

The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

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Patrick Donovan
NEWS REPORTER

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VIOLENCE PAGE 3

Suspects in Jamail Johnson case endure pretrial

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

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The five suspects in February's shooting on Indiana Avenue appeared in front of Judge John M. Durkin of the Mahoning County Common Pleas Court on Friday for their pretrial.

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The courtroom was near capacity, with relatives of the suspects filling the benches.

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"Normally they send us a [notification] two weeks in advance," Shirlene Hill said.

The Hills were disturbed that no one from the court let them know.

"My son gave his life for 35 people, and the city of Youngstown can't call his mother? [They act] like my son's life means nothing," Shirlene Hill said. "I am truly disappointed in the system."

The Jones brothers smiled and blew kisses to their family members, while Jackson, Wright and Carter remained solemn.

"Honestly, it makes me angry," said Carl Davison, vice president of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity. "But it makes me more sad that there isn't

[enough] pressure put on them."

Davison was one of Johnson's fraternity brothers and was in attendance at the party on Feb. 6.

Thomas Tecker, Johnson's uncle, said the shooting still resonates through the community.

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Johnson's death also sent shockwaves through the family. Tecker held the unfortunate duty of notifying his sister, Shirlene Hill, of Jamail's death.

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Tecker said their relationship isn't the same anymore.

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GRAPHIC BY PARIS CHRISOPOULOS/THE JAMBAR

University slightly affected by shelved Kilcawley plans

Marissa McIntyre
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An architect was hired to draw up the plans for the major renovation. To date, the university has spent between \$760,000 and \$770,000 for that architect. Had the university stuck with the renovation until the end, the total cost would have been \$1.39 million.

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YSU had already renewed the contract with Sodexo before the plans for Kilcawley Center were set aside.

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Matt Novotny, director of Kilcawley Center, said the only adjustment paid for by

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The total spent on new carpeting in the food court was \$10,507.

During the five-year contract, Sodexo will put \$480,000 into Kilcawley Center's food services.

Rich White, associate director of planning and construction, said it makes sense financially to set the plans aside for now. He said he does not think drawing up the plans ahead of time was a waste.

"We have the plans, and they're ready to go. All we would need to do is revisit them," White said.

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Kilcawley Center involve the food court taking the current place of the Chestnut Room, and the Chestnut Room being expanded and moved to the second level.

The renovations have been pushed back roughly three years. Whether this will be the beginning of construction or the re-evaluation of finances is unknown.

"We realized it will cost more than we have [to renovate Kilcawley], so we decided to work with what we do have," White said.

Fahey said the money was spent, but was, for the most part, spent on items that would have been purchased even if the renovations had happened.

"It's important to think ahead," Fahey said, referring

to the idea that a lot of the new concepts have equipment that can easily be moved, rather than rebuilt, in three years.

"You can say it's somewhat of a waste of money because we're only getting three years out of that paint, but we have students here now and they need good food service and changes, so you have to see it as an investment," Fahey said.

Plans are also in place to fix problem areas in DeBartolo and Cushwa halls, mostly focusing on replacing carpeting and seating in the auditoriums and improving lighting in classrooms.

White said that by focusing on the academic buildings, the university will "certainly benefit."

Local man ‘animates’ front yard

Chelsea Telega
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

Heroes, villains and comic book fans gathered in Youngstown over the weekend for a tribute to the legacy of comic books.

Lawn-Con, a comic book show, was held on Saturday in a local man’s front yard.

Chris Yambar, a writer for “The Simpsons,” hosted the convention for comic book lovers across the country.

Yambar said he was thrilled about the gathering, which emphasized the importance of comics. A total of 287 people attended throughout the day, about 40 more than last year.

Yambar said his head is still spinning from the outcome of the event.

“Comic books are an American art form, just like the banjo or jazz,” he said. “If we don’t preserve something, it’s going to go away.”

The event showcased independent and mainstream creators, cartoonists and writers in the comic industry. Artists who have created characters such as Donald Duck, Thor,

Spiderman and Popeye were present, offering free sketches for those in attendance.

Pittsburgh-based artist George Broderick Jr., has worked for DC Comics and Marvel Comics, among others, and he drove for an hour to participate in this year’s Lawn-Con.

“I think it’s important for every area to recognize comics. It’s my livelihood, but more than that, ever since comics moved away from the corner newsstand to comics specialty stores, the average kid on the street becomes farther and farther removed from the comic-reading experience that was once a part of the American fabric,” Broderick said.

He said that one of the best parts of Yambar’s Lawn-Con is that it’s free to attend.

“I do three or four comic shows or conventions a year. Mostly they’re fun, but lately I’ve been seeing more and more shows charging a higher entrance fee to fans,” Broderick said. “That’s why I embrace the concept of Lawn-Con so wholeheartedly: free admission, free table space to creators. Everyone makes a little money, and the fans are happy.”

