

The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

IN THIS ISSUE

Not seeking
fourth term

PAGE 2

Swinging for
the championships

ONLINE

Penguins look to erase
two-game skid against
Kent State

ONLINE



PHOTO COURTESY OF HAPPY TOMATO FARMS

YSU students cultivate dream of sustainable farm

Patrick Donovan
REPORTER

A few short weeks after donating a kidney to save fiance Tom Phibbs' life, Youngstown State University senior Katie Nicholas' dream of owning and operating an organic, sustainable farm began to become a reality. From there, things moved pretty fast for the couple.

Within two months of their surgeries, Nicholas and Phibbs, also a senior at YSU, got the news that Nicholas was pregnant with the couple's first child. They were then presented with the opportunity to move on to a piece of property in Kinsman that they now call Happy Tomato Farms.

"Everything really just came together," Nicholas said. "It was like the universe just opened itself up and responded to us. The whole thing was a blessing that gave me everything I have ever wanted and hoped for in my life."

A year later, the farm is in its first planting and entering its first full growing season.

Joined by longtime friend and YSU graduate Jenny Jacobs, the couple spent the winter formulating and organizing plans for the farm and their future.

"Every Sunday, me, Katie and Jenny had farm meetings. We talked about things we needed to do — like when we needed to plant — or restau-

rants and businesses we were targeting for sales and even educational programs we'd like to get involved with," Phibbs said.

The goal of the group was to focus on family and community unity, earth-friendly sustainable farming practices and healthy eating habits.

"Being a part of this feels really good. It's about living healthy, simple lives while supporting our families and fostering a respect for the planet. That's what we are doing here: creating an environment of love and oneness with the land that is going to feed us and take care of us," Phibbs said.

The idea for the farm originated with Nicholas, who is earning a bachelor's degree in environmental studies. Through her coursework, Nicholas became concerned with the negative environmental impact that mainstream farming practices have on the planet.

Nicholas did an agronomy, crop and soil science internship in Washington, D.C., where she attended several congressional briefings given by leading U.S. scientists. She said the scientists testified about how the natural balance of the world's ecosystems is being interrupted and destroyed due to conventional agricultural practices.

"I wanted to be a part of the solution by doing things in a

FARM PAGE 4

The problem with Pell Budget proposes to reduce awards

Joe Giesy
NEWS EDITOR

Low-income students at Youngstown State University will receive less federal grant money if the U.S. Congress passes the suggested 2012 budget.

A provision in the budget would eliminate a student's ability to receive two Pell Grants, a practice implemented in 2009.

"It's definitely going to hurt a lot of students," said Rosemary Kent, assistant director of Federal Programs in the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. Kent added that decreased funding might discourage student enrollment.

The extra Pell Grant is a target of budgetary cuts by the federal government.

The president's budget proposal stated that the year-round Pell Grant cost 10 times more than the government anticipated, with no substantial impact on student progress.

The dollar cap on the Pell Grant will not change under new legislation. YSU students with an Estimated Family Contribution of \$5,273

or less would still receive up to a \$5,500 award. Under the current model, students can receive up to two consecutive awards during the academic year.

For students awarded only one Pell Grant, the award can be spread over each semester. For part-time students, the Pell Grant award is based on the number of credit hours.

"It used to be each semester, but that's kind of questionable now. Everything's up in the air," Kent said.

President Barack Obama's budget proposal calls to maintain the Pell Grant award but do away with a year-round Pell Grant, as the Pell Grant Program faces a \$20 billion deficit by the end of 2012.

"The president's budget recognizes that Pell spending is on an unsustainable path and recommends a few reforms to start to get control of the program's costs. This budget takes the necessary next steps to ensure Pell spending is brought under control and targeted to the truly needy instead of being captured in the form of tuition increases," the House Committee on the Budget wrote in their fiscal year 2012 budget resolution.

Kent said a large majority of YSU students receive federal grants. Beth Bartlett, an administrative assistant in the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, maintains the schools' records on exactly how many students receive financial aid at YSU, but she was not in her office at the time of this report.

The Ohio College Opportunity Grant administered by the Ohio Board of Regents might also be reduced under Ohio's state budget. Currently, Ohio residents enrolled at YSU with an EFC of \$2,190 or less could receive an award of \$1,008.

According to the Board of Regents website, "The status of this program for the 2011-2012 academic year is currently being re-evaluated as part of the upcoming state budget debate."

In Ohio Gov. John Kasich's recommendations for the Ohio state budget, the Ohio Board of Regents was allocated \$24 million more from the state in fiscal year 2012 than in 2011. However, the board is not receiving a \$300 million federal stimulus package it received during

PELL PAGE 3

YSU receives national recognition for notification system

Jambar Staff Report

SimplexGrinnell, a national life safety protection company, recognized Youngstown State University's 3-year-old emergency-response system as a model for other universities in a brochure released by the company.

In the brochure that recognized YSU as a "university leader in life safety, security and campuswide emergency-voice communications," SimplexGrinnell mentioned YSU's technology improvements and implementation of the Student Threat Assessment Team.

