

YSU Psychology Department

High Faculty Turnover Impacts Education

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According to documents obtained through Youngstown State University's Office of Human Resources, the number of full-time faculty members employed in the psychology department has steadily declined over the past nine years — a trend that some students and former faculty believe could have a negative impact on students' education.

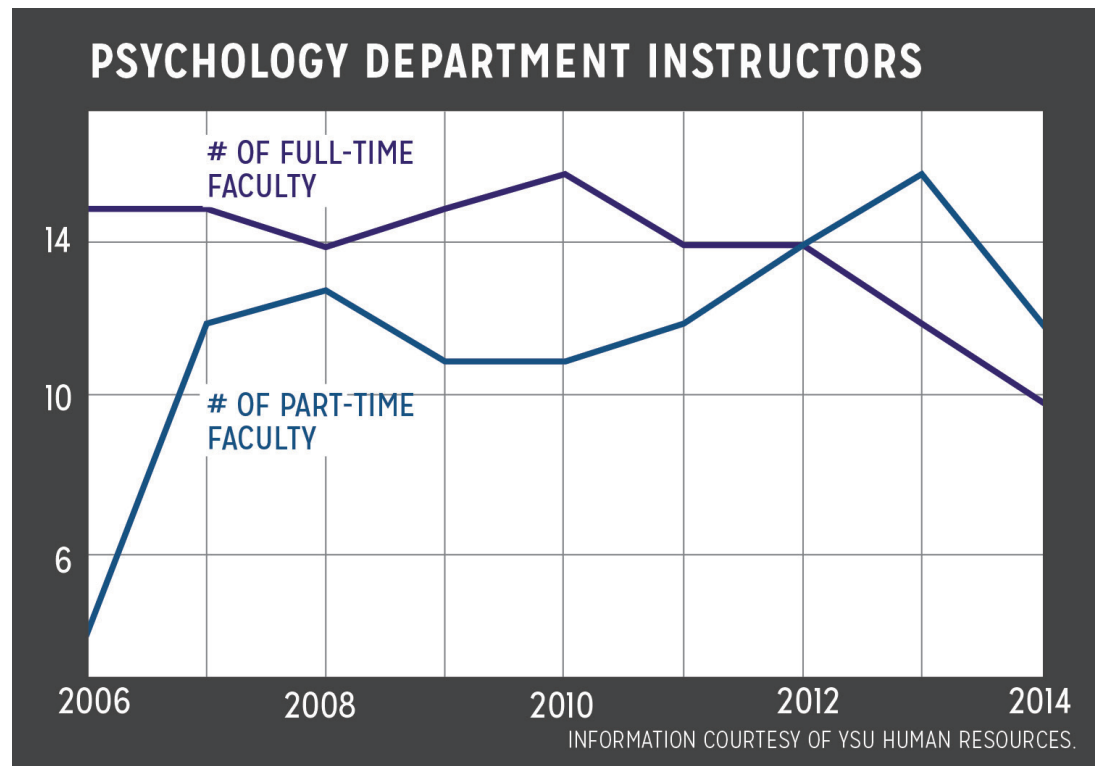
Today, the psychology department employs 10 full-time faculty members, down from 15 in 2006. Meanwhile, the number of part-time instructors has tripled, from four in 2006 to 12 today.

Faculty Turnover: Not by Design

Since last spring, three full-time psychology professors — Michael Clayton, Julie Boron and Melanie Shoup-Knox — have left the university. Clayton and Boron unexpectedly announced their departures late this summer.

The psychology department placed a request with the office of the provost to fill these three faculty positions, and at the end of fall semester, the provost's office approved the hiring of two new tenure-track professors and one new term professor.

Interim Provost Martin Abraham indicated that the reduction of faculty members in the psychology department



is neither by design nor a campus-wide trend.

"If you look at an individual department, you may see that [a reduction of faculty] has occurred, but if you look at other places across the university, you'd see that the opposite has occurred. We've added full time and we've reduced part time in other areas," Abraham said. "I wouldn't say that [a reduction of full-time faculty] has been part of any plan, even within the psychology department."

In fact, Abraham said the university has "made the effort to fill [psychology] positions with full-time faculty over the past several years."

"The primary reason as to why we get part-time faculty is because we have a teaching need that is not met by our full-time faculty," he said. "We bring the part time to fill in where there is a hole in the teaching requirements. I am not interested in seeing YSU take on a larger part-time footprint."

When asked why the psychology department has lost so many full-time faculty members, both Karen Giorgetti, chair of the psychology department, and Jane Kestner, interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, pointed to an aging set of faculty.

"We had an older faculty. I started here eleven years ago and I was the youngest faculty member. Everyone else had been here about twenty years or more," Giorgetti said. "So, they're all going to go out around the same amount of time ... so there are a lot of retirements and you can't rehire immediately."

Kestner agreed. "There was a big hiring push in the late '70s, early '80s," Kestner said. "Because there were so many people hired at the same time, probably five or six, they all reached retirement — or were qualified to retire — at the same time. Part of the turnover in

that department has been normal turnover due to the aging of the faculty."

Some former YSU faculty members, however, reject this explanation.

Former Faculty Speak Out

Both Boron and Clayton, who left YSU this past summer, agreed to an interview with The Jambar. Shoup-Knox, who also left the university last year, declined to make comment. Though these former professors acknowledged that retirement has played a role in faculty departures, they also said the work environment in YSU's psychology department forced many young faculty members to leave, which poses a potential problem regarding the longevity of future hires.