With the increasing use of technology, Broderick said kids aren’t appreciating the art of comics enough.

“Reading comics was part of my childhood and helped sparked my creativity and love of fiction,” he said. “Today’s video games, while highly entertaining in some cases, don’t engage the mind and promote social interaction in quite the same way as reading, trading and discussing comics do.”

Yambar recalled his childhood — when comics were

cheaper.

“We used to be so excited because we would get a dollar and go get three comic books and a soda. Now I can get a third of a comic book for that,” Yambar said.

Josh Duff, a New Castle resident and comic book fan who attended the event, said kids should take advantage of comic books instead of digital images.

“I feel kids get jaded with computers and all digital de-

vices,” Duff said. “What better feeling is there than cracking open a fresh book or comic? Or finding a vintage book and smelling it for the first time?”

Yambar said the comic industry is filtering into the technological world as well. He said everything is so fast-paced, but that comics in digital form may attract more viewers.

“We live in an ADD world. Everything is disposable and I hate it,” Yambar said. “Nowa-

days there are so many things competing for attention. It’s hard to get people to sit down and think, let alone sit down and read.”

However, Yambar said he thinks technology can improve the comic business in some ways.

“I think it will depersonalize it, but I also think it will open it up to larger audiences,” he said. “As long as there is print, there’s going to be comics.”



Fans Tiffany Perry (front) and Freddie Nova (right) dressed up to support graphic novelist Chris Yambar’s annual Lawn-Con event at his Youngstown home on Saturday. Photo by Chelsea Telega/The Jambar.

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Students cope with midterms

Rachel Lundberg
REPORTER

Students report feeling the stress and anxiety that typically arrives at this point in the semester, thanks to midterms.

Jonelle Beatrice, associate executive director of the Center for Student Progress, said that most anxiety about exams is self-inflicted with poor preparation.

But Youngstown State University students are rising to the challenge by keeping organized and knowing effective studying methods.

“It’s just a lot of time management. My planner definitely helps me out,” said Chelsea Baker, a junior business administration major.

Baker said she uses the plan-ahead approach and added that time management plays a large role in balancing her work at the CSP, studying for exams and maintaining an active social life.

Students can also take advantage of the CSP, which offers aid and supplemental instruction.

Supplemental instruction experiences the greatest increase around midterms and finals, said Susan Mark-Sracic, assistant director of supplemental instruction services for the CSP.

Although individual tutoring sessions are scheduled by semester-long appointment, supplemental instruction involves group study sessions at a come-as-you-will basis.

Baker, a lead in one such study group, said more students show up around exam time.

Beatrice said the number of students attending study sessions rose from 169 in the second week to 429 in the fourth week, but the numbers

dropped again after exam preparation was over.

Junior Calvin Hairston said all of his exams fall around the same time, and he has to stay away from hanging out with friends to prepare. He slows down, gets organized and only takes breaks when it’s clear he’s getting distracted.

Hairston added that not all professors provide equal time and help to prepare their students for exams.

Contrary to Hairston, freshman Chris Lewis said his tests have been spread out in his first semester at YSU.

He said his study habits since high school haven’t changed much. Lewis studies in short increments, which are broken up with five- to 10-minute breaks.

Lewis said that when tests piled up in high school, he just wanted to get them over with, and there were times when he initially blanked out on them.

Kathie Steeb, a sophomore musical theater major, said she prepares for exams by setting a study schedule.

She begins studying a couple of days in advance and

tries to be well rested. Steeb also makes the necessary sacrifices.

“I don’t really go out because I’ve got other stuff to focus on,” she said.

Campus Connection

How are you coping with midterms?



“I have a little anxiety [about midterms]. I’m looking forward to them being over.”
-Alex Jerome, junior



“Right before the test, I will be stressed.”
-Peggy Coppin, sophomore

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\$6.50

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CHANGE THE WORLD

NEWS BRIEFS

Friday's Skeggs Lecture features artist

Vito Acconci — a designer, landscape architect and artist — will speak at 7:30 p.m. on Friday in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center as a part of the Skeggs Lecture Series.

Season begins for New Music Society

The YSU Dana School of Music's New Music Society begins its season, "The Year of the Piano," on Wednesday with a noon concert in the Butler Institute of American Art's Beecher Court and a second show at 8 p.m. in Bliss Recital Hall.

Planetarium presents weekend shows

The Ward Beecher Planetarium at YSU will show "Skywatchers of Ancient Mexico" on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. The planetarium will also show "Stories of the Sun & Moon" on Saturday at 1 and 2:30 p.m. All shows are free.

