreclosures. Labeling herself a proud pro-labor candidate, Clinton said she would refuse to use tax dollars to outsource jobs. Clinton was specific about how many and what type of jobs she plans to create. She promised 5 million jobs in industries like clean energy and manufacturing. She said the middle class can

make a comeback in places just like Youngstown. "Some people may call this the Rust Belt, but that's not what I see," Clinton said of the Mahoning Valley. Instead, she sees hardworking people, great universities and strong neighborhoods, she said. "I see communities where young people should be able to find good jobs, and no one should ever have to leave their family to earn their living!" she said as the crowd went wild. Although Clinton rarely spoke her Democratic opponent's name, it was clear she was firing back at Obama after his Monday rally at YSU.

CLINTON page 4

CAMPUS

SGA plan might improve public spaces, buildings on campus

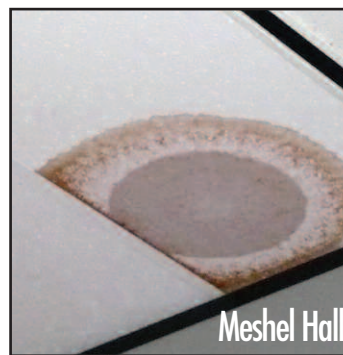
Nick Young
Reporter

Student Government Association at Youngstown State University has a plan to fix up student lounges across campus, and they took their lead from Ohio's Adopt-A-Highway program. Under the plan, student organizations would sponsor the lounge they use for meetings, giving a voice to students who use the lounge. The Academic and Student Enhancement Committee took the initiative in 2007 to look into the condition of lounges across campus to find out exactly what needed to be done, and where. The committee's plan is for organizations on campus to sponsor the renovation. Committee Chair Erienne Raib said students would advocate for facility improvements

but would not have total control of the changes. Under the plan, a lounge would be modified based upon the organization that used it the most. For example, the lounge used by engineers could use a white board and additional power outlets. Right now the committee is in the process of deciding how to establish the process for applying to sponsor a lounge. The project will proceed space by space, starting with the lounges that are most in need of repair. The committee is also working on making improvements to other aspects of the buildings on campus.

SGA page 2

RIGHT — Members of the SGA committee photographed examples of the rundown facilities listed in their report. Photos courtesy of SGA.



SAFETY

After Illinois shooting, Jambar survey shows students feel safe

Ashley Fox
Reporter

With last week's tragedy at Northern Illinois University and the shooting at Virginia Tech in 2007, students at Youngstown State University are questioning their safety on campus. YSU ranks lowest in crime among Ohio state universities, according to the university's 2007-2008 "Your Right to Know" report. Out of 50 students surveyed, 90 percent said they feel safe on campus, but 34 percent said they feel they have had a classmate who may be a danger to the YSU community. Junior Joe Mamounis explained why one third said they might be in

"We all tend to have students in each class who just don't seem like they're having an easy going at life."

Joe Mamounis, junior

danger from classmates. "We all tend to have students in each class who just don't seem like they're having an easy going at life," he said. He said teachers and students should reach out to these individuals and give them positive support.

Out of those same students, 82 percent said they feel YSU has adequate security on campus. Mamounis said YSU could take more precautions since guns can easily be accessed. YSU Police Chief John Gocala assures that YSU police are trained

and continue training for any situation, and that campus has a crisis plan in place. "If campus isn't safe, you don't have a campus," Gocala said. Ron Cole, manager of News and Information Services, said students can be notified of a tragedy or event in several different ways. The university Web site and e-mail accounts would be used to notify students of an emergency, and each building has an alarm system. He added that the university's crisis plan is currently being updated. The university also has surveillance cameras in every building. Because of the high number of commuter students at YSU, the uni-

SECURITY page 2

YSU Commission recommends accreditation renewal

Ashley Tate
News Reporter

After evaluating Youngstown State University, the Higher Learning Commission recommended a full, 10-year renewal of YSU's accreditation. Ten years is the maximum number of years that can be recommended for accreditation. Ron Cole, manager of News and Information Services, said the renewal was "the best we could've hoped for and that speaks of the university in itself." However, the recommendation is not a guarantee of YSU's accreditation.

The commission evaluated YSU Monday through Wednesday, based on five criteria that were noted in a self-study released by YSU and members of the community. YSU President David Sweet said the accreditation is a "big deal." "Sometimes, you don't get 10 years, and that's impressive," he said. YSU met all five criteria set by the commission, which recommended an approval of YSU's request to offer a doctorate of physical therapy degree and a request to expand its online courses and degree programs, Sweet said.

Bege Bowers, associate provost of Academic Programs and Planning, said the recommendation for the expansion of online courses would benefit students. "It will enable us to serve more students — a different audience — versus the students that come on campus. They may work during the day and can take classes at night," Bowers said. Cole said students can even "sit at home in your pajamas" while taking the courses.

