

Dunn is the one

YSU Board of Trustees chooses next president

Cassandra Twoey
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After five months, 47 applicants and a two-and-a-half hour deliberation, the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees chose Randy Dunn as the next YSU president on May 10.

The search began in January with the formation of the 17-member presidential search committee, spearheaded by the Board of Trustees, and the appointment of AGB Search Inc. to help direct the national search.

The search committee included nine Board of Trustees members, two student trustees, two former trustees, a retired associate provost, two YSU alumni and one faculty member.

On May 10, the YSU Board of Trustees had a meeting to "take action upon matters pertaining to the presidential search process," as stated in email from Ron Cole, director of university communications.

In that meeting, the Board called an executive session. Two and a half hours later, they voted unanimously to offer the presidency to Dunn, who is currently serving as the president of Murray State University in Murray, Ky.

"Kentucky's loss is Ohio's gain," Sudershan Garg, chair of the Board of Trustees, said during the meeting.

Dunn said he is looking forward to working with the people and the community once he takes his position.

"The Valley is a beautiful area, and the campus looked perfect when we were there, but the way folks treated us and opened up to us was the biggest selling point," Dunn said.

Dunn said that it was "a little presumptuous" to state big goals for the university without getting to know how it works better. He said he wants to better understand the university's people, programs and priorities before making any

large decisions.

"However, there is no doubt that early attention will be given to supporting the ongoing efforts around expanding recruitment, increasing retention and shoring up revenues," he said.

Jay Gordon, an associate professor of English, said the university needs to get out of a rut of "mutual mistrust and poor communication."

He stressed that the university has a three-part mission: to educate the students, advance knowledge and serve the community.

"Somehow this mission seems to get lost in this atmosphere, where neither side believes the other is smart enough, or wise enough, or honest enough, to work in good faith to achieve this mission," Gordon said.

Chet Cooper, a professor of biological sciences, agreed with Gordon.

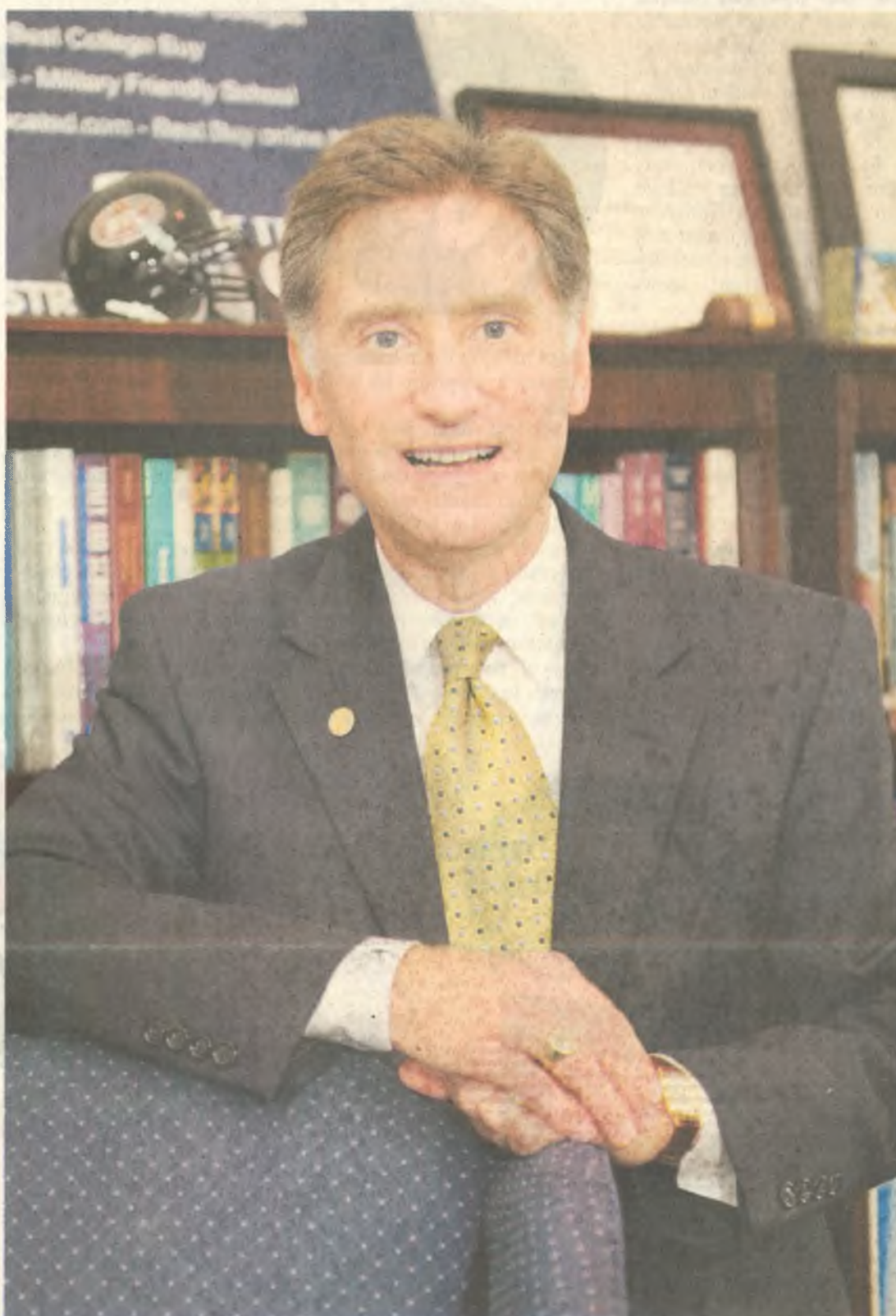
"We do not have really good lines of communication, as far as I'm concerned, between faculty, staff and the administration," Cooper said. "Sometimes, we don't even listen to students, and that's a huge problem."

