



YSU updates facilities over summer

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Youngstown State University has utilized the summer months to upgrade the school's buildings and facilities. While a lot of renovation projects were completed this summer, YSU's facilities office has said that there is always work to be done.

These summer construction and renovation projects cost the university \$8.2 million to complete.

Most projects on campus were conducted for maintenance purposes. Utility tunnels underneath Kilcawley Center's loading dock were repaired, elevators in Cushwa Hall, Bliss Hall and Maag Library were updated, and concrete in the center of campus was replaced.

Jack Fahey, vice president of student affairs, said that it is a regular practice to make repairs during the summer because facilities have the lowest usage during these months. Fahey is pleased with the progress.

"We have many millions of dollars of deferred maintenance and it is a goal of the university to try to catch up on those needs in priority order," Fahey said. "Overall, I think our YSU staff and the construction contractors did a good job of getting a lot done over a short time period."

Richard White, YSU's associate director of plan construction, expressed pride in the work completed during the summer months.

"What we did this summer was a lot of work," White said. "We kind of pushed ourselves, and we're proud of how it turned out."

While most projects were completed for maintenance purposes, other changes around campus aimed to enhance the university's aesthetics. Improvements were made to the interior design of Cushwa Hall, DeBartolo Hall, and Kilcawley House.



Students study in the newly renovated lounge in DeBartolo Hall. The renovations were part of a \$8.2 million project that spanned four buildings across YSU's campus. **Photo by Frank George/ The Jambar.**

White and Fahey both hope these changes will appeal to students.

"Take a walk through Cushwa now. It's night and day," White said. "[Cushwa and DeBartolo] are going to look really nice when you have potential students walking through

with their parents. [These renovations] will certainly be a factor when they're making their college decision."

Fahey said renovations will benefit current students as well.

"The recent Cushwa and DeBartolo projects are ex-

amples of the university trying to improve its facilities to enhance our students' experience. The recent improvements in Kilcawley House and in the various dining areas around campus are a direct response to specific student input," Fahey said.

White indicated that further upgrades and repairs are scheduled for the future. Work on campus elevators will continue over winter break, and maintenance on the roofs of Ward Beecher Hall and Moser Hall are expected to begin in the coming months.

Robberies around campus

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Four Youngstown State University students fell victim to a slew of armed robberies on the city's north side between Aug. 17-22. Though the crimes occurred off campus, the YSU Police Department has made catching the perpetrators a top priority.

The robberies took place north of campus between on Broadway Street, Norwood Avenue and Alameda Avenue. Many YSU students reside in this area.

According to Youngstown City Police reports, the suspects are two black males around 5 feet 9 inches in height and between the ages of 15 and 20.

John Monroe, the victim of a robbery on Aug. 18, said he had left a friend's house to check his phone that was charging in his car when two masked men tapped on his window.

"My first thought: 'what is that thing [the suspect's gun]?' Monroe said. "Immediately following that [thought]: 'Holy shit!' Hands go up in the air. After that I was on autopilot."

Monroe said the men proceeded to take the money from his wallet and his car keys. Monroe then contacted the police.

"I ran into the house told everyone I was robbed and called 911," he said.

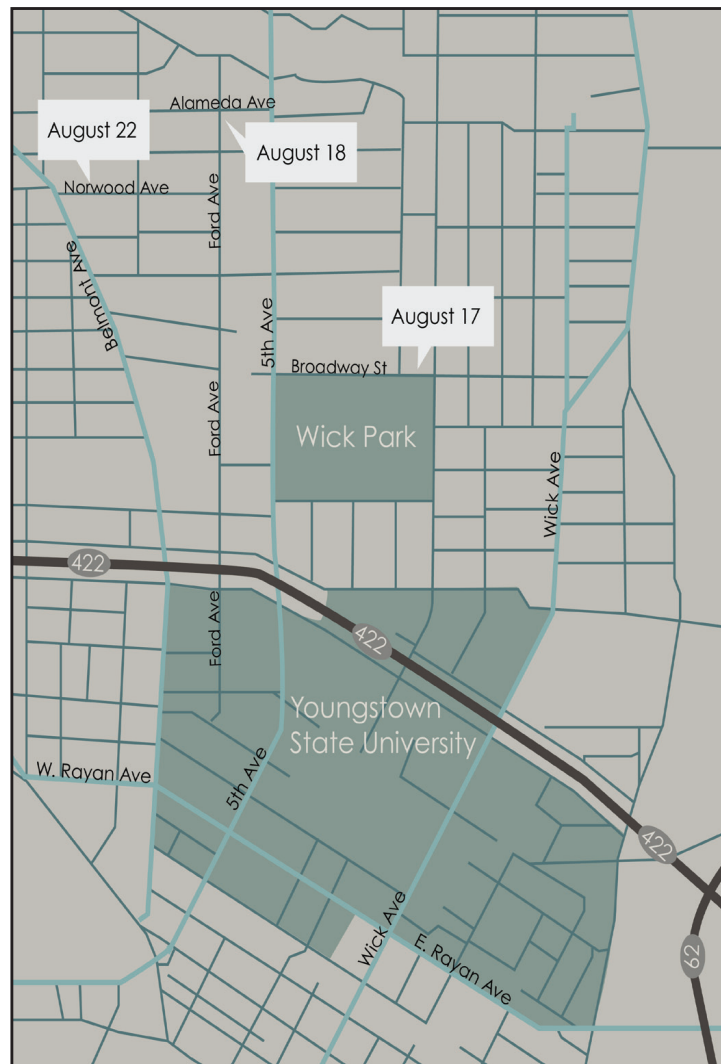
Police Chief John Beshara said he hopes to put an end to these robberies.

