



Via Sahara to release "When all else falls" Saturday see page 3

THE Jambar

THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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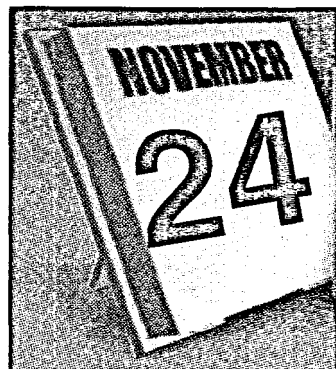
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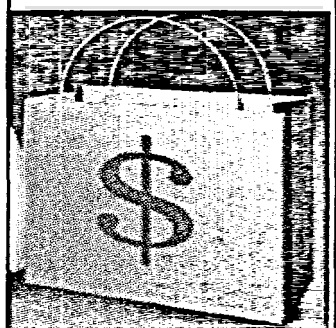
Clothing Drive

The Sojourner House for battered women is sponsoring a clothing and personal care drive beginning Monday in the basement of Maag Library and in Kilcawley Center. Clothing and personal care items, such as deodorant, soap, and feminine hygiene products, will be gratefully accepted. The drive ends on Friday, December 8.

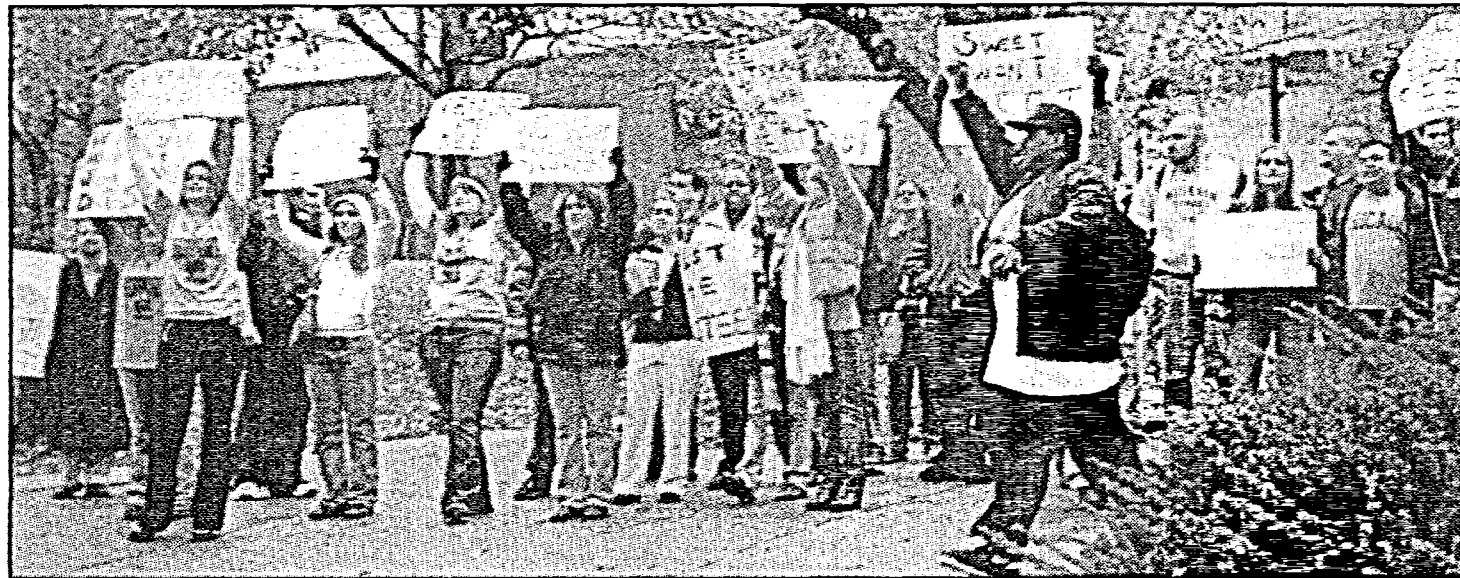


Day-After-Thanksgiving Shopping Hours

- Prime Outlets – midnight
- Best Buy – 5 a.m.
- Circuit City – 5 a.m.
- J.C. Penney Co. Inc. – 5 a.m.
- Kohl's – 6 a.m.
- Macy's – 6 a.m.
- Radio Shack – 6 a.m.
- Target – 6 a.m.
- Dillard's – 7 a.m.
- Sears – 10 a.m.



YSU



Jambar/ Rudi Whitmore

Students rallied around The Rock on Friday in support of Criminal Justice professor Eric See. Students are fighting for See to be granted tenure and to return to teach next year.

Students rally for See

Maysoon Abdelrasul
EDITOR IN CHIEF

After an hour and a half of standing out in Friday's cold rain, rallying Youngstown State University students got what they wanted.

Concerned students who gathered around The Rock in front of Kilcawley Center to protest the administration's decision not to give Eric See, criminal justice professor, tenure were told that they can meet with Provost Robert Herbert to express their concerns.

Junior Megan Pryor said it would have been ideal to meet with the president, but still plans on presenting her case to Herbert.

She and others hope to persuade Herbert to reverse his decision and have their side of the case heard.

Student Government Association President Chad Miller orchestrated a meeting between Herbert and a few criminal justice students who were involved in the protest.

The meeting is scheduled for this

afternoon. Herbert said to Miller that he doesn't want a member of the Jambar to attend the meeting. Miller announced that the meeting was closed at Monday's SGA meeting.

Chants of "one plus one plus one is three. YSU needs Eric See," were shouted by many students and a few professors at the protest.

Tom Diggins, assistant professor of biological sciences, made his voice loud and clear over a megaphone:

"The provost has not done a damn

thing for this university and he needs to answer this in public. The administration at this college needs to learn that the students are the reason why we are here. The purpose of the administration is to provide oversight and intervene if there is a problem. They shouldn't unilaterally overturn decisions. Our voices matter too."

During the protest, students walked around Tod Hall, which houses administrative offices, including the offices of the president and the provost.

Signs reading, "Sweet won't meet," and others against the administration or for See were raised high, as over 40 people peacefully protested.

See smiled as he walked outside and saw many students and professors protesting in his defense.

Senior Misty Jones was one of the students involved.

please see RALLY, Page 2

SGA

SGA proposes minimum wage resolution

Emery Boyle-Scott
NEWS EDITOR

Student Government Association will recommend a student pay raise schedule to the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees. Monday night during the general committee meeting, YSU's SGA approved a resolution to recommend a wage increase based on State Issue 2 that passed Nov. 7.

The resolution endorses a new student wage schedule in respect to the increased state minimum wage. State Issue 2 raised Ohio's minimum wage to \$6.85 per hour. The law

will go into effect Jan. 1.

SGA's resolution proposes increasing the student pay rate group I from \$5.35 to \$6.85 and group II from \$6.50 to \$7.60. This resolution removes the 40-cent pay raise students receive after 100 hours of on-campus work.

In arriving at their decision, SGA representatives discussed issues such as inflation and fairness. One of the amendments to the resolution the body discussed included raising only the wages that are less than the new legal lower limit of \$6.85 to \$6.85. Chief of Staff Bob McGovern referred to this option as the "1-800 Safe

Auto" amendment.

Health and Human Services Representative Ariel Foster used her personal experience to describe why this version would be bad for students. Foster said she used to work at the Candy Counter in Kilcawley Center, where she was paid \$5.35 an hour and then received her 100-hour 40-cent pay raise. Now she works as a Peer Assistant for the Center for Student Progress, where she is paid more, but she also has a very different job.

Marty Manning, associate director of student life, said the current student

job pay schedules are different because the jobs have different responsibilities associated with them.

SGA President Chad Miller said this amendment to the resolution is a good compromise that maintains the fairness in pay scale while saving the university money by eliminating the 100-hour increase.

Miller will present SGA's recommendation at the Nov. 30 Finance and Facilities committee meeting. YSU Board of Trustees will decide the new student wage schedule at the next general meeting.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Penguins snap playoff skid

Jake Glavies
SPORTS EDITOR

The skies have finally opened and allowed the rains of fortune to fall on the Youngstown State University football team. Although by the time these droplets hit the turf at Stambaugh Stadium, or the Ice Castle, as it's more fittingly

known in November, they may be in the form of snowflakes.

