



Student hospitalized, family suspects hazing

Doug Livingston
MANAGING EDITOR

A Youngstown State University student was admitted to St. Elizabeth Health Center late Wednesday night after reportedly being beaten. After several days in the intensive care unit, the circumstances behind his injuries have the university, students, his family and the YSU Greek system looking for answers.

According to a police report, ReSean Yancey, 20, was admitted to St. Elizabeth Health Center by a "lifelong friend" at 8 p.m. on Wednesday. The friend left before

ReSean Yancey's mother and grandparents arrived.

Police arrived at 10:45 a.m. on Thursday and observed that ReSean Yancey had been "assaulted and beaten by unknown subjects causing injuries, concussion and contusions all over his body," the report stated.

The father of the person who reportedly took ReSean Yancey to the hospital was contacted by The Jambar, but had "no answers" about the events that led to ReSean Yancey's hospitalization and was unable to contact his son at that time.

According to the police report, officers asked ReSean Yancey's mother and

grandmother about any recent suspicious activity. The two told police that ReSean Yancey was "going out late at night" and wearing extra layers of clothing because "he was hurting," the report stated.

Officers were unable to interview ReSean Yancey due to his critical condition, but the young man's family "indicated they feel this may be the results of a hazing," the report stated.

"In this case, no one knows exactly, or even peripherally, what happened at this point," Ron Cole, director of university communications, said on Friday. "But we

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Fostering
unconditional love

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Intern turns
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Artist Bill Dugan tattoos U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Justin Bator at the newly established Blue Magic in downtown Youngstown. Photo by Chris Cotelesse/The Jambar.

Blue Magic brands Youngstown Tattoo parlor open for business downtown

Chris Cotelesse
ONLINE EDITOR

Downtown Youngstown just got some fresh ink. Located on West Federal Street, Blue Magic is the newest addition to the city's business district.

The tattoo shop is owned and operated by Tim Adair, a former Mahoning County deputy sheriff. He said he wanted to get into the business for a while, but only recently followed through.

"I knew if I didn't do it, I'd always be thinking, 'What if?'" he said.

He took the name of his shop from the 2007 Denzel Washington film "American Gangster" about a heroin dealer who labels his product blue magic.

"In the movie, he calls his heroin blue magic, saying it's a superior product for a better price, and that's what we're trying to do here. We have better art at a somewhat better price,"



Adair said.

He gathered local artists with more than two decades of combined experience. Their styles range from the traditional gray and black associated

with urban communities to vivid colors.

"We've got something for every-

TATTOO PAGE 3

YSU searches for new chief of police

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

The search for Youngstown State University's next chief of police has been narrowed down to three candidates from a field of 18.

Shannon Tirone, head of the search committee, said interviews will be conducted this week. Open forums will also be held Tuesday through Thursday for members of the YSU community to ask

the candidates questions.

"We'll make a recommendation on Friday, if not Monday at the latest," Tirone said. "By the 13th or 14th, we're hoping to have something done, the candidate contacted and get their paperwork to [human resources]."

Tirone feels the group is moving as quickly as possible, despite the former chief, John Gocala, retiring Jan. 31.

"Obviously with [his retirement], there is no desire to leave it vacant," Tirone said. "Lt. [Michael] Cretella will do a

great job filling in, but he has no desire to stay in that position."

Mark Machan, the chief of the Milford Police Department, will hold court Tuesday at 1 p.m. He boasts 28 years of experience, with 15 in chief positions.

John Beshara, Mahoning County sheriff, will be available for questioning Wednesday at 2 p.m. Two of his three professional references are Sheriff Randall Wellington and Gocala.

CHIEF PAGE 2

Groups must pay to screen movies on campus

Alina Rios
REPORTER

Youngstown State University is taking a closer look at a law that has been around since 1976, and organizations that may once have been able to show movies on campus will now have to pay a \$350 licensing fee.

The law prohibits the public showing of movies and states that showing movies on campus, without permission, is considered a copyright infringement.

This law covers all movies played outside the home, regardless of ownership.

"You just can't start enforcing something that's been around forever but has been overlooked in the past," junior Stephanie Furman said. "That's going to be hard for students to follow if they never knew it was a rule before. It's going to be impossible to enforce."

YSU has followed the law in the past, and the licensing fees were pulled from the budget set aside for expenses.

The Office of Campus Recreation and Student Programming has looked into helping student organizations with the fees in the past.

"Our mission as a department is to do the best we can to assist and collaborate with student organizations. Each movie is subject to a licensing

MOVIES PAGE 3

CORRECTION

In Thursday's issue of The Jambar, we incorrectly labeled the Game of Hope photo on the front page. The photo is from the spring 2011 game, not the fall 2010 game. We regret the error.

HAZING PAGE 1

do know with a certain amount of certainty that it did not happen on campus. And that doesn't mean that we are not taking this any more or less seriously."

YSU fraternity presidents are denying any allegations of hazing, which have also been denounced by the university.

"Obviously, if this was a situation where there was any sort of hazing of any sort with any sort of fraternity on campus, or probably off campus for that matter, it's a situation that the university is going to obviously look into and take the steps that are necessary to ensure that that kind of stuff never happens again," Cole said.

Hazing is illegal under state law and fraternity policy. But some say that policing the Greek system is easier said than done.

"I don't necessarily think that it's the fault of the university," said Demaine Kitchen, ReSean Yancey's uncle. "You can regulate organizations, but I don't think you can really oversee them in terms of their day-to-day activities."

Kitchen and the university have a shared interest in ReSean Yancey's recovery and the capture of his alleged assailants.

"Our campus police are working with the YPD," Cole said. "Our main hope now is that the student who

has been injured gets well. ... Our thoughts and prayers go out to the student."

What happened

It's a matter of putting the pieces together as witnesses come forward, but safety is an issue for those who talk.

"I just need to make sure my son is going to be safe," Shaunda Yancey said Friday afternoon, outside of her son's hospital room in the intensive care unit at St. Elizabeth Health Center.

Shaunda Yancey refused any further comment, and Kitchen respects her silence and is concerned for the family's safety.

"If there are threats," Kitchen said he told Shaunda Yancey, "we need to know who these threats are coming from so we can get them off the streets."

Last week marked YSU's rush week, as hopeful pledges called "potentials" scouted out fraternities and sororities at YSU.

No records indicated that ReSean Yancey was part of, or was rushing for, any YSU fraternity.

Interfraternity Council President Dylan Thomas knew nothing about the incident. He is vehemently against hazing and cautions the IFC fraternities to abstain from such behavior. The fraternities have a set amount of pledges they can take, and under IFC regulation, no alcohol can be consumed during rush week.

"There is no hazing, period," Thomas said on Monday. "If it happens, they're gone. ... It's cut and dry."

Fraternities align

Fraternity presidents across campus reiterated Thomas' response. Six of the nine fraternities were contacted and all refuted any such behavior.

"I'm not aware of any of it," said Jimmy Mszanski, president of Sigma Chi. "All I know is my fraternity doesn't haze, and we are really strict to that code."

Along with criminal charges, Sigma Chi's nationals would revoke their charter if any such behavior surfaced.

"We don't take any part of that," said Gerald Gipson, president of Omega Psi Phi. "I can't stress it enough."