"I am glad no one's been hurt yet, physically, and I hope to catch these perpetrators as soon as we can," Beshara said.

The YSUPD still patrols campus, but has also increased hours of patrol, stopped vehicles for traffic violations and talked to people specifically in the area north of Campus. Beshara deemed this policing method "targeted patrol."

"Well, we are reacting by putting more man power in that location," Beshara said. "We want to catch these perpetrators and keep our community safe. That's our primary goal."

Both Beshara and Monroe extended safety advice to the



Students fell victim to four robberies that occurred at these locations north of campus between Saturday, August 17 and Thursday, August 22.

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Hot Head added to YSU campus

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Vacant since 2008, the building on 315 Elm Street – which most recently held Mighty Moe's – will soon be in business again.

In late July, Youngstown State University trustees approved leasing the building to Pamela VonBergen to install a Hot Head Burrito restaurant.

"When we received the offer from Pamela, we quickly realized that would be a good fit," said George Morgione, YSU's associate general council.

VonBergen is already the owner of the Subway restaurants located on West Rayen Avenue and Federal Place in Youngstown.

"[VonBergen] has a viable business at Subway and she has a good business plan, so I think it's going to do well," said John Hyden, director of facilities.

The lease is in the process of being finalized by both

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Transition to Chartwells smooth

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Since Chartwells was chosen as Youngstown State University's food service provider in early May, the switch from Sodexo to Chartwells has gone "very well," said John Young, director of Kilcawley Center.

Chartwells officially began operations at YSU on July 1 and, with the exception of Jamba Juice in Kilcawley Center, all of the dining options under Chartwells will open with the beginning of fall classes.

"The only place that is not opening with the first day of

school will be the Jamba Juice location," Young said. "That was kind of the understanding from the start."

Young said Chartwells' willingness to work with the previous dining staff contributed to the smooth transition.

"We were lucky that Chartwells had retained and given opportunities to the existing employees and management staff," he said. "A lot of them already had the knowledge of campus in the areas they are working in."

This allowed for a quicker changeover, Young added.

"They weren't really starting from scratch in regards to hiring and training new em-

ployees," he said. "So that's been very helpful."

While there is no set date, Jamba Juice is expected to open within the first two weeks of school, Young said.

"But everything else – including the Christman dining hall and the new Innovation Kitchen, which is the Pete's Place restaurant – is scheduled to open," he said.

Christman Dining Commons opened on Saturday to accommodate students moving into the residential houses.

Also, Cushwa Hall recently underwent renovations, causing slight setbacks for the building's dining area. However, Young doesn't expect

any problems.

"They are working at a fast pace to complete all those," he said. "Some of those renovations are kind of holding us up in regards to getting that café location set up. But as long as they complete all those tasks down there and give us time to get set up, that will open with the start of school."

Other new eateries – along with Jamba Juice and Innovation Kitchen – include Chop'd & Wrap'd and 2Mato in the KC Food Court and Mondo Subs in The Hub.

"I think it's pretty neat," freshman Kathryn Kessler said. "I like how we have a Jamba Juice coming in and,

overall, I think we have a lot of different and good options."

Meanwhile, Dunkin' Donuts in The Hub and Denny's Fresh Express in the KC Food Court are two eateries that carry over from Sodexo and will open with the start of classes.

Under the new Chartwells agreement, Chick-Fil-A is scheduled to be installed in Pete's Place and open in year two, replacing Innovation Kitchen.

"I like the food options this year," said Lexi Brandt, junior. "There seems to be healthier places and more places. Even Christman appears to be better and have more food options."

Firing missiles at enemies usually doesn't produce a declaration of war

MICHAEL DOYLE
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(MCT)

WASHINGTON — The United States will enter a state of war with Syria if cruise missiles start flying, no matter what the operation is called.

War, in turn, will legally empower Syria to act in self-defense; perhaps in some unexpected ways.

But while a U.S.-led attack appears increasingly likely, the legal underpinnings for lethal action remain ambiguous. Congress won't formally declare war. The last time it did that was 1941, when America entered World War II.