This will be the team's first trip to the playoffs since the 2000 season; a five-year stretch in which Youngstown posted two 8-3 seasons and tied for the Gateway Conference championship in 2005.

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Photo courtesy of ysusports.com

The Penguin football team along with others watch the NCAA Selection Show on Sunday.

YSU

'Rise of China' discusses impact on U.S. politics

Emery Boyle-Scott
NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University's College of Arts and Sciences and Williamson College of Business Administration and the East-West Center from the University of Hawaii

sponsored Friday and Saturday's conference about the relationship between the United States and China. "The Rise of China" was hosted at the Butler Institute of American Art.

The conference featured Raymond Burghardt, former U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam; U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan of Youngstown (D-17th); Kang Wu, senior fellow at the East-West Center; Alison Conner, professor at the University of Hawaii-William S. Richardson School of Law and director of the law school's international programs; and Eric Harwit, associate professor of Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii.

Congressman Ryan gave a brief presentation about the U.S.-China relationship from the vantage point of a Congressional seat. Ryan said, "I think China will be the generational issue" for this generation of political leaders. Ryan said the Valley can make itself a more competitive global actor by focusing on building competitive educations, good general health for the population as a whole and by creating tools to build a flexible economy.

Burghardt gave a presentation about the U.S.-China relationship during the current presidential administration. He said cooperation currently exists between the U.S. and China on many issues, including health, education, energy and environmental issues, but more cooperation is needed on trade and economic issues.

Regarding China's global influence Burghardt said, "It's not going to go away. It's going to get bigger."

A few anthropology students attended the conference alongside some political science students. Students displayed a particular interest in learning the Chinese language and culture to enhance their resumes and make themselves more appealing candidates for

please see CHINA, Page 2

YSU

Questions answered at STEM forum

Renee Hardman
REPORTER

One by one, right-brained students trickled into the lecture room in DeBartolo Hall on Thursday afternoon to have their questions answered.

Provost Robert Herbert and Associate Provost Nathan Ritchey were there to talk about the systemic alignment of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) as a unit college.

Before senior J.R. Jackson introduced Herbert and Ritchey, each student received two handouts: one outlining the Arts and Sciences and Engineering College's reconfiguration, the other, a question and answer sheet.

According to the question and answer sheet, Youngstown State University is reorganizing its academic structure to better address the growing importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics at the state and national levels.

"We all know that the universities have changed," Herbert said. "Science, engineering and math need to hold together in the 21st century. We want to be state of the art."

"At this point in time we have to ask ourselves, 'Is YSU as good as it's going to be?'" Ritchey said.

Herbert and Ritchey explained that STEM would benefit YSU's campus by assembling faculty and staff expertise in each college into one unit that will produce a synergy. New programs will also grow from STEM, like biomedical engineering.

"This is an amazing opportunity for Youngstown State University to assemble experts together," Ritchey said. "The world that we live in is multidisciplinary and by putting people at the same table ... that could be beneficial to our students and to YSU."

The projected date for STEM restructure is Aug. 15. When it happens, the departments of biology, computer science and information systems, chemistry, geology, mathematics and statistics, physics, civil/environmental and chemical engineering, engineering technology, electrical and computer engineering, and mechanical and industrial engineering will all be in one college focusing on "STEM disciplines."

The English, foreign languages and literatures, geography, history, philosophy and religious stud-



Jambar/ Renee Hardman

Students look and listen to Robert Herbert and Nate Ritchey during the open STEM forum.

ies, political science, psychology, and sociology and anthropology departments will be combined into another college focusing on "humanities and social science disciplines."

After an engineering student asked if STEM had been studied by an academic senate,

Herbert said YSU has no intention of putting an accreditation at risk. As for an academic senate studying STEM, the direction for forming the new college rests with the faculty of the combining colleges.

Herbert and Ritchey both stated that there will be no changing of programs, degrees or faculty, and according to the question and answer sheet, "A recent conversation with the Accrediting Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) confirms that accreditation will not be affected by the merger."

Currents students will not be impacted by STEM; no changes in courses or programs will occur. Future students will be offered more opportunities, programs and activities because of STEM,

according to information offered at the forum.

Ritchey offered his advice to students.

"As young people embarking on a career, embrace change. Think about it, we don't want the world to stay as it is because it can be better."

Nine females and 23 males were present at the STEM forum. Pizza and pop were provided by YSU's student government, which sponsored the event in accordance with the College of Engineering representatives.

RALLY, continued from page 1

"We were very pleased with the turnout," she said.

She said she was impressed to see non-criminal justice students in attendance at the short-notice protest.

Last week, the Dean of the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services, John Yemma, did not recommend See for tenure.

The tenure faculty committee and the See's department chair, Tammy

King, recommended him for tenure.

Students and faculty members said they were shocked and upset that this could happen.

Allen Pierce, criminal justice professor, was at the protest. He said the administration made a wrong choice in not granting See tenure.

Pierce said he has been on the tenure track committee for many years and See's faculty promotion was the

strongest he has ever seen. The tenure track committee is a group of faculty members who evaluate tenure applications and decide if they'll recommend the applicant for tenure.

Pierce and Diggins said they are both angry with the dean because they don't understand how he made this decision without discussion.

CHINA, continued from page 1

internationally focused jobs. The YSU language department does not currently offer a course in Chinese. The political science department infrequently offers a course in Asian politics, which is not scheduled to be offered in Spring 2007.

Harwit gave his presentation about the growth and development of China's automobile and telecommunications industries.

"China will become more and



Burghardt



Conner



Wu

more of an economic competitor on a global level," Harwit said.

Wu discussed the conditions and implications of China's energy situation. Wu said the Chinese economy is both sizeable and is continuing to grow quickly in part due to the rapid

growth of foreign trade. According to Wu, China is the second largest consumer of energy in the world. The U.S. consumes the majority of the world's energy.

Conner, the only female presenter at the conference, explained some of the basics regarding the evolving legal environment of China. Conner has lived and worked in Hong Kong, Taiwan, China and Singapore. She said China is beginning to develop a strong legal system, but there are still some fundamental issues that are being addressed.

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Student Telephone Survey Assistant
Office of Career and Counseling Services is looking for student applicants to be involved in a telephone campaign obtaining information from YSU graduates regarding career decisions. Applicants must possess excellent communication skills, be comfortable making telephone contacts, troubleshoot problems with contacts and possess good organizational skills. Students will be needed the weeks of November 27 and December 4, Monday-Thursday, 5:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. Pay \$6.00 per hour. Contact Pam Schmalzried at 330-941-3515.

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YSU

Rivalries turn fans into fanatics

Dan Pompili

JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Marh Tringhese is one of those screaming, obnoxious sports fans that love the Buckeyes. He has his face paint and hand clappers ready for opening kick off Saturday.

He knows when he watches the Buckeyes he will see the best, most competitive plays being made.

Don't get near him if Ohio State loses because you might fall victim to one of his Buckeye breakdowns.

Tringhese says angrily to one of the screaming Michigan fans, "I'll break your head!"

He knows that OSU's history of dominance will mean that he doesn't have to worry about breaking down during or after the game.

While Tringhese cheers on the Buckeyes from the confines of his living room, fellow OSU fan Steve Lettau will wake up early Saturday to make the trek to Columbus, as he and his brother plan to tailgate before the game.

Lettau enjoys Buckeyes football and sports in general

because of his years of playing backyard football and baseball when there wasn't anything else to do on weekends.

He's a little more grounded than the average Buckeye fan.

He can accept defeat, and sure, he'll feel the agony.

But he knows that if his team loses then there's nothing that can be done about it.

What does irritate Lettau is if a team beats itself or if the referees called a poor game.

His love of watching football comes from his lack of coordination, which kept him off the field and in the stands.

The Buckeyes aren't the only school to draw intense loyalty and emotion from its fans.

