



THE JAMBAR

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931.



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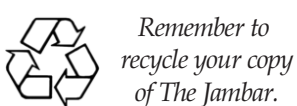
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Today

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Remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar.

POLITICS

It's not over yet

Hillary wins big, Obama maintains delegate lead

Sarah Sole
News Editor

After the primary results for Ohio late Tuesday and Texas this morning, superdelegates are important in the race for Democratic presidential nomination, said Paul Sracic, professor and chair of political science at Youngstown State University.

While it will be nearly impossible for Sen. Barack Obama to win by the majority number that's necessary, it will be difficult for Sen. Hillary Clinton to catch up to Obama in delegates. Clinton would have to win by a large margin of at least 15 points in the remaining states' primaries, but that will not happen, Sracic said.

According to the Ohio Democratic Party's Web site, <http://www.ohiodems.org>, Clinton won the Ohio primary with 54 percent of the votes, while Obama earned 44 percent. These results reflected reports from 99 percent of precincts.

Sracic said Clinton's wins in Texas and Ohio were huge for her campaign. She also claimed Rhode Island, while Obama's only victory of the night was Vermont.

"Her political career was on the line," Sracic said.

Clinton's comeback in Ohio gives her an election argument that, regardless of the delegate count, the public has to nominate the Ohio winner, as in the past, he said.

"She's picking up delegates, but he is too," Sracic said of Clinton's Ohio victory.

Though Obama is still a favorite, ahead in the popular vote, he is "less of a favorite today than he was yesterday," Sracic said.

Students had mixed opinions about the Ohio primary results on Tuesday night.

Freshman Colleen Bundy said she was surprised by the results. Bundy voted for Obama.

"I thought more people in Ohio supported him," she said of the Illinois senator.

Data from the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement shows that youth turnout rate has almost doubled in Ohio since 2000 — a 10 percent increase in eight years. In Ohio 25 percent of primary voters in 2008 were between the ages of 19 and 29.

Tim Koniowsky, a freshman who voted for Clinton, said he was thrilled with Clinton's Ohio win.

"Obama's in it for the fame and only has two-year Senate experience," he said.

Saundra Clarke, a junior who also voted for Clinton, said she did so because

ELECTION page 2



A HILLARY OHIO — (Top) In Columbus Tuesday night, Chelsea and Hillary Clinton celebrate the senator's comeback after winning key state Ohio. She also took Texas, another crucial state, and Rhode Island.

UNEXPECTED LOSSES — (Bottom) Sen. Barack Obama and wife Michelle greet a crowd in San Antonio, Texas, after claiming only one win, in the Vermont primary.

Who's won what As of March 5

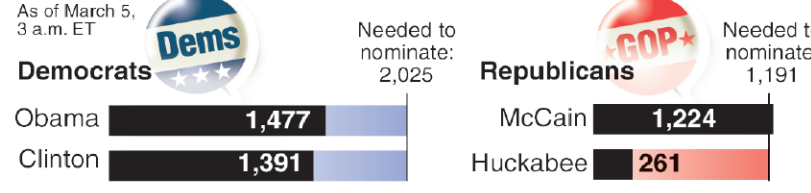
Clinton Ariz., Ark., Calif., Fla., Mass., Mich., Nev., N.H., N.J., N.Y., N.M., Okla., Tenn., R.I., Texas, Ohio

Obama Ala., Colo., Conn., Del., Ga., Idaho, Ill., Iowa, Kan., Minn., Mo., N.D., S.C., Utah, Maine, La., Neb., Wash., D.C., Va., Md., Wis., Hawaii, Vt., U.S. Virgin Islands

McCain Ariz., Calif., Colo., Del., Fla., Ill., Mo., N.H., N.J., N.Y., Okla., S.C., Wash., D.C., Va., Md., Wis., Ohio, Texas, Vt., R.I.

Huckabee (Out) Ala., Ark., Ga., Iowa, Tenn., W.Va., La., Kan.

Romney (Out) Alaska, Colo., Maine, Mass., Mich., Minn., Mont., N.D., Nev., Utah, Wyo.



© 2008 MCT Source: AP, National Association of Secretaries of State, CNN Graphic: Jutta Scheibe, staff

POLITICS

Youngstown awaits visit from McCain

Aaron Workman
Reporter

Youngstown State University has seen a lot of political presence lately, with visits from the Democratic candidates, their supporters and the national media. The city has not seen much from John McCain, however. Is it a lack of interest? Senior Alex Mangie, president of the College Republicans, says it's all about timing.

While McCain no longer has

any competition for the Republican nomination after Mike Huckabee dropped out Tuesday night, it remains uncertain whether Ohio is a main part of McCain's campaign trail.

Mangie said he believes McCain will campaign here closer to the general election. If he does, students and residents may get a chance to hear McCain's take on relevant political issues.

MCCAIN page 2



PRESIDENTIAL ENDORSEMENT — President George Bush welcomes Sen. John McCain, the unofficial Republican presidential nominee, to the North Portico of the White House in Washington, D.C.

YSU

Graduate shares experiences from McCain campaign trail

Courtney DiGiorgi
Reporter

Youngstown State University graduate Henry Gomez knows the perks of the press. In 2008, they've led him hot on the presidential campaign trail.

A reporter for the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Gomez has traveled along the trail and followed Arizona Sen. John McCain, the unofficial Republican presidential nominee. Before he became a reporter for a large newspaper, Gomez earned degrees in political science and journalism from YSU in 2003. Though his McCain followings lasted just a couple of days, Gomez said he was excited to have the experience.

"It's neat feeling like you're part of the national press core," he said. Other media following the McCain campaign with him included Fox and the Washington Post.

During the trip, Gomez did more than follow McCain around with a camera and reporter's notebook. He met the Republican nominee during a media briefing in Columbus. With about 15 to 20 other reporters, Gomez had the chance to speak with McCain.

Gomez said McCain's friendliness toward the press is nothing new. "They (media) say he's easy access to the press," he said.

Gomez questioned McCain on the scattered Republican Party. McCain replied by saying the solution to a corrupt party is work toward unification, plus instilling of the idea that the days of corruption are over.

With competition for the presidential race becoming more and more heated, Gomez commented on the media's role in publicizing presidential scandals, using sports as an analogy. "As a reporter, you don't root for good teams — you root for good stories."

When it comes to the McCain lobbyist scandal, Gomez made it clear that the Plain Dealer used the Washington Post newswire to run the story instead of the New York Times, mainly because of what each news source concentrated on as the main issue.

"The issue wasn't the affair; it was more about lobbyists getting special favors."

Gomez said the sex aspect of the story concerned television rather than print journalists.

After following the political campaign, Gomez commented on the candidates' attitudes toward the press, specifically Hillary Clinton's.

"The media has done a good job," he said. As far as Clinton's statement that she usually gets the first question during debates, Gomez said journalists tallied how many times she's been questioned first, and the results are approximately 14 out of 26. He said he thinks the reason behind Clinton's frustration was because she was down in the polls.

Gomez said he is confident that the Plain Dealer makes the most out of trying to cover all candidates equally. "We send reporters everywhere," he said. As far as coverage of scandals among president candidates, Gomez said, "News is our job."

"It's neat feeling like you're part of the national press core."