Catie Carney, president of YSU's Student Government Association, said that she believes SGA's goal is to help get the student voice to the top of the administration.

"I know that there's been tension between faculty, staff [and] administration," Carney said. "And the problem with students: we're kind of caught in between that because we have to adhere to both faculty, staff and administration. So if there's a problem higher up, there's going to be a problem with the students."

Cooper said that he thinks Dunn has already recognized the communication problem and that he thinks Dunn will be able bring a positive change in communication.

"I will be working hard to get some level of trust restored throughout campus, because not a lot can get accomplished



Randy Dunn, the next Youngstown State University President, is tentatively scheduled to start on July 15. Photo courtesy of Randy Dunn.

if it is not there," Dunn said. "But it takes time, and people have to remember that too."

Gordon said that he is "cautiously optimistic" about Dunn being chosen as the new

president and that he thinks the mutual mistrust will echo into next year.

"I am hopeful that the new president will have the leadership skills to help us move to-

ward an atmosphere in which we all can work in good faith to help the university achieve its mission," Gordon said.

Dunn is tentatively set to start on July 15.

YSU makes President's Honor Roll

Matthew Roth
REPORTER

Six of Youngstown State University's programs have been placed on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The list was announced last week. The program began in 2006 and annually represents students and their institutions by recognizing their achievements in their community. This is the fourth year in a row that YSU programs have been named to the list.

The YSU Pay It Forward program earned a spot on the President's list. Pay It Forward helps students learn how to be engaged citizens and understand the important role charity plays in the health of the community through specific goals.

The students involved focused on projects related to hunger, performing arts and youth development.

The Pay It Forward program was able to donate \$2,000 to The Boys & Girl's

Club of Youngstown, a regional non-profit organization. This money they donated was raised through various fundraising activities.

Laura McCaskey, the director of the YSU Center for Nonprofit Leadership, said she was proud to be apart of this award.

"It's a big honor for Youngstown State to receive this honor once again," McCaskey said.

McCaskey said the Pay It Forward program doesn't plan on stopping there.

"As for the Center for Nonprofit Leadership's contribution to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll Award again next year," she said, "we plan to continue the Pay It Forward Initiative and give a grant award in the amount of \$2,000 again in the spring of 2014."

The Upward Bound program is another YSU organization that received this honor. Upward Bound is a program that assists low-



Melanie Costello, Jermaine Phipps and Rachel Kerns of the Boys & Girls Club of Youngstown, and Diane Doddato of the Youngstown State University Pay it Forward program pose with the check the Pay it Forward donated to the club. Photo courtesy of Laura McCaskey.

Student loan interest will double by June 1

Justin Carissimo
NEWS EDITOR

On Wednesday, Sen. Sherrod Brown held a news conference call announcing new legislation to prevent a hike in interest rates on students loans to 6.8 percent from 3.4 percent, scheduled for July 1.