"The change in the number of full-time faculty has been a combined result of retirements and turnover," Boron said. "For retirements, there have been at least five in the past seven years, with possibly two more to come at the end of this year. For turnover, only three of the 11 faculty members hired since 2004 remain, with most having left after just one or two years at YSU. Although I do not know each individual's specific reason for leaving, any one or more of the following were likely contributors: teaching load,

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WILL FEWER SCHOLARS MEAN MORE HONORS?

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Efforts to restructure the Youngstown State University Scholars Program have proven controversial amongst current Scholars and alumni.

One of President Jim Tressel's earliest endeavors after his installation centered on his belief that restructuring was necessary within

the scholars program. The restructuring has been in development through the fall 2014 semester and will likely begin in earnest during the fall 2015 semester.

The purpose for the change, as Tressel stated, focused on desiring "more, better students" on campus, specifically as a part of the scholars program. This would require that the funds currently allocated to fuel the

scholars program be spread out to accommodate a larger group of students. In doing so, there will be more honors students, but few with tuition, room and board covered.

Following the release of Tressel's intentions to change the program, the Scholars held a planning meeting at

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TEDxYoungstown On Its Way



PHOTO BY GRAIG GRAZIOSI/THE JAMBAR.

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On Jan. 23 the curtains in Bliss Hall's Ford Theater will open for the second annual TEDxYoungstown event, and tickets will be going on sale soon.

The event — licensed under TED, a non-profit organization devoted to "Ideas Worth Spreading" — is a collection of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience in Youngstown.

The cost of regular attendance is \$75, along with a processing fee on the TEDxYoungstown website. Starting Jan. 21, any remaining tickets will be available at a 50 percent discount to all college students in the Mahoning Valley, along with any senior citizen 65 years and older on Jan. 22.

Lori Shandor, the curator of TEDxYoungstown, explained that the easiest way to purchase tickets is through TEDxYoungstown.com, and that any remaining tickets will be sold at the door on opening night.

"We decided to offer this discount to afford a greater opportunity to these two audiences who, traditionally, have a lesser amount of disposable income," Shandor said. "By reducing the cost, we feel that we are opening TEDxYoungstown up to a broader audience thereby encouraging diversity and a broader range of backgrounds."

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PHOTO BY ALAN RODGES/THE JAMBAR.



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Based on early ticket sales, Shandor expects this year's event to draw a bigger crowd than last year's.

"I absolutely feel the event is gaining popularity," she said. "We have already sold more tickets this year than we did last year and continue to sell more everyday."

The theme of this year's TEDx event is "Breaking Boundaries" — a topic Shandor believes to be appropriate for the Youngstown area.

"Breaking Boundaries was selected as the 2015 theme by the committee due to the current state of the Valley. We have come so far, but still have progress to make. We wanted to address the boundaries that we have broken, that we will break and that we should break," Shandor said.

There will be 15 speakers at the event, ranging from a magician to a doctor to a unique cricket cuisine enthusiast.

Wilson Okello, a Youngstown native and Youngstown State University graduate, will speak at the event, addressing topics regarding students' self image.

"I was introduced to TED talks through a mentor in graduate school," Okello said.

Okello is a first year adviser at Miami University and has a bachelor's degree in education and integrated social studies, and an adolescence to young adult teaching license from YSU. He also has earned his master's in human development and family studies: college student personnel from the University of Rhode Island.

He gave positive remarks about TEDxYoungstown, viewing it as a platform to reach people.

"I see it as a powerful and compelling space to speak your truth. A friend made me aware of the opportunity to be involved and suggested that I submit my work," Okello said.

Shandor and Okello share the same views about the event, and are both excited for Jan. 23.

"I love being a part of TEDxYoungstown. Connecting people and ideas with each other is an amazing thing to be a part of, and I can't wait to see where things go over the next few years," Shandor said. "It is not often you get a chance to be a part of something bigger than yourself. TEDxYoungstown offers me that opportunity."

Third Party Expected to Enhance Enrollment

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Last fall, Youngstown State University made the effort to improve enrollment by hiring the third-party enrollment manager Royall & Company. Though the full impact of this hire cannot yet be determined, administrators have pointed to some preliminary signs of success.

Royall's primary role is to increase the pool of applicants available to YSU. Comparing last year's application statistics to this year's, it would appear that Royall has done its job.

Elaine Ruse, director of the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, noted the increase in offered scholarships partly due to Royall and Company's involvement.

"Last year at this time we had offered approximately 450 scholarships in kind of our main program; this year we've offered 1,400 to students who have been accepted. A lot of that has to do with Royall & Company going out and kind of

widening that net and attracting more students to apply to the university," Ruse said.

Not only has the number of offered scholarships increased, but the number of in-state and out-of-state students who have applied and been admitted has also increased.

Comparing students who were admitted in fall 2014 to students already admitted for fall 2015, there has also been an increase in ACT scores and high school grade point averages — a positive sign for a university that relies on state funding, which has become increasingly tied to graduation rates.

"More good students have applied that we've offered scholarships to, so that's a positive sign — to be so far ahead of that curve. So we're cautiously optimistic," Ruse said. "May 1 is the universal date that students have to accept their scholarship offer. So we should have a better idea on or after May 1. If many of these students have gone ahead and accepted the merit offer, then hopefully that means they're going to follow through and enroll for that semester."