While all fraternities who responded denounced hazing, some were less likely to rule out the possibility of it happening at YSU.

"I don't even know how it's possible for the situation to come up. Now I'm not saying it hasn't happened," said Michael Koziorynsky, president of Alpha Phi Delta. He added that hazing is something only alumni talk about as a thing of the past.

The cause for ReSean Yancey's alleged assault is yet undetermined. But the student remained in the hospital over the weekend. Kitchen said his nephew is still "shaken" and "unwilling to talk."

He said he hopes that witnesses will come forward.

"Enough is enough," he said. "People go to college. Their parents send them off to college to get an education, not to end their lives."

CHIEF PAGE 1

Tirone said these references don't give Beshara any advantage over his competition.

"We haven't even gotten to that stage," Tirone said.

Beshara said he feels his 23 years working as an intermittent officer at YSU gives him a leg up on the competition.

"This is my university," Beshara said. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees from YSU, and his children are prospective YSU students.

"I know the buildings, the people, the students and the staff," Beshara said. "Whatever challenges arise, I'll handle them as best I can."

Thursday, Mark Hall, chief of police in Clarion Borough, Pennsylvania, will answer questions at 1 p.m.

A college town, Clarion provides Hall with an experience similar to the to the YSU Police Department job. However, the town lacks the mid-size population off campus, which makes the job particularly challenging.

"Although Mike is going to do a fantastic job for us, we're anxious to get a full-time chief of police on board," Tirone said.

Cretella and Hall declined to comment on the status of the search. Attempts to reach Machan were unsuccessful.



2012 YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Proverb of the Month: "Rising early makes the road short." Wolof proverb, Senegal

Saturday, February 4 Noon-6:00 p.m., Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center THE AFRICAN MARKETPLACE

The Marketplace is one of the popular attractions of African American History Month at YSU. In the tradition of an African weekly market, vendors from the community and neighborhoods near and far beyond Ohio bring goods, artistic creations, clothing, books, jewelry and ancient artifacts from Africa and the African Diaspora.

Thursday, February 9 5:00 p.m. Reception, Bliss Hall Art Gallery 6:00 p.m., Panel Discussion, The McDonough Museum of Art

RECEPTION AND PANEL DISCUSSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN ARTISTIC DISPLAY THE ART OF LOUIS BURROUGHS

Louis Burroughs' art is motivated by current events and what he calls "the nation's obsession with religion, sports and global domination." Influenced by the paintings of Jean Michael Basquiat and Robert Colescott as well as the forms and shapes of African masks and sculptures, his art is rooted in the African American experience, dating from the sixteenth century to the present.

Saturday, February 11 11:00 a.m. St. Andrews A.M.E. Church, 521 Earle Avenue, Youngstown

AFRICAN FITNESS DANCE CLASS Dance for a Cure is the initiative of Educare Group Inc., under the leadership of Eboni Bogan. Its goal is to raise awareness in the fight against breast cancer. Donations are \$10 for adults and \$5 for youth.

Monday, February 13 7:30 p.m. Jones Room, Kilcawley Center

KEYNOTE LECTURE BY HEIDI DURO: THE BIRACIAL/MIXED EXPERIENCE

Heidi W. Barrow is a New York Times best-selling author of The Girl Who Fell from the Sky, a coming of age story of a young, biracial girl growing up in the 1980s in Portland, Oregon. Based loosely upon elements of Duro's own life, the story has captivated readers across the nation, landing on the Indie Bestseller List and receiving an NAACP Image Award nomination. In 2008, The Girl Who Fell from the Sky received the Bellwether Prize for literature of social change.

Saturday, February 18 7:30 p.m. The Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center ENTERTAINMENT BY GROUP FROM NEW JERSEY

THE FACES OF BLACK HISTORY

The Prospect Theatrics of Newark, New Jersey is a drama group that has been performing all over the nation, bringing to life on stage the major contribution of African Americans to America from slavery to the first African American President of the United States.

Tuesday, February 21 7:30 p.m. The Gallery Room, Kilcawley Center

LECTURE BY SHAWN WILLIAMS: "BLOGGING WHILE BLACK"

With the rise in visibility and popularity of a black presidential candidate in Barack Obama in 2008, African Americans learned quickly to communicate their concerns through blogging. Bloggers who were not used to seeing African American bloggers often misunderstood black bloggers' message, while others downplayed the significance or urgency of their concerns, while others perceived them as generally antagonistic.

Sunday, February 26 6:00 p.m. The Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center

AN EVENING OF GOSPEL JAZZ

The precious gems of jazz and gospel, both of which are profoundly rooted in the rich heritage of the African American cultural experience, have been around for a long time. Join us as we explore these rich traditions through some of our most gifted and talented YSU students—and a special guest to be revealed that evening. This event is free and open to the public.

For more information contact the Africana Studies Program at 330-941-3097.

Event co-sponsored by: FOX 17 62, WYTV, CW 33 WVCB, 270 FIRSTNEWS, WYMI, my YTV. The Vindicator | Vindy.com. Youngstown STATE UNIVERSITY

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NEWS BRIEFS

Ray Charles' son to lecture at YSU

Ray Charles Robinson Jr., the oldest son of famous musician Ray Charles, is set to speak at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 16 in Kilcawley Center as a part of the Skeggs Lecture Series. The lecture, titled "Character, Education, Self-Reliance and Intellectual Independence," is free and open to the public. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Robinson will also attend a screening of the movie about his father, "Ray", at 2 p.m. on Feb. 16 in the auditorium of Williamson Hall. A Q-and-A session will be held after the screening.

Career day set for March 3

Pamela Gay, an astronomer, writer and podcaster, will be the featured speaker at the 15th annual Women in Science and Engineering Career Day on March 3. This event will last from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. It is specifically designed to expose young women in middle and high school to career opportunities in science and technology. Gay is an assistant research professor of graduate studies and research at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and executive director of the Astrosphere New Media Association.

POLICE BRIEFS

Student apologizes to instructor for 'confrontational attitude'

On Thursday morning, a YSU police officer reported to DeBartolo Hall to speak with an English instructor who felt threatened by the actions of one of her students during class. The instructor told the officer that she and the student were planning to meet, along with another member of the English department, and requested the officer's presence at the meeting. The officer told the student that his "confrontational attitude" in class was not acceptable and that if it continued, he would be removed from campus. The student said he lost his temper due to financial aid issues — but that it wouldn't happen again. The student then apologized, and the instructor allowed him to return to her class.

Phone snatched, returned in Kilcawley House

Early Thursday, a YSU police officer reported to Kilcawley House in reference to a theft. The female student told the officer that she was washing clothes in the basement, then went back up to her room to get something. When she returned to the basement, she noticed that her phone was missing, and an intense search of Kilcawley House ensued. The phone — with a note stating, "nice game we played but now the cops R being called game over until next time Applez" — was eventually found in a stairwell.

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MOVIES PAGE 1

fee for every time it is shown. That being said, it is cost prohibitive for the university to be able to assist to pay for these fees," said Carrie Anderson, coordinator of programs and marketing for the Office.

According to the law, the manager of the venue where the movie is shown (in this case, YSU) is held responsible if a license is not attained. This can result in copyright infringement fees and penalties.