"I think we're worthy of that recognition for making [notification] a priority on our campus," said Erin Driscoll, associate director of residence life and STAT member.

Driscoll said YSU does a good job of notifying staff and students in times of emergency. She said the text alerts were a great addition to the notification system.

"It's important to give people a channel to be kept in the loop on what's going on on campus. I think that the text and email alerts is a great way for us to be able to do that as quickly as possible," she said.

In the Emergency Communications section of the SimplexGrinnell website, the company suggests a three-layered approach of voice, visual and personal notification systems as the best-balanced approach to emergency notification.

RECOGNITION PAGE 3

Not seeking fourth term, chairman causes board of trustees shift

Andrea DeMart
NEWS EDITOR



Schulick

Assuming a majority vote at the June 17 Youngstown State University Board of Trustees meeting, members will be sitting in new positions as the board chairman makes his exit.

Although there is no term limit for executive positions, Scott Schulick, chairman of the board, has decided to not seek a fourth term, leaving the position open.

"I have two years left on my term as a trustee," Schulick said. "I'm now completing my seventh year as a trustee. After having served for three years as the chair, I think it's time for the board and other members of the board to assume opportunities to lead the board. I think the timing is right."

He said he is "privileged and proud" to have served the board, but that a turnover in leadership is healthy.

Although Schulick will remain a member of the board, the chairman vacancy signals a shift in seating position.

As announced at the March 18 board meeting, Vice Chair Dr. Sudershan Garg will move to chairman, and Dr. John Jakubek will fill Garg's position as vice chairman.

Since 1985, Jakubek has been an anesthesiologist with Bel-Park Anesthesia Associates Inc. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from YSU and a medical degree from the Ohio State University. He primarily works at St. Elizabeth Boardman Health Center and the Surgery Center of Canfield.

Garg is a hematologist/oncologist at St. Joseph Health Center in Warren, and St. Elizabeth Health Center in Youngstown and Boardman. He is president of the Blood and Cancer Center Inc. in Canfield.

Schulick said the board gauges members' interest in serving as board chairpersons.

"Historically, typically, the process is that those individuals who are nominated, there's two readings by the by-laws," he said. "A first reading at the March board meeting, and then the second reading and election at the June board meeting."

Jakubek said he decided to place his name in the nominations for vice chairman after being approached by Schulick.

"He said, 'Well, you know that you've finished your second year,' and he asked me if I would be interested in being vice chair," Jakubek said. "Being on the board for a couple of years now, you get to know the university better, where it's been and where it is now and where we want it to go."

Jakubek said he was thrilled to be a part of the board and humbled to be chosen for the position of vice chairman.

"I'm a former graduate of Youngstown State University. I'm an alum, and I know how

important this university is to this community," he said.

Jakubek said he plans to continue with the agenda set forth and follow along with the 2020 strategic plan.

"I think when you look in the future our agendas are going to be driven by what's in that 2020 strategic plan ... so essentially now what we're looking for going forth from this point on is to implement this plan for the future," he said.

Schulick said he is confident in Garg and Jakubek assuming the chairman and vice chairman positions.

"When the governor of Ohio appoints trustees, he ... I think does a good job," he said. "I think the governors take very seriously the candidates that they appoint as trustees so any one of our trustees is more than qualified."

Schulick explained the duties of the board chairman.

"The chairperson of the board, for the most part, leads the board in a very basic sense," he said. "In terms of

leading the board, it's working with the administration to set the board's agenda."

Schulick also said that the chairman works one-on-one with the president.

"The most important relationship that a board can have is with its chief executive," he said. "That board president facilitating the board-CEO relationship would be another big responsibility of the board chair."

Schulick said the main and possibly easiest task for the chairman is to lead the board meetings.

"I would say the fourth major responsibility would be acting as the official spokesperson for the board of trustees," he said. "Obviously, trustees are entitled to their individual opinions and everyone often does, but the responsibility of the board chair, as affirmed by the board of trustees, is to act as the official spokesperson."

Garg was unavailable for comment at the time of publication.

Humanities and the Community class students organize LGBTQIA support event

Kacy Standohar
REPORTER

When Youngstown State University graduate student Sarah Lowry was assigned a project in her Humanities and the Community class, she and fellow group members found combining artistic expression with the LGBTQIA community an inspirational idea.

LGBTQIA stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual and ally.

"Humanities and the Community is a class in the American Studies program that can encourage people to come out into the community to do a lot of hands-on activities. It was the best decision I have ever made to take this class," Lowry said.

The StandOut 2011 Project, created by group members in the class, attempts to encourage diversity, enhance the LGBTQIA community and create a strong network of support on and off campus.

StandOut 2011 members held an event Tuesday outside Kilcawley Center that featured informational tables, music, rainbow chalk, LGBTQIA T-shirts, ribbon making, rock painting and a bake sale.