Lawmakers might consider authorizing force after they return from summer recess Sept. 9, but missiles could easily launch before then. Russian or Chinese resistance could block United Nations Security Council approval.

All of which add to the complications now confronting the White House.

"The president and his close advisers talk a lot about international law," Mary Ellen O'Connell, a professor of international law at the University of Notre Dame, said in an interview Monday, "so I don't see how the president can ignore that now without seeming to be hypocritical."

The Obama administration, though, has already shown a willingness to dance around legal restraints.

In March 2011, for instance, U.S. ships and warplanes began participating in an international air assault on Libya. The U.S. contribution to the six-month-long campaign included cruise missiles, drone strikes, bombers, fighters and more. Nonetheless, the State Department's top legal adviser insisted the actions didn't amount to "hostilities," a legally significant term.

Using logic that could recur with Syria, then-legal adviser Harold Koh told a skeptical Senate Foreign Relations Committee in June 2011 that the "limited exposure for U.S. troops, limited risk of serious escalation and ... limited military means" meant the Libyan campaign didn't amount to hostile action. As a result, Obama asserted that he didn't have to comply with the War Powers Resolution's requirement that U.S. troops be withdrawn within 60 days of the start of hostilities unless

Congress authorizes action. "Hostilities" is an ambiguous term of art," Koh testified.

Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, the ranking Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, countered at the time that the administration was "sticking a stick in the eye of Congress."

On Monday, speaking on MSNBC, Corker said he believes a U.S. "response is imminent" on Syria and added that he believes administration officials preparing for what he called a "surgical" military operation in the Middle Eastern nation of more than 22 million "do not need an authorization, but I hope they will come for one."

The War Powers Resolution permits the president to

introduce U.S. forces into hostile action with a congressional declaration of war, a congressional authorization for use of force or in the event of a foreign attack on the United States or its forces. Once hostilities start, presidents have 60 days to act before they either remove the troops or get congressional approval.

In the international arena, two circumstances generally permit war making: national self-defense and action authorized by the U.N. Security Council.

Self-defense doesn't apply in the Syrian case, O'Connell said, because "the use of chemical weapons within Syria is not an armed attack on the United States."

Security Council authorization of international ac-

tion requires the support of nine member nations on the 15-member panel. However, any of the five permanent members, which include China and Russia as well as the United States, can veto any proposed action. That seems likely in the case of Syria.

"Using force without the approval of the U.N. Security Council is a very grave violation of international law," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told reporters Monday at a Moscow news conference.

In 1999, Russia blocked U.N. Security Council support for military action in Kosovo, in the former Yugoslavia. The United States and other NATO countries, nonetheless, undertook a 78-day air war that ended with

the withdrawal of Yugoslav forces.

Russia also resisted a 2003 Bush administration push for a key Security Council resolution targeting Iraq. As with Kosovo, the U.S.-led war proceeded regardless of the council's inaction.

"The U.N. Security Council is not the sole custodian of what is legal and appropriate," Council on Foreign Relations President Richard Haas said Monday, adding that the legitimacy of a U.S.-led attack "would rest on the case that Syria's use of chemical weapons violated international law."

Wars, declared and otherwise

The U.S. has formally declared war eight times since 1900; the start of some U.S. armed conflicts since then:

- Declared war
- Congress authorized use of force
- U.N., NATO or other multinational operation
- 1917 World War I (Germany, Austria-Hungary)
- 1941 World War II (Japan, Germany, Italy, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria)
- 1951 Korean War
- 1964 Tonkin Gulf Resolution for military action in Vietnam
- 1982 Marines deployed to Lebanon
- 1983 Troops deployed to Grenada to "restore law and order"
- 1989 Troops sent to Panama to oust Gen. Manuel Noriega
- 1991 Persian Gulf War
- 1992 Troops sent to Somalia to aid in political reconciliation
- 1993 Enforce U.N military flight ban over Bosnia-Herzegovina
- 1994 Troops deployed to Haiti to restore democracy
- 1999 Airstrikes to counter Yugoslavia's actions in Kosovo
- 2001 Afghanistan War
- 2003 Iraq War

Source: Congressional Research Service

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NEWS BRIEFS

YSU students set award record at 2013 MathFest

Eleven math students from Youngstown State University attended the 2013 MathFest in Hartford, Conn. earlier in August. At MathFest, students are judged for their presentations given on their research. The YSU team brought home six awards this year – breaking the record of five previously set by YSU teams in 2005 and 2006. No other schools attending MathFest have ever won more than three awards.

YSU planetarium to rock again

The popular rock n' roll laser shows from earlier in the year will once again be at Youngstown State University's Planetarium. The shows feature the sounds of many artists – including Led Zepplin and the Beatles – and will be free; a \$1 donation would be appreciated. The shows will run on Friday, Sept. 20 and Saturday, Sept. 21.