Gary Swegan, associate vice president of enrollment and management, explained that Royall

will only have a minimal impact on this spring's enrollment numbers, even though next fall's enrollment numbers are expected to be positively impacted.

He summarized the task of Royall, explaining that the university's "work with Royall is really just about the freshman market."

"[Royall] engaged with us and our contract with them was to start looking at high school seniors, so that won't come into effect until the fall," Swegan said. "[Royall] built the new online applications for us, and when they put those on the website, students that are applying for spring would have applied through the online app. But, we didn't do any marketing to them, so their work did not touch the spring people."

YSU creates a budget based not on headcount enrollment numbers, but on a number referred to as a full-time equivalence measurement, or FTE — a statistical analysis that combines the total number of credit hours students are currently taking at YSU, and divides this total by twelve. YSU's FTE was down by 6.3 percent last fall and is expected to be down 4.72 percent this spring.



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NEWS BRIEFS

**Academic YSU-OEA
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Scholarship**

YSU-OEA seeks applicants for the annual Academic Union Heritage Scholarship. The award supports students who have a personal or family connection to the labor movement and are pursuing their educational goals at YSU. The \$1000 scholarship aids in defraying academic expenses such as tuition, fees or books of the winner. Eligibility: Awarded to current YSU students who have completed a minimum of 31 semester hours. GPA requirement is as follows: 2.75 or higher, if applying as a sophomore (at least 31 s.h.); 3.00 or higher, if applying as a junior (at least 62 s.h.); 3.25 or higher, if applying as a senior (at least 93 s.h.); 3.5 or higher, if applying as a graduate student. Affiliation with organized labor; past or current union membership by applicant (2+ years) or member of applicant's family (5+ years). Need is a consideration; FAFSA must be completed. Please see application for further details.

**Laser Shows
Rock Planetarium
Jan. 23 and 24**

Due to popular demand, the Ward Beecher Planetarium is bringing back laser light shows featuring the sights and sounds of rock music's most famous bands. The shows will be Friday and Saturday, Jan. 23 and 24, on the following schedule: 5 p.m., Laser Vinyl (Classic Rock); 6 p.m., Laser Retro (80s New Wave); 7 p.m., Laser Beatles; 8 p.m., Laser Led Zeppelin; 9 p.m., Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon" (full album); 10 p.m., Pink Floyd's "The Wall" (excerpts).

**College of Business
Earns Accreditation**

YSU's Williamson College of Business Administration has earned the accreditation for undergraduate and graduate programs from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). This accreditation places the WCBA in the top 5 percent of the world. Currently 716 business schools in 48 countries and territories have earned accreditation from the AACSB.

number of course preparations, lack of collegiality and appreciation."

Clayton added that disrespectful interactions were common, calling the workplace an "abusive environment."

"I had to witness other faculty being harassed relentlessly in faculty meetings," Clayton said.

Josh Stephens, a former student assistant in the psychology department, corroborated Boron's and Clayton's complaints, concluding that an uncomfortable work environment likely contributed to a loss of faculty members.

"A lot of change needs to be done within the department if they don't want to lose any more faculty members. I think somebody needs to be in charge who is committed and cares about the students, because if you don't have that, the whole department is going to crumble," Stephens said.

Giorgetti responded to these allegations, ensuring that the department does not condone abuse. However, she acknowledged that some faculty members have engaged in disagreements over "philosophical differences," but said these disagreements have not denigrated into bullying.

"Bullying is in the eye of the beholder; you have to feel bullied," she said. "Did I see bullying? No."

Clayton and Boron also expressed dissatisfaction with the schedule of classes, one that, they say, required a burdensome teaching load that discouraged faculty research and overused part-time instructors.

"Our teaching load discourages applicants that consider research experience," Clayton said. "There is no culture of academic scholarship. After the faculty gets tenure, they are discouraged from doing further research."

Boron echoed Clayton's claim and also made negative comment on the department's use of part-time instructors.

"The full-time faculty do not have any say on the hiring of part timers, that is completely at the discretion of the chair," Boron said. "At some other universities, part-time faculty are only asked/permitted to teach introductory level courses; if they teach an upper division course, it is because they have extensive expertise in that area. That does not seem to be the case at YSU."

Giorgetti said that the creation of a course schedule, though, is a democratic process.

"Every single time we have to produce a schedule, faculty are asked, 'What do you want to teach? When do you want to teach it?'" Giorgetti said.

Cafaro House, where options ranging from picketing the president's house to letter campaigns, were discussed. Ultimately, the Scholars decided to wait for the administration's plans to solidify before responding.

Betty Jo Licata, dean of the Williamson College of Business Administration — who has been tasked with overseeing the changes coming to the scholars program — held an open forum event later in the fall semester during which she explained some of the proposed changes and heard feedback from a small group of current Scholars.

"We'll be keeping the same criteria for the honors program, but there will be a limit of eight to nine full ride scholarships awarded within the program," Licata said.

The reformed program will allow for more students to pick up partial- and full-

tuition scholarships without room and board.

Michael Slavens, YSU Student Government Association President, represents student interests to the administration and is a member of the scholars program.

"It's a numbers game. The way it is now, there is a large amount of money going to a relatively small number of students. In order to conform to the lofty but important goal of 'more, better students' people felt that the money could be used to attract more students if it wasn't full rides," Slavens said. "I don't necessarily agree with this logic because it doesn't factor in the intangible benefits of the program by just looking at the money."

The restructuring of the scholars program has fallen in line with Tressel's overall goal of raising the school's income through focusing on attracting more non-regional

Ultimately, Clayton concluded that the operations of the psychology department are "immoral and unethical."