Walkways around campus



T.J. Wamsley writes "love" with sidewalk chalk on the walkway outside Kilcawley Center during StandOut 2011, an event aimed at encouraging diversity, enhancing the LGBTQIA community and creating a network of support on and off campus. Photo by Joe Giesy/The Jambar.

read "Support Love, Equality, Pride and Unity" in brightly colored chalk. Students were also encouraged to sign their names on a large poster in support of the LGBTQIA community and paint the rock with a large rainbow ribbon heart, the StandOut 2011 logo.

The event was sponsored by the Safe Zone Advisory

Council, the Mahoning Valley Pride Center, YSUnity and the YSU American Studies Program.

YSUnity Vice President Heather Decoskey said YSUnity is the only gay-straight alliance on campus.

"We wanted to support the project as well as advertise our organization," Decoskey said.

Decoskey said there are 30 active members of YSUnity and around 200 online members on the group's Facebook page.

"We have a lot of gay, lesbian and transgender members, and we are always welcoming more straight allies," she said.

YSUnity will also participate in the NOH8 Campaign

and the National Day of Silence on Friday.

The Day of Silence is recognized by high schools and colleges across the country. Participants are asked to take a vow of silence, with the only communication by writing or texting. This day is set aside for all those who have been silenced due to harassment and bullying.

Participants will be saying a lot by saying nothing at all, said YSUnity President Ken Holt.

"Students participating in the Day of Silence commit to not talking all day, and some students place a piece of tape over their mouths to protest against bullying of LGBTQIA members in high schools," Holt said.

American Studies instructor Sherry Linkon said her students involved in this project combined public art with the community, and "they have done a terrific job."

"This is my favorite class to teach because students learn how to organize and work in groups or committees while being able to show a concrete art form that is visible to the world," Linkon said.

Linkon said she talks a lot about the value of teaching students to think critically about the world, but it is in that class that it gets embodied and transfers from ideas to actions.

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PELL PAGE 1

stimulus package it received during the biennium budget of 2010.

Kent said students who received the Pell Grant and the OCOG did not have to worry as much about finding additional funding.

"They were set," she said.

A student who received \$5,500 from the Pell Grant and \$1,008 from OCOG in the 2011 academic year was then only responsible for \$691 of YSU's 2011 tuition.

RECOGNITION PAGE 1

Driscoll said YSU's alert notification system has been successful in the way it has been used and the releasing of information to the university community.

"I think it's important for students and staff across the university to understand that we

won't always be notified right away if something's happening because it's in the hands of university police to determine what is going to keep campus safest," she said. "Sometimes them addressing a situation immediately on their own is going to be a smarter approach than

creating any kind of panic."

Driscoll said she does not see any improvements to be made to the systems, but she is confident that the administration is looking at how other universities approach campus safety and making sure YSU remains top in safety.

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Idea Creation Workshop: 2:00 - 2:45 p.m.
Speed Networking: 2:45 - 3:00 p.m.
Break / Exhibits: 3:00 - 3:15 p.m.
(FREE REFRESHMENTS)

Speaker: Lauren Berger: 3:15 - 3:45 p.m.
Networking: 3:45 - 4:00 p.m.
Panel Discussion: 4:00 - 4:50 p.m.
(featuring: Lauren Berger, Ryan Everson, Rob Nicholson)

Closing and reception: 5:00 p.m.
(FREE REFRESHMENTS)

Lauren Berger
CEO, Intern Queen, Inc.

Williamson College of Business Administration

Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

NEWS BRIEFS

Judge receives YSU award

Retired U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Nathaniel R. Jones will receive the YSU Friend of the University Award. A private dinner will be held for the Youngstown native on Saturday at the Youngstown Club in downtown Youngstown. Jones, a YSU alumnus, has taught at several law schools across the country and is the holder of 18 honorary degrees. He is also known as a civil rights activist, lawyer and prominent judge. The Friend of the University Award was established in 1997, and it honors alumni, friends and donors who have significantly contributed to YSU.

Young entrepreneurs to visit YSU

On Wednesday, the Extreme Entrepreneurship Tour will visit the Williamson College of Business Administration. The event will feature two of the country's top young entrepreneurs who have made, earned or sold a company for millions and/or made a significant impact before the age of 30. The program is free and open to the public, although registration is limited to 200. The event will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. in the WCBA Conference Center, and consists of Q-and-A sessions and interactive workshops. Register at <http://www.extremetour.org/ysu>.

Football coaches offer women's clinic

The second annual YSU Football Women's Coaching Clinic will be held in the DeBartolo Stadium Club on Friday. It will teach women the basics of coaching football. Attendees will participate in drills, lessons and demonstrations. A tour of Stambaugh Stadium will also be included with the \$25 clinic fee. All proceeds will be donated to the Rich Center for Autism. For more information, contact the YSU Football Office at 330-941-3478.

POLICE BRIEFS

Man trespasses in parking deck

On Sunday, an officer patrolling the M-1 parking deck observed a man repeatedly walking the stairs of the facility. When the officer approached him, he said that he regularly walks the stairs for exercise, but that he was not a YSU student. The officer told him that he was not allowed on YSU property and issued him a written trespass warning.