— Henry Gomez, alumnus

TO THE POINT

New director named for distance learning

Annette Burden, an associate professor of mathematics, has been named the new interim director of distance learning. The Academic Strategic Plan for 2007 to 2013 tries to address the number and quality of online academic offerings at YSU. The university's distance learning courses began in 1999 and currently offers two online degree programs.

Recognizing Women's History Month at YSU

A number of events will be held on campus to honor women throughout March. YSU and the Center for Women's Studies are sponsoring forums, film viewings accompanied by lectures and poetry readings.

Artist to speak at Ford Theater

The Skeggs Lecture series at Youngstown State University continues with artist Fred Wilson. He will be speaking at 7 p.m. March 19 in the Ford Theater in Bliss Hall. His award-winning installations have been featured in museums around the world. The lecture is free to the public.

RecycleMania continues

YSU will continue to compete with 400 colleges in RecycleMania. RecycleMania will continue until April 6. For more information call the YSU recycling center at 330-941-2294.

Campus Recreation accepting homecoming chair applications

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

Center to host discussion

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

POLICE BRIEFS

Laptop missing in Cushman

A student reported his laptop missing from Cushman Hall. The computer was taken March 1 following the Math Conference in the atrium area.

Gas stolen from truck

Feb. 29, all the gasoline was stolen from a pickup truck parked in the R1 lot overnight. The gas cap is also missing. Police were dispatched when the owner returned to the vehicle the following morning.

Wallet goes missing at Stambaugh

An Early College student reported March 1 that his wallet and cash had been stolen during a racquetball class in Stambaugh Sports Complex Feb. 25.

Police catch trespasser

Feb. 29, a man was trespassing on campus property while shouting obscenities into a cell phone. After finding prior arrest warrants, the suspect was handed over to the Mahoning County Sheriff's Office.

Harassing voicemail left for instructor

Police were called to Bliss Hall in reference to a harassing message left for an instructor the day before.

HEALTH

Getting A's and B's, but not Z's

College students get less sleep, study finds

Lindsey Ramdin
Reporter

With the combination of midterms and spring break excitement, some students may be experiencing an increasingly close relationship with the snooze button. College students may well be the group in most need of some serious snooze time this National Sleep Awareness week, which runs until Saturday.

According to a study done at Brown University, college students are among the most sleep-deprived people in the country. This may be due to the irregularity of their sleeping habits. Only 11 percent of college students have good sleep quality, and 73 percent have occasional sleep problems.

Some students at Youngstown State University fit the statistic of restless students, while others, like junior Kyle Hoffman, are getting just as much sleep as they need. Hoffman averages the recommended eight hours of sleep per night, enabling him to make it through his long school day comfortably.

The National Sleep Foundation suggests getting eight hours of sleep each night, allowing the brain

Sleep well Tips from the National Sleep Awareness Organization

- Sleep and wake at regular hours every day
- Relax before bedtime
- Use the bed for sleep and sex, not work
- Avoid caffeine and in the afternoon, and nicotine, another stimulant, right before bed
- Exercise daily, but not right before bed
- Avoid drinking before bed, as it can cause you to wake in the night

Make your sleep environment

1. dark
2. quiet
3. comfortable
4. cool

Information from <http://www.sleepfoundation.org>.

to go through all the processes that help make learning easier.

However, actually achieving this could prove difficult. Academic and non-academic stressors such as midterms and jobs, and the promise of summer can make winding down at bedtime impossible.

Junior Brad Susany seems to have a healthy sleep schedule, usually sleeping 8 to 9 hours per night. Susany said now that he is older his sleeping habits have improved.

"I used to be able to survive on five hours of sleep a night", he said. "Now I realize that if I schedule classes later in the day I get more sleep and feel more refreshed, having reached my peak level of sleep before class."

One common misconception students have is that they feel they can go without sleep during the week and just play catch-up on the weekends.

RANK Joseph Testerman said he doesn't feel that he has enough time to sleep during the week.

"The weekend is the only time I can catch up on my sleep," Testerman said.

"If I worked on the weekend, I'm not sure I could continue with my sleeping patterns as they exist now," he said.

Unfortunately, this is only a short-term solution. According to the National Sleep Foundation, frequently sleeping in low amounts can create "sleep debt" that can be hard to rectify. Sleep deprivation also has been linked to obesity, negative mood and actions, and safety issues linked to drowsiness.

ELECTION page 1

she believes the New York senator is more qualified than Obama is.

"I like Obama's ideas, but he needs more experience," Clark said.

Despite choosing Clinton, Clark said she was surprised by the primary results.

"I just thought it would be close, but I thought Obama would win," she said.

Some students, however, were disappointed with the results.

Sophomore Jason Weatherly, who voted for Obama, said he thought Obama's loss in Ohio was a shame. Though both candidates are groundbreaking in terms of race and gender, Obama should have won the state, Weatherly said.

Though Diedra Nuss, a sophomore, voted for Obama, she said

she wasn't surprised by the election's outcome.

"Ohio tends to be very Democratic, and the majority of people I talked to were Hillary supporters," Nuss said.

Additional reporting by Alice DeBonis, Ashley Fox and Samantha Pysher.

MCCAIN page 1

Joachim Rohan, senior, agreed. "I think he will spend a lot of time campaigning in Ohio. It's a big state," Rohan said.

While junior Chris Brown said McCain didn't campaign in Ohio yet because the candidate would have wasted money in the largely Democratic state, he said McCain will eventually visit Ohio because it is a powerful state.

"You have to campaign as much as you can in every state if you want to win it all," Brown said.

If McCain does visit Ohio, students and residents may get a chance to hear his take on relevant political issues.

For his part, Mangie approves the unofficial Republican nominee's plan for the war in Iraq.

"John McCain wants to finish the job in Iraq. He wants to get it right," Mangie said.

McCain's Web site explains his plan for Iraq, which involves sending additional troops to the country.

The Arizona senator does not mention college expenses in his breakdown of issues, perhaps because he doesn't want a change. Mangie said the GOP believes Democratic plans just "throw money at the problem."

He notes that in order to spend more money on education, we

have to cut funds elsewhere or raise taxes. McCain is against tax increases.

According to his promotional Web site, McCain also wants to set a course for legalizing illegal immigrants. He said he believes since we cannot deport all illegal aliens, we must assimilate and control the borders.

This belief is not widely held by conservatives, and Mangie said he sees this as an indication of McCain's bipartisanship, and hopes it will help him gain moderate voters.

Additional reporting by Courtney DiGiorgi.

take a look online

THE JAMBAR
The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931
Current Issue: January 24, 2008

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→ Spring enrollment increase builds on strong fall numbers
→ To the Point

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Sports.
Entertainment.

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→ Penguins ready for first conference match-up with Valparaiso Crusaders
→ Low light and cold weather cause cabin fever for students

Entertainment:
→ Atonement tells the tragedy of one life-changing lie
→ There Will Be (Academy Awards for) Blood

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EDUCATION

The bane of our childhood, cursive writing, may be on its way out

Jeanette DiRubba
Reporter

"How do you make a capital 'S'? I forget," said senior Anthony Cycyk.

Cycyk, like many Youngstown State University students, share the same problem when it comes to cursive writing. They don't remember how to write with it.