The Student Loan Affordability Act of 2013 will block interest rates from doubling. Low and moderate-income students at schools similar to Youngstown State University will add an average of \$1,000 to each student loan.

More than 360,000 students across Ohio would be forced to pay thousands more each year in college loan costs unless Congress acts to block the interest rate from doubling on federally subsidized Stafford loans by July 1.

Brown said the legislation would keep college affordable for the middle class and low-income students and close tax loopholes in big business.

"If a business closes their doors in the U.S. to leave for China, they receive tax breaks for moving expenses," he said. "This would ensure all forms of crude oil are included in The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, eliminating a special loophole that saves the oil industry money,

but not making them making them pay to clean up tar and oil sands."

Student debt now exceeds \$1.1 trillion coming second to mortgage debt and surpassing credit card and auto loan debt in American.

Amish Patel, Kent State University's Student Body President, joined Brown on the call, explaining how the legislation will affect hundreds of thousands college students in Ohio.

"[College students] are trying to get better jobs and reach our dreams. Stafford loans and various support help us get there," Patel said. "The doubling of rates will be a huge burden on students."

Patel said he works two jobs, like many of his classmates, and that the legislation needs to be recognized by Congress.

"If students are the future of the country, we need to be

able to support them," Patel said.

The College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007 cut the fixed interest rates on subsidized Stafford loans for students to 3.4 percent.

The rate increase does not apply to loans that are currently in repayment or that have already been disbursed. However, students attending school after July 1 choosing to take out new federally

subsidized Stafford loans will pay the increase.

Average student loan debt in America is currently \$30,000.

"This is hopeful time for recent graduates. We know as people look forward, many leave college with lifetime debt. New graduates will struggle to pay off debts instead of starting business, buying homes and putting money back into the economy," Brown said.



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NEWS BRIEFS

YSU Foundation

The YSU foundation will be providing 3,000 students with nearly \$1.7 million in additional scholarship funding next academic year. The foundation is under a new distribution plan that will allocate \$6.8 million to YSU for student scholarships next academic year. This is a 33 percent increase from last year's \$5.1 million.

"Arts Mean Business" to return on May 30

The "Arts Mean Business: Really They Do!" session will be hosted on May 30 at the Raymond John Wean Foundation in Warren. The session deals with how the art and the business worlds can work together to benefit from each other. The "Arts Mean Business" sessions are a partnership between the YSU College of Fine and Performing Arts and the different initiatives.

income and possible first-generation college students who are currently ninth through 12th grade.

Upward Bound works with the students through tutoring, Saturday school, summer school and ACT preparation courses to help them succeed in post-secondary education.

"We want the kids to go and graduate from college; that is our ultimate goal," said Mike Kuzmish, Upward Bound's coordinator.

As for the future, Kuzmish said it only makes sense to "keep doing what we are doing; we are doing something

right." The Summer Bridge Program was also selected to be on the President's list. The program, run by the YSU Center for Student Progress, is designed to make students who have already been accepted into the university more familiar with YSU. Students involved take part in two fall semester mini classes, a study skills class and a series of workshops to learn about campus.

The program also meets with the students individually once a week to discuss managing their time during there freshman year at YSU.

Mike Beverly, senior coordinator of YSU Multicultural Student Services, said he is excited about being on the President's Honor Roll.

"It gives the entire Center for Student Progress great recognition and shows that we are on the right track," Beverly said. "Our goal is to be able to retain the same level of success in the future."

The Zeta Tau Alpha Pink Ribbon Cheer Classic, "JA in a Day" Junior Achievement elementary-school program and Academic Achievers are also YSU programs that made the list.

HONOR ROLL PAGE 1

POLICE BRIEFS

Student cuts wrist during summer move out

On May 10, a police officer was sent to the Cafaro House because a student had cut her left wrist. The officer met with the victim, who explained that she was in the bathroom washing out a glass plate. While washing the plate, the plate slipped out of her hand, ricocheted off the floor and onto her wrist. A parent of another student was present when the incident occurred. The parent happened to be an LPN, the parent cleaned out the victims wound and bandaged it up. Another student later transported the victim to St. Elizabeth's Emergency. The victim denied an ambulance.