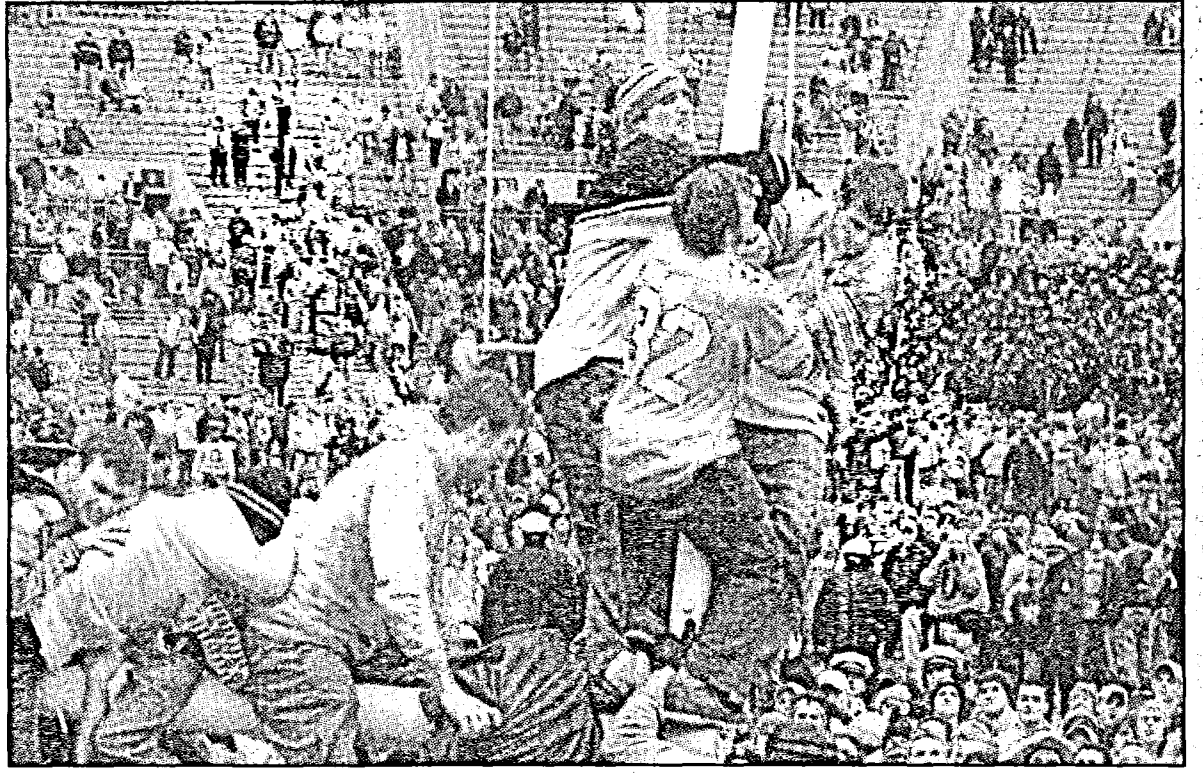
Looking past this weekend's Ohio State, Michigan game is Cariie DeMarco, who plans to wake up early Nov. 25 to get ready as her Notre Dame Fighting Irish take on their biggest rival, University of Southern California.

This is a game she looks forward to every year because she knows her favorite players will come up big and win the game.

Of her love for the Fighting Irish players, DeMarco said, "I wish I had the dominating skill to become an athlete."

Although she knows it's OK if Notre Dame loses, she also realizes that no one should bring up the game to her for at least a week.

Robbie Conriote knows he won't be



PHIL MASTURZO/MCT Campus

able to sleep Friday night because he will be too excited at the prospect of watching his Fighting Irish

Saturday afternoon.

Conriote has his own pre-game ritual and vows that he will "flip out" if Notre Dame loses to Army this weekend.

Although for some Saturday is the holiest of all football days, many fans look past this amateurish attempt at gridiron glory to when the real games are played on Sundays.

David Palka, a rabid New York Giants fan, is getting ready for his team's show-

down with the stout Jacksonville Jaguars this Sunday.

Palka chose the G-Men because of the many Giants fans in his family, and also because of their success in the early 90s. "The Giants were good when I was little and they had Lawrence Taylor," he said.

If he rooted for any other team, he wouldn't be welcome in his own home.

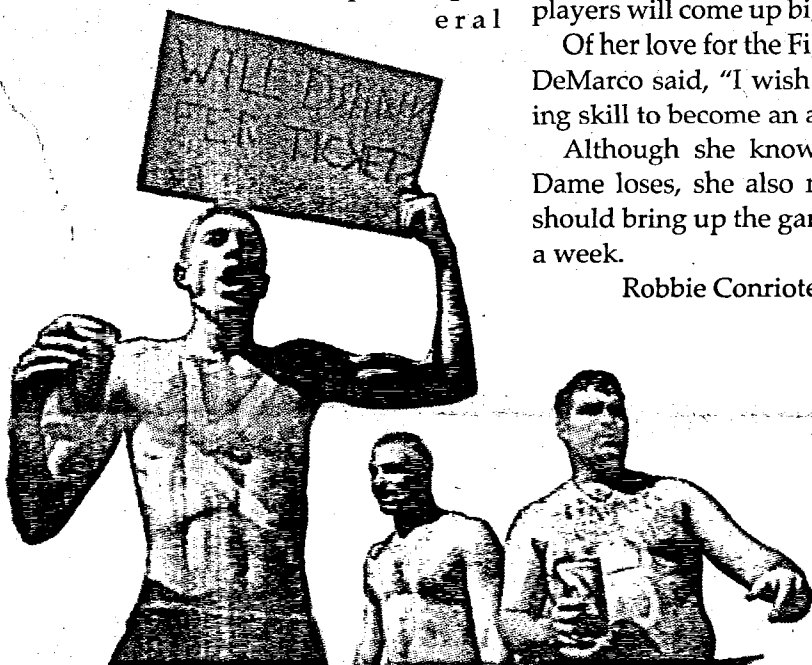
To get in on this pigskin pugilism, order a pizza, invite over a few friends and choose one of these must-see match-ups to while away the weekend.

NFL

Pittsburgh vs Cleveland 1 p.m.
Atlanta vs Baltimore 1 p.m.
St. Louis vs Carolina 1 p.m.
Dallas vs Indianapolis 4:15 p.m.
San Diego vs Denver 8:15 p.m.
New York Giants vs Jacksonville Monday 8:30 p.m.

College

(8) West Virginia vs Pittsburgh Today 7:30 p.m.
(6) Notre Dame vs Army 2:30
(1) Ohio State vs (2) Michigan 3:30 p.m.
(15) Auburn vs Alabama 3:30 p.m.
(19) Virginia Tech vs (14) Wake Forest 7 p.m.
(4) Southern California vs (17) California 8 p.m.



YSU

Class works to make leukemia patient's wish come true

Rudi Whitmore
FEATURES REPORTER

Youngstown State University students in Jane Reid's Basic Public Relations course Friday will be making a wish come true with the help of the Steel Hounds and the Make-A-Wish foundation by hosting "Hounds for Hope" at the Steel Hounds home game.

Cherye Fuller, 13, has leukemia, and Reid's class is hoping to make her dream of a Walt Disney vacation with her family come true.

Fuller was diagnosed with leukemia in March. Since then she has suffered three strokes caused by infection. Fuller's mother, Crystal, said, "It's hard. Germs just lead to infections that go to blood clots that turn into strokes. She had to be life-flighted to Cleveland for two weeks."

Keeping germs away from Fuller isn't easy with three other children to look after. It has been an ordeal for Fuller's mother; she said both she and Cherye feel blessed by the Make-A-Wish Foundation and by Reid's

class.

"It makes me feel special," Fuller said behind an aqua blue surgical mask, surrounded by students patting her shoulder, saying "hello," while she ducked her head shyly.

Reid said the trick to getting students behind the project is letting them choose which project to do.

"I've had classes do so many different things. If they pick their project, they own it then," Reid said.

The class split into two teams. Amber Hunsberger interned for the Steel Hounds and Stephanie Scarnecchia interned at the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Scarnecchia explained how the class split up to make the benefit possible.

"We had a lot of different areas to cover, so some students took care of getting sponsorship, student recruitment, publicity, image, research and logistics."