Students are forced to learn it in school, but cursive writing is quickly going out of style.

Senior Debra Strobel is an integrated language arts education major. She said she hardly ever uses cursive writing, but "it's still a valuable skill to have."

Although Strobel said cursive writing is important, she will not require her students to write with it.

"You only need to use cursive writing at certain times, but it is now becoming less valued in our society," she said.

Jessica Stephenson and Amy Myers, also senior integrated language arts education majors, agreed with Strobel and will not require cursive in their classrooms either.

"I just want my students to write in whatever style, printing or cursive, that makes them feel comfortable — but I do want it to be legible for me," Stephenson said.

"Since it's hard for me to write in cursive because I'm not used to it, I won't have my students experience that," Myers said. She agreed

that students should be able to write in whatever script is comfortable for them.

Stephenson admitted that she doesn't write in "strict cursive form."

"I have the tendency to print and write in cursive in the same sentence, and that's a bad habit," she said.

Senior Kari Milliron, integrated language major, said she shares Stephenson's habit of mixing printing with cursive writing.

"Sometimes I write really sloppy, and sometimes my writing is just really good. I'm not sure why it comes out the way it does, but cursive writing seems to be going out of style because it's not being stressed in high schools as much as it is in the lower grades," she said.

Senior Shelby Creed, English pre-education major, said her cursive is "relatively legible" and this neatness depends upon her daily mood, but "cursive is pretty much what I use," she said.

Creed disagreed that cursive is going out of style because it's still being taught in schools.

"Cursive is not a dying writing style because schools still mandate that students learn it. Plus, you always have to learn to sign your name," Creed said.

"On the other hand, schools may mandate that you learn cursive, but they can't mandate that you use it, especially in the upper grades," Creed said.

Is your handwriting better than a fifth grader's?

1.

The quick brown fox jumps over a lazy dog.

2.

The quick brown fox jumps over a lazy dog.

3.

The quick brown fox jumps over a lazy dog.

4.

The quick brown fox jumps over a lazy dog.

1. YSU SENIOR 2. YSU SENIOR 3. FIFTH GRADER 4. FIFTH GRADER

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

NATIONAL

Student admits fabricating tale of campus gunman, police say

Eric Ferreri

McClatchy Newspapers

In the end, the lies piled up too fast for Matthew W. Haney to handle.

The Appalachian State University senior's attempt to avoid paying for a damaged apartment door led him to fabricate a story of a masked gunman in a Pink Floyd T-shirt running toward the Boone, N.C., campus, police say. That prompted authorities to lock down the college for more than an hour Monday evening.

Haney's lies then continued with a series of television interviews. It wasn't until Tuesday morning, when he was grilled by a Boone detective, that Haney conceded that it had all been a hoax — a creative yarn that got away from him.

"If embarrassment could be measured on a scale, it would be off the charts," said Matt Stevens, the Boone police detective who elicited Haney's confession. "He did not think this could happen."

The 22-year-old English major will likely be charged later this week with filing a false police report, Stevens said. Haney faces a campus judicial hearing as well.

Police say Haney found damage to the door of his off-campus apartment Monday afternoon. Fearing he'd be fined for it, he told his apartment manager that he had been burglarized and that the door must have been damaged then. The manager suggested that Haney call police, so the student told authorities his tale of an armed intruder with a dark mask, a Pink Floyd T-

shirt and red-and-green shoes who fled in the direction of the Appalachian State campus.

The campus of more than 14,000 students was shut down quickly. Police also received reports from others on campus of a man who fit the general description of the alleged gunman — a six-foot-tall man in a white T-shirt — but without a mask or gun.

Meanwhile, reporters arrived at Haney's door, and he was happy to talk.

"All I did was, as soon as I saw the gun, I ran," he told WRAL-TV of Raleigh.

Given the chance to end the madness, Haney instead fed it, Stevens said.

"He had chances to stop it," the detective said. "There were so many points, I'm sure he's kicking himself. If it was simply an innocent mistake, he could have rectified it."

That's what bothers Forrest Gilliam, Appalachian State's student body president. Gilliam said he sympathized with Haney but is frustrated that the saga went on as long as it did. Helicopters hovered overhead and students received calls from panicky parents who monitored news reports. Before long, phone lines were overloaded.

"He saw what his lie was doing," said Gilliam, a senior from Marshall, N.C. "He seemed to be enjoying his time on camera."

Haney did not respond to an e-mail request for comment Tuesday.

Along with the misdemeanor criminal charge, he could face university sanctions ranging from community service to probation to suspension, according to cam-

"If embarrassment could be measured on a scale, it would be off the charts."

Forrest Gilliam, Appalachian State's student body president.

pus officials.

"Under our code of student conduct, he has certainly violated several rules," said Lynn Drury, associate vice chancellor for university communications.

She said she had no idea how much the false report cost Appalachian State, but at least the campus was able to thoroughly test new safety procedures and systems implemented after the killings at Virginia Tech last year. Appalachian State's first e-mail alert to students, faculty and staff went out 24 minutes after police responded to the student's initial call, Drury said.

The university issued several updates on its Web site and cancelled classes Monday night. After nearly an hour and a half, the university withdrew the alert.

"You can't not do what we did without knowing the end," Drury said of the lockdown decision. "We would do the same thing again and hopefully do it better."

University officials learned a few things during the situation, Drury said. For instance, Appalachian State would probably get only one chance to distribute a

message to cell phones during a disastrous event. After that, the system would be jammed. Redundant communication systems are necessary, and the university plans to install a siren system.

"We certainly identified some bugs we need to work out," Drury said. "We probably got a B minus."

Though the lockdown occurred late in the afternoon, some classes were in session and some professors weren't sure how to handle the situation — they allowed students to walk the halls, go to the bathroom and pass by windows, said Gilliam, the student body president.

But overall, there was little panic, he added. Students exchanged text messages, and many holed up in computer labs to watch updates roll in on the university Web site.

Still, the rumor mill did prove disturbing and inaccurate at times, causing stress until the lockdown was lifted, Gilliam said.

"Things were being said that just weren't true," he said. "A lot of people thought there was a gunman loose on campus."

COLLEGE

Good tips for roommate success

Kathleen Lynn

The Record (Hackensack, N.J.) (MCT)

To make a roommate arrangement work, "it has to be handled like any other business transaction," says Sylvia Berghold, who wrote a book on the subject. She and other experts recommend:

— Run a credit check on prospective roommates. Berghold recommends a company called citicredit.net, which charges \$9.95 for a tenant credit report; a number of other companies also do this for about the same amount. Some experts also recommend asking to see the last several pay stubs and a copy of the driver's license, to verify the roommate's income and identity.

— Ask the prospective roommate to co-sign the lease.

— Agree on how utility bills are to be split. Some people recommend that every roommate just use his or her own cell phone, and don't

bother with a land line for the apartment. This way you don't have to worry about splitting phone bills.

— Ask for references, and check them.

— Ask prospective roommates why they are moving, how many times they have moved in the last five years, how long have they been working at their present job and how many jobs they have had in the last five years.

— Talk honestly about all sorts of lifestyle issues: What time do you go to sleep on weeknights and weekends? How neat are you? Will you bring home dates (or one-night stands) for sleepovers? Do you smoke? Do you drink or use drugs? Do you have pets? Only you know which of these behaviors is a deal-breaker for you.