The commission had a conference with students who have previously taken online courses and students who are taking them this semester. The commission was impressed with what the students learned, Bowers said. Besides evaluating issues that are directly related to students, Bowers said the commission evaluates everything from mission planning and university documents to teaching and learning. It also includes the relationship between students and faculty. Cole said the maintenance of buildings is also important during evaluation, and Bowers said the commission recommended additional maintenance. Bowers said the commission also noted that YSU needs to address faculty buy-in to data-driven assessment of student learning outcomes.

This means that the objectives that teachers and professors put on syllabi are ideas that students should actually be learning and achieving. They collect data to see if students are learning the outcomes. Then, show that the data collected is used to improve the outcomes, Bowers said.

The commission praised YSU for its growth in enrollment and diversity, the sense of loyalty and commitment by faculty and staff, the success of the Center for Student Progress, and the university's commitment to and partnerships with the community, Sweet said. Sweet described this as "gratifying." Overall, the commission gave YSU a good report that included a lot of positive comments, Bowers said. "[There were] a lot of smiles on people's faces in the room," Cole said. Bowers said Karen Whitney, one of the 10 site evaluators from the commission, said YSU students are "terrific" and that they wish they could "take some of the students back with them."

TO THE POINT

Lecture scheduled for Saturday

Julia Hare will deliver a lecture, "The State of the Black Family," Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Kilcawly Center's Chestnut Room.

YSU competes in recycling contest

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>.

'Mad about the Arts' scheduled

The "Friends of the Arts" reception begins "Mad About the Arts" Monday at 6:30 p.m. The main event runs from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Tickets cost \$75 for the reception and main event, and \$40 for the main event only.

Proceeds will benefit the McDonough Museum and the Students Motivated by the Arts or SMARTS program.

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.

Lecture planned about women entrepreneurs

Professor Tatiana Manolova from Bentley College, Massachusetts, will give her lecture, "What do women want? Growth Motivations and Roads to Profitable Growth of Women-Owned Ventures." The Debartolo Stadium Club will host the event Feb. 26 at 5 p.m.

Reservations are required by Feb. 20. Call (330) 941-3064.

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.

NATIONAL

Government plans to shoot down falling satellite

Jeanette DiRubba
Reporter

The sky is falling, but there's nothing to worry about.

John Feldmeier is an assistant professor in the physics and astronomy department. He said it's more likely he'll land a date with actress Angelina Jolie than the falling spy satellite will injure human life.

The satellite, known as USA 193, is falling into Earth's atmosphere and will be shot down by missile as early as Wednesday at 10:30 EST, Feldmeier said. The project is estimated to cost \$60 million.

"I will go to bed Thursday night and not be worried at all about this satellite," he said.

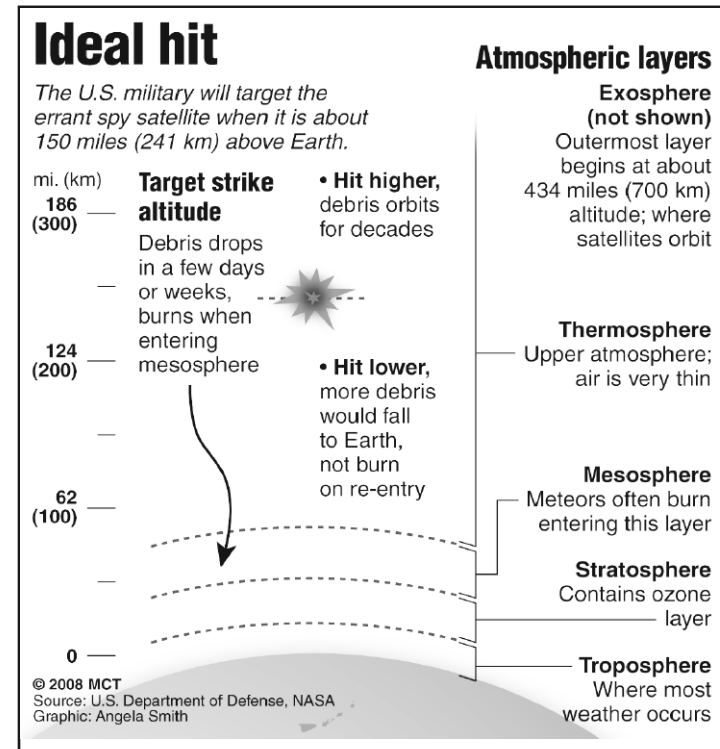
USA 193 was first launched in December 2006. The satellite, about the size of a school bus, never achieved orbit and "was basically a piece of space junk," Feldmeier said. The missile poses a threat is because it's filled with hydrazine, a toxic substance commonly used as a rocket propellant.

"There are many other reasons, besides the toxic fuel, I think, that the USA would want to shoot down this satellite," Feldmeier said.

For instance, the satellite could fall into the hands of another country.