"I did not want to leave my job at YSU. I had tenure, promotion to associate, a very generous salary, by state university standards, and a significant other in Youngstown. I was willing to give up all that for the sake of my professional and personal well-being," he said.

The Jambar requested all personnel complaints filed on faculty members in the psychology department; within the past five years, there were no complaints on file with human resources or the psychology department.

Educational Consequences

Regardless of the cause, there has been an increase in the number of part-time instructors. And this has had an impact in the classroom.

Giorgetti indicated that the psychology department has made an internal departmental decision to compose standardized tests for courses taught by part-time faculty, prohibiting these instructors from amending the tests that they must administer.

Some students expressed dissatisfaction with this decision. Angelica McKenney, a psychology minor, had the following to say about a part-time faculty member who taught her Psychology of Intimate Relationships course.

"He didn't get to write the curriculum for his class. He didn't get to decide what was on the test. He didn't get to decide what we would study in the class. They gave him the book and they gave him the test, but he never saw [the tests] before we took them," McKenney said. "So, he didn't even know what would be on them, so he just had to teach us blindly and hope that he hit on all the major material."

Sarah Mindek, a psychology major, shared McKenney's sentiment.

"For social psych, I had a part-time faculty member, and like a lot of the other students are saying, she taught a class, she required attendance, but literally everything she taught us in class was not even on the test because that was made by the department," Mindek said.

Giorgetti declined to comment on the department's decision to compose standardized tests for courses taught by part-timers. She did, however, ensure that student success remains her primary concern.

"We are working for the good of the students and the department as a whole," she said. "Every single faculty member has helped in some way to deal with this lack of faculty resources — everyone has helped."

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students, which currently only make up 14 percent of YSU's student population.

"If we want to compete at the next level, we'll need to have a concentrated effort to bring new students in [to the university]," Tressel said.

According to Licata, an expanded honors program will become a central element of YSU's marketing strategy.

"We want to make the honors program a centerpiece to the marketing of the YSU experience ... we want to create dynamic events for honors students and specific places for honors students, though don't want to foster elitism among the students. We want to foster community within the honors program and between the program and the rest of campus," Licata said. "It's all about building a bigger, more enhanced program."

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YSU Showcases Local Schools' Artwork



PHOTOS BY GABRIELLE FELLOWS/THE JAMBAR.

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The Judith Rae Solomon Gallery and the fourth floor art department in Bliss Hall at Youngstown State University will be home once again for the Northeastern Ohio Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition.

The exhibit opened Jan. 12 and will run through Jan. 29, showcasing artwork from students in Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana and Ashtabula counties in grades 7-12.

Students whose art is entered into the gallery have an opportunity to win a variety of awards, including Gold and Silver Key awards and Honorable Mentions. The art in the competition is chosen by each high school's art teacher and

is meant to best represent the participating school's most outstanding student work.

Eddie Davidson, advisory committee member of the awards exhibition, said that the exhibit has shown increased interest and support from the community and it is clearly visible in the number of participants in the show alone.

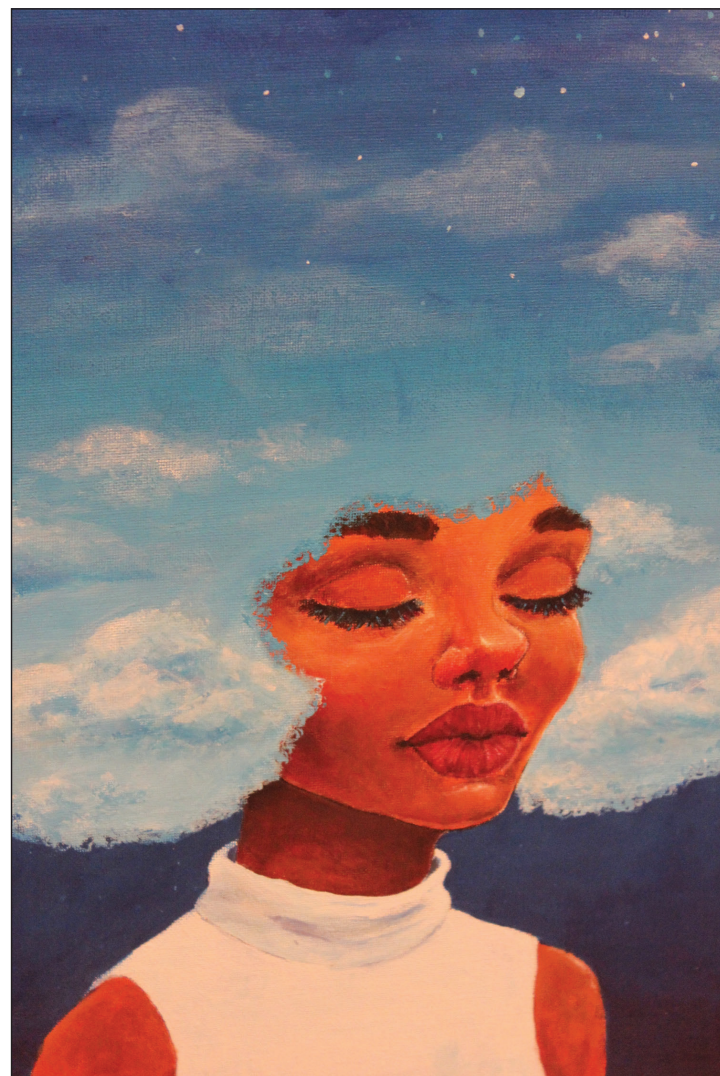
"Each school can enter up to 25 pieces where before, last year, there was only nine," Davidson said. "As for awards, a couple people who teach at the university level and a couple of people who are retired high school art teachers judge them, so they know what to expect from each level of artist. All the art is judged online ... which takes away some of the depth at times and you can't see all the detail in the work ... but it's the way of the

future, it seems. These judges are the ones who delegate all the awards."