— Agree on house rules about guests, quiet hours, smoking, cleaning and other chores, whether to share food and household supplies, etc. It's a good idea to put all this in writing and have it signed by all roommates.

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CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO - Police Officer, Youngstown Police Department - Starting Salary \$35,123.92. Must be at least 21 years of age and be able to obtain a valid Ohio driver's license. **Each applicant considered for appointment will be subject to a complete background investigation, and the following: (1) A POLYGRAPH TEST/VOICE STRESS ANALYSIS (LIE DETECTOR); (2) A PSYCHOLOGICAL TEST; (3) DRUG TESTING; (4) CREDIT REPORT; (5) EMPLOYMENT HISTORY.** Must be a resident of the City of Youngstown within 30 days following completion of the one-year probationary period. Examination Bonus Points are available for the following qualifications: 10% - Ohio Peace Officer Training Certificate (Copy of **valid** OPATA certificate required) 20% -Military Veterans - Honorable Discharge (Copy of DD-214 required). Applications accepted at Youngstown Civil Service Commission Office, 7th Floor, City Hall, 26 S. Phelps St., Youngstown, Ohio from March 10, 2008 through March 21, 2008. The written exam will be given on Saturday, April 5, 2008, starting at 10:00 A.M. Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

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Thursday, 6 March 2008 7 pm

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OUR SIDE

Fight on, Democratic candidates

RELATED STORY

PRIMARY page 1

Like any good boxing match, it's not over till someone wins, even if the judges have to call it. And of course, we'd like to see a knockout. It adds to the drama.

In the fight to become the Democratic presidential nominee, it was just another round for Hillary Clinton, though Barack Obama is still winning the fight.

But Tuesday did give Clinton the chance to prove her strength in the national ring.

While the Republican Party was able to wrap up its nomination for John McCain, the Democrats were not as lucky. Clinton clinched three of the four Tuesday contests against Obama, giving her a resurgence in momentum. While Obama only walked away with one win for the night, he's still ahead of Clinton within terms of delegates.

With the vote counting lasting into the early morning Wednesday, Obama and Clinton supporters were left to wait for the results to come in from Texas. If anything, Tuesday proved the stamina and staying power of each candidate.

McCain has the luxury of focusing his attention on the general election now, leaving Obama and Clinton to continue duking it out state by state.

And with the national attention buildup on the primary, the open-ended results felt like somewhat of a let down.

For Obama fans, the losses in three states, especially in Ohio, were a disappointment. And even with Clinton's big wins, she is still behind Obama in delegate votes, which serves as a reminder of how much of this campaign is left.

For those who thought it would all end Tuesday — sorry. The attention has turned to the Pennsylvania primary, more than one month away.

One more month to build up hype. Another month of political analysts documenting each move. One more month of word-twisting, dirty politics and potential scandals.

The upside is another month to watch history being made. Another month to keep young voters involved and hopefully capture their lasting interest in politics.

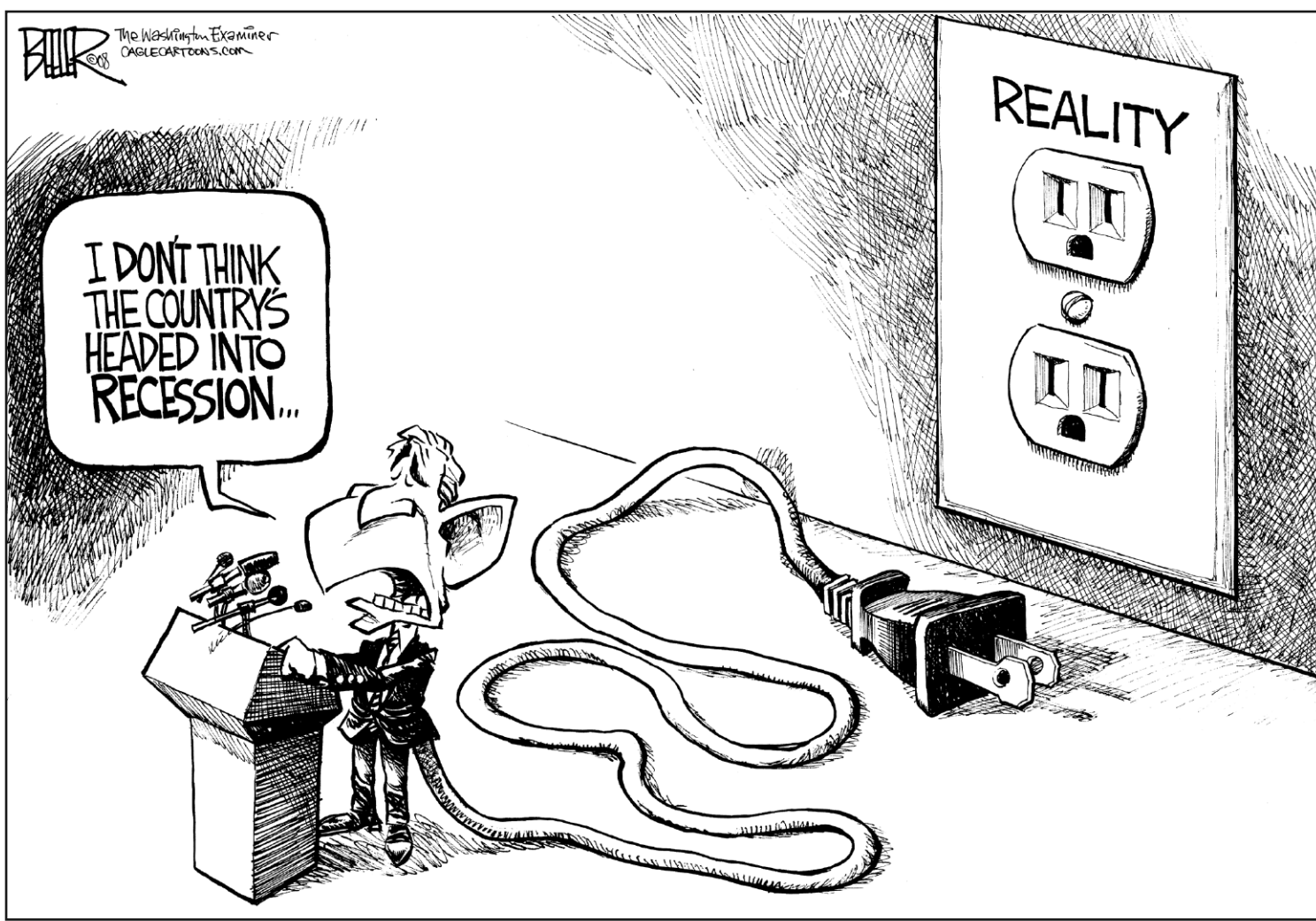
The continuing duel for the Democratic nomination shows key signs of a healthy democracy: strong candidates, a spirited fight and excited voters. No matter which candidate students endorse, the fact remains that this is an election where we can be involved.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am writing to voice my dissatisfaction with the campus e-mail service. Tuesday morning I was unable to access my e-mail for about an hour. While that's not a big deal, this is the third time in a week that I had this problem and probably the sixth time within the last month. It's super irritating!