Feldmeier said because China shot down a weather satellite in January 2007, the U.S. might be trying to prove its strength and send a message to China.

However, according to the Sydney Morning Herald in Australia, the U.S. government has denied that shooting down the satellite is a show of strength or a



move to protect secret information.

China's weather satellite was orbiting 352 miles out and releasing debris into space when China shot it down.

The United States plans destroy USA 193 when it's 150 miles from Earth, having the remaining debris gradually fall to the planet, Feldmeier said.

The missile being used to shoot down the satellite was originally built to protect ships, Feldmeier said. Therefore, the missile needed to be restructured for the mission.

"The fact that the missile needed to be revamped proves that this plan has been in the works for a few months," Feldmeier said.

Although it is not known where the satellite will land, the U.S. has 24 hours to shoot again if the first missile does not hit, Feldmeier said.

"The U.S. has mapped out a 100-mile radius of where the satellite will land," Feldmeier said, "but I couldn't even know where it will land exactly. I would first need to know the shape of the satellite. The wind also has a lot to do with where the satellite will land," Feldmeier said.

Feldmeier assured Youngstown State University students that Earth is very big and mostly water, so chances that the satellite would land in a populated area are very slim.

SECURITY page 1

iversity is looking into a system that sends out text messages and voicemails to students' cell phones to warn of an emergency or school cancellation.

Gocala said YSU is the only university with an "army" of offi-

cers. There are police everywhere on campus until late in the evening.

Gocala strongly urges students and faculty alike to let an officer know if there is a student or other individual on campus or surrounding area who poses a threat to

themselves or the community.

Christopher Barzak from the English department said that it's hard to distinguish "someone who is in danger to themselves and others from someone you just don't understand for some reason."

SGA page 1

Raib said that the second part in their plan is painting, but the process can't just begin according to what they decide needs painted.

"We have to look at the five and

ten year plans on the buildings," Raib said.

Those plans overrule the changes made by the student government and various organizations.

To keep buildings in good condition, the third part of the committee's plan is to place more bulletin boards around campus to keep fliers and tape residue off windows and walls.

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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. Crysanna 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 Black Man Working*, and address other relevant topics.



Thursday, February 28
 7:00 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center
Panel Discussion: Race Relations in Youngstown

Race relations in the Youngstown area have been marked by the painful struggle for economic resources, political gains, and human dignity. But that struggle goes beyond familiar stereotypes and simplistic solutions. The panel for this important discussion includes longtime Youngstown residents as well as those who have been observers of different groups. The panel includes Youngstown Clerk of Courts Sarah Brown-Clark; Dr. William Jenkins, Professor Emeritus of YSU; Rev. Kenneth Simon, Pastor of New Bethel Baptist Church; Ra'Shawn Davis, student; Rev. Gina Thornton and Atty. Ron Miller, and will be moderated by Brother K, former host of "Let's Talk about It" on WGFT Radio and a student of race relations.



Friday, February 29
 7:30 p.m., Gallery, Kilcawley Center
Poetry Competition

Participants at the poetry competition covering a range of topics that include African and African American lives and experiences, or those in celebration of Youngstown State University's centennial. Compositions must be original, and must not have been presented or published previously. The three best poetry submissions will receive prizes and will be judged on style, content and delivery by a panel of experts. The deadline for submissions is February 23rd. Open to the Public

University Centennial-Related Events

Seminar on Economic Empowerment
 Dr. Claud Anderson, author and expert on Black empowerment through Experiences

Thursday, April 10
 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Anderson will offer practical suggestions and tools to participants interested in starting new businesses or expanding existing ones. (Co-sponsored by the NU Valley Black Chamber of Commerce)



Future Featured Suggest 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 *Prophesy 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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Who should apply?

Current students in good standing who are registered for twelve (12) or more hours. Seeking students who are self-motivated with a passion for writing, advertising, design, sales, or photography.

- Editor and reporter positions require the successful completion of initial journalism and/or professional writing and editing courses.
- Advertising and sales positions require the completion of initial business classes in these fields.
- Design and photography positions seek students having successfully completed initial design or related photography courses.

Penguin Review Literary Magazine

- Editor-in-chief also earns part of his/her tuition.

Where to pick up an application:

Applications are available from Lynn Haug in the Kilcawley Staff Office located on the upper level of Kilcawley Center. One application applies for both publications—simply check the position(s) you are most interested in.
Application Deadline: 1pm, Tuesday, April 1, 2008

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 1, 2008.
 Interviews will be scheduled for mid-April.



ABOVE - Before Sen. Hillary Clinton takes the stage at Chaney High School in Youngstown, a crowd of about 2,000 chant the candidate's name and hold up signs handed out by the campaign.

PHOTO BY JULIANA CALA

CLINTON, page 1

"When I think about what we're really comparing in this election, you know, we can't just have speeches; we've got to have solutions," Clinton said.