Dust sets off fire alarms

On May 14, a police officer was sent to the DeBartolo Hall basement in reference to a fire alarm. Upon arrival, YSU maintenance and the DeSalvo Construction contractor explained that the smoke detectors inside the basement were triggered when the construction workers removed the insulation from the ceiling. When the insulation was removed from the ceiling, massive amounts of dust polluted the air activated the smoke alarms. YSU maintenance reset the alarm, and the construction workers were permitted to reenter the building.

Woman falls before graduation ceremony

On Saturday, a police officer was sent to Armed Service Boulevard because an elderly woman fell exiting the passenger side of a vehicle. The victim did not notice the slight dip in the concrete sidewalk used for wheelchair accessibility and fell forward. The pavement was clear and dry when the victim fell. The victim had a small laceration above her right eye. Action Ambulance Service was called to the scene. Attendants from the ambulance bandaged and gave the victim an ice pack. The victim refused any other treatment of transport from the ambulance.

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Advertisement for YWCA featuring text: '4 week Respite program in August (FT and PT) Must have formal education and experience with children with special needs. EoE. Mail resumes to: YWCA, 25 W. Rayen Avenue Youngstown, OH 44503'

Expectations of a president

On the final day of spring semester, the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees announced that Randy Dunn would become the eighth president of YSU after Cynthia Anderson's departure.

Dunn had a fairly impressive track record at Murray State University, where he had been president since December 2006, including an all-time high in enrollment for the 2012-2013 academic year, the establishment of Murray State's first doctoral program and the construction of six new buildings on campus.

These accomplishments have many people expecting big things from Dunn like increasing enrollment, increasing university revenue, and better communication between himself and the faculty.

Here at The Jambar, though, we're concerned with what Dunn can do for students. During his Q&A session with students after being named a finalist for the position, Dunn said that he and his wife were regulars in the community, attending over 100 events per year. We expect the Dunn's to continue this at YSU. The identity of the university is so heavily engrained in the city itself, that anything less than a complete love of the city and its people will not be acceptable.

We also expect a certain level of transparency from our eighth president. There have been rumblings among faculty that there is mistrust between them and the president's cabinet. If Dunn wants to succeed, he'll need to eliminate that mistrust and get the faculty on the same level, all in order to ensure the success of the university and its students.

Finally, we expect Dunn to be accessible to students. In 2012, a Jambar reporter tried setting up an interview with Cynthia Anderson. He was unsuccessful because instead of serving his office hours, he fell asleep in the library. Anderson walked to the Jambar office and didn't find him, so she walked around campus hoping to find him. That's the commitment that the students of YSU are looking for: Someone who's willing to not only talk to students, but go out and find students that want to talk to him.

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.

OUR SIDE POLICY

The editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, the managing editor and the senior copy 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.

YOUR SIDE POLICY

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The views of this artist do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar.

Why USC and not a black college, Dr. Dre?

Los Angeles Times (MCT)

I was in Detroit preparing to give a speech last week when the news came across my Twitter feed: "Dr. Dre and music producer Jimmy Iovine donate \$70 million to (the University of Southern California) to create new degree." As one of the first university presidents from the hip-hop generation, I had to stop and read the story immediately. The two music moguls and co-founders of Beats Electronics — recognizing that they needed a new type of creative talent for their growing music technology business — are funding a four-year program that blends liberal arts, graphic and product design, business and technology. I understood their need to build a pool of skilled talent. But why at USC? Iovine's daughter is an alum, sure. And he just gave its commencement address. Andre Young — before he was Dr. Dre — grew up in nearby Compton, where he rose to fame as part of the rap group N.W.A. The Beats headquarters are on L.A.'s Westside. Still, what if Dre had given \$35 million — his half of the USC gift and about 10 percent of his wealth, according to a Forbes estimate — to an institution that enrolls the very people who supported his career from the beginning? An institution where the majority of students are low-income? A place where \$35 million would represent a truly transformational gift? Why didn't Dr. Dre give it to a black college?

Make no mistake: This donation is historic. It appears to be the largest gift by a black man to any college or university, comparable to the gift Bill Cosby and his wife, Camille, gave to Spelman College in 1988. Some

25 years later, their \$20-million gift (about \$39 million in inflation-adjusted dollars) is still the largest-ever private gift to a historically black college. Dre gave USC almost triple the amount Oprah Winfrey has given Morehouse College over the years. Sean "Diddy" Combs gave \$500,000 to Howard University in 1999, which he attended before launching a successful career. A hip-hop icon is now the new black higher-ed philanthropy king. We've never seen a donation to rival this from any black celebrity — musician, athlete or actor — and that fact must be celebrated.