I'm a member of several groups and use MyYSU to keep in touch with them and family and friends, as well as my profs for homework and class updates. It burns me when I have a break between classes and work to check for new mail and it's not up. So I guess my question is, why is mail down so much? Who's in charge of it? Can it be fixed? What the heck is the deal?!

Molly Beil
Sophomore

COMMENTARY

United States must move carefully on biofuels policy

McClatchy-Tribune
News Service
(MCT)

The world has embraced biofuels as a form of clean energy that could sharply reduce global warming. Look no further than the 2007 energy bill that mandates a big increase in coming years in nationwide use of renewable fuels, such as ethanol. Or consider the growing amounts of Silicon Valley venture capital flowing into developing promising biofuels from plant cellulose.

But slow down. The "green" promise of some biofuels should get a closer look. As the United States and other countries rush to develop and produce fuels from plants such as corn, sugar cane and switchgrass, it's essential to get the policy right. Not all biofuels are created equal in terms of environmental impact. The United States should move as quickly as possible, for instance, beyond its embrace of corn-based ethanol, which has numerous ecological drawbacks. And mandates or incentives for biofuels must come with tough standards for greenhouse gas emissions that truly ensure environmental benefits.

Fresh skepticism toward biofuels emerged last month, when

Science magazine published two studies suggesting that the fuels may actually increase greenhouse gas emissions. That's because forests, grasslands and other undeveloped lands are being cleared for growing fuel crops, releasing large amounts of carbon dioxide stored in trees, dirt and other biomass. And, as biofuels demand booms, farmers switch existing fields to biofuel crops such as corn. That means growers elsewhere, often in developing countries, must compensate by clearing or converting more of their land to grow food crops — adding to carbon emissions.

Fortunately, the 2007 energy bill that sharply boosted the U.S. mandate for renewable fuels use — from 9 billion gallons this year to 36 billion gallons by 2022 — does contain environmental and land use protections. Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency must resist attempts to weaken the safeguards or retroactively strip them out of the legislation, enacted in December.

California could provide a model for ensuring that U.S. biofuels policy is carried out in the strongest way. The state's "low carbon fuel standard" — issued by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2007 and the world's first such

standard — requires at least a 10 percent cut in the "carbon intensity" of California transportation fuels by 2020. The United States should consider adopting a similar standard.

Despite today's optimistic aura surrounding biofuels, skeptics are right to question the heavy U.S. focus on corn ethanol. It has long been debatable whether the amount of water and energy needed to produce the fuel is excessive and whether it deserves the heavy taxpayer subsidies it gets. The push to produce corn for fuel also may be contributing to higher food prices globally as food crops are crowded out.

Researchers must step up efforts to develop biofuels from human garbage and farm waste, which would avoid the squeeze on crop lands.

Congress should revisit the 2007 energy law to provide more incentives to farmers to plant switchgrass and other less damaging crops. And efforts to develop cellulosic ethanol, which has much greater potential than corn ethanol to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, must continue.

Getting biofuels policy right is extremely complicated and will require a lot more work, but the planet's health depends on it.

COMMENTARY

What matters? It's the economy, silly

McClatchy-Tribune
News Service
(MCT)

The U.S. economy is taking hits from all directions, or that's how it seems to many Americans. President Bush says that the country is not moving toward recession. Tell that to those reeling from the rising cost of gas, food, insurance, education and health care.

Home foreclosures are multiplying. People with houses can't sell them. Home prices and sales dropped dramatically in January, and there's no sign of improvement soon. Banks no longer provide easy credit. Stock-market investments are on a roller-coaster ride. Pay checks don't buy as much today as yesterday.

In testimony to Congress on Wednesday, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke described the malaise in economic terms. He said the U.S. economy will almost come to a standstill with sluggish growth in the coming months. Meanwhile, the housing crisis continues to rattle investors and financial markets, making it harder for people and businesses to obtain loans. Oil prices continue to push up the cost of food, and job growth is slowing. The result is inescapable: Consumers spend less for the simple reason that they have less to spend.

Bernanke's signal that the Fed was prepared to lower interest rates further was fleeting good news. On Thursday, stock prices dipped,

responding to more bleak economic indicators. Other signs spell trouble, too. Reports last week show that the U.S. economy barely grew at the end of last year and consumer confidence is at the lowest level since the Iraq War began. This suggests that Americans will tighten their belts even more, which will hurt businesses and depress economic growth. Now even Bernanke acknowledges that rising prices will limit the Fed's ability to kick-start the economy without risking even more problems.

Meanwhile, Americans want to know what will turn the economy around. They want help and answers — from Congress and the president. They want to know, too, what plans the presidential candidates have for turning things around.

The economic-stimulus bill that Congress passed recently will put money in many pockets. But that will happen later this year and, besides, is only a short-term fix. Long-term, the stimulus package will increase the nation's deficit spending — a primary reason the economy is suffering.

While President Bush has spent hundreds of billions of dollars in Iraq and on tax cuts, the nation's infrastructure, health care and other areas have been neglected.

Downplaying economic pressures felt by Americans only encourages more pessimism, reinforcing the downward spiral. This will change when our leaders focus on turning around the economy and improving the lives of ordinary Americans.

POLICIES

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

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

Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include name and telephone number for verification, and letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Items submitted become the property of The Jambar and will not be returned.

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

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

ABOUT THE JAMBAR

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COMMENTARY

McCain is right about Iraq: A long-term U.S. presence is essential to securing the nation

Jonathan V. Last

The Philadelphia Inquirer
(MCT)

Barack Obama frequently chastises people for contributing "more heat than light" to the public debate. An admirable sentiment. I wish he would adhere to it more regularly himself.

A Democratic line is emerging about Sen. John McCain that is voiced daily by Sen. Obama (and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton) in the presidential campaign.

"Senator McCain said the other day that we might be mired for 100 years in Iraq," Obama says, "which is reason enough not to give him four years in the White House." Or more directly, as Obama told a Houston audience, McCain "says that he is willing to send our troops into another 100 years of war in Iraq."

Obama's claims are, at best, deliberately misleading. At worst, they are the type of politics-as-usual distortion that the Illinois senator usually decries. No one, in politics or the media, who voices

the "100 years" canard is being fair-minded. So let's put it to rest now, once and for all:

On Jan. 3 in Derry, N.H., a voter prefaced a question to McCain by saying, "President Bush has talked about our staying in Iraq for 50 years ..." Here, McCain cut him off, interjecting, "Make it a hundred."

The voter tried to continue his question, but McCain pressed on: "We've been in ... Japan for 60 years. We've been in South Korea 50 years or so. That would be fine with me, as long as Americans are not being injured or harmed or wounded or killed. It's fine with me, I hope it would be fine with you if we maintain a presence in a very volatile part of the world where al-Qaeda is training, equipping and recruiting and motivating people every single day."

McCain's analysis is, objectively speaking, exactly correct. Throughout history, U.S. troops have remained in the field long after the conclusion of successful wars.

The Philippine-American War was fought between 1899 and 1902. U.S. troops stayed there even as the country took baby steps

toward self-governance. The Japanese invaded at the beginning of World War II, but the United States returned in 1945, liberated the Philippines, and granted the country independence in 1946. Yet U.S. forces remained there until 1991, when the last U.S. naval base was closed. During that time, the Philippines progressed from an unstable, newly democratic state, to a semidictatorship, to what now looks like an imperfect, but functioning, democracy.