Dollar bill 'speaks' to trespasser

YSU Police observed a man loitering in the courtyard area of the Flats at Wick on Sunday. The man was looking at the ground and talking out loud to himself. He told the officer that he repeatedly heard someone yell his name and tell him that he is "like God." He then said the voices were coming from his dollar bill. The officer issued the man a written trespass warning.

Suspected drug user urinates in parking lot

On Saturday, an officer observed a man urinating in the parking lot of University Foods. When he was approached, the man told the officer that he was sorry and that he was in a rush to get to work. After discovering that his driving privileges were suspended, the officer searched the man's vehicle and discovered two cylinder pipes used for drug abuse with suspected cocaine residue on them, along with a burnt spoon, a metal "push-rod" and multiple torn plastic baggies with suspected cocaine residue. It was also discovered that the temporary tag on the vehicle had been altered. The man was incarcerated without further incident.

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FARM PAGE 1

sustainable way and teaching others to do the same," she said.

Together Nicholas and Jacobs, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in environmental science, are interested in informing people of different sustainable options of living that protect the planet.

"In the beginning, we got hooked up with some organic farmers as a way to just get active with sustainability, then Katie found the land and we all moved in together and the whole thing just took off," Jacobs said.

This year, the group, with the help of family and friends, will be farming two acres of their property, growing a variety of different vegetables, fruits, herbs and dried beans. They will be selling their crops at local farmers markets and also local restaurants.

"One of the most important facets of the farm is that we will be selling our produce locally, within 100 miles of where it is grown. This cuts transportation costs, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and ensures the freshest product possible," Nicholas said.

Along with selling their crops locally, the group employs many other sustainable practices on the farm.

"All of our seeds are open-pollinated, non-hybrid or heirloom varieties. We use worms for composting our vegetable scraps and crop residue. The worms produce a rich, natural fertilizer that we use on all our plants. We control bugs, disease and pest by rotating crops regularly and by planting crops that are mutually beneficial to each other in growth habits," Nicholas said.

Although this will be the farm's first season, everyone involved is confident that it will be successful.

"Katie and Jenny are really knowledgeable about this stuff, and I am ready to work hard. I mean, I never thought I would be living on a farm, but since we've been here it has all worked out so perfectly. I know with our family and friends everything will come together," Phibbs said.

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Legislative backfire

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RELATED STORY

Pell, page 1

In 2009, legislation amended the Pell Grant program to push students through school more quickly.

If a student used up the yearly Pell grant, he or she could receive a second grant, alleviating educational expenses for students who wished to finish school early.

The only problem: To remain eligible for the second Pell Grant, students need to be enrolled part time and accumulate a modest 24 credit hours per year.

Part time and 24 credit hours? What happened to expediting education?

When we take a closer look at the legislation, issues of fairness arise.

Consider this: Two students struggle with tuition payments. One, below the poverty line, and the other, just above. The poor student receives an extra Pell Grant while the other, who may not qualify, takes on yet another student loan. Fair?

The second Pell Grant, after only one year of implementation, may be cut under proposed federal budget legislation.

If the finance provision restricting the number of Pell Grants prevails in the new budget, then every student, regardless of his or her institution's tuition, will receive the same amount. Students should not be afforded an extra Pell Grant because the university he or she attends has decided to increase tuition or simply costs more to attend.

Congress is considering two options: Cut the Pell Grant or eliminate the second one.

Eliminating a double dip on the Pell Grant seems like a viable and fair alternative, so cut the second Pell Grant.

It seems lawmakers are more in the business of legislating debt than education.

Legislators should have been more pragmatic in proposing the 2009 legislation that afforded two Pell Grants. The smoke and mirrors amendment compounded an already unsustainable federal education budget.

Ten times more people than the White House anticipated took advantage of the extra cash.

Surprise, surprise.

Let's stop the money grab and consider sustainability for a change.

In 2008, President Barack Obama proposed the bill that afforded an extra Pell Grant. Now, he is suggesting to Congress to amend the budget to do away with the second Pell Grant.

Get real.

Legislators need to look at higher education and funding in a more systemic way, accounting for future costs that limit our future access to college.