This is the first time a YSU class has teamed up with Make-a-Wish. Development



Cherye Fuller, 13, has leukemia. Her dream is to go on vacation to Walt Disney World. Jane Reid's class is sponsoring a benefit to help.

Officer Julie Scarsella helped arrange for the class to meet its Make-A-Wish child.

Fuller's mother said it's a joy to watch her daughter and son plan their trip to Disney.

"They talk about it all the time," she said. "This has affected our entire family. If a family member gets sick ... it's not just them. It changes everyone's whole life."

There will be a silent auction, a 50/50 raffle with the Steel Hounds normal take going to Cherye's fund, and Make-A-Wish bracelets and magnets. Donations will also be accepted. The Steel Hounds home game starts at 7:05 p.m.

THEATER

Cast makes effort to 'Succeed'

Rudi Whitmore
FEATURES REPORTER

Youngstown State University's production of "How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying" goes into its final weekend on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The play debuted in 1961 with music and lyrics by Frank Loesser and book by Abe Burrows, Jack Weinstock and Willie Gilbert. "H2\$" won seven Tony Awards and the 1962 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

Director of YSU Theater Frank Castronovo was at the helm for the show. "H2\$" ensemble did

a spectacular job of singing, doing more than simply supporting the principles. Dancing throughout the show wasn't very complex but stood out in numbers like "Coffee Break."

The brightly colored costumes of the secretaries were a nice contrast to the darkly painted set. In full skirts with crinoline underlays, the secretaries were ready for their pink-collar close-ups.

Melissa Cook's character Mrs. Jones was perfect, and stole the show as President J.B. Biggley's shuffling, mumbling secretary. She was perfect from the first rumbling smokers' cough to her scene-stealing, desk-dancing finale in "Brotherhood of Man."

While Richard Bell's performance as J. Pierpont Finch was good, after seeing his directorial debut in "Love of a Pig," his true strength seems to lie in direct-

ing. Regardless, his vocals and facial expressions were solid through the entire play.

Anthony Scarsella played the President of World Wide Wickets and a closeted knitter. Intimidating but still easily manipulated, J.B. Biggley has a weakness for buxom secretaries. Regardless of how well Scarsella played the bumbling blowhard, he is more suited to straight acting than musicals.

Watching Bell's character try to climb from the scaffold of the window-washer to the top of the corporate ladder took almost three hours, and though the majority of scenes flew by, witty, engaging and in-tune; some weren't so lucky.

"Paris Original" and "Secretary is Not a Toy" were engaging and laid the groundwork for understanding the humorously displayed sexism in the 1960s business world.

Finch's love interest, Rosemary Pilkington was played by Roxanne Hauldren. Her solos were pitch perfect with clear tone. Gary Shackelford's character, the boss's hated nephew Bud Frump, was played with nerve-grating perfection. Angela Medaugh acted as Smitty, Rosemary's friend and fellow secretary, full of feminist bravado and disgust with the workplace. Smitty's idea of the opposite of a sex-maniac? "A businessman."

Overall, the cast and production crew of "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" tried very hard, and audiences will appreciate their effort.

Showtimes

Friday & Saturday
8 p.m.

Sunday
3 p.m.

Ford Theater
Bliss Hall

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OUR SIDE

Campus 'Sees' students rallying for professor

Students at Youngstown State University are being done a great disservice by the administration. We deserve the best instructors the university can find. And once those individuals are found, the university should do all it can to hold onto them.

A faculty member loved by his students and praised by fellow faculty members and the chair of his department is caught in the middle of an uproar.

Denying criminal justice professor Eric See his tenure and not renewing his contract is a disservice to not only the students of the university, but also to the faculty and administration.

If someone can inspire students to react to the recent developments in his tenure status so emphatically, then that individual has done something right. See's students organized a support rally Friday through e-mail, fliers and word of mouth. Some students skipped class to attend the rally; some teachers cut class short because of the roaring support for See. This professor must have done more than one thing right during his career here. Every student can think of numerous professors who have not been inspiring at all, but still have their jobs.

Based on the reactions of See's students and much of the criminal justice department who do not want to see their instructor go, maybe YSU's administration should re-think its actions.

Provost Robert Herbert denied See's recommendation of tenure and gave no reason as to why. He wrote an e-mail to the Jambar explaining that it is against policy to discuss the outcome of the decision.

There is a meeting planned for this afternoon between Herbert and a few criminal justice students, and Herbert informed Student Government President Chad Miller that he does not want a member of the Jambar present.

See appealed the administration's decision to deny his tenure application. We hope what students actually say will go to President David Sweet since he makes the ultimate decision on See's appeal.

The outpouring of support from See's students shows the impact he has made in the classroom. If anything, these recent events should show the administration how vital See is to the department and the university. Few instructors can leave indelible impact on students, and we, as students, are lucky to find those few professors in our departments.

The YSU administration should maintain these instructors, especially See, who continually improve the academic experience here at YSU.

On recent issues, YSU students have been dubbed apathetic in regards to administrative decisions. This is one decision where students have demonstrated their passion. YSU students who rallied for See have proved YSU apathy wrong. Students should care this much about all the issues that will affect them. The education we pay thousands of dollars for is only one of them. Our administration owes us top-notch teachers; we demand a thorough review.

The Jambar editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambar and its Editorial Board members. Those wishing to schedule meetings with the Editorial Board should call the editor in chief.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

YSU's future looks gloomy

Editor:

Dark days are ahead here at Youngstown State. It seems that the current administration has lost sight of what has kept our institution going for almost 100 years for a self-serving agenda. I find it hard to accept what has transpired with the faculty tenure denials and the unwillingness to comply with agreed upon and

signed contracts resulting in an endless number of grievances and unfair labor practice filings. In a time where Mr. Sweet is touting "better labor relations," what he says and what his record shows are on completely different ends of reality. How can anyone legitimately justify denial of tenure for so many of our dedicated, qualified faculty? Especially when the chair of its department has given so much praise and positive eval-

uations, not to mention the recommendation that tenure be granted, as was the case with Dr. See. To me, this exemplifies the arrogance and self-serving attitude of an administration that is failing miserably without any sense of direction. Furthermore, how can you say that you are working toward better labor-management relations and continually go against contractual obligations which were negotiated, and agreed

upon? Not to mention the hiring of contract workers at a pay rate ranging from \$90 to \$125 per hour who will in all likelihood leave YSU with a Pet Rock named Banner all while crying poor. In closing, I'd like to point out that in terms of years of service, a great percentage of the current faculty and staff has been here long before the current administration and will be here long after they are gone. Maybe it's

time for Tod Hall to start listening and communicating with them instead of dealing with things in a manilla envelope manner while disrespecting the knowledge our faculty and staff encompass. Remember, their success, or lack thereof, will be your story.

Frank Beta

Network Performance Tuning Analyst, SA1 Youngstown State University, Network Services

COMMENTARY

Winter freetime leads to holiday jobs

Bob Mackey
COLUMNIST

The holiday shopping season is upon us, and nearly every business is expecting an increase in sales. At the same time, college students are expecting an increase in free time from the countless hours of winter break and not studying for finals. The horrible connection between these two seemingly separate occurrences is that many of you will be making - or have already made - the terrible decision to get a holiday job. And since The Jambar is primarily a source of edutainment, I am required by law to inform you of your many choices this holiday season in the field of month-long careers. Before I started writing, I must admit that that I, too, had many "real" jobs; they have given me the experience and night terrors to be very informed about the subject of employment.

First, I must offer a disclaimer. If you haven't started looking for a job yet, FOR THE LOVE OF GOD WAIT UNTIL AFTER THIS FRIDAY. Those savvy about retail know I'm talking about the two most dreaded words to minimum wage employees besides "no benefits": "Black Friday." Black Friday is the busiest shopping day of the year, primarily because everyone is a jackass. And, being jackasses, they all decide to go out and buy things when they should be spending most of this Friday trying to pass pound after pound of turkey through their

bowels.

On Black Friday, stores offer amazing discounts, which makes it one of the few days you can get crushed to death by venturing too close to the hordes of fat women rummaging through bins of discounted panties. Customers on Black Friday are unhappy because they're stupid enough to think a shopping trip on the busiest shopping day of the year will be less stressful than a tour of Vietnam, and employees are unhappy because they're stupid enough to be getting paid the equivalent of one value meal at McDonald's per hour to tolerate 10 times as many people.