YSU Metro College provides foreign language classes

The Youngstown State University Metro College in Boardman is offering foreign language courses for both parents and children. There are eight classes total – four for beginners or those looking for a refresher and four for parents and K-4 children to learn together. Languages offered are Arabic, French, Italian and Spanish. Call YSU Metro College at 330-941-2465 for more information.

Graduate student's research receives special recognition

Louis Gallo, a Youngstown State University graduate student studying American Studies, presented his research at the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Association for Documentary Editing in Ann Arbor, Mich. Gallo's research focuses on documents of the Sutliff family of Warren, Ohio – most of which are correspondence between Sutliff family members and prominent figures in the abolitionist movement. Gallo presented a poster that will be featured on the ADE website and newsletter.

POLICE BRIEFS

Stolen Car

On August 16, Campus Police received word of a stolen vehicle. A young female was found driving the stolen car with a young man and two other young women as passengers. The driver was also charged with operating a vehicle without a license.

Felony Drug Possession

On August 15, a Campus Police officer conducted a traffic stop on Wick Avenue near the eastbound service road. The driver was placed under arrest and was charged with possession of crack cocaine and headlights required.

Ice Castle Trespassing

On August 15, a Campus Police officer issued two men trespass warnings. Around noon witnesses informed dispatch the men were climbing a wall to enter the stadium.

Young Woman Under Suspension

On August 13 at 5:38 p.m., Campus Police observed a car run a stop sign on Madison Avenue. The driver was issued a citation for operating the vehicle under a financial suspension and for disobeying a traffic sign.

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**HOT HEAD
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parties, Morgione said. Once it is completed, Morgione estimated it would take 60 to 90 days before Hot Head opens.

"We are very close to having the lease document approved by both sides," he said. "We're probably looking at a couple months here before it opens."

According to the contract, the lease is for 10 years at \$30,000 per year. It can be renewed for additional three five-year terms after the first 10 years.

Hot Head Burrito is a quick-service Mexican food restaurant that offers the option to dine in. The franchise recently opened locations in Austintown, Boardman, and Hermitage, Pa.

Hyden said the building would be renovated before reopening.

"We're going to be putting a new roof on it," he said. "The only other significant repair is there's some broken and damaged glass. Also, the dumpster enclosure needs to be replaced and the parking lot will be resealed."

Already on YSU's campus is the Mexican food restaurant Coyoacan Mexican Grill. While Morgione realizes the similarities, he doesn't expect any problems.

"I think they have different enough offerings and several differences between the two," he said. "There's always competition in any market – that's common in the food service industry."



Vacant since 2008, the former Mighty Moe's building on Elm Street will soon be re-opened as a Hot Head Burrito restaurant. Photo by Steve Wilaj/The Jambar.



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Buona fortuna, Emily Alcorn

TAYLOR PHILLIPS
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Although singing at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City may seem like a dream for some, Emily Alcorn, Youngstown State University vocal music education senior, can say that dream is her reality.

Over the summer, Alcorn resided in Italy for a month and a half, partaking in two different summer workshops in which she performed in an Italian opera and sang with the Vatican Choir during a mass at St. Peter's Basilica.

Growing up, Alcorn discovered her passion for singing in kindergarten, when she began to sing every Thursday night in her youth choir at St. Luke's Catholic Church in Boardman.

Veronica Ceraolo, choir director at St. Luke's, said the church is in awe whenever Alcorn lent her voice during Mass.

"Last Christmas, while she cantered, you could have heard a pin drop," Ceraolo said. "I had tears in my eyes. I'm looking forward to seeing her do great things."

Ceraolo also said that Alcorn would always lend a hand at the church when it came to music, sometimes offering her talents on the hand bells as well as the violin.

"She's never said 'no' to me ever," Ceraolo said. "She is a very driven young lady

and there is no doubt in my mind that she will do great things."

Alcorn began her Italian adventure on June 1 where she studied at Opera Orviteo, an international summer study program designed to give students the opportunity to appreciate the Italian culture as well as perform in an opera in the heart of Orviteo, Italy.

Alcorn said Opera Orviteo was an experience she will never forget.

"We performed Mozart's 'Le Nozze di Figaro', which translates to the Marriage of Figaro," she said. "I played Cherubino whom is one of the leads."

Alcorn also said the role of Cherubino was the comic relief in the opera and is also considered a pants role — a role where a woman depicts a young boy.

After her performance in "Le Nozze di Figaro" at Orviteo, Alcorn traveled to Assisi, Italy where she would take part in the Assisi Performing Arts Festival. There, she performed with the Vatican Choir during a mass at St. Peter's Basilica.

Alcorn said that while she was competing in a Classical Singer Magazine competition this past spring, someone in her first round audition heard her sing and, shortly after, contacted Assisi to recommend her to the summer program.