These entries are then judged and given awards. Any participant whose art receives either an American Visions Award or a Gold Key award will be then sent to New York City to compete with other students across the nation for other awards and possible scholarships.

Davidson said she believes the community recognition of the student's artwork is extremely beneficial to the confidence of the young blossoming artists.

"I think that the recognition for some students is life-changing and encourages them to pursue a career in art where they may have just dismissed it otherwise as praise from their high school teacher," she



said. "This gives them the opportunity to be recognized at the regional level."

William Young, coordinator of the event, also said he strongly believes that students having art in the exhibit motivates young artists to excel in their talents.

"The Scholastic Art Awards is the one of the most prestigious art shows for students in grades 7-8 and 9-12. When I was a high school student, I remember receiving the letter informing me that my work was accepted into the show and that it won a Gold Key. I was deeply moved when

my parents and teacher came to ceremony at Youngstown State University," Young said. "Seeing my work, next to other award-winning works, validated, for me, my ability in art and influenced my decision to attend YSU and major in art education."

"So I do believe that the Scholastic Art Awards positively affects students' confidence in their art abilities. My favorite part about the show is honoring the students. I look forward to shaking each and every student's hand and congratulating them on their accomplishments."

Heavy Metal on Steel Street Lo-Pan at Cedars West End Saturday

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Heavy sounds will reverberate through the ears of those at Cedars West End this Saturday evening and ring for days to come.

Lo-Pan, Columbus heavy rock outfit, is headlining a show Saturday at Cedars, accompanied by local metal acts CVTTVNMVVTH (Cottonmouth) and Resinaut.

Lo-Pan takes its name from the supernatural villain from the action cult film, "Big Trouble in Little China." The group has been together for nearly a decade and has made large bounds in the scene, opening for noteworthy acts such as High on Fire, Weedeater, KENmode, Whores, Fu Manchu and Torche.

Lo-Pan released its third full-length album, "Colossus," in October of last year. Saturday's show is a precursor to a Midwest tour Lo-Pan will be taking beginning March 12 in Detroit.

Kenneth Halbert III is the drummer and a vocalist for space doom metal band, CVTTVNMVVTH. Halbert has also played in other bands, such as Youngstown Batt Lion and Kill the Hippies.

"Lo-Pan has been doing Lo-Pan for a while, and we respect them a lot," Halbert said.

CVTTVNMVVTH was originally formed at a junkyard in New Springfield in 1993. Shortly after, the band took a hiatus lasting 18 years.

"We decided to start playing again because we were bored," Halbert said.

CVTTVNMVVTH draws inspiration for their sound from notable industrial, sludge, doom and straight-forward metal bands such as Black Sabbath, Fudge Tunnel, Kyuss and Godflesh.

"We like to keep things simple and nasty," Halbert said. "All these years later, we realized we were still interested in those types of bands."

CVTTVNMVVTH will be the opening act for Saturday's event.

"This is a legit musical happening in the Youngstown area, featuring an internationally known band, two heavy and sweet support bands and it's at Cedars," Halbert said. "So you have that. You have a cheap cover, Pete Dinklage doing sound, cheap drinks — shame on anyone who complains there's never anything to do, yet chooses to stay home that night and play Xbox."

Joe Sinkovich is the lead vocalist for Resinaut. He is heavily embedded in the Youngstown music scene, running the Supporting Your Local Music page on Facebook.



PHOTO COURTESY BY LO-PAN.

Vocalist Jeff Martin and drummer Jesse Bartz from Columbus rock group Lo-Pan playing a gig last March. Lo-Pan will be headlining a show Saturday at Cedars West End.

"We played with CVTTVNMVVTH at Cedars a few months ago, and are really looking forward to playing with them and the mighty Lo-Pan this Saturday," Sinkovich said.

Resinaut was conceived this past July when Sinkovich and guitarist Matt Servenack's bands both broke up on the same day. Sinkovich said their first practice was a success, and Resinaut has not stopped

playing since.

Resinaut plays in a stoner/sludge metal style, accompanied by, as Sinkovich described it, vocals that are a little different for the genre.

"Cedars is a great venue with a real nice sound system and cool atmosphere," Sinkovich said.

Despite Resinaut's short existence, the members have high hopes for the future of the band.

"As far as what is next, who knows?" Sinkovich said. "More awesome, I'm sure."

Cedars West End is located at 706 Steel Street in Youngstown. Doors open at 9 p.m. and the show begins at 10 p.m. Admission is \$5.

"We urge everyone to come out, and will do our best to barf stars on your heads," Halbert said.

EDITORIAL

Sense After The Senseless

On Jan. 7, 2015, two gunmen stormed into the headquarters of French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and killed 12 people. During the attack, the gunmen yelled “the Prophet is avenged.”

As most of the world by now knows, this cowardly attack was due to the various depictions of the Islamic prophet Muhammad by the magazine — a trend that has incurred outrage and violence for the magazine before.