Avoid Black Friday

Now that we've discussed the horrors of this very special day, let's talk about your four employment options for the holiday season. The first is the most popular standby, and possibly the path in life you predicted for all of your enemies in high school: fast food. Here's my take on the matter: once you're in college, there are certain things you should no longer do. Fast food is one of them. Think about it, not only is working fast food below you, but choosing the deep fryer will put millions of 14 year-olds and immigrants out of work! And believe me, you will be working the fryer. Entering the workforce of a fast food establishment means that you will be put on the lowest and most painful rung of the lard-covered ladder. My three-week Taco Bell tenure involved nothing but frying, and you

know what? I hardly ever washed my hands. It wasn't to be malicious; I was just too distracted by depression and scalding oil burns to remember this mandatory procedure. Now think of all the people less competent than me, and just try to enjoy your filthy fast food now (Notice: If you got sick from Taco Bell in May of 2000, I am sorry.)

Retail is another option. If you've ever wanted the pleasures of being a salesman without any of the benefits of making sales, perhaps you should apply at one of the many clothing or entertainment stores that make up the backbone of America's malls? Not only will you experience the high-pressure thrills of offering customers at least eight different fabulous offers at the time of purchase, you'll also experience the thrills of punching as you get punched! And with absolutely no commission besides "keeping your shitty job," you'll never experience a tougher and less rewarding challenge! I personally don't recommend retail, but these jobs are somewhat important if you're thinking of dropping out of college because they bring you face-to-face with some of the most despicable and tragic people on the planet: retail managers. Their lack of life outside the store, their speaking nothing but the company line, their incredulity at you possibly wanting a day off, all combined with the fact that these modern-day Willy Lowmans can be fired for absolutely no reason; after meeting a retail manager, you really shouldn't need any urg-

ing to stay in school and finish your astrology degree.

The third, and least humiliating option for holiday employment is prostitution. Hopefully, you won't be surprised by this proposition after reading the first two options; obviously, prostitution is a better choice in nearly every respect. Did you ever know someone and think, "Wow, he/she really needs to get laid?" Now you can make their dreams come true - and profit immensely. Not only this, but you set your own hours, you don't have to wear a uniform, and you keep a surprising amount of dignity in comparison to retail and fast food jobs. And for you fans of rap music, you may talk about "pimpin'," but have you actually done it? Hypocrites.

The final option really doesn't need to be examined, but I will do so anyway. Some of you probably have wealthy parents or relatives who run their own businesses; because of this, you won't have to bother looking for a job, and you will be promised cushy employment for the rest of your life. Please note that I hate you with the rage equivalent of the power of 1000 suns. Also, if I run into you in the street sometime in the future, please buy me a cup of coffee and mind the smell. Thanks in advance.

Bob Mackey does not want to save 5% on every third purchase by joining your discount club. You can read his blog at <http://www.bobservo.com>.

THEATER

YSU student produces pop culture parody

Renee Hardman
REPORTER

The lights began to rapidly flicker in Struthers Middle School's auditorium on Friday night when a woman's voice sounded over the loud speaker to announce that "Espn Sparrow's Over-Active Imagination" was about to begin in two minutes, so please find your seats.

Already seated in the ninth row was Tony Marr, a Youngstown State University senior and telecommunications major. Marr and his friend, Josh Miely, wrote "Espn Sparrow's Over-Active Imagination," a play that parodies television sitcoms, movies and pop culture from the '80s and '90s.

The play, which ran Friday and Saturday, is labeled as a multimedia stage show. Espn Sparrow, a red-haired high school student who allows his imagination to get the best of him while he's at school, was played by Struthers student Paul Elias.

Elias, a shorter version of Conan O'Brien, walks the audience through scenes such as: art class, which parodies "The Real World;" gym class, which captures five "jocks" dancing to "It's Raining Men," after threatening the "nerds" in a game of dodgeball; student debates, which feature three government candidates who represent the Democratic, Republican and Independent Parties; a lunch scene that parodies "Seinfeld;" study hall, which parodies "The View;" Spanish class, which parodies a Spanish soap opera; and detention, which parodies the popular '80s movie, "The Breakfast Club."

Elias said that working with Marr was the best part of the play, and that participating students talked about how fun it was to work with Marr.



ABOVE: The "jocks" dance to "It's Raining Men" in Marr's multimedia stage show.

RIGHT: Tony Marr, director of "Espn Sparrow's Over-Active Imagination," stands with the Paul Elias, the show's title role.

"He was amazing; he worked very well with every single student. It was honestly so much fun," Elias said.

After a 10-minute intermission, a projector screen lowered to display three short films. The films are competing for a chance to win an award at the Filmies, a parody of the Academy Awards.

Jessica Sampson, Nick Lackey, Tom Cues and Katie Houses were just some of the fictional characters that presented the films and awarded the winners.

YSU junior Justin Waite performed in one of the short films. In "Le Mime," Waite played a troubled mime who tries, without success, to lose his mime identity.



Jambar/ Renee Hardman

"Tony approached me to play the part outside of DeBartolo Hall after class one day," Waite said. "I remember him asking me if I had any mime skills, or if I had ever practiced being a mime before. Although I had no background as a mime, I agreed to play the part and the end result was classic."

Also in the audience was senior

telecommunications major Jason Mauro.

"'Espn Sparrow' was an excellent performance unlike any high school play I have ever seen before; truly a unique story that included audience participation, which made it a fun viewing experience!" Mauro said.

Marr had his own favorite scenes in the play.

"I was pretty partial to the gym class scene. How many plays have real football players dancing to 'It's Raining Men?'"

Marr also appreciated the Struthers Drama Club.

"Struthers always does original scripts. Sure, other schools may have big budgets and nice fancy backgrounds [set design], but Struthers has heart. These kids made an entire production come to life in about three weeks."

Marr participated in seven plays while he was at Struthers, with leading roles in six. During the YSU Summer Festival of the Arts, Marr ran into Richard Gage, Struthers Drama Club director. Gage told Marr that he was having trouble finding a fall play and joked about Marr and Miely writing one for him.

"A few phone calls were made and e-mails were sent; Josh and I finally got together to throw around some ideas and before we knew it, 'Espn Sparrow's Over-Active Imagination' was born. It was sort of our way to give back to the Drama Club."

Marr also said that the best part of the play was seeing how much everyone in the audience, and the cast, enjoyed it.

"A couple of the cast members came up to me after and thanked me for the script. I told them, 'Thank you. All I did was write some words on paper; you made the show come to life.'"

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REVIEW

Reel Big Fish "Schools" The Cellar

Britta Snowberger
 FEATURES REPORTER

With its blaring instrumental riffs, catchy lyrics and animated stage performance, Reel Big Fish "schooled" a packed house Saturday night at The Cellar in Struthers. Preceded by fellow "Fall of Ska" tour performers Westbound Train, Suburban Legends and Streetlight Manifesto, the punk ska band from Orange County, Calif., arrived onstage at 9:35 p.m. and played a 15-song set, including crowd favorites "She Has a Girlfriend Now" and "Beer." Reel Big Fish teased the audience with covers of A-Ha's "Take on Me" and Metallica's "Enter Sandman," before demonstrating its musical versatility with its own song, "S.R." The band performed "S.R." in eight different musical styles, including metal, country, jazz and emo versions.

Plugging its newly-released CD, "Our Live Album is Better Than Your Live Album," Reel Big Fish performed with non-stop energy, outstanding musical talent and jovial demeanors. Their humorous banter and lyrics, such as "I want your girlfriend to be my girlfriend too" and "I just want you to know that I hate your guts, and I think you suck," highlighted the light-hearted performance.

During Streetlight Manifesto's performance, lead singer Tomas Kalnoky commented on the enthusiasm and power of the Youngstown audience.

"You guys have more balls than cities three times your size," he shouted.

Throughout the set, Reel Big Fish encouraged the enthusiastic crowd to sing along with some of the band's original songs. No persuasion was needed, however, as the audience often could be heard singing over the music surging through the venue's powerful amplifiers.