But as the president of a black college, it pains me as well. I can't help but wish that Dre's wealth, generated as it was by his largely black hip-hop fans, was coming back to support that community. USC is a great institution, no question. But it has a \$3.5-billion endowment, the 21st largest in the nation and much more than every black college — combined. Less than 20 percent of USC's student body qualifies for federal Pell Grants, given to students from low-income families, compared with two-thirds of those enrolled at black colleges. USC has also seen a steady decrease in black student enrollment, which is now below 5 percent. A new report on black male athletes and racial inequities shows that only 2.2 percent of USC undergrads are black men, compared with 56 percent of its football and basketball teams, one of the largest disparities in the nation. And given USC's \$45,602 tuition next year, I'm confident Dre could have sponsored multiple full-ride scholarships to private black colleges for the cost of one at USC. Maybe some suspect that a historically black college or university would not have the breadth or depth of expertise on its faculty to spearhead an innovative

academy. Nothing could be further from the truth.

This future Jimmy Iovine and Andre Young Academy for Arts, Technology and the Business of Innovation is to be multidisciplinary, with a technology focus. In 2011, the National Science Foundation noted that black colleges are a major source of scientists and engineers. In fact, the top five producers of blacks who go on to earn science, technology, engineering and math graduate degrees are black colleges, as are 20 of the top 50. Once you add in the musical legacy of black colleges' choirs and marching bands, they are the perfect locations for an academy like this. In the end, though, this is his money, and endowing a program geographically nearby, where he can have ongoing input and contact, makes sense. I do hope it will recruit and enroll a diverse class of students and not become some enclave for the already privileged student body there. But more important, I hope this groundbreaking gift inspires other celebrities and musical artists to make similar donations to higher education. And that they will consider doing it in a manner that will be truly transformative. This gift is gravy for USC; for a black college, it would transform not just individuals but whole institutions and communities. In the Detroit airport on my way home, I counted seven people sporting the stylish Beats by Dre headphones on the way to my gate. All seven were black men, like me. My own Dre earbuds were in my briefcase. I'm sure we all bought them not only to support Dr. Dre but because of the quality of the product. My challenge is to figure out how to get Dr. Dre and others to listen as well, because when they support black colleges, they are also supporting a quality product.

Welcome to 'unwelcome' speech on campus

The Miami Herald (MCT)

I know it was hard to hear anything last week over the cacophony of the White House roof falling over Benghazi, the IRS and spying on reporters. But still, I was surprised there wasn't more fuss about the Obama administration's war on Shakespeare.

That's right: Obama's Justice and Education departments effectively banned America's universities from teaching the works of the playwright generally considered the greatest writer in the history of the English language. In an order to the University of Montana that they labeled "a blueprint for colleges and universities throughout the country," the two departments created a sweeping new definition of sexual harassment as "any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature," including "verbal conduct." (Or, as those more familiar with the English language call it, speech.)

Who gets to define "unwelcome"? The listener and the listener alone — no matter how high-strung, neurotic or just plain pinheaded that person is. I can understand why you might suspect I'm extrapolating or exaggerating here, but really, the feds' letter is quite explicit: the words don't have to be offensive to "an objectively reasonable person" to be considered harassment.

Given that standard of guilt, it's perhaps not very surprising that the government says anybody accused of harassment can be punished even before he or she is convicted. Seriously: "A university must take immediate steps to protect the complainant from further harassment prior to the completion of the (investigation

or hearing). Appropriate steps may include separating the accused harasser and the complainant, providing counseling for the complainant and/or harasser, and/or taking disciplinary action against the harasser."

Under these circumstances, it will be a brave (or crazy) professor indeed who assigns his class to read William Shakespeare, whose works include 113 synonyms for genitalia. (That's an actual count in an academic study that, under the new rules, can probably never again be read on an American campus.)

Juliet's enthusiastic anticipation of her wedding night with Romeo ("Spread thy close curtain, love-performing night ... Lovers can see to do their amorous rites") is bound to strike some student, somewhere, as either excessively lewd or male-hierarchically sexist. The reference to "Cupid's fiery shaft" in "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is like a flashing neon KICK ME sign. And the multiple themes of incest in Hamlet? Why not just put a gun to your head, professor?