The Korean War began in 1950, with fighting ending three years later. Today, thousands of U.S. troops remain in South Korea, and that country has progressed from authoritarianism to real and stable democracy. In 1957, a dozen years after the end of World War II, there were 151,000 U.S. troops in Japan. By 2005, 35,500 troops were still there, and Japan had become a model nation.

Across our other ocean, U.S. soldiers were fanned out across Western Europe at the close of World War II. As postwar reconstruction began in Germany and Italy, U.S. troops stayed in large

numbers: 269,000 in Germany and 7,000 in Italy in 1955. By 2005, 66,000 U.S. troops were in Germany and 12,000 in Italy.

Heck, the United States occupied Iceland in 1941 to protect the country from the Nazis, who had just seized Denmark. Sixty-seven years later, more than 1,000 U.S. troops still are garrisoned outside of Reykjavik.

Iraq is not Iceland, Germany or South Korea — something McCain has acknowledged. But just as each war is different in its own way, all wars have some fundamental similarities. One of them is that the victorious nation is never able simply to pull up stakes and leave. Even unqualified successes — such as the reconstructions of Germany, Japan and South Korea — often require a commitment of forces for generations. There has never been any reason to believe Iraq would be different.

The key to McCain's "100 years" comment is his qualifier: "as long as Americans are not being injured or harmed or wounded or killed." It is this crucial component that distinguishes military successes

from failures.

A commitment to Iraq in which U.S. forces are being harmed for 100 years (or even 20 or 10) is not sustainable; such a situation would indicate the United States was not able to midwife a viable political environment. Iraq would then be a failure. John McCain knows that.

But if the Iraqi political infrastructure continues to coalesce, if the violence continues to trend downward, if the Iraqi military and police continue to assume larger and larger roles in their country's affairs, then a presence of U.S. troops in Iraq for a long duration is an exceptionally good outcome. It would signal that, despite all of the Bush administration's many failures, the Iraq project was not for naught.

McCain's "100 years" is not a commitment to "100 years of war," as Obama claims. It is simply another sign of McCain's seriousness and understanding of the realities of foreign affairs in general and Iraq in particular.

Obama's distortion of this remark, however, is the first sign that he may not be a serious-minded candidate.

got an opinion?

Send letters to:

thejambar@gmail.com

VACATION

Flocking south or avoiding the hype

Chelsea Pflugh

Features Reporter

Friday's much-needed change of pace, spring break 2008, couldn't get here any sooner for Youngstown State University students.

Freshman Chris Stewart decided to go south, but not all the way to Florida.

"I'm going to Tennessee with my family because my sister is in a singing competition down there," he said. "Weatherwise it'll be better than here. Our time share has an indoor water park."

Junior Eric Schmidt says he can't wait to get out of Ohio and relax.

"I'm going to Panama City with six people, but we know at least 30 people going from YSU," he said.

"It'll be really crowded. MTV is supposed to be there, too. I want to drink, party and meet some new people," he added.

Freshman Corey Stephens also plans to travel south to Florida to escape the Ohio weather.

"I'm going to Miami with two of my buddies," he said. "We're gonna go to the beach and just go crazy."

Though spring break sounds like it's a care-free week where many friends say "what happens here stays here," it's not without its complications.

Spring break can be expensive, and the cost has factored into some students' decision to stay home.

Junior Dan Layton said money was the primary factor in his spring break plans.

"I just don't really have the money to spend on it. I'd rather make money working over break than spend it," Layton said.

"I don't really feel like I'm missing out on anything," he said. "I'll do the same things here as I would on spring break."

Freshman Matthew Papanonakis agreed. "With gas prices, it's starting to get a little outrageous. Sometimes you're spending more in gas than your actual reservation."

Other students say money isn't an issue. "The entire trip is affordable if you split it up right. My group is giving \$100 a person for gas

to and from Florida, then everyone else splits the pay for our condo," Schmidt says.

"We don't have to worry about gas money. Me and my buddies are flying down," Stephens said. He booked his tickets early with a student discount.

"We won't really need a car down there," he said. "Everything is within walking distance."

Junior Jarrod Garcia, who is also traveling to Panama City this week, says that housing was an issue for his group going on break.

"We started out in a condo, but it turned out that the guy double-booked us with someone else and he gave our place away. Then we found a hotel pretty close to the beach, but the rooms were small. We finally found a house right on the beach," he explained.

Garcia's group of 10 is splitting the gas prices and the money for the house for the entire week and has been planning their trip since November.

"I wanted out of Ohio. They don't know what snow is in Panama City, and that's a good thing," he said.

For some students, like senior Mike Simmons, vacationing during spring break will not work out this year.

"Plans fell through at the last minute, so I won't be going anywhere," he said.

Garcia said he is staying for a different reason. "I'm already going on two trips this summer so I'm just gonna save up for that."

When asked what he'd be doing over spring break, freshman Joseph Deniakis said with a laugh, "I'll be working everyday instead of getting a great tan and chasing ladies on the beach."

Senior Jolene Libert is a spring break veteran. "I've gone to Key West for the past four years, but I can't go this year. I made a mature decision to stay in Ohio," she said.

Libert said she's staying at home because her Praxis tests fell during the week of spring break.

"I figured it was time to grow up. I have to start my career sooner or later," she said.

Libert has advice for her fellow students. "Go on spring break while you still can. It's absolutely worth the money. Go and experience it before it's too late and you're too old!"

Additional reporting by Brandon Judeh.

"I made a mature decision to stay in Ohio. Go on spring break while you still can. It's absolutely worth the money. Go and experience it before it's too late and you're too old!"

Senior Jolene Libert

SPRING BREAK



Avoiding the scams

J. Breen Mitchell

Reporter

Hidden charges tacked on by the travel industry can put a damper on relaxation this spring break.

According to a press release from the Better Business Bureau from last May, vacation scams cost consumers over \$10 billion each year. The travel industry consistently ranks in or near the top 25 for number of complaints out of 3,900 industries that the bureau monitors.

"The BBB recommends that if an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If you happen to find a really great spring break package, be sure to do your homework before giving your credit card number," said Melissa Padisak, director of marketing and public relations for the Youngstown branch of the bureau.

The release gives examples such as a firm based in San Diego which used bait and switch tactics to get customers to pay more than they had planned for vacation packages to Hawaii,

Mexico, and the Virgin Islands. In some cases, the trips were booked fraudulently or not at all.

The Ohio Student Public Interest Group, a student advocate, offers tips on what to watch out for when planning a spring break trip on their Web site.

They warn to watch out for hidden fees, such as International departure and arrival taxes, processing fees, peak week surcharges, late booking fees, departure city surcharges, travel insurance and fuel surcharges. These types of fees can be avoided by reading all of the fine print carefully.

The group's Web site also says to "avoid any company that mandates arbitration for disputes. Don't give up your legal rights."

Consumers should research a company before they send any money, and be aware of cancellation policies.

If there are problems with a company, the PIRG advises consumers to file a complaint, which can usually be done through the state Attorney General's office.

upcoming events

Today

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

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

Critical Bill
Peabody's Downunder
7 p.m.