"I originally had plans to study at Opera Orviteo, but



Emily Alcorn, Youngstown State University senior, sang with the Vatican choir this past summer in Vatican City, Italy. Photo courtesy of Emily Alcorn.

when I found out about [Assisi], I couldn't say no," she said. "It really didn't register until about the second week. I'll never forget that experience."

Alcorn said the highlight of her trip had to be singing with the Vatican Choir in St. Peter's Basilica.

"I just couldn't believe it was happening," she said. "It was truly an experience that could take your breath away."

Misook Yun, YSU vocal performance professor and mentor to Alcorn, the one to suggest the Italian programs.

"I happened to know the head of Orviteo and they were looking for someone to play Cherubino," Yun said. "I looked at her and figured she would be perfect for the role."

Yun also said she couldn't be more proud of Alcorn's accomplishments, especially since she has been studying

privately with her since high school.

"If I ask her to do one thing she will go beyond what I tell her to do," Yun said. "She does this with her music too. She always takes it to the next level."

Alcorn said she is thankful to have Yun as a mentor.

"She really pushed me to go past anything," she said. "I never would have thought in a million years I'd be singing at the Vatican."

Penguin Welcome Week ends confusion and draws crowds



YSU student Jordan Edgell, was one of the 140 students who participated in the welcome week zipline. Photo by Taylor Phillips/The Jambar.

GABRIELLE FELLOWS
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As the semester of Fall 2013 begins, many new faces will be seen roaming around YSU's campus. Penguin Boot Camp, the theme for this year's Welcome Week, offers new students many different services to help them adjust to campus life. Welcome Week is full of activities and orientation services, spanning from August 17-30.

On August 19, incoming students are able to meet with sororities and fraternities, explore the Andrews Recreation and Wellness Center and the Maag Library, watch free outdoor movies and go on campus tours.

Welcome Week is in its third year, and senior peer mentor Linda Crosby said that the turnout is better than ever.

"More people know about it, and that draws crowds," Crosby said. "We have so many activities planned this year that we haven't had before. New students get a

real taste of how much fun campus life is."

August 21-23 was filled with even more activities to create a fun atmosphere for the returning students. With Rookery Radio providing tunes all around campus, students were able to attend meet and greets, karaoke, "Just Dance" parties, participate in Build-A-Penguin, and experience the very first year of YSU's zip line.

"We wanted to bring something new for the students, and this gives them a little taste of the air," Erin Driscoll, director of student activities and Greek Life, said.

The zip line was YSU's biggest attraction from Penguin Boot Camp. The large portable zip line machine was set up close to Jimmy John's by the Williamson College of Business and Administration. Students lined up to climb the steps to the top of the zip line machine, where they would be strapped in and sent gliding down to the bottom.

Incoming freshman Nicolette Pizzuto said she

found Penguin Boot Camp extremely helpful and entertaining.

"I liked having someone there to help me look for my classes and figure out things for the first day," she said, "I also loved the activities; I got to meet new people and do some activities that were really out of the ordinary."

Driscoll said that she witnessed a really positive response from the students and staff concerning Welcome Week.

"Kids are taking advantage of this opportunity," she said. "They are setting the stage of being successful and seeing that there are a lot of opportunities to get involved."

Penguins were getting the most informative and entertaining week, said Carrie Anderson, coordinator of student activities.

"It was a great combination of all things," Anderson said. "A little bit of education, but with some fun added to it."

Welcome Week will wrap up its final day on August 30 with a game of Quidditch, Party on the Plaza, and other similar activities.

COMICS

YOUNG CITY



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BY PARIS CHRISOPOULOS



EDITORIAL

Safer than it seems

EDITORIAL BOARD
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Whenever something bad happens in the neighborhoods around Youngstown State — most recently a string of robberies around Wick Park — it always seems to reflect negatively on the university. That belief is not a stretch by any measure, but what we must remember is that the university is a separate

part of the city from the areas around it. YSU's campus is a notably safe area in the city of Youngstown.

According to the most recent Annual Campus Safety and Fire report released by the YSU Police Department, there were only seven violent crimes on YSU's campus in 2011, the most recent year for which figures were released. Those seven crimes were five burglaries, one aggravated assault and one robbery.

YSUPD recently found, through a survey of 586 YSU students, that 92.5 percent of those polled feel safe on campus. Obviously, those results can't speak to the entire student body but it can tell us this: that on the campus of our university, you are safe. Seven violent crimes among 14,617 students is not necessarily cause for concern.

However, we can't ignore the fact that these recent robberies all happened to YSU students. What must be kept in

mind, though, is that these robberies are not the fault of any shortcomings of campus safety. They are, more than likely, three separate incidents that just happened to target four YSU students in the area.

Remember that the next time you hear about another YSU crime on the news; remember that YSUPD is patrolling campus 24/7; remember that a few criminals and a few incidents do not represent the university as a whole.