POLICE BRIEFS

Man escorted from Rec Center

On Friday, YSU Police issued a criminal trespass warning to a man in the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center. The man became confrontational after staff informed him his money was not refundable, even though the man claimed he was not in the Rec Center for "more than three minutes."

Kilcawley House elevator freezes, traps two students

On Tuesday afternoon, a Kilcawley House elevator carrying two students froze between floors six and seven for nearly an hour. The elevator company arrived on the scene and was able to bring the cart to a level where the students could be let out safely. There were no injuries.

CLASSIFIEDS

HOUSING

2 BR-House 1st floor-near YSU Parking lot. Has ADT, appliances, washer and dryer. \$500 plus utilities. Craigslist 'Sept 29' call 330-533-4148.

IDEAL FOR STUDENTS (max five). 2000 sq ft 4 bedroom, 2 bathroom house at 21 East Midlothian. Includes upstairs apartment with inside & outside entrances. Neighborhood block watch. Large carpark. New appliances, furnace & A/C. References needed. \$700/month+utilities. 330-799-2255.

VIOLENCE PAGE 1

Jacqueline Robertson, assistant director of housing and residence life, said violence often appears as verbal altercations.

"We see a lot of violence-related issues in the residence halls from passive-aggressive words to students fighting and engaging in physical altercations. I think a lot of times it's due to just small misunderstandings that could be solved without confrontation," she said.

Yulanda McCarty-Harris, director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity and an organizer of Nonviolence Week, said communication is the most important step in avoiding violence.

She challenged YSU students to not be "silent witnesses" to violence.

"Those are people that kind of sit by and let the situation happen without saying anything, and it's those people who have to be empowered to speak up and stick up for people who can't stick up for themselves," McCarty-Harris said.

As YSU wrapped up Nonviolence Week, Buckler said he was pleased by the response. He hopes Nonviolence Week will continue to grow in the future.

"The response to Nonviolence Week was positive. For the second time we have done this, I think it was a great showing," he said. "I thought the discussion was really interesting. Opening up dialogue like this is the most important step we can take in addressing these issues."

PRETRIAL PAGE 1

I didn't create the publicity and my client didn't," Zena said.

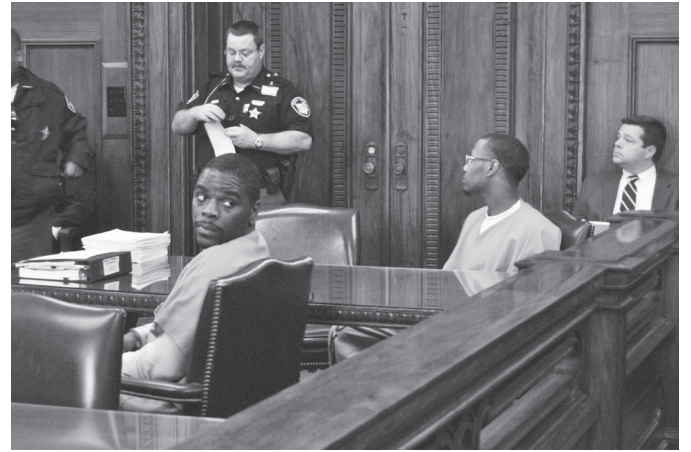
Durkin said he'd entertain the motion.

Jennifer McLaughlin, assistant county prosecutor, said she was reluctant to comment on the likelihood of Zena's motion being granted, due to the case's ongoing nature. She did, however, indicate that this case has been receiving an abnormally large amount of attention from the media.

Jeffrey Limbian, Carter's attorney, said there might be a need for a more particularized bill of particulars for his client. However, he said the filing of a motion wasn't certain.

The five men appeared in court together due to a motion filed by the state on April 26 to enjoin their indictments together, which was ultimately granted.

Braylon Rogers, 20, of Brentwood Avenue, was initially charged with aggravated murder and felonious assault,



(left) Columbus Jones Jr. looks back at his family members who were in attendance on Friday at his pretrial. His trial is scheduled to begin on Jan. 23. Photo by Jordan D. Uhl/The Jambar.

but the charges were reduced to being a convicted felon in illegal possession of a firearm when he agreed to testify against the other five.

"When they let [Braylon] go, I just knew something was wrong," Tecker said.

The trials will commence on Jan. 23, with the trial of Columbus Jones Jr. being heard

first.

The Hills want justice to be served.

"With all the murderers getting off, we're concerned about what's going to happen with our son," Sidney Hill said.

Davison said he and other fraternity brothers would be attending the trial.

Advertisement for The Jambar featuring the Twitter logo, the text 'BREAKING NEWS BLOGS VIDEO', and a large diagonal banner with 'twitter.com/TheJambar'. Below the banner, it says 'FOLLOW THE JAMBAR' and includes icons for following and RSS feed updates.