OUR SIDE POLICY

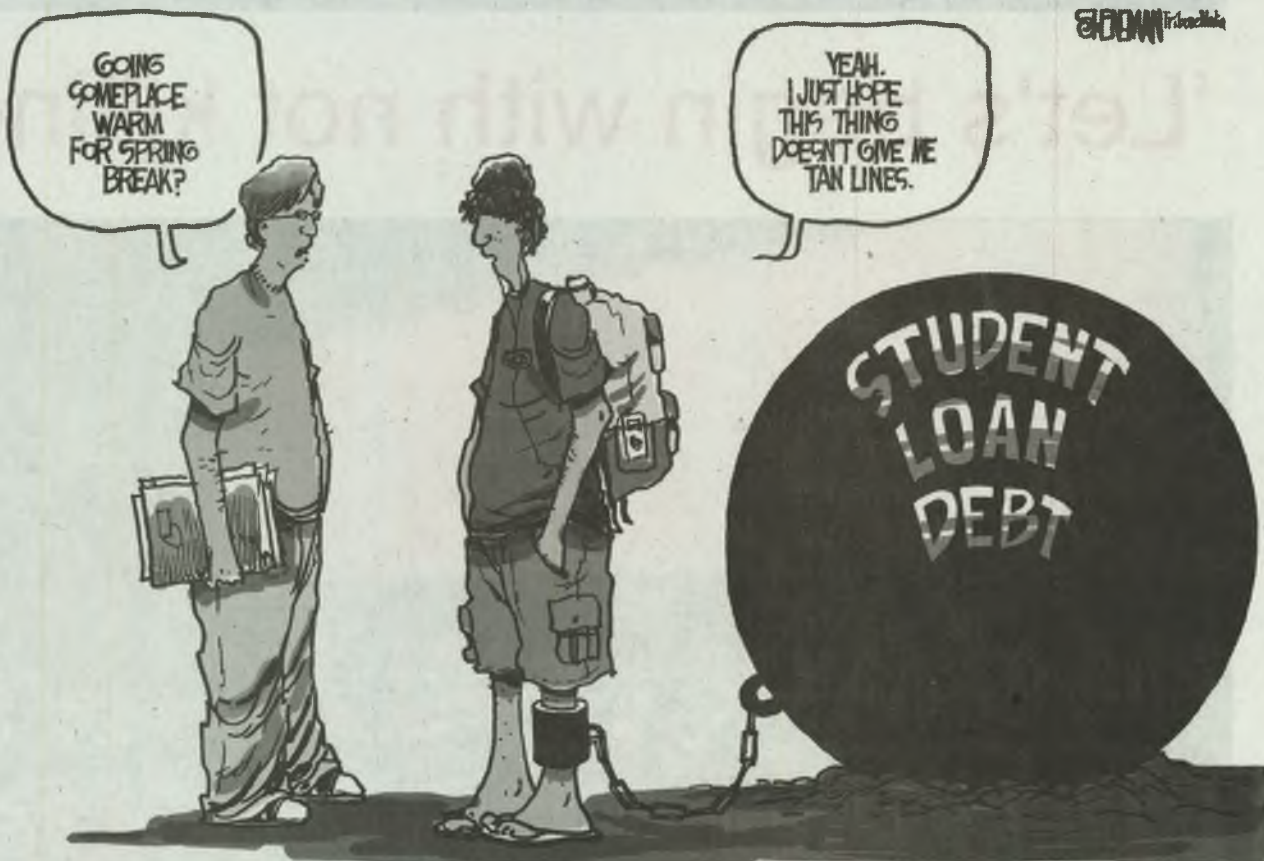
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The views of this artist do not necessarily agree with those of The Jambar.

Commencement speakers shouldn't cash in

Los Angeles Times
MCT

There are few occasions in life more idyllic than college graduation. Steeped in ceremony, it is the moment of triumph after years of work, a time for parents to beam proudly and gowned students to receive their hard-earned diplomas.

However, graduates aren't the only ones earning something on commencement day. Some colleges and universities are paying exorbitant fees, not just expenses, for graduation speakers. Public speaking has been big business for years, and finding a great speaker for commencement day is a competitive business, particularly for a school burnishing its image and trying to boost fundraising. Rutgers University, which is planning a bigger ceremony this year, recently announced that it will pay Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison \$30,000 to be the commencement speaker. "An honorarium was required to attract a stellar speaker of Ms. Morrison's caliber," said Rutgers spokesman Ken Branson.

Morrison is only one example. In 2006, CBS news star Katie Couric got \$115,000 to speak at the University of Oklahoma's ceremony, although she did donate it to a cancer center at the University of Virginia in honor of her late sister. And Rudy Giuliani's 2005 address at High Point University in North Carolina reportedly cost the school \$75,000 in a contribution to a foundation of his choice.

Some speakers who command astronomical fees will discount them for commencement speeches, it's possible that Morrison usually gets much more than \$30,000, or waive them.

Bill Clinton, who was scheduled to speak at UCLA in 2008 before canceling because of the university's dispute with a union, did not request a fee. Nor would UCLA have offered one. (It never pays.) Neither President Obama nor the first lady are paid for their commencement addresses. This year, the president will deliver the address at Miami Dade College's North Campus, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and the public high school that wins the White House's Race to the Top Commencement Challenge. Michelle Obama will speak at Spelman College, the University of Northern Iowa and the high school that serves children of members of the military on the Marine Corps base in Quantico, Va.

We know it's a struggle for lesser-known schools to find a speaker a cut above a dreary dean talking in cliches about the challenges to come. But it's disappointing to see a tradition so wrapped in idealism become yet another vehicle for commercialism.