LEE MURRAY
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Miley shows the world her roar!

In other news, brilliant local Time photojournalist featured at *Butler Institute of American Art*

Shock! Horror!
The entire world was brought to its knees this weekend by a controversial and groundbreaking performance by Billy Rae Cyrus's daughter at the MTV Video Music awards!

Sex! Music! OMG!
The whole of the connected world was stunned, frightened, empowered and aroused by the sight of the feisty young lady, who used to be on a Disney TV show or something, performing her new song with suggestive and explicit dance moves!

She's making headlines today, some saying that her performance gave all human beings between the ages of 8 and 80 an "Achy Breaky Heart"!

There was backlash from some groups — probably about the cynical sexualization of a former role model, or something.

I for one, (support/condemn) Ms. Montana for the performance. By expressing (her own/her record companies idea of what is her saleable) sexuality, she has shown the world — nay, the universe — that she is (an independent and strong person/a crashing bore) and that this year's VMAs (belonged to her/were entirely redundant and irrelevant to the lives of most people).

What's more... it's a hard industry in which to... inappropriate... MTV... 2013...

Sigh.
I can't do it. I can't make myself care. I'm aiming for sensation, but I keep running into tepid indifference.

Maybe I'm out of touch. I mean, I am a bit older than the ideal demographic. It wasn't meant for me, was it?

Let's take a look at my weekend. On Saturday, I met with my bank manager to discuss mortgages. Later that evening, I rented "Hotel Transylvania" and watched it with my kids whilst eating Doritos — the ranch ones. I liked it just fine.

On Sunday, I went to an exhibition at the Butler Art Museum. The Butler is featuring the work of Time magazine photographer and Youngstown native John Wendle. Brilliant. You should check it out.

Oh, and I went grocery shopping.

So yeah, I probably am a bit out of touch with the "youth."

I've been aware for a while that as the years pass, my perspective is slowly shifting further and further away from the bright-eyed optimism of my teens and twenties.

I miss the naiveté sometimes. It would be nice to go back to being sixteen and seeing the world as a playground again, with MTV as my guide to what was worth paying attention to.

But would my 16 year-old self buy into all of this? I'm not convinced. I think that even me at 16 I would have wrinkled my nose and called it nonsense. MTV taught me about Nirvana and Mudhney and, like, disaffected cynicism, you know? Whatever. MTV was raw then. It meant something, right?

And I've noticed a distinction between what I've read online about the Miley Cyrus performance and what people are actually saying about the Miley Cyrus performance. Google searches provide me with Sensational! Vapid! Headlines! but when I hear people speak about it in real life, the consensus is a shrug.

So was anyone really shocked by it? Or are we being told we are shocked by it?

There was a period of my life when music meant everything to me. I thought The Answer could be found in a Hundred Reasons lyric sheet, or a Dashboard Confessional chord change.

I thought I was aware of when I was being manipulated. I was suspicious when the TV told me to care about something that I thought was silly.

Here's the rub. Despite my perceived integrity then, and my awareness now, I still buy into it all subconsciously. And so do you, probably.

Here's why.
I should have been writing about John Wendle's photog-

raphy at the Butler, about his evocative, emotional portrayal of conflict that brought home some stark realities of violence and calm and survival in Afghanistan, a nation I will never see with my own eyes. But instead, I found myself writing about this.

My opinion is that I'm disinterested and embarrassed to be speaking about it. But that's still having a conversation about it, no?

So I'm buying in, MTV. I'm talking about it. You win. I clicked on the video. I watched your ads and I watched your content. And, in the same way I watched your programming when I was a kid, I remain your greatest asset. Because whether I love or hate or am indifferent to the circus of your industry, I still watch and comment, which means that I'm still there when the ads roll.

Advertisers will pay a lot for that sort of attention.

JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the first summer session. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. The first copy of The Jambar is free. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.

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The editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, the managing editor, the copy editor and the news editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles. They draw on the opinions of the entire writing staff and do not reflect the opinions of any individual staff member. The Jambar's business manager and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

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The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com or by following the "Submit a Letter" link on thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 500 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer's city of residence for printing. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters will not be rejected based on the views expressed in them. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries and letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinion with facts from reliable sources or if the editorial staff decides that the subject has been sufficiently aired. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitting writer based on these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of YSU.

Obama's college ratings plan could backfire

Los Angeles Times (MCT)

The United States didn't develop its great universities by reducing higher education to equations of graduation rates and job placement. Yet on Thursday, the Obama administration revealed a plan that would push colleges in that very direction and could harm some of the students the president most wants to help.

The president's proposal to make higher education "a better bargain" includes some strong elements, especially a public rating system for colleges that will help students make thoughtful choices about which schools are best for them. By using the system, families will have access to clear information, consistent from school to school, about the full costs, availability of financial aid, graduation rates and the earnings of alumni. They'll discover that a higher tuition price isn't necessarily the best indicator of career success.