Advertisement for a colloquium titled 'Paul J. and Marguerite K. Thomas Colloquium on Free Enterprise'. It features a portrait of Andrew Winston, the presenter, and the title of his book 'The Greening of Business: Why it's unavoidable and how companies can profit from it'.

Advertisement for Andrew Winston's lecture 'The Greening of Business: Why it's unavoidable and how companies can profit from it'. It provides the date and time (Thursday, October 20, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.) and the location (Ford Family Recital Hall, DeYor Performing Arts Center, 260 West Federal Street, Youngstown, Ohio 44503). It also includes contact information for YSU Office of Alumni and Events Management (330-941-3497) and the Youngstown State University logo.

A vertical advertisement with a background image of a fountain pen nib resting on a newspaper. The text reads: 'WHAT DO YOU THINK? SEND US AN E-MAIL THEJAMBAR@GMAIL.COM'. At the bottom, it says 'advertise with the jambar call us at: (330) 941-1990'.

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Fahey said the money was spent, but was, for the most part, spent on items that would have been purchased even if the renovations had happened.

"It's important to think ahead," Fahey said, referring

to the idea that a lot of the new concepts have equipment that can easily be moved, rather than rebuilt, in three years.

"You can say it's somewhat of a waste of money because we're only getting three years out of that paint, but we have students here now and they need good food service and changes, so you have to see it as an investment," Fahey said.

Plans are also in place to fix problem areas in DeBartolo and Cushwa halls, mostly focusing on replacing carpeting and seating in the auditoriums and improving lighting in classrooms.

White said that by focusing on the academic buildings, the university will "certainly benefit."

Trial transparency

The Jambar
EDITORIAL BOARD

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Attorney Thomas Zena indicated that he would be filing a motion for special jury procedure in the trial surrounding February's off-campus shooting.

He claimed the case was receiving heightened media attention.

While his claim may be true, courtroom transparency is paramount to the proceedings. Zena's motion, if granted, will be nothing more than a strategic move to ensure his role in the jury selection.

Without the media, the families of victims would be left in the dark regarding a case that could provide a great deal of closure.

Jamail Johnson's parents were unaware of the pretrial on Friday. It wasn't until we notified them while seeking a reaction that they found out, and their reaction was, not surprisingly, outrage.

It wasn't the first time they found out something in this fashion.

When Braylon Rogers' charges were reduced, they found out by watching the news.

For the public, it's a matter of interest. For Johnson's parents, it's closure.

Justice is being sought by grieving parents. However, the lack of communication between the courts and the victim's relatives continues, despite numerous visits to the courthouse.

We're humbled we can play an integral part in the judicial process by relaying the information to the curious American public. Moreover, we're grateful we live in a country where courtrooms are open, cameras are often permissible and it's next to impossible to keep the public out.

OUR SIDE POLICY

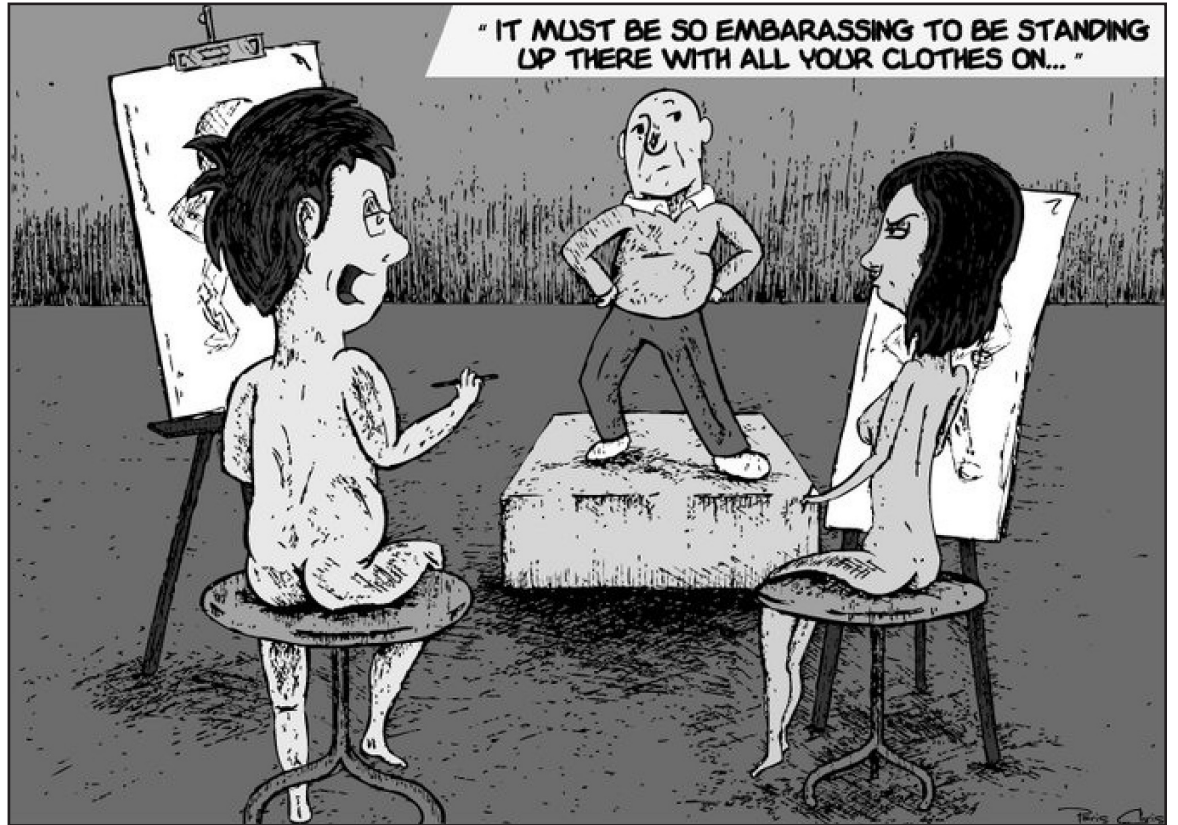
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Cartoon by Paris Chrisopoulos/The Jambar.