Shakespeare won't be the only casualty. "The Diary of Anne Frank," with its casual teenage musings about sex, is definitely out. "To Kill a Mockingbird," a novel about a rape accusation undergirded by fears of miscegenation, no way. Toni Morrison's "Beloved," with its description of a sexual encounter in a cornfield, gone. Practically the entire works of Chaucer, Tennessee Williams, Vladimir Nabokov and Alan Ginsberg will disappear from U.S. universities. Even Robert Frost will have his problems: "Putting in the Seed" is not a poem about agriculture.

Professors, of course, won't be the only potential targets of the new policies — maybe not even the major

ones. When I was a college kid, the biggest risk associated with asking somebody on a date was the possibility of a humiliating "no." Now the stakes have been raised to an accusation of "unwanted conduct of a sexual nature" if the askee is offended. Even a casual comment like "nice pants" or "pretty eyes" is a potential harassment charge.

But surely, you say, surely nobody will take the letter of the law to such absurd extremes. And surely you are wrong: They already have. Brandeis University went after a professor for uttering the word "wetback" during a lecture — no matter that he was criticizing its usage. (Maybe he should have said "the W word.")

A janitor at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis was disciplined for reading a disapproving book on the Ku Klux Klan. Marquette ordered a graduate student to remove a "patently offensive" quotation by Dave Barry from his door. (Let's see if my editors are brave enough to print it: "As Americans we must always remember that we all have a common enemy, an enemy that is dangerous, powerful, and relentless. I refer, of course, to the federal government.")

Governed largely by Baby Boomer radicals left over from the 1960s who have elevated political correctness to a religion, American college campuses are rapidly becoming free-speech-free zones where ideas are reduced to doctrinal shibboleths and all liberties are subservient to a fundamental Right to Not Be Offended. The Obama administration's new policy, which will apply to any college receiving federal aid — that is, all of them — will enshrine that right in law. The quicker somebody gets this thing before a court that has read the actual U.S. Constitution, the better.

Rocking with Dr. O'Neill

Justin Carissimo
NEWS EDITOR

On Saturday morning, over 1,000 Youngstown State University received their diplomas at spring commencement in Beeghly Center. Youngstown native turned Hollywood star, Ed O'Neill received an honorary Doctorate of Arts degree.

O'Neill said it feels great to be Dr. O'Neill.

"Do you need an appointment?" he joked.

Nearly 6,000 attendees filled the seats in Beeghly Center for the undergraduate ceremony where over 1,000 students received diplomas and O'Neill shared memories of his time at YSU.

O'Neill attended Ursuline High School, YSU and Ohio University. He is currently featured in the hit show "Modern Family," receiving nominations for best supporting actor by the Emmy's, Golden Globes and the Screen Actors Guild.

"Everything in Youngstown has influenced me. It definitely shaped my sense of humor," he said. "When I went to New York, I had a certain amount of confidence because of my experiences living in Youngstown."

O'Neill grew up on the north side of Youngstown, a block from Wick Park. The last time he visited his home, he encountered a young man with low jeans and headsets.

"What are you doing in my driveway, yo?" he asked me. "I don't know if you grew up here. Are you Al Bundy?" He said he was going to tell all his friends that "Al Bundy grew up in my mother f---king house!"

While at YSU, he played linebacker for the Penguins under Dike Beede, the university's first football coach.

O'Neill was recognized as the YSU Penguin of the Year before signing with the Pittsburgh Steelers. However, O'Neill was cut by the Steelers during training camp, the same day Neil Armstrong was the first man walking on the moon.

"Good day for him. Not too good for me," he said during his speech.

A string of failed jobs would soon pave the way to O'Neill's success. Substitute teaching, bartending and various sales jobs stood in the way of O'Neill's acting dreams.

"When the owner of the Oaks asked me what I wanted, I was about to say 'I'll have a burger' — but 'Pabst Blue Ribbon' came out. And that was the end of my sales job," O'Neill said.