The overwhelming crowd, which had to be restrained with barricades and four Cellar staff members, chanted "Reel Big Fish" for nearly five minutes before the band returned to the stage for an encore performance.

When they arrived back onstage, Reel Big Fish members played four more original songs, concluding Saturday's show with their most popular hit, "Sell Out."

After a successful stop in Youngstown during its "Fall of Ska" tour, Reel Big Fish traveled to Northampton, Mass., for its next crowd-pleasing performance.



"Life goes by so fast
 You only want to do what you think is right.
 Close your eyes and then it's past;
 Story of my life"

Reel Big Fish

-Story of my life-



MUSIC PREVIEW

Buckcherry pops into The Wedge again

Rudi Whitmore
 FEATURES REPORTER

Los Angeles-based hard rock band Buckcherry, with Crossfade as its opening act, is ready to play the Wedge in Austintown on Nov. 27.

The band has told a lot of stories about how Buckcherry got its name. One is of a transvestite who used to bum cigarettes outside a bar where the band performed; another is that it's a twist on Chuck Berry.

Which is it?
 "Which is more interesting?" Keith Nelson, lead guitarist Buckcherry co-founder, questioned.

This is the band's second stop at the Wedge since August, and Nelson is stoked about the entire experience, regardless of journalists asking repetitious questions.

"I lie, make stuff up ... Whatever I have to do," Nelson said, over the phone and laughing.

Insisting he was joking, he continued, "Man, a year and a half ago, nobody was asking me any questions. I'm just so grateful to be doing this for a living."

Touring with alt-rock metal group Crossfade and rock group Mercyfall is another thing Nelson is excited about.

"We've been out with so many great bands ... Mercyfall is out with us. Black Stone Cherry and The Bangkok Five were another ... Just a lot of cool bands."

Buckcherry is touring to promote its new album, "15." The first planned single was supposed to be "Next 2 You," but "Crazy Bitch" caught fire among fans and made its edited way to the No. 2 spot on the mainstream rock charts, according to Mediaguide, a company that operates a monitoring sys-

tem for music, radio and advertising.

The ride from Buckcherry's self-titled debut album to 2006's "15" hasn't been easy. "Buckcherry" was critically acclaimed and the single "Lit Up" rocked the mainstream rock charts in 1999, but the band broke up after its second album in 2001.

"There were a lot of detractors when we put the band back together," Nelson said, seriously. "Some people didn't like us, and some people didn't even care enough about us to not like us. Taking one year off in the music industry is like taking off three ... and we took off three years, so that's like taking nine years off..." Nelson trails off, then laughs, "If my math is right, anyway..."

Watching "15" get certified gold, with over 500,000 records sold in the United States, has been exhilarating

for Buckcherry. The album went gone gold with a new crew backing Nelson and lead singer Josh Todd, including Jimmy "Two Fingers" Ashhurst on bass, Stevie D on guitar and Xavier Muriel on drums

"It's kind of a vindication. This has really encouraged us. It's up to the fans, not the television or radio stations. This album was made for us, by us and without any other input, so it's a great thing. In my mind, the band just took a few years off, and unfortunately a couple guys quit, but it's just a continuation of the original band. It's business as usual over here, how we write songs and play. It's a comeback to a lot of people, but to us we're just doing what we do."

The band has embraced its fans' reaction to "Crazy Bitch," releasing fan-created videos on its MySpace page.

"A lot of girls have really made the song their own, and all the guys understand it." Nelson stopped and thought for a moment when asked where the inspiration came from. "I think ... at some point every guy finds himself with a female, and they have this great sexual chemistry, and not really anything else.

But it keeps bringing him back, even if all the other hours of the day are painful."

Regardless of the hardships to get to this place, the band is enjoying it.

"In Michigan, these two topless girls were up on the barricade by the stage, and I walked out and was like, 'There are naked girls

here!' Later, a huge fight started behind them ... I mean, naked girls, fights - that's a rock show right there! Someone came out for a good time, ya know?"

But what about the band name?

"It evolved out of making up stories from getting asked so many times about our name. But really, I read an old interview with Chuck Berry talking about the business aspect of the music business ... about how people in the music industry will do anything to make a buck, even turn their name inside out like 'Buck Cherry.' And when I heard that, it was heavy."

Nelson paused, reminiscing a moment.

"We were in a place where we were naive enough to think we could just start a band and get a record deal ... When really, there are so many other things to do. It was an eye opening experience, and when I read that quote, it fit."



YSU

Tick-Busters: Uncovering your subconscious actions

Robert Smith
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Sophomore Kendra Allen sits with friends in the lobby of Cushman Hall at Youngstown State University. As she talks with fellow students, she constantly plays with her hair.

She is unaware that she is doing it. The methodical twirling of strands between her fingers may seem like a nervous procedure, but it becomes clear that Allen is at ease with her surroundings.

"I have been doing it my whole life," she said.

YSU students with subconscious habits like Allen's said people have interpreted these actions as defining personality traits, or symptoms of a disorder.

Allen agreed that playing with her hair says something about her.

"I always thought it was because I'm easily distracted. Sometimes people call me an airhead because I do it," she said.

Junior Shanna Ridge taps her leg and chews on her pencil as she talks with friends.

"A lot of students in the health profession do these things. I always have to keep active; I was a cheerleader for years. So I think this is how I deal with down time," Ridge said.

Like the airhead/hair-twirling stereotype or the generalization that every-

one in Ridge's major shares similar habits, it's common for subconscious habits to come with generalizations and stereotypes. Senior Pat Donaldson mentioned another generalization.

"I once heard that if you tore your label off your beer, it means you're sexually frustrated," he said.

Despite generalizations of these common habits or actions, psychology professor Rick Fry said they have no indication of a person's personality.

"It's a way of dealing with conflict. Sometimes it's just nervous energy,"

Rick Fry

"These actions are not hints at a person's personality. Interpreting these actions [is] like interpreting dreams," Fry said. "If you think these actions say something about a person's personality, you may be looking too deep into it."

Fry said internal conflict may be the source of these actions.

"[People demonstrating subconscious actions] may not want to be where they are at, such as in class, but they can't do anything about it. It's a way of dealing with conflict. Sometimes it's just nervous energy," Fry explained.

Fry also said these symptoms do not point toward psychological dis-

orders.

"In some instances people that have something wrong with them may do things like this, but usually there is a bigger problem going on."

But for people like Ridge, who can't stop moving their legs, a disorder may be the source. According to the Restless Leg Syndrome Foundation, a person with restless leg syndrome feels uneasy about keeping his or her leg still, especially during restful periods.

It is a neurological condition, and affects ten percent of the U.S. population.

Freshman Donald Doughty said he believes he is one of this ten percent.

"I am always shaking my leg," he said.

"Sometimes I think it's because I [would] rather be someplace else, but it happens more when I'm relaxed. When I go to sleep at night, it gets worse, so I don't think it's always because of some kind of conflict."

Donaldson agreed that conflict is not always a correlation to subconscious actions.

"Sometimes, it's just part of the person. People do these things when they are content. I don't think there is any reason that people do these things. It's just who they are," Donaldson said.

Still, Fry advises not to look too deeply into subconscious actions, which are usually normal.

NEWS BRIEFS

Leading Democratic strategist speaks at YSU

Mark Mellman, president and chief executive of Mellman Group and one of the nation's leading Democratic communications strategists, will speak in Youngstown about "the Impact of the New Congress on the American Jewry" on Monday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 505 Gypsy Lane. He will also speak about "the 2006 Midterms: How the Democrats Won the Congress" Tuesday, Dec. 5 in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center at 11a.m. Both are free and open to the public.

Penguin Review seeks submissions

Penguin Review, YSU's literary magazine, is accepting art and writing submissions through Dec. 18. Poetry, fiction, and non-fiction can be sent to penguinreview@yahoo.com, while art and photography should be submitted to art editor Mary Farragher at Elfino@aol.com. All submissions should include author's name, contact information, the title of the piece, dimensions and media (if applicable), and YSU affiliation (student, graduate, faculty/staff, or general public).