A commencement address is not a gig at a corporate retreat. Even though it takes time and effort to craft a good speech, it is honor enough to be chosen to impart some words of inspiration to newly minted graduates. We'd like to see influential figures go out of their way to speak at smaller institutions for free. Commencement day is one time when accomplished people should share the wealth, not increase their own.

Universities must do more to improve student-athlete graduation rates

San Jose Mercury News
MCT

U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan has been speaking up lately about low graduation rates for student-athletes at some colleges and universities. We applaud his effort to bring attention to the problem, but there are better solutions than his proposal to bar basketball teams with graduation rates below 50 percent from the NCAA tournament.

Mind you, no school should be proud of a rate like that. It's just that the system is more complex than most realize.

There are three ways to measure graduation rates, the federal rate, the graduation success rate and the academic progress rate, and they have varying results. Interpreting each is a challenge since the figure covers such a small number of student-athletes; teams sometimes bring in just two or three players a year.

Each method is flawed, because a numerical formula can't easily account for all the variables affecting a basketball team. (The formulas are more reliable for football teams, which are much larger, and for athletic departments as a whole.) Players transfer. Coaches leave and arrive, sweeping players out with them. Kids leave for the NBA, should that choice be considered a failure for the school? And some teams with low rates actually do better than their schools as a whole; punishing them seems unfair.

Colleges and universities must do more to ensure academic success for student-athletes, tying coaches' compensation to student performance and adequately funding academic support. And the NCAA must demand accountability, particularly for the worst offenders, rather than imposing Duncan's one-size-fits-all solution.

Send letters to:
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'Let's begin with not killing each other'



PHOTO COURTESY OF HAE-JONG LEE

YSU professor believes singing will bring peace to city

Marissa McIntyre
REPORTER

On Sunday, the city of Youngstown celebrated its first Peace Day. Following the gala, officials are optimistic that peace may find its way into Youngstown.

The event earned its name because of the first "Giving Voice to Peace" festival presented by the Stambaugh Chorus and Hae-Jong Lee, director of choral activities at Youngstown State University's Dana School of Music.

Lee is the creative force behind the "Giving Voice to Peace" festival. He said this is something he's always wanted to do since moving to Youngstown.

"Every day we see in the news

stories about crime and bad news. I thought that we need to have a concert with a peace theme," Lee said.

The concert had performances by seven choruses, and all of them came together at the end to perform two songs, "Deep Peace" and "United in Song." The Dana Symphonic Choir and the YSU Gospel Choir were among the choruses that performed.

Lee said everyone involved "worked hard to make this happen," and said he hopes the festival will expand next year and turn into a peace-gathering marathon.

"It's very meaningful, living in northern Ohio, when everyone can promote peace, especially young people," Lee said. "Whatever we can do to awake peace. The mayor recognizing the event means that this is a positive thing."

YSU senior Brooke Novak said

Peace Day will be positive for the city of Youngstown.

"It's a good thing. People think Youngstown is a bad area, so it's good to turn that assumption around," Novak said.

Chris Bache, professor of philosophy and religious studies, said peace is a "wide topic" to discuss.

He remembered a conversation he had about peace. After discussing it for five to 10 minutes, he came to the conclusion that world peace can be accomplished.

"Let's begin with not killing each other," Bache said. "The entire planet is in desperate circumstances. We should choose inclusive instead of exclusive solutions for global peace."

Bache said the foundation of peace is forgiveness, compassion and a long horizon of social work. He said noted

people in history who promoted peace, like Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi, often called for participation.

He added that Peace Day is a good step for the city of Youngstown.

"It won't hurt. It can only help," Bache said.

Lee has another idea about how peace can be accomplished.

"Singing is the foundation to peace," he said.

Lee relates what he teaches in the classroom every day to tell how peace can be achieved.

"Building harmony all starts with hearing others' voices. If one part is singing 'oh' and another part is singing 'ah,' then we cannot harmonize that," Lee said.

"But when they listen to one another, we have harmony."

DERBY TEAM ROLLS ONTO THE SCENE



PHOTO BY NICK YOUNG/THE JAMBAR

Chelsea Miller
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

With names like Nikki Sixxblade and Knockout Natalie, the members of the Little Steel Derby Girls roller derby team are often perceived as "tough girls." For Natalie Clark, aka Knockout Natalie, this assumption couldn't be further from the truth.

"It takes a certain person to play roller derby, but it's not like the big, tough image that a lot of people think," Clark said. "If you look at me, I'm definitely not one and have never been a tough girl or anything like that."

The colorful nicknames have been part of the sport since the 1960s when the game took on more of a theatrical element. Clark said the

"It takes a certain person to play roller derby, but it's not like the big, tough image that a lot of people think."

-Natalie Clark

nicknames may have originated when roller derby was compared to World Wrestling Entertainment.

"Before, it was a lot more of a show than a sport. A lot of people compared it to wrestling," she said. "I think that's why girls have their names because it's like their character."

Today's game, she said, is "a real sport."

"It's not fixed," Clark said.

For Clark, who joined Youngstown's Little Steel Derby Girls in January 2009, the sport was a chance at camaraderie with the other members.