Paying ransom to corporate pirates won't create jobs

McClatchy-Tribune
MCT

Ships laden with tens of millions of dollars of American treasure pull into beautiful ports in places like the Cayman Islands and the Bahamas every day, offloading profits made on sales to U.S. consumers. These voyages — all technically legal — cost taxpayers \$100 billion a year.

Now the corporate captains of these pirate ships have sent Congress an ominous ransom note that says: "Allow us to return these profits to American territory at a deeply discounted tax rate of 5.25 percent, or you'll never see your cash again."

The regular corporate tax rate is 35 percent.

Of course, modern pirates don't need cargo ships or treasure chests. They transmit booty instantaneously via electronic bits to satellite dishes that link the world's 50 tax havens. There, shell-company subsidiaries, often little more than a brass plate on the wall and a post office box, handle the transaction. Uglad House, a non-descript five-story building on Grand Cayman Island, houses nearly 19,000 subsidiaries of the world's largest businesses.

In total, American corporations have stashed more than \$1.4 trillion offshore. While some of this loot is derived from U.S. corporations selling goods and services to

people abroad, much of it is reaped from accounting tricks.

For example, a drug company will register patents in a tax haven nation, like Luxembourg or the Netherlands, and charge enormous fees for their use. That makes it easier to record huge profits in low- or no-tax jurisdictions while lowering the drugmaker's official profits that get reported to the IRS. In turn, the company's U.S. tax bills wind up much smaller than they'd be if the law made any sense.

Corporate pirates have formed an armada to lobby Congress for the same tax break they got in 2004. That was when they promised to create jobs in exchange for a one-time tax break on repatriated earnings they would return to the United States from abroad.

The salty sea-air must have clouded their memories, for the coalition that calls itself WIN America, is calling for a second "one-time" tax cut, only this time they've made no attempt to promise U.S. jobs or investment. Instead, they're seeking public sympathy for having their profits unfairly trapped offshore. The profits are indeed trapped — by the greed of corporate leaders eager to deliver every last dime of profits to shareholders, even if that comes at a cost of disinvesting in the American economy. The U.S. tax code isn't to blame.

According to a new Institute for Policy Studies report, "America Loses: Corporations that Take

"Tax Holidays' Slash Jobs," which I co-authored, 58 U.S. corporations that enjoyed 70 percent of the tax breaks from the 2004 tax holiday eliminated nearly 600,000 jobs in the seven years that followed.

Three of the five WIN America companies that break out their U.S. employment data reported that they destroyed more than 25,000 American jobs between 2004 and 2010. Seven of the 18 WIN America members slashed more than 100,000 jobs from their global workforces over the period.

The pirates named their lobbying effort WIN America, as if avoiding taxes by shipping profits offshore was somehow patriotic. WIN America has spent \$50 million on lobbyists to coax Congress into supporting a repeat of a well-documented policy failure.

Congress should put an end to the piracy that continues to ship U.S. profits abroad for the express purpose of avoiding U.S. federal taxes. There's already a bill in Congress to do just that. It's called the Stop Tax Haven Abuse Act and it would outlaw the fake businesses of pretending that authentic businesses can consist of a brass nameplate and a post office box on a tropical island. It would blockade the money earned in America from leaving here in the first place. Tax-dodging corporate pirates shouldn't force U.S. taxpayers and workers to walk the gangplank.