In rebuttal to Obama's shot that "NAFTA didn't put food on the table," Clinton claimed that she had long been a critic of the policy. She proposed to fix it with a four-point plan. Clinton said she would:

- Create the strongest possible labor environmental standards in the core NAFTA agreement
- Prevent foreign companies from undermining worker protection
- Strengthen NAFTA's enforcement mechanisms to remove trade barriers and better protect American jobs
- Review this and other trade agreements regularly

Clinton cited her political experience, a much-argued point between the Democratic rivals, as superior to Obama's.

"Both Senator Obama and I would make history, but only one of us is ready on day one," she said. "Only one of us has spent 35 years being a doer, a fighter and a champion for those who need a voice."

Like Obama, Clinton berated Republican presidential candidate Arizona Sen. John McCain for willingness to spend the next hundred years in Iraq. She added that McCain claimed he doesn't understand the economy.

Her international platform includes plans to withdraw troops from Iraq within the first 60 days of her presidency, to regularly review trade policies and to create fair trade agreements with China.

Daryl Mincey, professor and

chair of chemistry at YSU, said Clinton seems to have good political experience.

Youngstown needs an economic policy that works for the city, Mincey said.

"We've got a lot of promises over the years," he said of presidential candidates' pitches in Youngstown. "We need somebody that has a policy and not just promises."

Talking to the press before Clinton's speech, Congressman Tim Ryan said the Youngstown community is split between Obama and Clinton.

Ryan also said finding a solution to NAFTA is important. "We're beyond being upset about NAFTA," he said. "Tell these people what you're gonna do."

After the speech, Ryan told The Jambar he thought Clinton's speech was impressive.

Ryan said Clinton is capable of bringing economic growth to Youngstown.

"I thought she hit all the right

notes, talked about all the right issues," he said of issues like China, NAFTA, health care and creating new energy jobs.

Dan Baco, Youngstown resident and junior at Ursuline High School, said he thought Clinton made good points during her speech. He said he liked that she pledged to prevent job outsourcing and promised to help labor unions through funding.

Clinton's attention toward labor unions holds significant importance for Youngstown's economy.

"We're the middle class trying to work our way out," Baco said.

Others were also impressed with Clinton's speech.

Lauren Rosier of Warren said she liked how Clinton supported Youngstown by talking about creating jobs for the city.

"I just feel like she made it real personal," Rosier said.

Rosier said Clinton's experience makes her capable of achieving her promises.

"You look at her and you can trust her," Rosier said, adding that

Clinton's way of speaking helped her decide she was comfortable with the candidate's ability to lead the country.

YSU senior Rachel Hanni, political science major, also listed Clinton's experience as a major asset. She said in comparison, Obama is "completely underqualified."

"Tim Ryan, for God sakes — he's more experienced," Hanni said.

To seniors Scali and Bill Polis, Clinton campaign volunteers at Tuesday's rally, part of Clinton's appeal lies in the fact she is a woman.

"The world's ready for a woman. Women are the only people who take care of people," Polis said. "They do what they say." Scali said Clinton has the women's vote over Obama because her candidacy is paving the way for women.

"We all still have the same kind of love for her because she's doing something for us, whether she wins or not," Scali said.

BELOW - Ohio Congressman Tim Ryan introduces Clinton.



BELOW - Clinton autographs campaign signs for the crowd after speaking for about 25 minutes.



PHOTOS BY RICHARD LOUIS BOCCIA/THE JAMBAR

RIGHT - Clinton spoke to supporters and took pictures with them after her speech.

FEATURE

Not so regular music



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM LEMKE

Brian Cetina

Design Editor

The message conveyed in Pete Nischt's 10-song album details how mixed up and unpredictable life can be. Life is strange.

The 10 tracks on "Life Is Strange" are both intensely energetic and mellow. Tonight at Peaberry's Cafe, Youngstown State University students will get to hear the album acoustic.

Originally from Medina, Nischt started writing the album over two years ago when he was just 18. "Life is Strange" shows all the qualities of a masterpiece. The melodies, which after one play are already running back through your head, and the honest heart-to-heart lyrics show the power behind the album.

Nischt's personal messages, delivered in this album of amazement, translate into a universal appeal. He takes his music personally and puts his life into what he writes.

"I'm not like those artists who sit with producers and co-write an album," he said. "This is all from personal experience in my life."

In a world where music flows together and sounds much the same, Nischt goes in a different

direction. With indie-folk influences like Ryan Adams, Feist and Rufus Wainwright, Nischt puts an emotional, yet unique, spin on his music.

The record itself wouldn't have been the same without the brilliant talent of producer Chris Badami, who also produced alternative bands like The Early November and The Starting Line.

After dropping out of college to pursue recording and touring, Nischt became the first member of the 2006 roster for record label Regular Music.

The label was co-owned and operated by Ace Enders and his wife Jenn. Former member of the Drive-Thru Records band The Early November, Enders started a new project — Ace Enders and a Million Different People.