Friday

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

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

Saturday

"An Uncommon Woman" by the
Youngstown Symphony Orchestra
DeYor Performing Arts Center
8 p.m.

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

Strength of Strings 6
Cedars
10 p.m.

Sunday

Emerson Heart
House of Blues
9 p.m.

ENTERTAINMENT

20 questions for ... Margaret Cho

PopMatters.com
(MCT)

A cultural and political comedian, fashion designer and actress, Margaret Cho discusses a range of her talents and interests in this installment of 20 QUESTIONS (just imagine her tenderly braiding a tall, furry animal's hair while talking with us, here, very telling you'll see).

Cho is an outspoken supporter of gay rights and recipient of numerous humanitarian awards. Her "Beautiful" tour, launched in Australia, hits U.S. stages March 6th.

1. The latest book or movie that made you cry?

"La Vie en Rose." I love Edith Piaf and Marion Cotillard in the role is genius. Piaf lived a brief and tragic life. The film is just gorgeous and so sad. There are lots and lots of crying opportunities in that film. I am also amazed at the way Cotillard really is able to transform herself from the young Edith to the old Edith. It's truly a beautiful film.

2. The fictional character most like you?

I always really identify with Margo Channing, the Bette Davis character from "All About Eve." Channing is the drag queen in me; she's bitter yet romantic, strong but gullible, woman yet drag queen, all in one.

3. The greatest album, ever? Oh, that is difficult. Maybe Prince's "Purple Rain."

4. "Star Trek" or "Star Wars"? "Star Wars" for sure. I have never seen anything "Star Trek." I love sci-fi, but I'm more "Star Wars"-oriented. I'm totally obsessed with Chewbacca. He's incredible.

I'm a bit of an insomniac, and so when I can't sleep, I think about brushing Chewbacca, getting all the tangles out. I bet he is really tangled and needs some of that "no more tears" spray. So I would use a wide tooth comb. I also think about braiding Chewbacca. Like two

long, French braids on either side of his body. I bet he would look really good if his hair was braided.

5. Your ideal brain food? Uh uh uh. Obviously I don't eat it.

6. You're proud of this accomplishment, but why?

I can do a shimmy, which in my opinion is the most difficult belly dance move. I worked on it for years. I am very proud of it.

7. You want to be remembered for?

Everything that I do. For being a great comic, for helping out younger comics, for being a good student of comedy, for being a great mentor of comedy. I would like to be remembered as someone who can really make others laugh.

8. Of those who've come before, the most inspirational are?

Probably Madonna, then Bjork, Roseanne, Rosie O'Donnell, they're all very inspiring. They are all very different from one another, too. But they're alike in that they're true trailblazers.

I live by a Madonna timeline. When she was on the Blonde Ambition" tour, I was just getting started on touring myself. When she did "Truth or Dare," I was coming into my own as a comedian. When she did the "Sex" book, I was starting to headline in Las Vegas. By the time "Ray of Light" came out, I was also getting inspiration from yoga and becoming a mother - a dog mother.

9. The creative masterpiece you wish bore your signature?

I really don't know. I like my work best! But besides me, I think I would have liked to be as great of a comic as Richard Pryor. He was incredible.

10. Your hidden talents ...?

I can roll my belly, upwards and downwards. I can also twirl my tassels clockwise and counterclockwise to a beat. That's very difficult, you know. I love dancing and I've found it remarkable that this old dog can still learn lots of new tricks.

11. The best piece of advice you actually followed?



Be so good no one can tell you "no."

12. The best thing you ever bought, stole or borrowed? A video iPod!

13. You feel best in Armani or Levis or ...? Levis!

14. Your dinner guest at the Ritz would be?

Chewbacca, of course. We would have baked potatoes with lots of sour cream and caviar.

15. Time travel: where, when and why?

Right here, right now because this is the best place and time to be in.

16. Stress management: hit man, spa vacation or Prozac?

Oh, spa vacation for sure. I would say all of the above - and lots of it.

17. Essential to life: coffee, vodka, cigarettes, chocolate, or ...?

18. Environ of choice: city or country, and where on the map? City: New York or Los Angeles.

19. What do you want to say to the leader of your country? Please get out of office, now.

20. Last but certainly not least, what are you working on, now? My new tour, "Beautiful," and traveling all over the world for the tour.



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ARMY STRONG.®





Extensive Online Coverage — The women's basketball team will play its tournament game Monday, 7:05 p.m. at the Beeghly Center during spring break. Check thejambar.com for coverage and photos of the contest following the conclusion of the contest.
This Week's Web Exclusive — After a rough start to the season, the softball team looks to rebound in the George Mason Tournament.



MEN'S BASKETBALL

Penguins fail to put out the Flames

Despite a strong second-half effort, the hole dug by the Penguins in the first stanza was too much to overcome as the Youngstown State University men's basketball team suffered a 70-59 loss to University of Illinois at Chicago in the first round of the Horizon League Tournament Tuesday at the Pavillion.

The Penguins (9-21) scored 38 second-half points, 17 more than they did in the first half.

Senior Byron Davis scored a game-high 22 points to pace the Penguins on 9-of-22 shooting. Davis, playing in the final game of his collegiate career amassed more than 1,000 points in his combined career at Youngstown State and New Mexico State University.

The Penguins were behind 37-21 at halftime trailing by as many as 19 points with just over 16 minutes remaining in the contest. YSU fought hard to come back and was down 54-36 at the 12:38 mark.

The Penguin defense turned up the intensity and allowed UIC to score just three points until 3:26 was left in the game. YSU found some offense scoring on 14 of 17 shots to pull within 57-48 on a steal and breakaway dunk by senior guard Dwight Holmes with 3:56 left.

From that point, UIC made 9-of-10 free throws in the final three-and-a-half minutes to keep a tough Penguin team at bay. At one point in the final 74 seconds, senior forward John Barber converted two 3-pointers while freshman guard Vance Cooksey added another to get the Penguins within 8 points with 38 seconds to go.

In their final games in a Penguin uniform, Barber finished with 12 points and eight rebounds while Holmes had 6 points and three boards.

For the contest, the Penguins shot 36.1 percent making 22-of-61 shots, including 8-of-26 from behind the 3-point arc. In the first half, YSU shot just 28.1 percent making nine field goals.

UIC was 14-of-24 in the first half for a 58.3 percent effort before shooting just 34.6 percent (9-of-26) in the second stanza and 46 percent (23-of-50) for the game. The Flames made 19-of-24 free-throw attempts going 14-of-16 in the second half.

Leading the way for UIC offensively was Robert Bush who scored 14 points to lead three players in double figures.

With the win, the Flames advance to the Horizon League Tournament quarterfinals Friday against Loyola.

The Loyola Ramblers narrowly defeated the Milwaukee Panthers 57-51 in their first round match.

Source: Sports Information

TRACK AND FIELD



ON TOP OF THE WORLD — The Youngstown State University women's track team hoists the Horizon League trophy following its award winning performance at the annual Horizon League Indoor Track and Field Championships at Kent State University. The team went up against a talented field, including a strong Milwaukee squad that forced the Penguins to fight hard all the way to the final event. Photo courtesy of Ron Stevens.