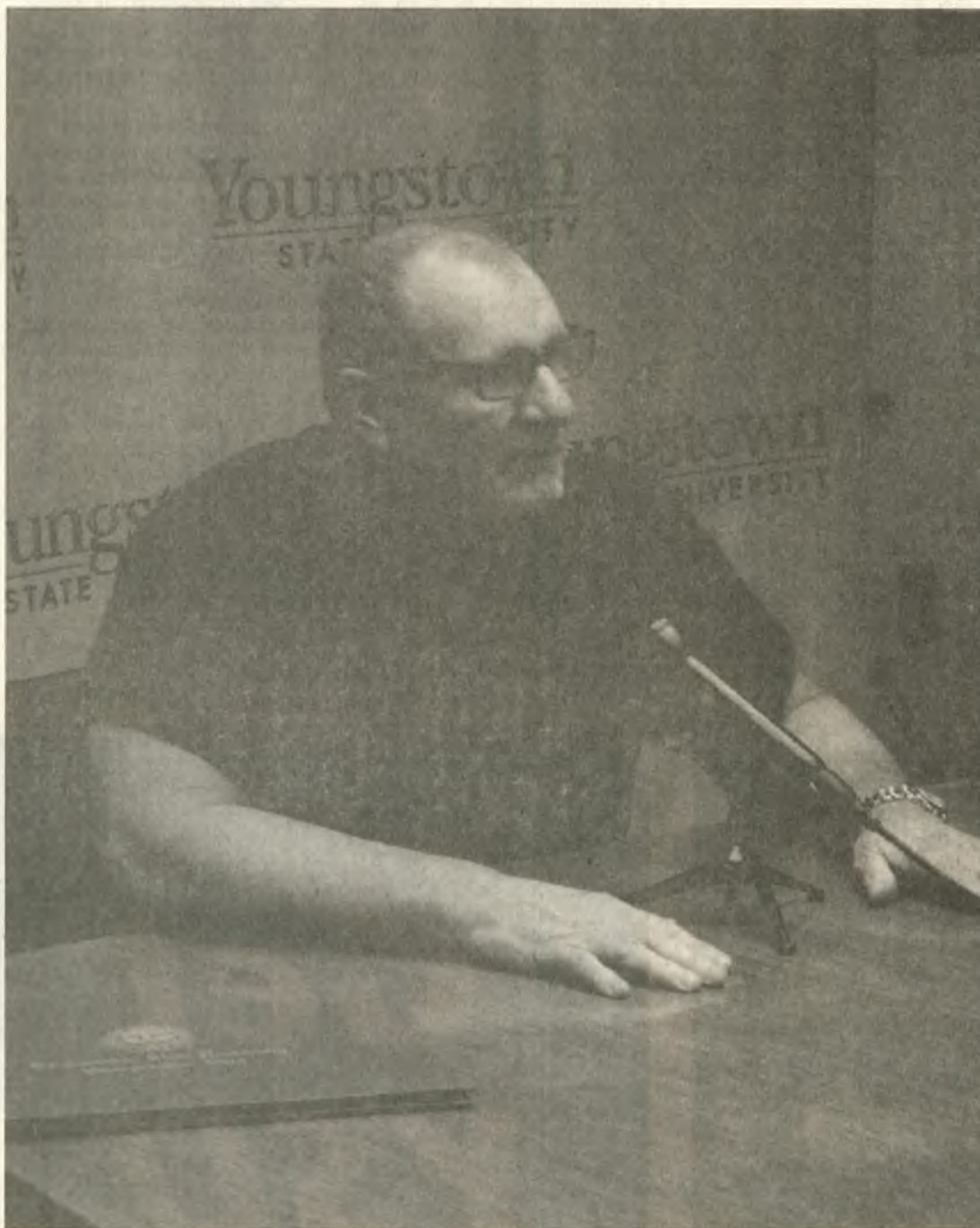
O'Neill saw an ad for plays at the Youngstown Playhouse. Then, he fell in love with acting and read every acting book he could get his hands on. By 30, he was managing a pub inside of Kilcawley Center making \$10,000 a year.

He said knew if he wanted to become a real actor, he needed to leave Youngstown. He quit his job at the pub, sold his car then hopped on a Greyhound bus on the road to New York.

O'Neill found work at a gay bar where patrons would warn him "don't bend over. I'm behind you," before he found real work as an actor. He struggled and found himself on unemployment several times before being cast as the lead role as Al Bundy in the 11-year sitcom "Married ... with Children."

His message to the graduates was to persevere, even when the going gets tough.

"If there's any lesson to be learned at all from this is never give up on yourself. Either find a way or go down swinging," O'Neill told over 1,000 graduates in attendance.