To avoid this, public performance licensing rights and licensed movies must be purchased through Swank Motion Pictures.

Once a license is purchased, a public viewing is permissible.

There are strict rules and guidelines when showing the licensed movie. For example, the movie can only be shown in the venue it was applied for. Additionally, it must be returned immediately after the viewing.

YSU helps student organizations with these expenses by providing free room rentals in buildings like Kilcawley Center, along with DeBartolo and Cushwa halls. Students are also able to apply for Student Government Association funds to help cover the fees.

If an organization played a movie without obtaining a license, there could be legal repercussions.

"If a student group breaks the federal copyright law by showing a movie without purchasing a license, it is a violation of the student code of conduct. When we become aware of it, our judicial board will take action on both the individual students involved and the student organization," Anderson said.

Instructors are exempt from obtaining a license if they receive permission from Swank Motion Pictures. However, in order to do so, they must prove the connection between the movie and the class material.

The movie must also be a part of the syllabus and can only be presented in the regularly used classroom.

"I don't think we'll be showing movies. We can't afford it now," said Fiona Kelly, president of the Room of Requirement. "It is the rule. It's not YSU's fault. So I guess we'll just have to follow it."

TATTOO PAGE 1

body," he said. "All kinds of people come in here."

Both young and old come into his shop. He's seen business professionals and slackers get inked. Adair even tattooed one of his former colleagues from the sheriff's department.

Artist Josh Fellows said tattoos have such a broad appeal because they are inherently personal.

"I think when you put something on someone's body, and it's there forever, it becomes sacred," he said.

"It's a place where you can express yourself freely. There's no wrong way to do art," Bill Dugan said.

Dugan said it is an intimate experience and enjoys the satisfaction of helping people express themselves.

And with the pleasure comes a measure of pain. Tattoo guns have several sharp needles injecting ink deep below the layers of skin. Sometimes the artists have to stop in the middle and give it a rest.

Dugan said men are more likely to need a break.

"Girls are tough, and they get them in tough places, too," he said.

Dugan said parts of the body like the feet and ribcage are more sensitive, and they are popular locations for women to get a tattoo.

"There's not a lot of meat. It's just skin and bone," he said.

So far, Adair and the other artists said they've been well received in the community, but some people still have a negative view of their genre



Eric Monroe, welder by day, waits in the lobby at Blue Magic for his latest tattoo: the initials of his recently deceased father. Photo by Chris Cotelesse/The Jambar.

of art. "Sometimes we get a bad name," Dugan said. "Don't judge something until you understand it."

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF YOUNGSTOWN – PART-TIME CLERK TYPIST II– YOUNGSTOWN CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION - \$14.02 PER HOUR.

Work hours will be Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and when needed for Saturday examinations. The employee in this position performs office work involving all aspects of the operation of the Civil Service Office. Graduation from high school, including supplemental course work in business practices or any equivalent combination of experience and training. Applicant should have thorough knowledge of modern office practices, procedures, and equipment; familiarity with Windows-based word processing, email, and internet browser programs; must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and Office applications; standard record maintenance; ability to compile examination statistics; considerable knowledge of business English, grammatical structure, spelling and arithmetic; ability to maintain complex clerical records and prepare accurate reports; to exercise good judgment, courtesy, and tact in dealing with the public; ability to acquire rapidly a thorough knowledge of governing statutes and policies pertinent to appropriate municipal operation; excellent typing/word processing skills; applicants should be extremely trustworthy and sensitive to the confidential nature of the civil service examination process and personnel matters. All candidates for employment with the City of Youngstown must be a resident of Mahoning County or an Ohio County that is adjacent to Mahoning County at time of hire. Applicant's applying for City Resident Bonus Credit must show proof of residency by providing the following: Driver's License, Bank Statements, Utility Bills, Mortgage Release/Lease, and/or Insurance Statements. In order to be considered applicants must submit four (4) different proofs of residency from one (1) year ago and four (4) current proofs of residency. Applications accepted at the Youngstown Civil Service Commission Office, 7th floor, City Hall, Youngstown, Ohio, from January 30, 2012, through February 10, 2012. Hours: 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Examination will be given on Saturday, February 18, 2012, starting at 10:00 A.M. at Youngstown State University. To qualify for Veteran's Bonus, submit a copy of DD-214 when application is filed.



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Johnson's mother organizes 'Stop the Violence' walk

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

Sidney Michael Hill Jr. didn't feel normal when he woke up Monday morning. A tranquil blue sky in early February would typically bring a smile to one's face, yet the baby-faced 16-year-old appeared troubled. Exactly one year ago, his older brother's life was cut short by gunfire.

"It just doesn't even feel like a regular day," he said.

Jamail Johnson, Sidney Michael Hill Jr.'s older brother, was 25 years old when shooters opened fire on his fraternity's house on Indiana Avenue. He was the second to fall prey to gun violence in a year that claimed 21 Youngstown lives.

Sidney Michael Hill Jr. said he hopes that others in the area, especially the younger generations, will realize, as a result of his brother's passing, that it's better to solve disputes through a diplomatic approach.

"Violence is never the answer," he said.

Shirlene Hill, Johnson's mother, has carried on as her son's voice, that of a peacemaker. To commemorate his life, the lives of the 11 individuals injured in the incident and the 20 other lives lost in 2011, she organized a "Stop the Violence" walk.

Approximately 100 family members, friends and members of the Youngstown State University community gathered at the corner of Hazel Street and Rayen Avenue near the Williamson College of Business Administration at 3 p.m. on Monday before marching to campus.

The walk was silent, despite an occasional sniffle and a brief respite for prayer at the Jamail Johnson remembrance tree.

The crowd filed up campus, snaking through the inner core along Kilcawley Center before culminating in the auditorium in DeBartolo Hall, where a brief tribute was held.

Participants read the names of the 11 wounded in the Feb. 6 shooting and those who have fallen in the past year.

"Burying them one at a



Shirlene Hill walks through campus hand in hand with her son Sidney Michael Hill Jr. and Daryl Cameron, district keeper of finance for the fourth district of Omega Psi Phi, in remembrance of her first-born son, Jamail Johnson, who lost his life in an off-campus shooting last year. The walk started near the Williamson College of Business Administration and ended in DeBartolo Hall where Shirlene Hill spoke to honor her son. Photo by Marissa McIntyre/The Jambar.

time is not making an impact, but to see all ... at one time [will] make an impact," Shirlene Hill said. "They need to see what it's doing to us as a community."

Former brothers of Omega Psi Phi, the fraternity of which Johnson was a member, presented Shirlene Hill with a proclamation on behalf of Doug Franklin, mayor of Warren, declaring Feb. 6 Jamail Earl Johnson Day.

Others took the opportunity to stand behind the lectern to speak.

"We need this violence to stop in the city of Youngstown," said William Blake, director of the YSU Office of Student Diversity. "Write to the mayor, your councilmen."

Blake called for the city to hold "amnesty days," where area residents who illegally possess firearms can turn them in to police without being punished or arrested.

"We've got to come together. This has to stop," Shirlene Hill said. "This year

has been the most devastating year of my life."

She thanked those in attendance for their support and prayers, saying they helped her get by.