This is an attack against free speech, plain and simple, and — though there is a valuable debate budding throughout the world of journalism about the value of Hebdo’s oftentimes offensive speech — most agree that these individuals died as martyrs for free speech. So before launching into the editorial proper, we would, as many fellow publications have already done, like to express our solidarity with Paris and Charlie Hebdo.

When there is a sudden and senseless attack, such as the one described above, by a government or singular organization, it is easy for us to direct our animus toward a singular source: the agencies that commit them. The attacks in Paris are different; they are perpetrated by singular individuals under a creed, but not necessarily a singular force or organization — other than a potential ISIS affiliation. They commit atrocities in the name of a radical ideal.

This is amorphous; this is abstract. It doesn’t seem quite right to simply direct our indignation to the perpetrators alone. They are not simply lone gunmen with a craving for attention or a mental illness; they profess a dogma, but the idea of radical Islam is both evasive and invasive. It is difficult to understand and harder to control.

After terrorist attacks on soil that is supposed to be a safe haven, people will always search for something to demonstrably blame, but blaming a pernicious idea does not provide the proper target for definitive action. Unfortunately, this means that many French, European and Americans will find all of Islam’s billions of practitioners to partly be to blame.

It has already begun: three training grenades were thrown

at a mosque in Le Mans, gunshots were fired at a mosque in Port-la-Nouvelle and a boar’s head and entrails were placed at an Islamic prayer center in Corsica with a menacing note that read, “next time it will be one of your heads.”

Across Europe, the growing Islamic immigration rates — as many seek asylum from their war-torn homelands — have been a great source of irritation and ire among European natives. In France, an estimated 7.5 percent of the population is Islamic, via the Pew Research Center; in Sweden 17 percent of its population is foreign born, with a large chunk being made up of Muslim immigrants making use of Sweden’s liberal asylum policies.

According to “Stockholm Syndrome,” an article published in Foreign Affairs in May 2014, 85 percent of citizens within Husby, a Stockholm suburb, are foreign born or have two foreign-born parents. Unemployment hovers at around 16 percent for foreign-born Swedes, twice as high as the rate for natives.

Sweden’s trouble with immigrants reflects well the conundrum the rest of Europe is facing — particularly in France, Germany, Italy and Britain — the foreign-born population, specifically the Muslim population, is not assimilating well. Countries like Sweden and France are accusing Muslims of sapping their benefits and damaging their economy, as well as refusing to assimilate within the culture of the country. As a direct result, xenophobic and far right groups, such as the Sweden Democrats and the French’s National Front, are gaining increasing traction in parliamentary elections.

The truth of the matter is more complex than either radical side seems willing to perceive — boiling down to a clash of cultures with fundamentally dissimilar value systems and a propensity to accuse the opposing side for their refusal to cooperate or understand. But what does all this have to do with these horrific attacks on Charlie Hebdo?

If there was an anti-Islamic sentiment among the native people of Europe already, these attacks will not throw just kindling on the fire but

gasoline. Certainly these attacks have proven that there is a radical Islamic presence in Europe, and it is likely growing. What percentage of the Islamic population of Europe is radical? That is a hard number to grasp, but there is no doubt it is rather small — even smaller when you consider which among them would be willing to act on extremist sentiments. Still the people of Europe feel unsafe in their own cities and all they know is that the blame lies on a few Muslims.

Unfortunately, in many citizens’ minds, two Islamic terrorists make all Muslims potential terrorists. In this fear, they don’t want politicians explaining that the majority of their Muslim population is moderate and peaceful; they want action — they want the action radical parties can promise.

What some Europeans do not realize is that taking up the mantra of the radical political parties is what the terrorists truly do want. They want Muslim children living and growing up in slums surrounded by a Western world that has nothing but spite for them for reasons they could not possibly control. They want to be the heroes to these children — taking them under their wing and helping them fight oppression. This strategy of appealing to lost and disillusioned children who want the power to act upon an insane and unfair world has been a winning strategy in the Middle East with ISIS, why not in Europe?

The European far right parties are correct — there is an assimilation problem, but the way to deal with this problem is not to further isolate those who have issues assimilating. Even if they were to close the borders to further immigrants, the actions they propose to take — many of which show obvious prejudice in their execution — would not save France from the immigrant scourge, but further polarize and radicalize each side of the argument.

Paris is grieving; the world is grieving; an act of brutal and sudden chaos fell upon a typically peaceful and civilized world. It was an event that struck such a sharp dichotomy with the traditional values of the Western world that it is impossible not to feel some outrage. But this is not the time for impulsive action in an attempt to squash a threat whose parameters are not well understood. There are more victims to be had out of this tragedy among both the Islamic and native European population if the so-called Western world turns to xenophobia as a solution.

Home, Office of Controversial Hong Kong Media Mogul Attacked

Violet Law and Julie Makinen

Los Angeles Times (TNS)

HONG KONG — Unidentified attackers hurled Molotov cocktails at the home and office of a vocal anti-Communist media mogul early Monday, the latest in a string of attacks aimed at media figures in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

No injuries were reported in the attacks, which happened shortly after 1 a.m. local time. In the first case, a hooded figure hopped out of an SUV and lobbed an ignited bottle full of flammable fluid at the gated home of Jimmy Lai, founder and owner of Next Media. The attack was captured by a closed-circuit camera in Lai’s tony hillside neighborhood.

Next Media publishes Apple Daily, a newspaper popular for its criticism of the Hong Kong administration and the Chinese central government.