On Saturday, Ed O'Neill spoke to over 1,000 students during spring commencement. O'Neill received an honorary Doctorate of Arts degree from the College of Fine Arts. Photo by Justin Carissimo/The Jambar.

"If you're alone today, or with family, or friends, enjoy it. Don't live with regret," O'Neill said during his speech. "And now, as Al Bundy once said, 'Let's rock.'"

Robert Switka, a YSU graduate student, received his diploma Saturday with his

parents and his girlfriend in attendance. Switka said he was surprised and proud to learn O'Neill is also an Ursuline High School alumnus.

"I thought Ed O'Neill's speech was great. He showed you can reach your goal if you want it bad enough," Switka

said.

O'Neill married Catherine Rusoff in 1986. They have two daughters, Claire and Sophia.

The family currently lives in Santa Monica, Calif., where O'Neill prepares to play the voice of an octopus in the upcoming film Finding Dory.



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Oklahoma begins long road to recovery

Los Angeles Times
(MCT)

Residents on Wednesday attempted to return to lives wrecked two days ago by a major tornado, as search and rescue operations began slowly to turn into the first steps to a long recovery.

In a first since Monday — when a tornado carrying winds of more than 200 miles an hour plowed this Oklahoma city suburb — there was sustained sunshine, and the city seemed to catch its breath and slowly exhale as residents surveyed the work that lay ahead: burying at least 24 who died in the tornado, healing the hundreds who were physically injured and others who were emotionally scarred, clearing out the mountains of rubble and then rebuilding.

"The normal transition is from search and rescue to recovery," Andy Oden, a spokesman for the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management,

told the Los Angeles Times. Coordinated services such as distributing tetanus shots and bringing in mental health professionals were underway, he said.

Although search efforts were continuing, officials said they believed the current toll of human life would remain about the same. At least 24 bodies have been recovered, a number that has been constant for more than 24 hours. Of that number, 10 were children, one as young as 4 months, according to state officials.

The number of injured, however, has shot up to more than 240, including those hospitalized and others who were treated and released. More than 2,400 homes were damaged or simply eliminated, while as many as 10,000 people in this city of 55,000 were dislocated after the storm.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano is scheduled to tour damaged areas

along with Gov. Mary Fallin.

"She'll understand the size of the challenge that we're facing," Fallin told reporters Wednesday morning. "We have a long road ahead of us."

Dump trucks were lined up in single file as workers continued to remove debris from an area that was essentially flattened by fierce winds from the tornado, now officially classified as an EF5, the highest step on the Enhanced Fujita scale.

Estimates of the damage were in excess of \$2 billion, according to the state Insurance Department, making this week's storm the most expensive in the state's history, surpassing the more than \$1 billion of damage caused by the tornado of May 3, 1999.

"Just since I left last night," the governor said, "I can see a big difference in some of the debris piles. We have to clean up the damage before we can rebuild."

Residents have largely been

kept out of their neighborhoods by a cordon of National Guard troops and police officers. But some have begun to return.

Newt Case, 60, a retired mechanic, stood in his yard early Wednesday, smoking a cigarette and looking over his debris-strewn yard. He watched, wearing jeans and a blue polo shirt, as men in Army uniforms drove down his street in an all-terrain vehicle. He and his wife, Arlene, knew all the backroads and could get to their house even with military blockades on the corners.

A neighbor used a black plastic rake to clean his yard. Case had raked the previous day, but it didn't get rid of all the insulation, the pieces of homes.

"We've got a whole lot more to do," he said. "But that's all right. We'll get to it." The city will rebuild, he said, as it always does.

More than 1,000 people, already have registered with the Federal Emergency Manage-

ment Agency, which has sent hundreds of workers to help with the recovery. President Obama, in public comments and in private telephone calls to officials, has said the nation will stand with Moore.

"Right now, it's about getting people a place to stay that have lost their homes," FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate said on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" program. "So we're going to start going neighborhood to neighborhood and talking to people and seeing what they're going to need."

At least 10 children were among those killed, including seven who died at Plaza Towers Elementary School. The school was directly in the path of the tornado, which cut a scar about 17 miles long and 1.3 miles wide through the area.

The 1999 tornado killed more than 40 people and destroyed thousands of homes. That tornado also was classified as an EF5.



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