The inspiration for the walk came in a vision. Thanksgiving night, Hill said she awoke with a message from God. After losing her son, she struggled to find things in her life she was thankful for. Yet she felt compelled to endure, finding joy in the 25 years she shared with him before he passed.

"At 25, he was still listening to me," Shirlene Hill said.

Johnson was active in the community, volunteering at Wilson Middle School as a tutor and mentor.

"Jamail stood for what is right," Hill said. "From the day he came into this world, to the day he left, it was nothing but goodness."

She said Johnson brought joy to the entire family.

"My word for him is 'awesome,'" said Deborah Whitlow, Johnson's great aunt.

She recalled an incident when Johnson was 3 years old. He comforted her as she mourned the loss of her older sister.

"I remember his little hands tapping me on the shoulder telling me, 'Aunt Debbie, it's going to be all right.' He was always hugging, always had something nice to say," Whitlow said.

Shirlene Hill said Johnson's father, Earl Johnson, was instrumental in his upbringing, assisting with memorization of Bible verses and encouraging community involvement.

Sidney Hill, Johnson's stepfather, said Johnson would serve as mediator when his parents had disagreements, furthering his image as peacemaker.

"He was loving and genuinely nice," Sidney Hill said. "There's no words that can explain. He gets a lot of publicity, but it's just him, because he's a genuinely nice person."

Sidney Hill was struck hard by Johnson's death.

"It's just one of those things you wish you can turn back the hands of time and change things. It hurts, and it hurts a lot," he said.

Throughout the past year, Shirlene Hill hasn't succumbed to the pressures of grief.

"Little does she know she makes me strong," Sidney Hill said. "I don't see how she does it. I really don't."

"She's a very strong person," Whitlow said. "I never in a million years would have thought our family would have gone through this and never with Jamail. His life was just geared for good things."

Whitlow said Johnson could look back on his short life and be more proud of his accomplishments than she can with hers.

Shirlene Hill now seeks justice.

"Those people, I can't even call them men, may get a life sentence, but I also got a life sentence. They took my son," she said.

Off-campus shooting sparks safety solutions

Marissa McIntyre
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

One day after an off-campus shooting took the life of student Jamail Johnson and injured 11 others, Gov. John Kasich spoke on campus to offer solutions to a shaken community.

Kasich came equipped with solutions for Youngstown, including plans to cultivate a relationship with the Ohio State Highway Patrol and the Ohio Department of Public Safety, and to make an effort to enhance gun and alcohol control.

"I will do everything that I can. I can't turn water into wine, and I can't promise the moon, but there are some specific things that we can do to help. We stand ready and willing to partner with you to make this community stronger, safer and more prosperous," Kasich said in a press conference one year ago. "Johnson will not have died in vain."

Youngstown State University President Cynthia Anderson said she gives Kasich a lot of credit.

"He set up meetings with us in Columbus to talk with the department of safety," she said. Anderson attended those meetings the same week as the shooting. "He literally must have made



One year ago, Gov. John Kasich and Youngstown State University President Cynthia Anderson grieved over the loss of Jamail Johnson. Both plan to uphold their promises to improve safety in the community. Jambar file photos.

the calls while he was up here."

According to statistics released by the Youngstown Police Department, the violent crime rate dropped in 2011.

In 2010, 673 violent crimes were committed in Youngstown. There were 569 in 2011.

Murder, forcible rape, aggravated assault and robbery classify as violent crime.

Rob Nichols, Kasich's press secretary, said there are plans for the Ohio State Highway Patrol to work in conjunction with the Youngstown Police Department. The announcement for the collaboration will be made in the near

future.

Nichols said the collaboration would strengthen safety in the area and focus on controlling firearms and liquor.

"We feel very strongly about safety," Nichols said. "This was such a tragedy, and it was important for [Kasich] to be there."

Lt. Michael Cretella of the Youngstown State University Police Department said the university has a close relationship with the Youngstown Police Department.

"We let them know what's going on, and they let us know what is going on," Cretella said.

As part of their rules and regulations, the YSU Police Department regularly patrols events and house parties of sanctioned fraternities.

Cretella said that in the event a non-sanctioned fraternity would request patrol, YSU Police would work something out.

"We do not want to see anyone get hurt," Cretella said. "We want them to have a successful event."

Cretella said he would like to see more officers on patrol in order to work even closer with the Youngstown Police Department.

Anderson said that YSU was safe before the incident occurred.

"We were all given a wake-up call of how precious someone's life is. We realize what a hero Jamail is," Anderson said.

Anderson also plans to create a Center for Nonviolence at YSU.

"This is something I really want to look into," Anderson said. She added that she has heard of other universities with groups that have benefited from similar programs.

"If we can engage students, then we can learn to value respect, life and one another. You've heard me say this a million times before, but I believe that our students teach us every day," Anderson said.



Shirlene Hill received an unexpected but welcome visit from Jamaill Johnson's fraternity brother Steve Lemley on Thursday evening at her home on Shannon Road in Girard. Photo by Kacy Standohar/The Jambar.

'A little Jamail in all of them'

Mother of victim connects with Omega Psi Phi

Kacy Standohar
FEATURES EDITOR

Every day since her son's death, Shirlene Hill drives past Jamaill Johnson's grave on her way to work. She greets him in the morning and says goodnight to him as she drives home.

Hill lost her son a year ago, but the brothers of Omega Psi Phi have tried to fill the gap since.

"They are awesome men. That's all I know. Jamaill is gone, and I know he is in heaven with my father," she said. "But he left me with five other sons that I truly call my sons."

A year after the off-campus shooting, Johnson's mother has not lost sight of what Omega Psi Phi represents.

"The brotherhood, the togetherness, the love. These young men that he crossed over with, they haven't missed a beat," Hill said.

Hill added that the brothers have been there every step of the way.

"When it first happened, they were at the door. I can recall them sitting around me, talking to me, consoling me," she said. "It's unbelievable how much they have done for me. It's hard, but they made this journey easier for me."

She expressed her gratitude for all of the kind gestures she received from the young men.

"I turned 50. ... They were there for me and took me to dinner," she said. "Within the past month, I get flowers every Sunday."

Hill was once skeptical of the stereotype associated with fraternities, but her son's dedication changed her perspective.

"In the beginning, I was one of those mothers where fraternities to me made me really reluctant, and I was scared, and didn't want Jamaill to be a part," she said. "But Jamaill made up his mind that this is what he wanted to do. And I can truly say, it's broadened my horizon to know fraternities are good."

Hill said she has nothing but positive things to say about Omega Psi Phi and the rest of YSU Greek life.

"If I had to put a price on it, there would be no price. All of the fraternities and sororities at YSU have come together in love and you can't put a price on that," Hill said.



Jamaill Johnson's mother Shirlene Hill visits his gravesite at Tod Homestead Cemetery, located on Belmont Avenue, on Saturday afternoon. She visits his grave every day. Photo by Kacy Standohar/The Jambar.

"This has made them closer."

She said the fraternity completed Johnson, and he was proud to be a part of it.

The brothers of the Zeta Gamma chapter recently gave money toward Johnson's Youngstown State University scholarship.

Hill and her husband, Sidney, agreed that the brothers can stop by anytime.