Enders was so impressed by the demos Nischt handed to him at a show that he started a label just so Nischt could enter the studio.

"Ace told me he liked it so much, it made him want to start a label," said Nischt.

After a short stint, Regular Music disbanded and Nischt was the first to go.

After a year of travel around the country playing solo and opening tours with his band, Nischt opted out of his contract with

Regular Music in September of 2007.

Re-enrolling as an accounting major at Akron University and booking his own shows, Nischt is playing his first show at YSU and is looking forward to it.

"I don't play at many colleges, but this should be cool," Nischt said. "I hope a lot of people come out; it should be fun."

Nischt is again traveling around the country doing solo shows, with plans to record a new album or EP.

"I'm not sure what I want to do yet. I have some songs, but I want this one to sound different," said Nischt.

"Maybe I'll make it another free EP," he mentioned.

Nischt's acoustic set is scheduled for 7 p.m. in Peaberry's for a Penguin Pre-Party.

"If there are a lot of people, I'm not going to hide. I'll talk to them," he said.

With mellow, soulful music under his belt at 21 years old, Nischt's next goal is to make new music that gets to new people.

"I want to create something real that reaches a number of different kinds of people on a number of different levels," he said. "I don't like the idea that a genre can limit the accessibility of music."

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OUR SIDE

In candidate visits, three's the magic number

It's time for Clinton and Obama to set up shop in Ohio. After Obama's Monday rally in Beeghly Center and Clinton's Tuesday rally at Chaney High School in Youngstown, all eyes are on Ohio.

We were obviously wrong on Super Tuesday when we said our primary vote might not count. While we would like to think that it worked when our editorial asked the candidates to remember Youngstown, we know what it's come down to.

The two candidates vying for the Democratic Party ticket are still leading a close race, with Obama slightly ahead. Except, maybe, in Ohio.

A poll by Cleveland news station WKYC-TV has Clinton ahead of Obama with 52 percent of Ohio voters. However, Obama has narrowed the gap, with 43 percent of the vote.

On Tuesday during Clinton's visit to the Mahoning Valley, Obama won both Hawaii and Wisconsin, giving him 10 straight primary wins. There is still hope for Clinton, but Texas and Ohio are must-win states for her.

During their speeches in Youngstown, the Democratic candidates continued to exchange barbs, with Obama defending his political experience and Clinton proclaiming her disappointment with NAFTA.

Obama charismatically played on hope and change, while Clinton dedicated herself to working class ideals.

For those of us who thought politics were boring, this week and the coming weeks will prove us wrong. When the next two weeks are over, we may never want to see another political campaign commercial again or pick up the phone to hear Clinton or Obama's recording telling us to vote.

But what about McCain?

With the two Democratic candidates paying close attention to Ohio, why has the projected Republican nominee decided to ignore us? While Obama and Clinton have made sure to focus on working class issues during their campaign stops here, McCain has seemingly decided to ignore the voters in this swing state.

While he could have decided to forego Youngstown because of the city's strong Democratic presence, we'd think McCain would be eager to parallel his Democratic opponents' coverage.

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.

The Jambar will not print letters that libel others or threaten harm. The Editor in Chief reserves the right to reject letters that do not follow policy.

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

ABOUT THE JAMBAR

The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the summer sessions. Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press Honors.

Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Rachel Hawkins was very lucky to get a liver transplant. Over half of the 98,000 Americans on the national waiting list will die before they get a transplant. Most of these deaths are needless. Americans bury or cremate about 20,000 transplantable organs every year. Over 6,000 of their neighbors die every year as a result.

There is a simple way to put a big dent in the organ shortage — give organs first to people who have agreed to donate their own organs when they die.

Giving organs first to organ donors will convince more people to register as organ donors. It will also make the organ allocation system fairer. People who aren't prepared to share the gift of life should go to the back of the transplant waiting list as long as there is a shortage of organs.

Anyone who wants to donate their organs to others who have agreed to donate theirs can join LifeSharers. LifeSharers is a non-profit network of organ donors who agree to offer their organs first to other organ donors when they die. Membership is free at <http://www.lifesharers.org> or by calling 1-888-ORGAN88. There is no age limit, parents can enroll their minor children, and no one is excluded due to any pre-existing medical condition.

David J. Undis
 Executive Director
 LifeSharers
www.lifesharers.org

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

First and foremost, thanks to Barack Obama for taking the time out of his busy schedule to visit our campus.

Obviously John McCain hasn't made any effort to visit the Youngstown area. Barack Obama is a qualified candidate who has over 20 years experience in politics. Sen. Obama was one of the FEW senators who were smart enough to vote AGAINST this war in Iraq!

McCain wants another hundred years in Iraq, and that is just plain ridiculous, especially because McCain has fought in wars and has endured years of being a prisoner of war. Obama has done more positive things in the Senate than McCain has ever done. McCain will only carry on the disastrous policies of George W. Bush and continue to ruin this country for many years to come.