Band-O-Rama features three YSU bands

The Dana School of music will present its annual BAND-O-RAMA concert Monday, in Powers Auditorium at 8 p.m. The program will feature the YSU Concert Band, the Dana Symphonic Wind Ensemble and the YSU Marching Pride. Tickets are available at the Auditorium in advance and the night of for \$6.50(adults) or \$4(non-YSU students). YSU students can get a free ticket with valid student ID. Student groups should contact the band department at 330-941-1833 for special rates.

Report criticizes public universities

Mara Rose Williams
McCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS
(MCT)

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Leading public universities have become enclaves for the privileged and are failing to give bright minority and low-income students fair access to higher education, a national report said Monday.

The report by the Education Trust, based in the nation's capital and created to promote high academic achievement for students, graded 50 flagship institutions, one in each state.

It concludes that the leading and oldest public universities are doing a poor job of recruiting minority and low-income students and of distributing financial aid to needy students.

"We really wanted to use flagships as a way to highlight the magnitude of the problem," said Danette Gerald, senior research associate for the trust and co-author of the report.

"We thought that by grading them on measures they are not typically held accountable for it would shine a light on these inequities," she said. "These are issues that Americans care a lot about — fairness and effectiveness."

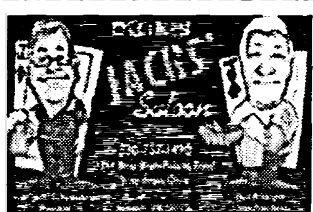
Each university was graded on the access it provided for minority and low-income students, graduation rates for those students and progress made from 1992 to 2004 on both fronts. In addition to looking at graduation rates and minority enrollment, the report also examined the number of students who received federal Pell grants in each state compared with the number who enrolled at the flagship institutions.

Looking at all areas measured, the most common grade was an F. No university got an A, and only four got a B.

The University of Missouri-Columbia and the University of Kansas each earned Ds overall, although both got Fs in other areas. MU's best grade was a B, while KU's was a C.

MU officials said minority enrollment has increased since 2001.

"Ever since I came here in 2001 this has been a major focus of mine," said Ann Korschgen, MU vice provost for enrollment management.



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Who is the all-time leading goal scorer in World Cup history?

- A. Ronaldo
- B. Franz Beckenbauer
- C. Zinedine Zidane
- D. Pele

Editor's Note: The story "Rivalries turn fans into fanatics" that appeared in the Nov. 16 issue of *The Jambar* was written by Josh Stipanovich.

A. Ronaldo, 15

BASKETBALL

YSU basketball set to play big games this week

Men's hoops to take on Big 10 duo

Jake Glavies
SPORTS EDITOR

With fans still proudly sporting their scarlet and grey, and maze and blue respectively, the spectacle surrounding last weekend's Ohio State, Michigan football game has yet to die down.

Youngstown State University will see a similar display this week, as the men's basketball team readies to step on the hardwood against OSU at the Jerome Schottenstein Center in Columbus and Michigan at the Crisler Arena in Ann Arbor.

Senior guard Quin Humphrey feels the timing of these big games will benefit the team down the road.

"I think [the games] are good for us. Especially with us playing so early. They will build a lot of team chemistry and [let us] get to know each other early. So I think it will be good for us," he said.

In the first game YSU will travel to The State of Michigan for the second time this month, as they take on the Michigan Wolverines, who lead the teams' series 3-0.

A talented 2-2 Youngstown State squad will have their work cut out for them against the Wolverines, who are 5-0 and

have six Top 25 votes in this week's Associated Press poll.

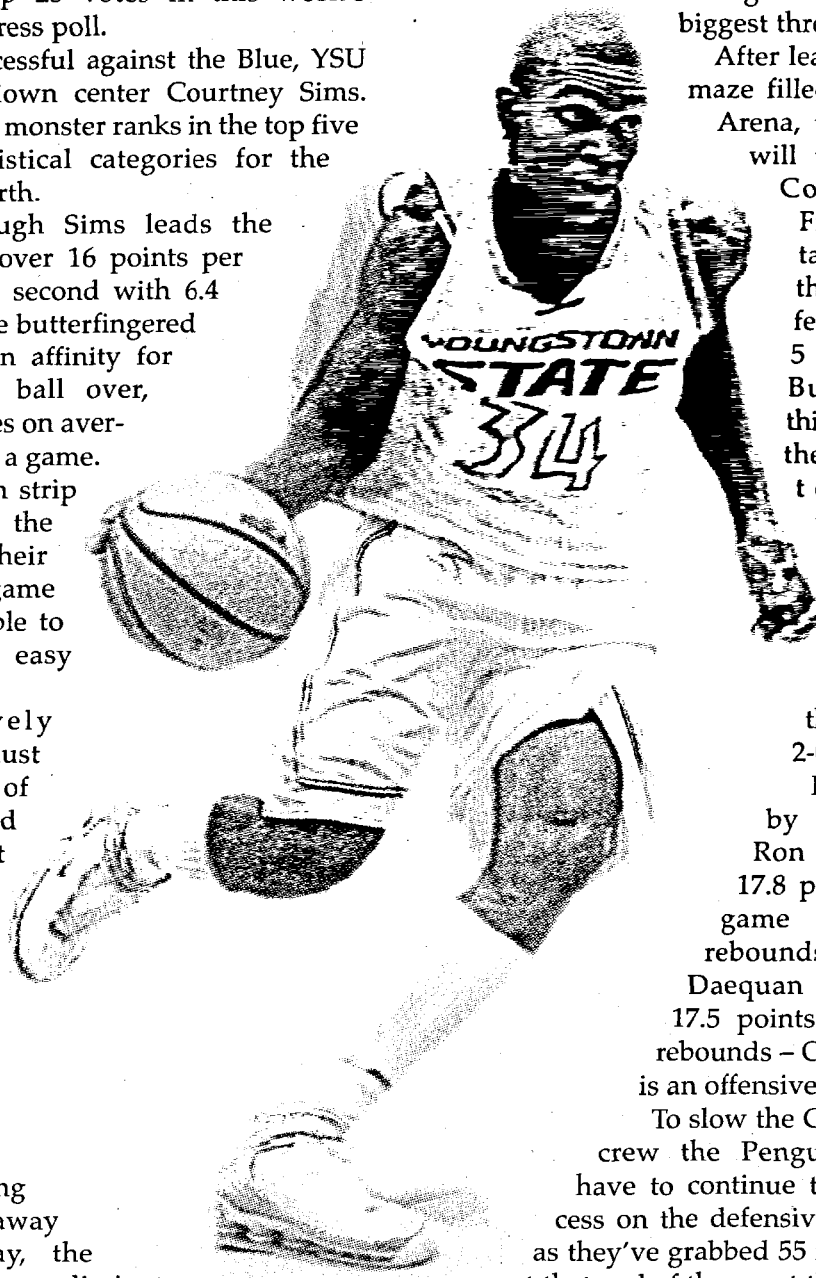
To be successful against the Blue, YSU must shut down center Courtney Sims. The 6-foot-11 monster ranks in the top five in four statistical categories for the school up north.

Even though Sims leads the squad with over 16 points per game and is second with 6.4 rebounds, the butterfingerted senior has an affinity for turning the ball over, which he does on average 3.2 times a game.

If YSU can strip the rock off the big man their transition game should be able to get some easy points.

Offensively the team must be aware of UM forward Brent Petway, the Wolverines' leader in rebounds and blocks.

By putting some big bodies around Sims and swinging the action away from Petway, the 'Guins can eliminate



Michigan's two biggest threats.

After leaving the maze filled Crisler Arena, the team will travel to Columbus Friday to take on the undefeated No. 5

Buckeyes; this will be the two teams' third meeting, with OSU leading the series 2-0.

Headed by guards Ron Lewis - 17.8 points per game and 5.8 rebounds - and Daequan Cook - 17.5 points and 6.5 rebounds - Ohio State is an offensive power.

To slow the Columbus crew the Penguins will have to continue their success on the defensive boards, as they've grabbed 55 rebounds at that end of the court this year.

The key to remaining competitive in both games will be the play of Quin Humphrey, who leads the team with 20.0 points and 6.5 rebounds a game.

Junior Byron Davis and senior Keston Roberts must drain some shots early to pull the defense off YSU's leading scorer.