"I've always been that mother that, no matter what, they can call me. I don't care if it's 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning, and I'll be there," she said.

Hill added that all of the things the brothers once stood for still stand even after the tragedy.

Steve Lemley, a YSU graduate and member of the Zeta Gamma chapter of Omega Psi Phi, often the incident occurred, when stops over the house to visit Johnson's family.

"We're here for you," he said to Hill when visiting the home Thursday evening.

"If it wasn't for you guys, I adon't know where I'd be. I love you so much, Steve.

"It's unbelievable how much they have done for me. It's hard, but they made this journey easier for me."

-Shirlene Hill

I love all of you guys. You're my son," Hill said to Lemley as they embraced.

"That's my baby," she said.

Lemley, 26, remembers Johnson as a brother, friend and peacemaker.

"What can you not say

about Jamaill?" he said. "He brought me in and introduced me to his family, and when I couldn't make it home for the holidays, I was spending time with them. They welcomed me in with open arms."

Lemley said Johnson was constantly laughing and was full of life. He recalled his favorite memories with Johnson.

"There was never a dull, down moment with him. Never. Ever. We would sit up most nights and just laugh about everything under the sun," he said. "He snored so loud all the time. He said it was because of his allergies. That's one of my favorite memories of him."

Lemley graduated in the spring and said he misses his dear friend and appreciates all of the things Johnson did for the community and his family.

"I just love him to death. But Mother Hill, she lost one but gained five more," he said. "And all we can do is be here as much as we can for his family. It's hard, you know."

This year, Lemley and the other brothers struggle to recruit new members and rid their fraternity of its party-throwing reputation. He said the chapter is slowly coming back together.

Mother Hill has met a couple of young men and plays a large role in choosing new members.

"It's a process right now because you're always looking for the best, being a part of an organization," Lemley said. "But the gentleman we've been bringing around

"I just love him to death. But Mother Hill, she lost one but gained five more. And all we can do is be here as much as we can for his family."

-Steve Lemley

Mother Hill ... she really sees a little Jamail in all of them."

Six brothers reactivated the chapter at YSU in 2009: Joe Parker, Andre Miller, Gerald Gipson, Carl Davison, Lemley and Johnson.

Lemley said the brothers used Johnson's death as a crutch for a while.

"But if he were here he would say we still have to keep going, keep pushing. Don't just stop. Keep persevering through any trial and tribulations," he said.

Yet, tenacity still proves difficult for the brotherhood.

"Everyone looks at us as just these partiers, but all six of us got our degrees," Lemley said. "That says a lot right there."

"We want to show the campus and city that's not just what we're all about. We're always looked at just heavy through everything. All eyes are on us 24/7," Lemley said. "But were going to handle it the right way."

YSU's Omega Psi Phi members plan to continue educational presentations and community work in the hope of reflecting the kind of person Johnson was.

As for Johnson's family, friends and brothers, the reflection is love and thanks.

"I love you, man. Thank you for introducing me to the family and thank you for being the man that you've become ... and quit snoring," Lemley said.

Witnesses, victims remember 'People hold grudges to a malicious extent'

Chelsea Telega

ARTS &
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

On Feb. 6, 2011, bullets were fired into a crowded party at 55 Indiana Ave., just north of campus. Eleven people were wounded, and one student, 25-year-old Jamail Johnson, lost his life.

One year later, the gunshots echo through victims' memories as they recall that night.

Sophomore Jordon Wagner saw the initial fights break out in the house and said he had a gut feeling that something crazy was going to happen.

Wagner said he couldn't see everything that was happening, but saw someone raise a gun and start shooting.

That's when Johnson stepped in front of Wagner and the crowd in the line of fire.

"I heard the gunshots, but I didn't even flinch. I didn't hit the ground. I thought it was just them shooting in the air, like a warning shot," Wagner said. "I turned around for a brief second, and when I turned back around I saw Jamail on the ground."

Wagner then turned his focus to helping evacuate others.

"I wanted to check on him, but I kind of had a feeling that he was already dead," Wagner said. "I was trying to get other people out, as many as I could."

Sophomore DeShaun McDonald said he reacted immediately to the gunshots.

"Me and everyone around me hit the ground. At some point when I heard the shooting stop, I managed to get up and tried to reach the door," McDonald said. "I had to go back 'cause I was looking for my friend. When I went back in the house, that's when we saw Jamail on the ground."

McDonald said he saw Johnson on the ground but couldn't make the connection right away.

"Then I saw the blood around him and everyone holding him," McDonald said.

Senior and Alpha Phi Delta member Dylan Thomas was walking out of another fraternity house when he saw Johnson standing at the door. Two men proceeded to pull out a gun, he said.

"My friends ran the other way, and I stood there in shock," Dylan Thomas said. "We ran down the street where the getaway car was literally driving through yards."

Dylan Thomas said that blood splattered the house as he approached.

"I didn't know that it was Jamail at the time. I knew someone was shot, but it was dark, and I was in shock," Dylan Thomas said. "Reality started setting in that it really happened. We ran up there, and it was just chaos."

Among the disarray, Wagner found his way out of the house to his car.

"When I was leaving the house, I was walking in the other driveway, and I felt a pain in my foot and I was like, 'What is that? It's prob-

"I got lucky, so I thank God every day. All I can do is pray about it."

-Jaleesa Moore



At his Liberty home, Jordon Wagner points to the holes in his bullet-riddled jacket hours after the shooting. Jambar file photo.

Campus Connection

Do you think campus is safer one year after the off-campus shooting?



"I live on campus. I've already felt relatively safe. It happened off campus, so I didn't think campus was less safe because of it."
- Bert Amoline, junior



"I think the security and police could care more. Every time I see them, they just walk around. If people are getting loud and rowdy, they just walk through."
- Shaniece Howell, sophomore



"Even before the shooting I felt safe, but after I feel like they're going to try and make it safer for students."
- Brea Maltony, sophomore

ably nothing," Wagner said. "It was cold in February, so I thought maybe it was frostbite."

Moments later, he requested assistance from a paramedic after realizing that he had been shot in the foot.

The paramedics asked Wagner if he had been shot anywhere else, and he was quick to respond that he hadn't. The paramedics insisted, however, and told Wagner to remove his jacket.

"I took off my jacket, and there was a hole in my shoulder. I didn't even know I got shot. People say I didn't feel it cause I was in a state of fear, but I really wasn't. I don't know how I didn't feel it."

Jaleesa Moore, 21, was celebrating her birthday. She didn't see much of anything. She noticed the music stop and people being pushed. Moore also suffered two injuries.

"When I got hit in the arm, I didn't know at first. I went to catch my balance, and my arm hurt really bad," Moore said. "And when I was hit in my side, I didn't know until I got to the hospital."

Moore drove to the party accompanied by her sister, who later drove her to the hospital.

Since the confrontation, Dylan Thomas, who is also the Interfraternity Council president, said he feels exponentially safer. The IFC, he said, has tightened the

reins and insists that maximum security is achieved at parties.

"We want to be safe," Dylan Thomas said. "Nobody ever thinks this could happen, and we have to be the safest we can be."

Wagner said he always tried to be safe at parties, even before the event took place.