A U.S.-European strategy with Putin's Russia

McClatchy-Tribune
MCT

Western relations with Russia have improved since nose-diving after the 2008 war with Georgia, but they face new challenges with the return to the presidency next year of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who is often critical of the West. A new strategy is required to achieve attainable and important interests while not jeopardizing key principles.

Gains with Russia since 2008 are notable. A new U.S.-Russian treaty limits strategic nuclear arms. Transit of supplies across Russia for NATO forces in Afghanistan has increased. Moscow has assented to incremental sanctions on Iran.

But difficulties lie ahead. Russia has condemned the European Union's ban on oil imports from Syria, and it opposes a U.N. arms embargo or asset freeze. Last April, Putin likened the U.N. resolution on protecting civilians in Libya to "a medieval call for a crusade." Further sanctions against Iran remain contentious. Putin has warned that Russia will deploy new "strike forces" absent a deal with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization on missile defense. Russian hopes for visa-free travel to Europe and America are foundering. Many Russians do not qualify for visas today, so a visa-free regime would be unworkable.

Problems with Russia's neighbors, however, are the most worrisome. Russia deploys military forces in Georgia's separatist regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and even further into Georgia. Russia is

establishing a naval base in Abkhazia, and Putin hints that South Ossetia might join Russia. Ukraine seeks to renegotiate an expensive gas contract, while Moscow pressures it to join a Russian-led customs union with Belarus and Kazakhstan. It would take Ukraine further away from its ambition to move closer to Europe. Thus, risks remain of future disruptions in gas shipments to Europe. Moscow is turning the economic screw on Belarus; last month Putin called a merger with Russia "possible and very desirable." Putin's call this week for an even tighter "Eurasian union" will make Russia's neighbors even more anxious.

A constructive dialogue with Russia remains important, but so are freedoms and principles. Europe and America should speak as one voice about Russia's human rights violations; Germany downplays them. The European Court of Human Rights must remain a beacon for disenfranchised Russians, who mostly win their appeals. Russian acceptance of the principles of the European Energy Charter Treaty, which fosters the rule or law, ought to remain a priority.

There are vital common interests between the West and Russia. One is securing dangerous nuclear materials and averting illicit trafficking in them, an area in which cooperative threat reduction programs have made enormous progress. As NATO forces draw down in Afghanistan, America and Europe should step up efforts with Russia (and China) to strengthen security in vulnerable Central Asia republics and stem the northward flow of narcotics and Is-

lamic extremists.

The new, multi-billion-dollar Exxon Mobil accord with a Russian state-owned oil company, Rosneft, for energy exploitation in the Arctic and Black Seas underscores the value of better cooperation to protect the environment, deal with potential oil spills, and lessen shipping risks. Collaboration with Russia to combat the spread of drug-resistant tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and other global health threats will lessen shared risks.

Despite the recent firing of the well-respected Russian Finance Minister, Putin increasingly needs foreign energy investment and closer economic ties with Europe. Last November he touted the vision of a free trade area from Lisbon to Vladivostok.

Vibrant mechanisms are lacking for "soft power" or non-military interaction with Russia. The U.S.-Russian bilateral presidential commission is nearly invisible. A new U.S.-European-Russian structure ought to replace it, adding Europe's great clout and deep linkages with Russia. Last year almost half of Russia's foreign trade was with the EU, over nine times more than with America. Europe is Russia's largest market for gas exports, and by far its largest source of foreign direct investment.

America and Russia are no longer the main game; Europe has become much weightier. By combining their leverage, the United States and Europe will strengthen their hand to get more done productively with Putin's Russia while helping protect the security of its neighbors.

TheJambar.com



Berassa named Jambar Player of the Week

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

The Youngstown State University football team fell to South Dakota State University on Saturday, but the team received efficient effort from its receivers, namely sophomore Jelani Berassa.

Berassa caught four passes for a team-leading 82 yards and one touchdown. With 9:49 remaining in the third quarter, Berassa broke through the coverage, tripped as he ran and was left wide open for a 48-yard touchdown.

On the game's final play, the Penguins faced a fourth down. They needed to score a touchdown to potentially tie the game. Sophomore quarterback Kurt Hess threw the ball into Berassa's area.

The pass was broken, and the

game ended. Berassa said he should have caught the ball.

"It was a designed play for me," Berassa said. "The coach put me in a good position. They called a great play right there. I feel like I made the play, and I should have made it."

Berassa lay on the field after being hit hard by the defender. He said he got the wind knocked out of him.

Berassa added that the team is down, but it still has hope.

"We're mourning the loss, but we're going to come together. We're going to stick together and fight for the rest of the season," he said. "We still have a hope as a team, so we're going to be all right."

In his second season playing at YSU, Berassa said he wants to be

a leader.