Protesting outside of our rally is completely distasteful in the first place, and some opposition should have been expected. This is the young Republicans' attempt to bring about negativity to an event that was very positive and powerful. I am truly astonished that people can even fathom the thought of voting for a more unqualified presidential candidate than John McCain.

He is out of touch with what the American people need, especially the middle to lower class. The time for changes in Youngstown have come, and Barack Obama will soon become our next president. Republicans should enjoy their final months in power!

Dedicated Democrat for Life,
 Ryan M. Jones
 YSU junior



COMMENTARY

Keeping the Grand Canyon grand

McClatchy
 Tribune News Service
 (MCT)

There was no such thing as a Grand Canyon National Park in 1872, when the law governing mining on federal lands was enacted. Times have changed.

Yet today, that outdated law still gives federal officials no authority to prevent mining close to America's national parks, and with global prices for metals soaring, companies have been filing a mother lode of mining claims for land within echo distance of some of the most glorious national treasures.

The number of recorded claims applying to land within five miles of the Grand Canyon exploded from just 10 in 2003 to 1,130 today. Between July and January, the number grew by 40 percent.

In December, the Forest Service

granted a British company permission to drill seven exploratory wells related to possible uranium finds just outside Grand Canyon National Park. The permit to VANE Minerals was issued with little notice and no public input and notes that the 1872 law "specifically authorizes the taking of valuable mineral commodities from Public Domain Lands. A 'No Action' alternative is not an option that can be considered."

Michael Dombeck, a former director of the federal Bureau of Land Management, told a congressional committee last month that "once claimed, it is nearly impossible to prohibit mining" under current law "no matter how serious the impacts may be."

In the case of uranium mining, the impact on land, air, water — and human beings — can be extremely serious. Last year, the Los Angeles Times detailed the long-lasting environmental effects of uranium

mining on Navajo land near the Grand Canyon, including high rates of cancer and areas of radioactive contamination. Former uranium miners and workers who hauled radioactive ore suffer from higher than normal rates of cancer. Concerns about this new wave of uranium prospecting have prompted local governments near the canyon to try to block mining.

On top of that, the 1872 mining law also allows companies that dig for copper, silver and gold to avoid paying royalties for minerals extracted from public lands.

This is unconscionable.

The House of Representatives passed an updated mining bill last fall that would give the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management more say over where mines may be located. It also would allow the government to collect royalties when minerals are extracted.

The House bill is awaiting action in the Senate. The Environmental Working Group, an advocacy organization, says that opposition from powerful mining groups makes its prospects uncertain. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Nevada Democrat, previously has opposed the bill.

Enactment of the 1872 law produced a mining boom in the area around the Grand Canyon. Although it had yet to be designated a national park at that point, it was no less grand than it is today.

One hundred and twenty-six years later, we have come to understand better the importance — and the fragility — of America's unique natural treasures. With or without Reid's support, the Senate needs to take quick action to protect the Grand Canyon and the rest of our awe-inspiring national heritage and preserve them for the generations to come.

Obama sounds good, but words aren't enough

James Klurfeld
 Newsday
 (MCT)

Watch out, Barack Obama. You've hit the magic tipping point. After winning the Virginia, Maryland and District of Columbia primaries, you are now the front-runner. It doesn't mean that the nomination is yours, not by a long shot in this kind of competitive race. But you've got more delegates than Hillary Rodham Clinton.

And now the press is going to come after you.

I admire much of what Sen. Obama has to say. And he says it so well. But the journalist in me still feels there are questions that have not been asked, let alone answered.

First and foremost, just how is Obama going to bring the country together and find common ground on the substantive issues that have so divided it for almost three decades? Just saying you want to bring people together isn't sufficient. Where is the common ground on giving women the right to choose versus embracing the right-to-life argument? How do you pull troops out of Iraq without re-energizing al-Qaida or compromising the gains from the surge? How will you reduce the cost of health care to make it more affordable, when the medical inflation rate has been at least twice that of the general inflation rate? And how do you convince Americans that

some taxes might have to be raised to pay for universal access to health care or to make Social Security and Medicare solvent for the next generation?

We here in New York have been scarred by the experience of Gov. Eliot Spitzer. He came into office as the great, new hope, vowing to change the way things were done in Albany, and he's run into a stone wall. His surprising lack of political finesse has been a huge disappointment. Remember the crushed promise of Jimmy Carter? Good intentions aren't enough. And, by the way, the comparison of Obama to John F. Kennedy makes me uncomfortable. JFK's record was poor in his approximately 1,000 days.

I understand that the Spitzer analogy might not be valid. He took the steamroller approach, and Obama says he'll be a conciliator. But you know what? Sen. Clinton has been a very effective cloak-room player in the Senate. She's demonstrated her political touch in surprising ways, working with former political enemies to craft legislative compromises. Her reputation as a polarizing figure isn't fair.