"I would always think about it," he said. "Number one, I have to make sure they pat everyone down. Number two, I don't need to be in a rowdy place. I feel like if someone tried to get in a confrontation with me, I would need to end that confrontation as soon as possible. People hold grudges to a malicious extent."

McDonald agrees. When he goes out, it's no longer just him and another friend, but a group of about 10 people, he said.

"I've been there before. It's just one of those things that just happens. You can't predict it," he said. "This could happen anywhere. Our school is one of the safest in the country, and it happens other places, too."

After the chaos ensued, Dylan Thomas said the first thing he thought to do was call his parents.

"I actually called my house phone. I don't even know what time it was," Dylan Thomas said. "I called my parents just to tell them I love them and thanks for everything they do."

Danny Thomas Jr., Dylan Thomas' father and an Alpha Phi Delta alum-

nus, said he wanted to get to his son as fast as he could.

"My wife got the call, and she said to me, 'You better talk to Dylan,'" Danny Thomas Jr. said. "I told him to stay where he was and that I would shoot right up there."

Dylan Thomas said his mother was always concerned about him living on the North Side of Youngstown, but that she has grown more accustomed to it.

Danny Thomas Jr., however, was always comfortable with it.

He recalled a time when anyone could walk into a fraternity house, adding that he gives the organizations credit for constructing invitation lists and recruiting a strong police presence.

"We've had this conversation since the time he started going out, to be aware of your surroundings," Danny Thomas Jr. said. "But I'm impressed with YSU in the sense that they are much more strict about who they let in."

Wagner said his parents' concern with his whereabouts is an "understatement."

"I'm at Walmart at 11 o'clock and they are like, 'What are you doing out there this late? Get home.'

"I still sleep at night even though something like this happened to me."

-Jordon Wagner

They always worry," Wagner said.

McDonald's mother is still anxious about him going out.

"My mom was pretty apprehensive about it. I didn't go to parties until about three weeks later. One night, my mom even called me at like 1 o'clock in the morning," McDonald said.

Moore said her fiance is protective about her going out, and of everyone, he was the most affected. She said she doesn't consider herself a "partier" and has not been to a party since the night of the incident.

Moore has an almost 2-year-old daughter and hopes that she never has to experience something like this.

"I got lucky, so I thank God every day. All I can do is pray about it," Moore said. "If my baby goes to school where we live, I have no control over it. I'm just going to pray for her, and more so, the people around her."

Two bones under Moore's right elbow were shattered from the gunshot. She has endured therapy since.

In December, Moore visited the doctor because her arm was immobile. She recently underwent another surgery and still cannot move her arm without assistance.

"I can take my other arm and move it, but only about 90 degrees," Moore said. "The doctors have high hopes for me, though."

McDonald said he still has flashbacks from the party.

"One time, it was like three days later, I just wanted to relax and play video games, and I put in 'Call of Duty' or something," he said. "There was one part where someone had to stab another person, and I just had to put it down."

Others involved, like Wagner, have moved on with their lives, despite the events.

"I really haven't changed much. I'm still the same person," Wagner said. "I still sleep at night even though something like this happened to me."

Danny Thomas Jr. said these are the situations, although tragic, that build stronger relationships.

"Your fraternity brothers and you have a bond like no other bond, especially the ones you pledge with," he said. "Something like this brings everybody closer together. You lean on each other."



Remembering Jamail

A letter from the family

To the president, Dr. Cynthia Anderson, the faculty and the student body of Youngstown State University: Thank you for the many acts of kindness you have shown to our family during one of the hardest times of our lives. On Feb. 6, 2011, we lost our dear son, Jamail E. Johnson, a senior at Youngstown State University, but you have continued to show care and concern for us. Thank you for your support throughout a very trying year.

Dr. Anderson, your personal visit to our home, along with your prayers, were deeply appreciated. You opened the doors of Beeghly Hall for our community to assemble to honor the beautiful life and legacy of Jamail. This act, along with your many demonstrations of thoughtfulness and kindness, will

never be forgotten. Your announcement to our family and community that Jamail would receive his diploma during the 2011 Youngstown State University spring commencement brought great joy to our hearts. On Oct. 14, you were presented the Woman of the Year award by the Omega Psi Phi fraternity's Psi Omicron/Zeta Gamma chapters, which you in turn dedicated to Shirlene Hill. What an awesome act of kindness. Thank you.

To Mr. William Blake, director of Student Diversity: Your words of comfort during Jamail's home-going celebration were deeply appreciated. Thank you for making an unimaginable time in our lives a little easier. You carried out acts of love way beyond our greatest expectations. You were the

quiet "wind beneath our wings." Thank you for caring for Jamail, for mentioning him and "fathering" him. Your willingness to assist us at such a difficult time will always be remembered by our family.

To the Omega Psi Phi fraternity and Delta Sigma Theta: Jamail's life and legacy will continue through you. At a time when our hearts were broken beyond belief, you came. **You came** as his brothers and sisters and shared precious tears and prayers with us. **You came** with compassion, flowers, and words and cards of comfort that have carried us through many difficult hours. On the day of Jamail's viewing, **you came** and stood guard for hours honoring him. On the day of his home-going, you were at Youngstown State

University waiting for **us** — standing **with** us — honoring your brother. When a tree was planted at the university in Jamail's honor, you were there — *standing in the rain* — but covering us with umbrellas. Your expressions of love have never stopped. Your calls, visits and love have continued. You have stood by us and have made a very difficult situation a little easier. Thank you.

To The Jambar: Thank you for your support. You have always covered Jamail's life and legacy with care, compassion and dignity. We thank you from the depths of our hearts.

—The families of Sidney and Shirlene Hill and Earl C. and Tammy Johnson



SaTonia Johnson sits in YSU's office of Africana studies, recalling her struggles and successes as a foster mom. She has worked as a correctional officer and reserve deputy sheriff in Mahoning County, but is most excited about pursuing a degree in criminology. Photo by Kacy Standohar/The Jambar.

Fostering unconditional love

Nontraditional student learns from 'school of hard knocks'

Kacy Standohar
FEATURES EDITOR

Some families have fostered children from abusive or neglected homes, successfully ridding the child's life of behavioral and developmental problems.

Orphaned and neglected children enter foster care for a second chance on life, but the path to salvation can be riddled with strife.

One Youngstown State University student knows this better than most.

SaTonia Johnson has one biological child, but through the foster system, she has cared for seven children kicking and screaming through life.

And not every story has a happy ending.

"If you think this is a story about kids dressed like an onion in a vegetable play, you can forget it," said Johnson, a 49-year-old nontraditional student at Youngstown State University.

The Youngstown native lived and worked in Columbus as a youth coordinator and community organizer.

She developed an attachment to children in the neighborhood and began fostering children from troubled homes.

"I was dealing with some really infamous children that I earned respect from. That's how it spiraled from there," she said. "They found me. I took one in and another one came."

Johnson went on to foster more than

seven children for five years while living in Columbus from 1992 to 1997.

She returned to Youngstown in 2005 after her mother became ill. Johnson studies criminology and sociology, but often reflects on her time as a foster mother.

She said her fostering experience was anything but glamorous.

She fostered two to three boys at one time from Franklin County Children Services and worked closely with the Franklin County juvenile court system.