"The drama is minimal. Although we're all different, we mesh well together," she said of the group members whose ages range from 22 to 35.

The Little Steel Derby Girls was established in November 2008. Since its formation, several women have joined the group, including Youngstown State University students like Clark and Katie Libecco. Libecco joined in November, but hadn't skated since fifth grade. Despite her inexperience, she said the girls were helpful and encouraged her along the way.

Libecco echoed Clark's sentiments about the misconceptions that surround the sport.

"We don't have as many injuries as people think or would expect," Libecco said. "I like to equate it to football ... girls don't always get this opportunity to go out and just play around. And yeah, we bump around each other ... but we're not out there to beat up on each other."

The Little Steel Derby Girls, whose schedule began in February, has a match on Saturday at their home rink, Boardman's Youngstown Skate. The girls will face the Blue Water Derby Girls from Port Huron, Mich. Lisa Bielick, member of the Little Steel Derby Girls, said the game should be competitive.

"It should be a really good bout, and it's to my understanding that they're on our level," Bielick said.

As part of the event, the Little Steel Derby Girls will be donating a portion of the ticket

sales to Second Chance Animal Rescue. Bielick, who has volunteered with the organization for seven years, selected the charity.

Bielick said the roller derby team often raises money at their home games for various charities.

"We are a nonprofit organization, and one of the things that we wanted to do from the get-go is be able to give back to the community, and by doing that at all of our home bouts, we secure a charity that we make a donation to," she said.

Doors open at 6 p.m., and the game starts at 6:30 p.m. The Firestarters Jr. Roller Derby team from Cleveland will open the event, followed by the Little Steel Derby Girls. Tickets for the event can be purchased at the door for \$12 or online at <http://www.littlesteelderbygirls.com> for \$10.

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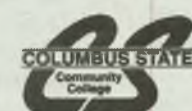
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'I told them we can't be cheerleaders all the time'



(Left) Sophomore quarterback Kurt Hess gets comfortable behind center. (Right) Andrew Radakovich, a junior offensive tackle, wards off a would be tackler. Photos by Joe Catullo Jr./The Jambar.

Penguins still have room for improvement

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS REPORTER

The Youngstown State University football team practiced Monday evening at Stambaugh Stadium in preparation for Saturday's 39th Annual Red-White Spring Game.

It was the first practice since Saturday's scrimmage, and second-year head coach Eric Wolford was not satisfied with his team's performance on what he called a "typical Monday."

"At times we did some good things, but overall it's unacceptable. It's like guys don't want to show up and work on Monday. They got the Monday blues," Wolford said. "I told them we can't be cheerleaders all the time."

Wolford added that the offense must improve.

"We just did third down and long again, and we were absolutely pathetic on of-

fense," Wolford said. "We've got to find a way to protect the quarterback."

More than anything, Wolford said there was a lack of focus, and the team concurred.

"I think it was just a little flat today," said sophomore linebacker Thomas Sprague. "Saturday was a high intensity [scrimmage]. I think we'll get it back up though ... on offense and defense, we could have played better today."

Other players agreed.

"I think we just lost a little bit of focus," senior wide receiver Andre Barboza said about the receivers. "Guys are a little banged up. With days like this, you have to dig deep. We got to really focus. Once we focus, I think we'll be all right."

Junior tackle D.J. Main, who is recovering from a broken left foot, talked about how the scrimmage Saturday might have taken a toll on his teammates.

"Coach just talks about handling success, but we didn't get that done today. I think anytime you have a good scrimmage, you have to come harder to work the next week," Main said.

While the offensive line works on improving the pass rush, Barboza talked about how the receivers can improve, especially in the red zone.

"[We] just got to work at the little things every day. We got to pay attention to detail. Especially at the receivers, we need to get more consistency," Barboza said.

On the other side of the gridiron, Sprague talked about the work of the defense.

"I just think we need to do the fundamentals better and tackle better. We let the offense kind of push us around on Saturday, but I think we're going to make up for it Saturday," Sprague said.

Wolford updated the me-

dia on the conditions of senior cornerback Randy Louis.

"Randy is back in there running a little bit, but he can't make contact. He's cleared for upper body lifting and will be full strength this fall. Randy is moving around pretty good," Wolford said.

He also gave an update on sophomore tailback Jordan Thompson.

"He's improved academically and doing the things he needs to do on a consistent basis," Wolford said. "Hopefully he can continue to do that and be OK."

Besides the injuries and focus, Wolford said the opposition would have a rough time figuring out the team.

"I like how the defenses won't know the order of the game plan or what the formations are. We can be in a four-receiver set [or] two-running backs set. There are multiple things we can do," Wolford said.

Penguin baseball looks to climb conference ladder



Neil Schroth, a sophomore infielder, rounds first in hopes of completing a double. He holds the team's second highest on base percentage with .398. Photo courtesy of Sports Information.

A.J. Ondrey
REPORTER

Coming off an impressive series win this weekend, the Youngstown State University baseball team will try to continue its success at Valparaiso University this weekend.