According to Humphrey, his teammates are more than capable of winning games if he's targeted by opposing defenses.

"[With] the team that I'm surrounded by anybody and can have a big game at any given time. If everyone is going to pay a lot of attention to me then we have Keston on the other wing and Byron playing the point guard," he said.

Penguins vs. The Big Ten

Illinois	0-0
Indiana	0-0
Iowa	0-0
Michigan	0-3 1988-89
Michigan State	0-0
Minnesota	0-4 1991-92
Northwestern	0-4 1995-96
Ohio State	0-2 1990-91
Penn State	0-0
Purdue	0-1 1983-84
Wisconsin	0-0

Photo courtesy of YSU Sports Information

Lady Penguins look to improve road record during trip to N.C.

Andrew Berry
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

Playing away from the comfort zone of the Beeghly Center has been no easy task for the Youngstown State University women's basketball team.

Following a 55-42 loss at Coppin State University Friday, the team's road woes continued as they have managed just two wins in 13 away trips dating back to last season's 53-40 loss at the University of Buffalo.

When the Bulls come to Youngstown for today's 7:05 p.m. rematch, the Penguins may be able to exorcise the road demons with a win in front of their home crowd.

For that to happen, it will take a serious effort from the Penguin defense to shut down the Bulls offensive tandem of Stephanie Bennett and Heather Turner.

Bennett is averaging 16 points per game this season and is dangerous from beyond the arc. Thirty of her team-leading 48 points have come from three-point land.

YSU freshman Anjalia Lyons will have to wage war with Turner under the glass all night.

The two players each lead their respective team in the rebound category. Turner has grabbed 15 of her 26 boards on offense, while Lyons has 16 of her 20 on defense. Boxing out Turner could limit second-chance shots for the Bulls.

A victory today would be a confidence booster for the Penguins, who won't have a home contests until Dec. 12.

Head coach Tisha Hill stressed the significance of maintaining focus during travel heavy portions of the schedule.

"It's important with the young group we have. Road wins are important, especially in prepara-

tion for conference games," she said.

The Penguins first stop is North Carolina for the Hilton Wilmington Riverside Classic.

YSU will open tournament play against the University of North Carolina Wilmington. The team should match up well against the youthful Seahawks who have struggled to put points on the board, having been outscored 137-94 this season.

The key to the game is shutting down sophomore Sahsha Taylor, Wilmington's returning Most Valuable Player and scoring leader. Neutralizing Taylor would force the Seahawks to look elsewhere in an already bare offense cupboard.

If the defense plays strong over the course of this week's games, the Penguin offense will need to step up as well and improve their performance in the last half of games. The team is shooting just 36 percent and has surrendered 28 turnovers in the second-half of play this season.

After putting up 34 points against the University of Cincinnati in the season opener, junior Heather Karner will need to find her rhythm after being stifled at Coppin State where she was held to just eight points.

Hill described Karner's Penguin debut as "an outstanding performance." Even though opponents are most likely to hone in on Karner, Hill feels she will continue to play a vital role in the team's scoring efforts.

"Heather has been a key to our offense because she is a scoring threat from anywhere," Hill said.

This weekend's tournament will conclude with the Penguins playing the winner of Saturday's Duquesne University, Furman University match-up.

PENGUINS, continued from page 1

Finishing the year 9-2, and 6-1 in conference play, the squad received the Gateway's automatic playoff bid.

The Penguins clinched the spot after closing out the regular season with a convincing 19-3 victory over the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers.

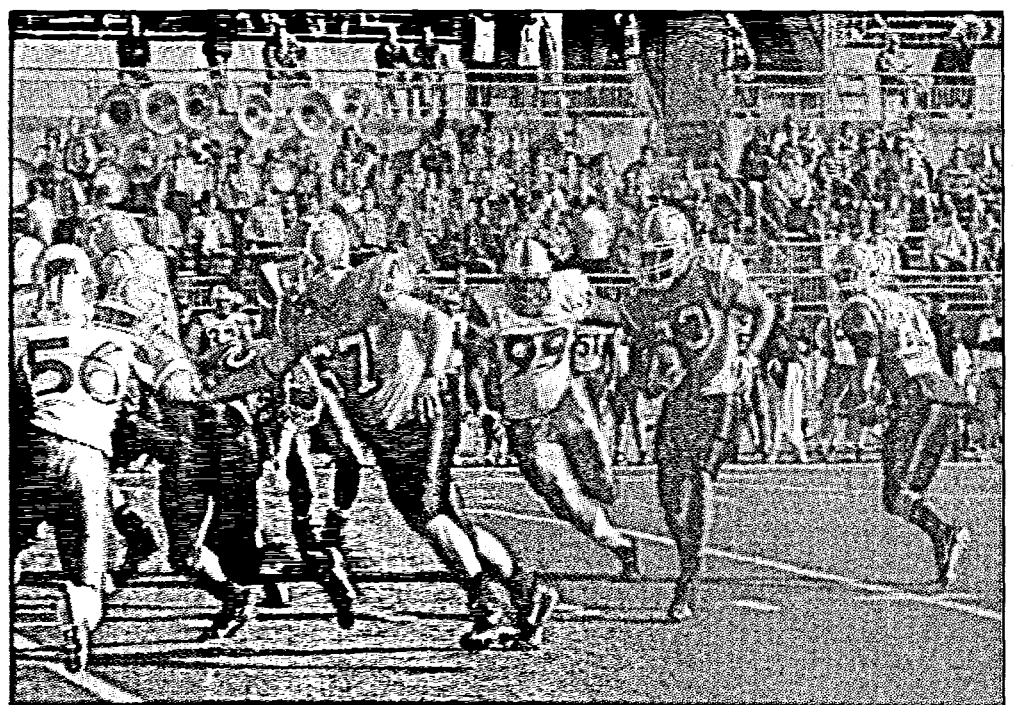
With a number of solid victories behind them and a conference title to boot, the Youngstown State players and coaches had little to worry about on Selection Sunday.

The team, along with 400 Youngstown faithful, gathered at noon Sunday in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center to watch the Penguins fate play out on the NCAA Selection Show.

Only minutes after the announcement was made that YSU will play host to the 9-2 James Madison Dukes 7:30 p.m. Saturday, scores of YSU fans ran to the Athletic Ticket Office, snatching up prime seats for the first Penguin playoff game in five years to the day.

After playing its final regular season game Nov. 11, the team took time last week to rest, heal and, most of all, come up for some air.

"Our guys, as much as anything, just needed a mental break ... [and] just stepping away for a second and taking a deep breath, going to class, doing some homework and getting some things done. [Just] being able to breathe a minute," head coach Jon Heacock said.



Jambar/Jake Glavies

The Youngstown State football team will take on the No. 6 James Madison Dukes (9-2) at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Stambaugh Stadium. This will be the Penguins (9-2) first trip to the playoffs since losing to the University of Richmond 10-3 in 2000.

During this time last year, the team was practicing and hoping to play one more game, but its hopes were in vain, as the Selection Committee snubbed the 8-3 Penguins.

The turnaround from a year ago hasn't been lost on Heacock.

"The biggest difference is everything you're doing has more purpose. Last year was, we're going to do this and hopefully this and if that," Heacock said. "I think that was the biggest thing I noticed ... it was a lot easier to go in and do things [this year]. That's why I think our team will practice better this year than they did a year ago - knowing that there isn't that guess out there."

The only guessing left for the Penguins and their fans is just how far they'll make it in this year's playoffs.

The squad's road to the championship will kick off Saturday against the No. 7 Dukes at Stambaugh Stadium.

IAA TOP 25

1. Appalachian State
 2. Montana
 3. Massachusetts
 4. North Dakota
 5. Youngstown
 6. Illinois State
 7. James Madison
 8. Furman
 9. Hampton
 10. New Hampshire
 11. Southern Illinois
 12. Tennessee-Martin
 13. Coastal Carolina
 14. San Diego
 15. Montana State
 16. Cal Poly
 17. Eastern Illinois
 18. Princeton
 19. South Dakota State
 20. Northern Iowa
 21. Portland State
 22. Maine
 23. Delaware State
 24. Towson
 25. Alabama A&M
- Source: The Sports Network