Deborrha Armstrong, Franklin County Children Services communications director, said foster parents usually meet with the center to discuss issues and develop a case plan. Thirty-six hours of training need to be completed along with a home study.

"We make sure the parents are suitable pertaining to income, stability and environment," Armstrong said.

The foster parents are then funded with a monthly boarding check, as well as medical and dental care. Armstrong said 80 percent of children return to their biological families, while 20 percent are put up for adoption.

Johnson, who was raised in a two-parent household, said being a foster parent was humbling and eye opening.

"My mom was the PTA president, and my daddy was my softball coach, so it was very realistic, because when you're looking from the outside in it's so easy to judge," she said. "But once you get in there you realize what people go through."

She said the young boys were 12 to

16 years old and struggled with behavioral issues along with buying and selling drugs.

"They weren't going to school. I would go to drop off their lunch and they wouldn't even be there," Johnson said. "It was so bad to where I created a summer program that employed them. God blessed me with the right people in my life to create the Youth Crusaders."

Johnson said the program kept the children busy cleaning the neighborhood.

Patricia Stewart, a neighbor of Johnson's for many years, said she tagged along during neighborhood cleanups.

"She could get through to the kids ... something I couldn't handle. I would have walked away, but she didn't," Stewart said.

"The issue for these kids was survival and money. They were so past school, that they didn't care," Johnson said.

She said the boys were desperate to fit in.

"At that time, the gang warfare was spreading like wildfire, and looking from the outside in, somebody would say, 'Why would these kids do this? And why would they be a part of this?'" Johnson said. "They just wanted to be a part of something."

Johnson said sharing her faith in God was all she could do for the boys.

"It was so sad. No matter what the outcome was, just to belong is all that mattered," she said. "You may not agree, but you accepted and you understand there was a method to the mad-

ness."

Johnson said she didn't receive help from family because they weren't nearby. The boys' behavioral problems were often more than she could handle.

"Those kids ran circles over me like 40 going north. I thought I was slicker than a can of oil. But when they got done with me, I didn't know which way was up," she said.

Although Johnson never married, she was pregnant with her son in 1997. Eventually, the stress from caring for unruly children caused complications with her pregnancy, forcing her to discontinue fostering.

"It was an adventure God put me on all by myself," she said.

Johnson tries to maintain a relationship with the boys. She said they call occasionally, but many have families and lives of their own now.

"A couple of them are better, and some are just where they are," she said.

Two of her foster children were shot and killed in 1993 and 1997. Another had his first child at age 15.

Attending college while fostering was not possible for Johnson.

"I went to trade schools and received different certifications, but at that time, I was going to the school of hard knocks," Johnson said. "There was no room for that."

If nothing else, Johnson said she hopes she showed the children unconditional love.

"I think that is the main thing I showed them. Good, bad or indifferent, I loved them," she said.

Rec Center offers variety of programs

Nicole Novotny
REPORTER

Chris Kamykowski is one of many students who has tried to get into the highly popular spinning class offered at the Rec.

"The past three times that I've tried to go to the spinning class, it has been filled. I'm on time, but there are so many people," Kamykowski said.

The spinning class is one of 15 classes offered at the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

"Our most popular class is Zumba. We usually get around 40 people," said Stephen Horn, Group X chairman. "Spinning usually is maxed out at 19 people. There is usually a line waiting to sign in."

Horn said he has tried to put together a variety of classes for students at Youngstown State

University. He added that he is trying to add a few more male-oriented classes since women usually take most of the classes offered.

A metabolic acceleration class and a kettlebell class were recently added.

According to the Healthy Weight Forum's calorie calculator, a person's weight and exercise length determines how many calories he or she burns. If someone weighs about 150 pounds and takes a 60-minute spinning class, he or she can burn almost 750 calories.

"I generally burn between 800 to 1,000 calories when I do the spinning class because I go pretty aggressively," Kamykowski said.

If students are interested in keeping track of how many calories they are burning and which classes would be best for them, the Rec Center also has a dietitian available.

The dietitian, Chrystyna Zellers, meets with students by appointment.

"They also help you keep track of what you're eating and give suggestions on what to improve," Horn said.

Most instructors are students and have been certified to teach the classes. A few classes, such as Jump Stretch, have an instructor brought in because the class requires further certification.

"We make sure that our instructors are qualified to teach the classes," Horn said.

If someone needs a modification, such as an alternative to a certain move or stretch, Horn said each instructor can help and will usually show the modification after showing the original exercise. These modifications are for any level.

In order to take a class at the Rec Center, students must present a valid YSU ID.

Yo* Calendar

Brought to you by

[the Yo* Magazine]

Ultimate Karaoke

Tuesday, 9 p.m.

Utopia



Open stage at Barley's

Tuesday, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.



Trio Abelia (Music at Noon concert series)

Wednesday, 12:15 p.m.

Butler Institute of American Art

Gary Markasky Project

Wednesday, 9 p.m.

Ballbusters



Wine Tasting

Thursday, 6 p.m.

Winestyles of Howland



What Jamail taught us

The Jambar
EDITORIAL BOARD

ONE YEAR LATER
PAGE 1

The flood of phone calls pulled us together on Super Bowl Sunday last year. We huddled together after the shooting in the basement of Fedor Hall as our colleagues raced to campus from all over the Mahoning Valley.

We sat in our office from 10 a.m. until nearly 11 p.m.

A staff of around 25 student journalists and nearly every journalism faculty member at YSU worked as a whole to produce a four-page special edition of The Jambar to accurately tell the story; we did so through print, multimedia and social media. We covered every aspect of the story. It was our responsibility to do so.

We never knew Jamail. We never talked to him or thought about him until that day. But we've thought about him every day since.

As journalists, we stumbled into a delicate situation, asking questions and testing boundaries. We interviewed witnesses before the police did, and we questioned ourselves for doing so. We documented tears and frustration and tried not to let them get to us.

But the story had to be told. So we cast aside our reservations and did the best we could.

As students, Jamail brought us closer together. It was our profession that called on us to be here, but it was Jamail's life and death that gave us purpose.

He was a model student, a sincere person and a beacon of pride in a desperate community.