There's one school of political thought that believes that if you're really going to be a change agent, you have to be ready to go to political war, not be a compromiser. In fact, the question is whether there really is common ground on some of these big issues. According to this view, compromisers don't get that much accomplished.

Bill Clinton pursued a triangulation strategy in the last half of his presidency: small gains, trying to work with the other side of the aisle. But that's not the type of change Obama is talking about. He's promising fundamental change, generational change.

I also want to know how Obama is going to react when things aren't going well. He's gotten some unfair comments about his religious background (he's a Christian) and the association of his church's leader with Louis Farrakhan, but, as the saying goes, he "ain't seen nothing yet." It's obvious that he can be charming and inspirational, but reporters have also found him to be aloof, even arrogant.

How will a person with so little national political experience react to the cocoon of the White House, surrounded by sycophantic aides (regardless of what he may say now about wanting a staff that will tell him, "no") and a cacophony of criticism from the fourth estate, which inevitably happens to every president? If he wants to get anything done, he's going to make enemies, no matter how much he tries to rebuild the center of American politics. How will he react?

Don't get me wrong. Obama has my attention. He might actually have momentum — whatever that is and if it even exists. But it's been only six weeks since the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primaries. So far, I like what I see. But I'm still not sure what I'm getting.

Bush must pressure Sudan on Darfur

McClatchy
 Tribune News Service
 (MCT)

Steven Spielberg played his role last week to bring renewed attention to the genocide in Darfur, now it's President George W. Bush's turn in the lights.

The acclaimed film director withdrew as a consultant to the Chinese government for the opening and closing ceremonies of this year's Olympics Games, in an attempt to embarrass it into action. Bush, looking to polish his legacy, should use his trip to five other African nations to pressure Sudan to resolve this humanitarian crisis.

Since 2003, when Sudan's Arab government retaliated against rebels in Darfur, in its far western region, more than 200,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million displaced.

China is now the biggest obstacle to meaningful international sanctions to pressure the regime in Khartoum to stop the killings and accept United Nations peacekeepers. The oil-gorging Chinese buy two-thirds of Darfur's output. And China, the top weapons supplier to the Islamist regime, gives Sudan diplomatic protection at the UN by using its powerful veto in the Security Council to protect its trading partner.

The need for international action is urgent. Security must be restored and a plan for national elections developed. In the past, Bush has talked tough about the Sudanese genocide. Now he needs to show some muscle.

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BASEBALL

Optimism high for 2008 baseball squad

Andrew Berry
Sports Editor

The last time the Youngstown State University baseball team won a spot in the NCAA Tournament in 2004, the Penguins had the pleasure of mowing down the Horizon League tournament competition in their own backyard. With a new sense of attitude surrounding the 2008 squad, a returning core of seniors and the return of Horizon League Championships to Eastwood Field, the Penguins' chances of climbing back to the top haven't looked better since the team's magical run four years ago. While the team won't see its first action on the field until Friday on the road against Georgia Tech, the Penguins kicked off the new campaign in October with the announcement of Rich Pasquale taking over as the new skipper at YSU. Implementing the same system that saw Pasquale successfully turn around several programs during his tenure was easy as the new head coach said the players were quick to adapt to his methods.

ship, Pasquale believes this season can be another magical campaign with constant dedication to hard work.

"I'm confident in how this team is going to be," Pasquale said. "We just have to do it."

The Penguin skipper said his players gained valuable experience in solid summer leagues as his troops saw action against top talent from the Division I ranks. By taking that experience and combining it with direct focus on the small aspects of the game, Pasquale said he believes the team can flourish by

embracing the local work ethic of Youngstown.

"The people in this town are hardworking people, and that's what we are. We are representing Youngstown, and we're going to work hard on every play," Pasquale said.

No other team will enjoy more veteran leadership in the Horizon League than the Penguins in 2008, as the YSU roster bolsters a returning seven starters in the field and 12 on the pitching staff.

Of the seven returning starters in the field, the Penguins will have the luxury of trotting out four players that batted better than .300 and were all-league selections in 2007.

Setting the table for the team in

2008 will be the speedy John Koehnlein. After finishing

for an average of .332 over the past two seasons.

Returning as the ace of the pitching staff is senior Lucas Engle, a dominating hurler who has been a workhorse for the Penguins. Engle posted a 3.24 earned run average against league opponents in 2007 and should see his win total rise this season with the support of a veteran lineup slugging in runs.

As always, the Penguins will have their stamina tested early on as the team will begin play on the road for much of the first half of the season.

Typically a disadvantage, playing on the road for weeks at a time is something the team has come to identify itself by.

"Being a northern program, we don't have to think twice about it; we just handle it," Pasquale said.

Even with a talented roster at his disposal and the Horizon League Championships at Eastwood Field waiting in the distance, Pasquale has his mind and the minds of players right where they need to be.