The ratings might persuade

colleges to hold the line on prices as newly informed families are empowered to make cost-benefit decisions. Right now, people can make a better-informed consumer decision about a \$20 coffee maker than a \$200,000 college education.

Where the president's proposal veers into reductionism, though, is by tying the availability of financial aid to those ratings. Students would find federal financial help such as Pell grants easier to obtain at schools with higher graduation rates and postgraduate salaries, among other factors. The president also will pressure states to tie their funding of public colleges and universities to the ratings. Gov. Jerry Brown proposed something like that for California's four-year college systems, a destructive idea that was fortunately squashed in the Legislature.

Such financial schemes could backfire on students who already face the biggest obstacles to a college education. It's not hard for schools to lower their dropout

rates. The cheap and easy way to accomplish this is by accepting the students most likely to graduate — the demographics of students at high risk of dropping out are well known — and lowering academic standards so that almost no one flunks. That's not good for anyone.

The Times recently published a profile of Kashawn Campbell, a motivated, hardworking student at UC Berkeley. Campbell is a graduate of Los Angeles' Jefferson High, a school with abysmal test scores and lower standards than schools in more affluent areas. Despite his high grades at Jefferson, Campbell has been struggling to hold on academically in college. We're cheering for him. But under Obama's blueprint, colleges would receive higher ratings — and more financial assistance — if they didn't give students like Campbell a shot at their dream. That's not a "better bargain" for the nation's hopeful students.

Five is **better** than four



The five new YSU football captains (from left to right) Junior safety Donald D'Alesio, senior linebacker Dom Rich, senior center Chris Elkins, senior quarterback Kurt Hess and senior receiver Jelani Berassa, were announced Tuesday. **Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.**

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Sitting in the team classroom at Stambaugh Stadium, members of the Youngstown State University football team voted for captains on Sunday.

The race was on. Each player votes for two offensive players and two defensive. Players can vote for themselves and coaches do not participate.

After a day of counting, the Penguins announced their 2013 captains Tuesday. It is a nail-biting, down-to-the-wire race where four players are named. But this year was unique. Five guys received more than 40 votes. Head Coach Eric Wolford decided to keep the extra player and have five captains when YSU opens the season against the University of Dayton on Thursday.

"We've got to wrap our arms around these guys and take them where we want to go," senior Dom Rich said.

Kurt Hess

The senior quarterback broke the school record when he was named a captain for the third straight season and nobody was surprised, not even Hess.

"I was a little bit nervous, but I kind of just expected it," he said. "I've been a leader all through training camp, I've been a leader all summer, and I hope that my team saw that. I'm glad that they picked me with the other guys because they're all great leaders."

The fourth-year starter threw for 2,112 yards last year — the lowest in his career, 15 touchdowns and a career-low seven interceptions. In three seasons, Hess has compiled 6,697 yards — second in team history, 53 touchdowns (first), 23 interceptions and has not missed a game.

He also ranks first with 202.9 passing yards per game, a 141.78 passer rating and 18 200-yard passing games.

"That's another one of his records, but Kurt will be the first to tell you that the only thing he's worried about is postseason and championships," Wolford said. "All of that stuff is great. You can talk about it when you're 80 or 90, but Kurt wants to be in postseason play. He knows his career will be defined by getting us back to postseason play and championship play."

Jelani Berassa

It should be no surprise that the senior receiver is a captain, even though he missed all of 2012 with a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

"Jelani's always been a leader," Wolford said. "When we lost him last year, it was a significant loss. We didn't want to make that public necessarily, but he's the heart and soul of that group right there. He's been around a long time; he's kind of like the grandpa."

In 2011, Berassa caught 41 passes for 552 yards and eight touchdowns. He has 600 receiving yards and 41 receptions in his career.

After practice on Wednesday, Berassa said he feels no pain in his leg and will be ready for the season opener.

"I'm still making progress as the season goes on," he said. "I'm going to keep on making progress. I'm going to keep on rehabbing. It's pretty good."

Chris Elkins

When Hess and Berassa were announced as the first two offensive captains, the senior center didn't think he had a chance.

"I really wanted it," Elkins said. "I was really nervous because we've only had four captains. Coach announced Kurt and J.B. first, and I was like 'Wow. That really sucks.' But it worked out all right."

In 2012, Elkins was the lone YSU player to be named first-team All-Missouri Valley Football Conference and the first since Brad Samsa in 2008. He started all 11 games at right guard and played every MVFC snap in seven of eight games.

"We played him when he was a 250-lb. freshman out of Beaver Falls, and [I am] just proud of him," Wolford said. "Nothing's ever been handed to Chris. He's a preseason All-American, and you wouldn't know it by the way he acts or the things he does. He's bashful, but he's a great kid. Chris Elkins is going to be a success."