At nearly the same time, officials said, someone hurled a similar flaming bottle out of a moving dark-colored sedan outside the entrance of Next Media headquarters in an industrial park about 12 miles away.

In both attacks, security guards on site put out the fires within minutes.

Hong Kong, a territory of 7.2 million people, is known for its low crime rate, and such attacks are extremely rare. The city, a former British colony, reverted to Chinese sovereignty in 1997 and is governed under a framework known as “one country, two systems” that grants it Western-style media freedoms.

Nevertheless, Lai and other media figures have been subject to attacks with increasing frequency as of late, raising concerns that free speech is under assault in the territory.

In February 2014, Kevin Lau, a former top editor of the newspaper Ming Pao, another high-circulation daily, was stabbed by assailants wielding meat cleavers after he ate breakfast at a local restaurant. The incident bore signs of being the work of Triad gangs, which operate in the territory.

Lai, who made his fortune in the clothing industry before making a foray into publishing in the early 1990s, has been the most visible financial backer of Occupy Central, the pro-democracy movement that drew tens of thousands of demonstrators into the streets last fall. During the protests, a number of known Triad gang members were arrested after getting into physical confrontations with democracy demonstrators. Occupy participants said they believed opponents of the movement had enlisted Triad members to attack and intimidate protesters.

In mid-October, anti-Occupy demonstrators surrounded Next Media offices and disrupted delivery of the newspaper for nearly a week. Two men swore at Lai and tossed a bag of animal innards at him.

After the protests began in

late September, Lai had been a regular at the Admiralty district encampment site and was often seen working under a canopy there.

Lai was also among those arrested in a sit-in in early December, when protesters sought to resist moves by police to clear the main encampment site in Admiralty. After his arrest, Lai resigned as publisher of the newspaper and chairman of Next Media, although he remains the public face of the media empire.

Apple Daily reported that Lai’s home has been subject to bomb attacks twice since 1993. Neither case was solved, and media attack cases in the city in general have a low clearance rate.

Police said they were investigating Monday’s twin attacks as arson.

“As a city that is governed by the rule of law, we don’t condone and I certainly condemn such acts,” said the city’s justice minister, Rimsy Yuen. “And I trust that Hong Kong police will do their best to investigate.”

Shirley Yam, vice chairman of the Hong Kong Journalists Association, sharply denounced Monday’s attacks and called on police to do more to prevent such incidents and solve open cases.

“The Apple Daily and its management have been the target of a series of violent actions or threats over the past 12 months,” she said. “We are disappointed that no arrest has been made so far. We call on the Hong Kong police to take serious action against the attacks.”

“We strongly condemn any violence on any media regardless of its political stance. Some may not agree with the editorial line of the Apple Daily or its management in particular during the Occupy movement,” Yam added. “However, this should not justify any physical attack on them.”

In addition to physical intimidation of figures such as Lai and Lau, local and international journalism groups have expressed concern that Hong Kong’s once-vibrant media are being cowed by advertising boycotts, efforts by Beijing to interfere in news reporting, self-censorship by reporters, and a decision by Hong Kong officials to deny a broadcast license to an outlet perceived as critical.

Paris-based Reporters Without Borders ranked Hong Kong’s media freedom at 61st worldwide in 2014, a decline from 58th in 2013 and 18th in 2002. “The Chinese Communist Party’s growing subjugation of the Hong Kong executive and its pressure on the Hong Kong media ... (are) increasingly compromising media pluralism there,” the group said.

“China’s growing economic weight is allowing it to extend its influence over the media in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, which had been largely spared political censorship until recently,” the group added. “Media independence is now in jeopardy in these three territories.”

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, 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.

YOUR SIDE POLICY

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.

Americans Will Have More to Spend if Gas Stays Low

By Kevin G. Hall
McClatchy Washington Bureau (TNS)

WASHINGTON — If oil and gasoline prices remain at their current unusually low levels, Americans will have a lot more to spend on other things.

That’s the conclusion of the AAA Motor Club, which on Dec. 31 projected huge savings for 2015.

In its December gas price report, AAA concluded that Americans saved about \$14 billion on gasoline last year compared to 2013.

The trend will only accelerate if things stay as they are, with the price for a barrel of West Texas Intermediate crude oil in the ballpark of \$53 on Friday, and in the international reference Brent crude oil at \$56 a barrel.

“It would not be surprising for U.S. consumers to save \$50-75 billion on gasoline in 2015 if prices remain low,” said Michael Green, a AAA spokesman.

U.S. average gasoline prices declined \$1.44 per gallon, or about 39 percent, AAA said, since reaching their high of \$3.70 a gallon last April 28.

Over the entire year, gasoline averaged about \$3.34 a

gallon nationwide, about 15 cents below the 2013 average. Absent a shock to oil supplies, the annual average is likely to be considerably lower in 2015, perhaps below \$3.00 a gallon, AAA said.

Historically, gasoline prices begin rising in late February, by as much as 30 cents to 50 cents a gallon, as refiners begin maintenance in preparations for fuels used in warmer spring and summer weather.

On the first work day of 2015, the national average price for a gallon of unleaded gasoline stood at 2.231 on Friday. That’s down from \$2.76 a month ago and \$3.325 a year ago.

Tressel Goes to the Hall

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On Jan. 9, Youngstown State University President Jim Tressel was notified of his induction into the College Football Hall of Fame for the class of 2015.