After a slow start, the Pen-

guins are charging up. Some injuries here and some mental mistakes there, but the team is playing well, said head coach Rich Pasquale.

"We've gone through a lot of injuries this year, especially to our starting pitching, but that's no excuse," Pasquale said. "Nobody is feeling sorry for us, and we're definitely not feeling sorry. It's times like

this where we need to come together, and we have."

The Penguins are coming off a victory against Horizon League rival Butler University. After dropping the first game of the series on Saturday, the Penguins came back and won both games of Sunday's doubleheader.

Pasquale was pleased with the way his team didn't give up. "When our backs are against a wall, it's nice to know that we can win two games in one day to win a series," Pasquale said.

The Valparaiso Crusaders won five games in a row and eight of their last 10. They swept the Cleveland State University Vikings over the weekend, placing them in third place in the Horizon League standings with a conference record of 6-3.

"They are traditionally a well-coached team. They had three starters throw complete games against Cleveland State, so we know their pitching can get the job done," Pasquale said.

Pasquale gave a lot of credit to Valparaiso's coaching staff, but he has a strategy of his own.

"Above everything, we need strong starting pitching and good defense," Pasquale said. "We also need to be strong hitting the ball and follow our aggressive batting strategy. We need to be ag-

gressive early in counts and we should be fine."

Pasquale has at least one go-to pitcher in senior Phil Klein, the reigning Horizon League Player of the Week. Klein has easily been the best starter for the Penguins, posting a 4.24 earned run average and a win/loss record of 4-3.

"He's been great all year. The difference now is that we're giving him offensive support so he doesn't have to go out and be perfect all the time," Pasquale said.

This offensive support is coming from a lot of different places in the lineup, but lately a freshman has been the center of attention.

Phil Lipari has been the guy for when the Penguins need base runners. Lipari leads the team in runs batted in with 12 and has produced some clutch hits throughout the season.

"Phil [Lipari] is a gamer. He wants to win, [and] he wants to get better. We could see this when we recruited him, and he's been a nice surprise defensively at second base. I say this because we recruited him to play at shortstop. Not only has he been great on the field, but he also posted a 4.0 grade point average in classes last semester," Pasquale said.

The Penguins will start their series with Valparaiso on Friday afternoon, with the first pitch scheduled for 4 p.m. A doubleheader is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. on Saturday.

SPORTS BRIEFS

YSU baseball heats up

In a weekend series with the Butler University Bulldogs, the YSU baseball team took two out of three games to win the series. On Friday, the series opened up with the Bulldogs coasting to a dominating victory, 15-1. YSU held Butler in check until the fifth inning, when Butler scored four runs. The Bulldogs followed up with three runs in the sixth, three more in the seventh and three in the ninth inning.

The first game of Saturday's doubleheader was thrilling. With Butler jumping out to a 3-0 lead after four innings, YSU scored once in the fifth and once in the eighth. The Penguins headed into the ninth inning with Butler up 3-2. With a runner on third and two outs, freshman Phil Lipari stepped up and hit the walk-off single to get the Penguin win, 4-3.

In the series finale, the Penguins cruised to a 5-1 win. Phil Klein pitched a gem, allowing one unearned run and four hits in seven strong innings. YSU provided plenty of offense for Klein, tallying 14 hits. The Penguins play Kent State University in Kent on Tuesday and at Eastwood Field on Wednesday.

Wright State owns men's and women's tennis

The YSU men's tennis team fell to Wright State University in a 6-1 decision. The No. 4 singles matchup is where YSU would see its only point. Freshman Zee-shan Ismail defeated Wright State's Landon Neuman 6-4, 4-6, 6-2. The men will host the University of Detroit Mercy on Sunday. The women's team lost to Wright State in a 2-5 decision.

The women will travel to Cincinnati on Monday, and they will host Cleveland State University on Friday.

YSU softball snags series at UIC

The YSU softball team faced the University of Illinois at Chicago on Saturday. In the first game of a doubleheader, the Penguins emerged with a 6-3 win. The Penguins trailed 3-1 going into the fourth inning, but they scored three runs in the fourth to take the lead. Adding two runs in the sixth for insurance, YSU never lost the lead and walked away with the victory. In the second game, UIC dominated. YSU was shut out and got only one hit from Jordan Ingalls. The Penguins lost 11-0. The series finale was the deciding factor on Sunday. With a couple of three-run innings, the Penguins would get the win 7-3. YSU will host the University of Detroit Mercy in a three-game series at McCune Park in Canfield on Tuesday and Wednesday.

SCHEDULES

WOMEN'S TENNIS	BASEBALL	SOFTBALL	RUGBY	MEN'S LACROSSE
April 15- CLE. ST. April 17- DETROIT	April 15- @ Valpo April 16- @ Valpo April 19- @ Pitt	April 16- VALPO April 17- VALPO	April 30- @ Ohio Cla. May 7- Teapot Tourney	April 16- FAIRMONT STATE April 16- BUFFALO STATE April 18- @ Carnegie Mellon