Although Elkins is the center for the Penguins, he didn't feel that way when his name was announced.

"It was really calm," he said. "We all got called up in front of the class. I kind of just zoned out. I don't like being the center of attention."

Dom Rich

The senior linebacker enters his second season as a YSU captain, and this year means more than last.

"I was a captain last year as a junior, but this year being my senior year, that makes me more excited because it's my last year," Rich said. "I feel like me and these other guys have a real chance to lead these guys because we've been with the program for a while."

Rich played three games in 2011 due to an injury but came back strong last year. He was named the HBK Special Teams Player of the Game in the 2011 season opener at Michigan State University. In 2012, Rich compiled 17 total tackles, nine solo and 2.5 tackles for a loss.

"Plagued by injuries early in his career," Wolford said. "He worked, worked and worked at it. He persevered, and now all of a sudden he's a captain on our football team."

Rich said it is an honor being a captain again and takes pride in the fact that his teammates trust him.

Donald D'Alesio

The fifth and final captain, Donald D'Alesio, is the only non-senior in junior strong safety Donald D'Alesio. He joins Rich as a defensive captain, a player D'Alesio looks up to.

"Those guys are going to look up to us," D'Alesio said. "Dom was a captain last year. I know that I look up to him more than maybe some other guys on the team. We definitely have extra work to do."

D'Alesio played all 11 games as a freshman in 2010 and made seven starts at safety. He compiled 69 total tackles and 41 solo tackles.

He started the first three games in 2011 before suffering a season-ending shoulder surgery. D'Alesio was granted a medical redshirt and started all 11 games at free safety as a sophomore last year. He finished with 38 total tackles with 19 solos and 19 assists.

"He's basically another coach on the field," Wolford said. "He's very well received by young kids because he knows what he's doing (and) knows where everybody needs to be."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Kicking into gear

The Youngstown State University soccer team opened its 2013 campaign with a 2-1 victory at Niagara University on Friday. Senior Brittany Dowd scored a last-minute goal that lifted the Penguins. Freshman Rachel Hutton also scored for the Penguins. After the victory, YSU fell at Canisius College, 1-0, on Sunday. YSU opens its home season on Friday against the University of Toledo before traveling to the University at Buffalo on Sunday.

Basketball season already?

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team announced its 2013-14 schedule. The Penguins open with the Kennesaw State Tournament and will face Kennesaw State University on Nov. 8. Other notable non-conference games include at Kent State University on Nov. 27 and at the University of Pittsburgh on Dec. 14. The Penguins open Horizon League play at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Jan. 2. Their first HL home game is Jan. 13 against Cleveland State University.

Cleveland's newest back

Cleveland Browns running back and former Youngstown State University tailback Jamaine Cook saw action against the Indianapolis Colts on Saturday. In the Browns' third preseason game, Cook ran two times for 11 yards. He finished second on the team in rushing yards and averaged 5.5 per carry. Cook also caught three passes for 24 yards.

Penguin Spotlight:

One Last Time

Hess, Berassa reconnect their paths

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Senior quarterback, Kurt Hess, began his collegiate career as an incoming freshman in 2009. He was redshirted, but made an impact in another fashion.

Hess helped senior receiver Jelani Berassa earn a spot.

"He's the reason I played as a freshman," Berassa said. "Me and him would get into the games and practice in the scrimmages our freshman year together. Ever since then we've been clicking. We've always been on time together. Five years with him now is definitely a blessing to have."

The two got an opportunity together in 2010. Eric Wolford,

the new Youngstown State University head coach, named Hess the starter. But Berassa suffered his first season-ending knee injury during fall camp and was redshirted.

In 2011, it finally happened. Hess entered his second season as the starting quarterback and Berassa played all 11 games. The combination combined 37 times for 552 yards and eight touchdowns.

As quickly as it started, it ended again. Berassa suffered another season-ending knee injury during fall camp in 2012. Hess finished the season with career lows in passing yards (2,112), completions (176) and average passing yards per game (192).

Berassa's injury may have also affected junior receiver Christian Bryan. An Honorable

Mention All-Missouri Valley Football Conference as a freshman in 2011, Bryan's numbers dropped in 2012.

In 2011, Bryan caught 46 passes for 722 yards and six touchdowns. Last year, he caught 30 passes for 372 yards and three touchdowns. Berassa said he feels coming back could take pressure off Bryan and the other receivers.

When Hess and Berassa finally got a chance to practice during this summer, they didn't miss a beat.

"It's great to have him back on the field," Hess said. "I've thrown with him for four or five years now. We've built a good relationship. I know where he's going to be. When he's healthy and when I'm healthy, we can click."



Seniors Jelani Berassa (right) and Kurt Hess (left) rest after Wednesday's practice at Stambaugh Stadium. The two will reconnect after Berassa suffered a season-ending knee injury last year. **Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.**