Bringing home the gold

Women's track regains top spot as reigning Horizon League champions

Aaron Blatch

Sports Reporter

When Youngstown State junior high jumper Jen Grayson stepped to the pit at the Horizon League Indoor Track and Field Championship on Sunday she felt something that she hadn't felt all year. Nerves. Showing the resiliency that head coach Brian Gorby says defines his team, Grayson was able to brush off those nerves and win the high jump, helping the women's team to its first indoor conference title since 2005.

"When I knew that I had won I felt like a relief was pulled off of me because I knew that we'd need the points," Grayson said.

The Penguins needed all the points that they could get, as they were challenged by a talented Milwaukee squad. After falling behind on Saturday, the first day of the meet, YSU was able to rally back for a 170-159 win behind strong performances from seniors and underclassmen alike.

The team was led by another MVP performance from senior thrower Bethany Anderson. Anderson won the weight throw for the third consecutive year and placed fourth in the shot put, earn-

"Right now we're excited and extremely happy to get this championship,"

Brian Gorby, track and field head coach

ing her second straight Field Performer of the Meet honor.

Fellow senior Yandeh Joh won the pentathlon, sophomore Alisha Anthony won the long jump and placed third in the triple jump and a pair of talented freshmen racked up Newcomer of the Year honors for their respective events.

Thrower Danielle Curry was the only freshman at the meet to win an individual event, moving from fourth place to first on her last throw in the shot put with a toss of 44-4. Sprinter Breanne Romeo also took home individual honors by placing second in the 400m, seventh in the 200m and playing a key role in the team's second-place 4x400 meter relay team.

Gorby was pleased with his team's effort in holding off Milwaukee.

strong work ethic and competitive nature.

"She was a raw talent coming out of high school," Cobey said. "She always had the athletic ability but she worked day and night from weight room to training to watching video. She is one of the most competitive throwers I've ever seen."

Cobey also credited Anderson and the team's other seniors for helping the underclassmen progress. Both coaches, as well as Grayson, agree that this senior class will be missed. Grayson said Joh's versatility will be hard to replace next season.

"We have a relatively young team so we should be able to be strong," she said. "But Yandeh is leaving, who contributes in eight events so we'll have to fill in for her."

The team will soon turn its attention to the outdoor season, which begins on March 30. The coach expects his team to be even stronger in the new season, with the momentum of a championship behind them and the outdoor events being strong points for the Penguins. For now, Gorby said, he wants his team to enjoy the victory, which he calls "one of toughest and most emotional that we've ever won."

BASEBALL

Penguins go back to work on diamond in Alabama

Andrew Berry

Sports Editor

Life has been shaky early on in the 2008 season for the Youngstown State University baseball team.

Following three straight losses to nationally ranked Georgia Tech, wintry conditions plagued the northeast and caused the team's weekend series against Pittsburgh to be cancelled with no makeup date announced.

But head coach Rich Pasquale and his squad was able to take advantage of the extra practice time to prepare for their next series with the Alabama Crimson Tide. The Penguins will travel to Tuscaloosa today to spend one full day practicing on the field before the series begins with the first game Friday. Hitting the field for an extended

workout is one aspect of travel Pasquale is looking forward to.

"Being able to practice on their field just to get the cobwebs out will be really nice," Pasquale said.

While the Penguins' record stands at 0-3, the team was just a handful of plays away from bringing a win back to Youngstown against Georgia Tech during the opening weekend of the season.

Even though his team didn't produce a win against Georgia Tech, Pasquale believes the team was able to further produce its identity and relation with the new head coach. With little chance of this weekend's series with Alabama being cancelled due to snowfall, returning to the diamond to work out the kinks is the next step for the Penguins.

"I'm still getting used to our guys and finding out who the

gamers are, and they're still getting used to me," Pasquale said. "This week will be huge for us and a big step forward."

Not all was lost in the 0-3 sweep to Georgia Tech, as the Penguins managed to maintain focus following a 14-0 loss to open the series with two close contests against a very talented Yellow Jackets team.

Pasquale noted that a few "blunders" might have cost his team in the close 1-0 and 5-1 losses to the series. While those mistakes will be ironed out over time as the Penguins submerge into mid-season form, Pasquale said there were many positives to be taken from the Georgia Tech series.

"It took a couple times to get the timing for hitting, but our pitching was outstanding," Pasquale said. "Our pitching coach called a great series to get the other team's timing

off."

Although the Penguins weren't able to follow up against Pittsburgh, the team used its extra days off to get back inside and work on simulating as many game type drills as possible, Pasquale said. The Penguin skipper also stressed the importance of not breaking routine, as he had all the pitchers scheduled to pitch against Pittsburgh throw in practice.

With Alabama off to a decent 3-3 start this season, the Penguins will have to be prepared for a crafty Crimson Tide team that is looking for an immediate win after dropping a 12-8 loss to the University of Texas Arlington Sunday. Pasquale stressed the importance of regrouping this weekend and putting it all together.

"We still have losses, and we can't be happy with that," he said.



HARD CUT — Senior slugger Erich Diedrich crushes the offering from the opposing pitcher. The Penguins will play a three game series against the Crimson Tide beginning Friday. Photo courtesy of Sports Information

INTRAMURALS

Intramural sports partner with ACIS to promote programs, products

Andrew Berry

Sports Editor

The Department of Campus Recreation and Student Programming has brought a helping hand on campus to help promote the intramural sports programs offered at Youngstown State University.

American Collegiate Intramural Sports is a series of campus, regional and national championship tournaments that provide students with high quality competition in promoted intramural and extramural events. ACIS also has sponsorship programs that are located on 200 campuses across the nation.

Working with the flagship intramural sports at YSU, ACIS helps promote flag football during the fall semester and basketball during the spring semester. In return, the sponsors of ACIS get to see their products exposed to students through the promotional programs and special events.

Shannon Parker, a senior mechanical engineering major, works as an ACIS intern with the intramural sports program at YSU. Parker feels the collaboration of YSU and ACIS has been invaluable since the program began at the beginning of the fall semester.

"It's a great opportunity for our campus to promote our intramural programs and it helps sponsors get their products out to the students," Parker said.

Parker maintains the campus' connection with the ACIS Website by submitting pictures or by students using the sponsors' products and creating posters, flyers and powerpoints detailing upcoming events and the ACIS' involvement with YSU intramural sports.

Parker said that ACIS' involvement with YSU will make it "easier to promote intramurals and help increase participation."

Working with the flag football program in the fall, ACIS provided a brand new Pontiac to be used in a promotional event where students would attempt to throw a football through the window of the car. The event didn't go as planned as the car was not allowed to be brought on the field of Stambaugh Stadium.

This semester, Parker is working to get an Xbox 360 Tournament to campus. Students will compete in the virtual realm playing titles such as Halo 3 and Madden 2008. Parker hopes to have the tournament up and running during Spring Fling week that will take place April 15 to April 17.

By working with ACIS, the intramural sports department receives truckloads of free products and T-shirts for intramural champions and staff. Students can also visit the ACIS Web site to enter contests to win more free products.

By helping to promote the programs at YSU and filtering merchandise to the students, the partnership between ACIS and the intramural program is a win-win effort.

"It helps get the awareness out about our events and students win free stuff — and who doesn't want free stuff?" Parker said.