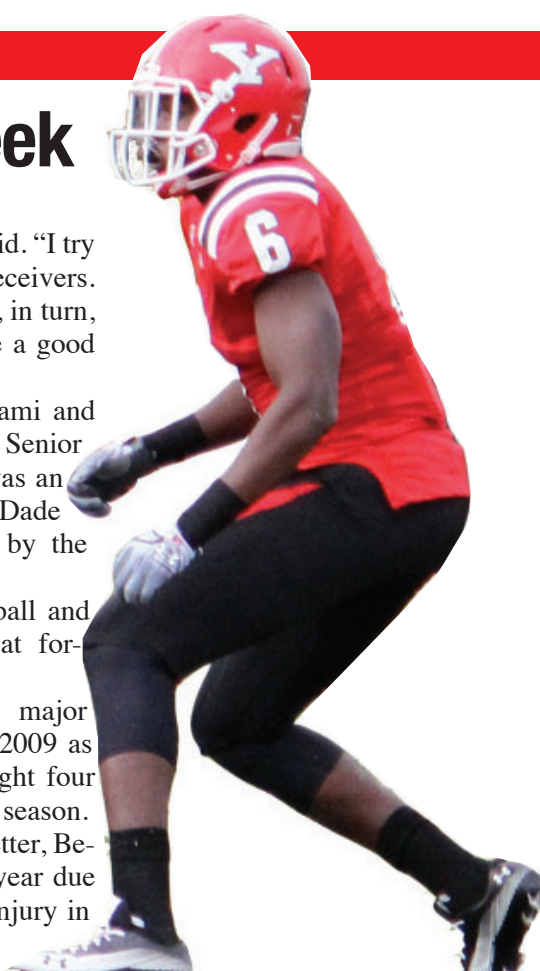
"That's my goal," he said. "I try to be the leader of the receivers. The coach pushes me and, in turn, I push the receivers to be a good receiving core."

Berassa hails from Miami and attended Miami Killian Senior High School. There, he was an honorable mention All-Dade County 6A-4A selection by the Miami Herald.

He also played basketball and was the team's captain at forward.

The criminal justice major played in every game in 2009 as a YSU freshman. He caught four passes for 48 yards on the season.

After earning his first letter, Berassa was redshirted last year due to a season-ending knee injury in fall camp.



The 2011 Penguinettes at the season opener against Michigan State University in East Lansing, Mich. The girls prepared all summer long for their pregame and halftime performances at Spartan Stadium. Photo courtesy of the YSU Penguinettes.

Penguinettes pump up the crowd

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Before and during every Youngstown State University home football game, the band and cheerleaders perform to get the crowd going.

There is, however, another piece to the puzzle: the Penguinettes, a group of majorette-like dancers that cheer, twirl batons and pump up the crowd.

The Penguinettes, made up of eight students, attend each home game.

"We go over halftime and pregame, and we meet with the band, march through the tailgate, do the icebreaker and then start the pregame," said junior Erika Aulizia.

As a third-year performer, she is also captain. She said more goes into the performance than spectators actually see.

"You have a lot of work. You have to make up the choreography, like get the girls placed and get all

their outfits together and buy them new things," Aulizia said.

Becoming a Penguinette takes a lot of time as well, she added.

"You have to learn how to do it; you have to take classes," Aulizia said. "Our adviser has her own studio. A lot of us have taken classes off of her before."

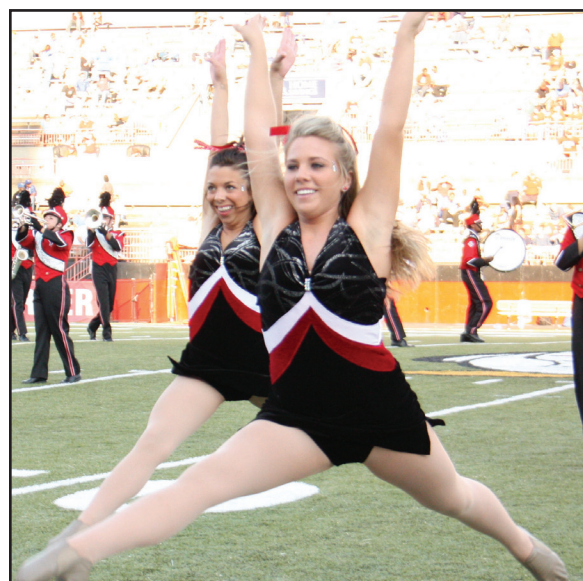
One part of the Penguinette routine is learning the baton, which Aulizia said is mostly in the wrist. Sophomore Ashley Bowers said the baton involves a lot of precision and dedication.

"It definitely is not as easy as it looks because you have to make sure you're always holding the baton and not dropping it on the field," Bowers said.