"We know that there is a bigger prize out there, but I want our guys right now to be thinking about Georgia Tech," Pasquale said. "Our prize right now is getting to go out and play Friday."



Lucas Engle, Photo courtesy of Sports Information

fourth in the nation with a .434 batting average a year ago, the junior slugger will provide numerous RBI opportunities for the heart of the order.

Other bright spots in the lineup will include seniors Erich Diedrich and Josh Page. Diedrich poses the kind of power that will force pitchers to alter their game plan or face

"The people in this town are hardworking people, and that's what we are."

Rich Pasquale, head baseball coach

the danger of seeing the score change with one swing of the bat. Page is a reliable hitter capable of hitting just about anywhere in the order. The second baseman has hit

Players to Watch in 2008

Catcher, DH

Batting Average: .362
RBIs: 44
Home runs: 8
Doubles: 12

No. 23, Erich Diedrich, Senior

Centerfielder

Batting Average: .434
RBIs: 33
Runs Scored: 51
Hits: 108

No. 3, John Koehnlein, Senior

Starting Pitcher

Record: 4-6
ERA: 5.24
Strikeouts: 56
Innings Pitched: 91

No. 36, Lucas Engle, Senior

Starting Pitcher

Record: 4-7
ERA: 5.72
Strikeouts: 55
Innings Pitched: 78.2

No. 30, Adam Kalafos, Senior

Players to Watch in 2008

Infield, Utility

Batting Average: .416
RBIs: 34
Home runs: 9
Doubles: 16

No. 16, McKenzie Bedra, Senior

Infield

Batting Average: .336
RBIs: 17
Home runs: 6
Doubles: 4

No. 13, Autumn Grove, Sophomore

Catcher

Batting Average: .219
RBIs: 23
Home runs: 6
Doubles: 3

No. 1, Kristin McDonnell, Junior

Infield

Batting Average: .324
RBIs: 4
Home runs: 0
Doubles: 1

No. 7, Kelli Sheibley, Senior

SOFTBALL

Veteran softball team gears up for a run to recapture Horizon League title

Andrew Berry
Sports Editor

After capturing the Horizon League crown in 2006, the Youngstown State University softball team saw its title defense fall short in 2007 with a quick 0-2 exit in the tournament.

With a pool of talent returning to the field for the Penguins, the 2008 squad has the makeup to get back to the postseason as a fiercer competitor.

Head coach Christy Cameron, now in her ninth season as the YSU softball skipper, is looking forward to coaching a team that is heavy on upperclassmen, with six returning seniors, and solid in depth as the new additions to the team will give Cameron more options than ever before.

"We have depth in some positions we've never had before," Cameron said.

Delighted to have a strong roster from top to bottom, Cameron said the team has been working on fine-tuning its game in practice during the off-season where vast improvement has taken course.

As the younger players adjust to the new level of competition of the Horizon League, the team is looking to walk a new path in 2008.

Cameron believes that despite prior accomplishments, her veteran squad is not relying on success previously found in the last two seasons.

"Confidence comes from how we're preparing now, not so much what we've done in the past," Cameron said.

Unfortunately for the Penguins, the experienced squad that will hit the field in its first action of the sea-

"Confidence comes from how we're preparing now, not so much what we've done in the past,"

Christy Cameron, head softball coach

son against St. Mary's (Calif.) will be with one glaring hole: Former Penguin ace Karlie Burnell will not be taking the hill as the opening day starter.

Burnell is staying on the team as a student assistant coach after a four-year career in a Penguin uniform. Burnell pitched her way into the record books, setting career high marks with 39 wins, 316 strikeouts and 521.2 innings pitched. In 2007, Burnell posted 11 wins with a 3.17 ERA in 23 appearances.

Even though the team will have the tremendous job of replacing Burnell's 143.1 innings pitched from a year ago, Cameron fully believes her presence alone in the dugout will adhere to the players on a different level.

"It's a huge benefit to have her on hand with us," Cameron said. "She's somebody that the team can relate to because she's been in the same situations they've been in and are going to be in."

While the pitching staff goes through shuffle mode, the Penguins will benefit from having a batting order that is intimidating from top to bottom.

Bedra returns as the team's top slugger for 2008. Last season saw Bedra put together a solid campaign as the talented senior posted a .416

League Second-Team and All-Newcomer Team. As a freshman, Grove started 32 games and hit for an impressive average of .336 with six home runs and 12 multi-hit games.

While the Penguins look good on paper now, the team is putting forth the work effort to translate preseason hype to success on the field. With a long season ahead and several road trips to make, the squad is showing its coach the drive to continue to evolve into the premier softball team that won it all in 2006.

"I've seen huge improvements from everyone since day one," Cameron said. "We're not where we need to be, but it's getting there."



CORNERSTONE — Senior Becky Hibner will be a big contributor as she anchors the first base position again in 2008. The Penguins have a solid infield returning this season. Photo courtesy of Sports Information.