Tressel was told about his induction several days before a formal release was made available to the public. Tressel was honored during the College Football Playoff National Championship on Jan. 12th.

"I got a text to call Steve Hatchel at the National Football Foundation, so I called him and he alerted me," Tressel said. "The official way they alert you is they send you an autographed ball with painted on it 'Class of 2015.' I had a chance to hear from Steve and talk about a lot of the things that will occur over the next year with the class' recognition."

Tressel coached at YSU from 1986-2000, compiling 10 winning seasons and six appearances in the Division I-AA National Championship, and winning four championships (1991, 1993, 1994, 1997) during his tenure with the Penguins.

After his stay at YSU, Tressel took the head coaching job at Ohio State University. He coached in Columbus from 2001-2010. During his tenure at OSU, Tressel compiled a 94-21 record and took the Buckeyes to 3 BCS National Championships, including OSU's National Championship victory over the University of Miami (Florida) in 2003.

"I'm sure it hasn't sunk in because it was just a couple days ago that I was told that

this has gone on, and I think of all the extraordinary people who entered the hall," Tressel said. "The thought of being in with this class that is coming in is humbling to say the least, and you begin reflecting on all the student athletes that made it possible and all the staffs and all the coaches that gave you jobs."

"I guess really for me the culmination, the fact that my dad is in the Hall of Fame has always been really special to me and to join him is special."

Lee Tressel, President Tressel's father, coached at Baldwin Wallace University and was inducted in the Hall of Fame in 1996. With President Tressel's induction, the Tressel family will be the first father-son duo in the Hall of Fame.

"I had been coaching awhile before he was in the Hall of Fame," President Tressel said. "When he got into the Hall of Fame it was a special time for my family — he was not living unfortunately. I'm sure there were fleeting moments when you have those quiet reflective times that don't last long and don't come often that you think 'gosh, wouldn't that be cool if that happened.' If you think too long about that, then chances are it won't happen because you wouldn't be doing what you need to do. Obviously that was one of the first things I thought about when the call came. I don't know how many fathers and sons are in the Hall of Fame, but I'm sure it can't be many."

While Tressel is honored to become one of the newest members of the Hall of Fame, he admits that he never thought about it during his coaching career. He attributes his success as a coach



PHOTO COURTESY OF DUSTIN LIVESAY.

Youngstown State University President Jim Tressel was honored during halftime of the homecoming football game on Nov. 16, 2013.

to the student athletes and coaches that he worked with throughout the years.

"Because it's a part of a long body of work — if you

will — it holds a great place," Tressel said. "That's not why anyone gets into coaching: that someday they will get into the Hall of Fame. It's a

byproduct of a lot of good fortune, a lot of great help, a lot of great staff, great student-athletes, great fans, family and a lot of luck."

The Enforcer in the Middle

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Any good basketball team needs an enforcer, that intimidating player in the middle of the defense to prevent the opposing offense from getting easy, uncontested baskets. For the Youngstown State University women's basketball team, that enforcer is Latisha Walker.

The senior forward, who goes by the nickname Tish, began her collegiate career at Xavier University in Cincinnati. Kevin McGuff, head coach at Xavier, was replaced after the 2010-2011 season by Amy Waugh. Under Waugh, Walker saw her playing time decrease and decided to transfer to YSU.

"Well I wasn't playing. Me and the coach really didn't get along," Walker said. "I thought, well, I like the school, but I came here for two reasons: to get an education and to play basketball. So after my first head coach left after my sophomore year, I decided to transfer to YSU."

Walker sat out the 2012-2013 season, her first season with the Penguins, due to NCAA transfer rules. She played in 31 games for the Penguins last season, including 22 starts.

"It just made me want to get out there even more because I had to sit out—basically I sat out for two years," Walker said.

Walker has protected the rim since coming to YSU. She

blocked 35 shots last season, the eighth-most in a single season in Penguins history. This season she's picking up where she left off. In the 15 games this season, Walker has recorded 24 blocks, including a career-high six blocks against Radford University. Walker's 24 blocks lead the team by a substantial margin. No one else on the team has more than six blocks this season. Her 1.6 blocks per game is currently fourth in the Horizon League.

"I love playing defense. I'd love to block a shot than score," Walker said. "That's just me; I've always been a defensive player. So I have to be not only a defensive player, but also an offensive player and score so that made me an all-around basketball player."

The team relies on Walker's ability in defense. Her presence in the middle of the defense has made a positive impact on the overall play of the team. The Penguins rank second in the Horizon League in field-goal defense percentage and second in scoring defense.

"She's there for us when we get beat off the dribble and she blocks a shot," senior Heidi Schlegel said. "Her presence there is just awesome because she is really big and she's strong and long. So her presence on defense is really a key to our game."

Walker has naturally progressed since seeing more playing time at YSU. While at Xavier, Walker only scored eight points and grabbed 11 rebounds in two seasons. Last season Walker only averaged 7.1 points and six rebounds



PHOTO COURTESY OF RON STEVENS.

Forward Latisha Walker (34) prepares to engage Pittsburgh center Cora McManus during YSU's Dec. 21 game at the Petersen Events Center in Pittsburgh. Walker finished the game with 15 points and 12 rebounds.

per game. She's improved her offensive play this season, averaging 11.7 points and 7.6 rebounds per game.

"I think over the last three

years she's been here she has gotten stronger, faster and mentally tougher and I think that has been key to her success this year," Schlegel said.

"She has been playing a lot harder and playing smarter. It has been awesome — it's been a key factor to our team winning this year."