Bowers is in her first year of performing and said she wants to do it again next year.

"I love it," she said. "It's a great group of girls, and it's a great thing to get involved with. We're all really close."

The Penguinettes purchase uniforms with the help of local donors, Aulizia said.



Jacque Gennaro (foreground) and Kacy Standohar perform during halftime at a game this season. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

The Penguinettes traditionally wear red, white and black dresses with white boots, while a Pete the Penguin tattoo adorns their cheeks. They also carry batons for the first half of the game.

During the halftime show, they wear the same outfit but switch into jazz shoes.

After halftime, they switch to replica YSU football jerseys with the number "00"

and the name "Penguinettes."

The Penguinettes begin their routine with the band at Stambaugh Stadium approximately four hours before each game. From there, they lead the band down to Bliss Hall and back.

After that, they march to the YSU Bookstore, turn around for a "band icebreaker" and march once again to the stadium for pregame ceremonies with stops in between at the tailgating lots.

"It's really fun," junior Caty Moran said. "We feed off of the energy because they are all excited."

Normally, the icebreaker is where the YSU band performs with a local high school band. There was not one at Saturday's game, but Austintown Fitch High School and Champion High School have participated in the past.

The Penguinettes lead the band onto the field and help get the crowd involved, said head football coach Eric Wolford.

"I think any time you get a chance to look at the support staff we have — whether it's band, cheerleading, Penguinettes, whatever — I think those people are just as important to the team as anybody else," Wolford said. "I think this is a community effort, a team effort, and that's what it's going to take."

Brandt Payne, director of athletic bands, said the Penguinettes are part of the band.

"They really enhance our visual presence on the field in performance," he said. "They have a lot of fun, but they're also very serious, and that's what they ultimately represent at YSU."

In his second year at YSU, Payne said the Penguinettes are "extremely reliable."

"They work hard [and] they are very serious about what they do, and I think what's most important is they have a lot of fun," Payne said.

Editor's Note: Kacy Standohar is features editor for The Jambar.

Burak, Jesko reach doubles final of WVU invitational

Nick Mancini
SPORTS REPORTER

The Youngstown State University women's tennis team competed in the Martha Thorn Invitational in Morgantown, W.Va., over the weekend.

The University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, Cleveland State University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, West Virginia University and the Ohio State University competed in the tournament.

"We had a good, positive start at last weekend's Bucknell tournament, and it carried over to this one," head coach Mark Klysner said. "They were more confident, more prepared, and I thought the team held their own, especially in the doubles."

Freshman Marta Burak, who won the Flight A singles title at Bucknell University's Bison Quad, failed to get past the 16th round in this tournament, losing to OSU sophomore Noelle Malley, who won the Flight A singles title.

"In Marta's first match, I think she might have been a little tired from being up so early from the ride down," Klysner said. "We weren't really expecting to play that early, and the tournament was a little unorganized and threw us for a loop. [I] give the girl from Ohio State credit though; she stepped up and played well."

Burak said she also thought a little more rest could have helped.

"I was a little bit tired since we were up at 5 [a.m.] to be on the bus," Burak said. "I think with a little bit more time, I could have played better."

YSU sophomore Carolyn Jesko, also in the Flight A singles bracket, lost to Virginia Tech sophomore Tea Ivanovic.

Burak and Jesko lost their first matches in the Flight A consolation bracket. Burak fell to CSU senior Catrine Bjerrehus, and WVU sophomore Melis Tanik defeated Jesko.

In the Flight A 13-16 singles bracket, Burak made it to the finals, besting OSU sophomore Kelsey Becker before losing to OSU sophomore Tiffany Dittmer.

Dittmer bested Jesko to reach the finals.

In doubles play, Burak and Jesko reached the Flight A doubles final. They defeated teams from Virginia Tech and CSU before dropping the finals to Duquesne's double squad of junior Megan O'Sullivan and graduate student Vanessa Steiner.

"I thought Marta and I played really well together," Jesko said. "I definitely enjoyed playing with her."

Klysner said he was also pleased with the performance.

"Marta and Carolyn played well in the doubles, reaching the finals, which I was happy about," Klysner said. "This tournament had higher competition than the Bucknell tournament with teams like Ohio State and Pitt. It's always good when you can beat a team from one of the big schools."

Jesko also thought the level of competition was higher than what the team has faced thus far.

"The level of competition we saw this weekend will really help us going forward," Jesko said. "Playing against teams from Ohio State and Virginia Tech was great, and it really gives us a chance to see where we stand against teams of that caliber."

Senior Lauren Hankle and sophomore Giomena Puppo lost their double matches to Pitt and CSU.

The Penguins will prepare for the Intercollegiate Tennis Association's Midwest Regional in Columbus, held Oct. 20-23.