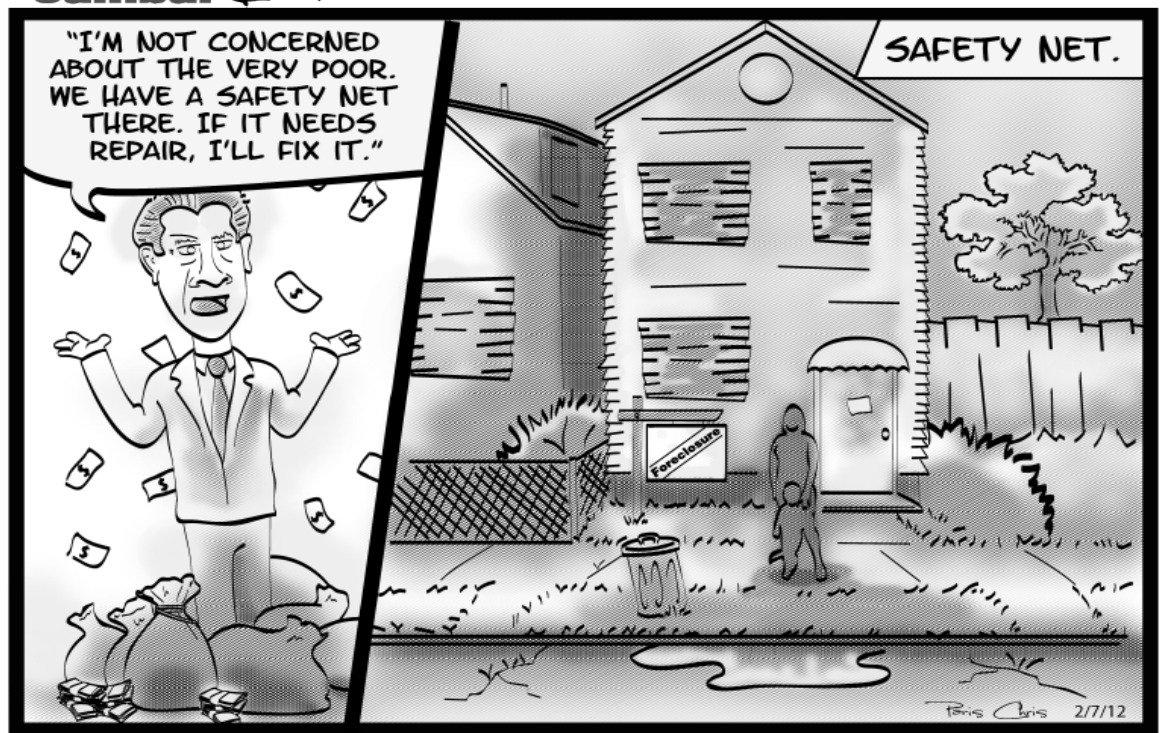
As people we grew. We learned together and failed together. We relied on one another.

Two years of journalism students have followed a man they may never have known. And the next two years of students will follow suit.

If there is anything that Jamail has taught us, it's that life should be built on memories. And that a life needs constant repair, additional memories to piece in the cracks time creates.

THE Jambar cartoon

Cartoon by Paris Chrisopoulos/The Jambar.



'The Big Picture'

Jared Buker
COLUMNIST

Newt bashes the media for the wrong reasons

A few days before the Republican primary began, Newt Gingrich waged proverbial war on the media.

It all started when CNN's staff allowed moderator John King to start the last Republican debate with a question about Gingrich's ex-wife. He had previously admitted to having an affair, but she claimed that he also asked her to commit to an "open" marriage.

His response roused the crowd: "To take an ex-wife and make it a significant question in a presidential campaign is as close to despicable as anything I can imagine."

More despicable than cheating on your wife? I think not.

I agree with Gingrich that the media is perhaps too obsessed with the personal lives of politicians. With the American propensity for scandal partnered with 24-hour news coverage, it seems like the real issues have been totally clouded by these jaw-dropping personal stories.

But rather than attacking the media for asking about his past, I think Gingrich needs to realize that he cannot change what people want to hear about. The more he dips and dodges questions about his ex-wife, the more I think he's hiding something.

It's called an ad hominem argument; when someone makes a claim, you attack that person's

character or lack of credibility instead of addressing the claim itself. It would be like someone saying, "Jared, this column sucks because you are a biased Democrat," and me responding, "What do you know? You don't write for a newspaper."

This kind of argument should have little to no place in politics. A politician should certainly be eloquent enough to answer dumb questions from dumber people and swift enough to justify his or her past without flinching.

Take Bill Clinton, perhaps one of the best ever at addressing his past personal shames. From the Monica Lewinsky scandal, to the several women who claimed to have had relationships with him while he was campaigning, he never questioned why people were so concerned about his personal life. Instead, he calmly answered the question — for better or worse.

You see: American democracy will reach its highest potential only if all citizens stay informed and participate. But just a little more than half of the American electorate actually votes ... and not all of them are well informed in the first place.

So, people often vote on character, which is why so many latch onto scandalous stories that are easy to understand. This is why the media focuses on these things,

and it is the reason a political candidate's moral reputation is so important.

The media caters to what the people want, and they clearly want to know why perhaps the most conservative Republican candidate was a cheating husband.

David Porter, political science professor, said concern for personal lives of politicians is "unavoidable" when the information is so easy to access.

"With the advent of the Internet, anyone in any type of public role has this information readily available," he said. "If it's readily available, it's going to be used by their opponents and by the media."

We simply need to view this obsession with the personal lives of political candidates as an inevitable outcome of evolving technology. People will always sink their teeth into these scandals, so we shouldn't blame the media for glorifying it.

I believe if you are truly interested in the issues — the important policy changes that will affect us forever — you will go beyond the shallow television scandal coverage to find it anyway.

So when Gingrich speaks of the "destructive, viscous, negative nature" of the media, he should realize it wouldn't be so destructive if it weren't for the blemishes left in the wake of his personal life.

JAMBAR POLICY

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When colleges cheat

McClatchy-Tribune
News Service
(MCT)

Society trusts teachers and school administrators to deliver a lesson arguably more important than reading and math: Cheating is not only forbidden but dishonorable. How discouraging and frustrating it is, then, to discover yet another instance in which an institution itself has been caught violating the rules. On Monday, Claremont McKenna College announced that an official there inflated the SAT scores of incoming students to make the school look good in national rankings, including the overhyped lists published annually in U.S. News & World Report.

This follows revelations last year of widespread cheating on state standardized tests by public school teachers and administrators in Georgia, New York and Pennsylvania. As a sign of how worrisome the problem has become, the U.S. Department of Education is soliciting public opinion until Feb. 16 on how to stop cheating by schools.

It is bad enough when teachers cheat on tests, but when the cheating is carried out at a college — supposedly an unimpeachable bastion of the disinterested pursuit of pure truth — the notion of honor seems fragile and fleeting indeed.

The truth is, this sort of trickery has been going on at colleges for many years, as they sought to burnish their images. Maybe they didn't out-and-out

change numbers, but they certainly manipulated them. According to a 1995 report by the Wall Street Journal, this included omitting the SAT scores of (take your pick) bottom scorers, international students, disadvantaged applicants and athletes before the scores were reported to various publications.

A more recent gambit is SAT-optional admissions. A growing number of colleges leave it up to applicants whether to divulge their SAT scores. To some degree, that reflects a lack of confidence in the college admissions test, but it also happens to boost the colleges' rankings in U.S. News and other publications because only the highest scorers submit their results. Statistical shenanigans involving recruitment and acceptance are even worse, because

they hurt students. For example, some schools encourage applications from students they know have no chance of being admitted because a high application-to-acceptance ratio is a ranking boost.

Colleges and public schools are under pressure to look good, which means they must also ramp up efforts to ensure that's done ethically. Do teachers cut students a break if they're caught cheating on final exams because of academic pressure? No, because students receive a big, fat zero. As schools continue to lecture on the importance of trustworthy behavior, more of them need to look inward and honestly assess whether they behave with the same honor they demand of their students.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am writing to express my concern about YSU's proposed Natural Gas and Water Resource Institute, which will provide training for students in the shale gas extraction process.

It has been proven that fracking, which is the process by which shale gas is extracted, releases toxins, including carcinogens and radioactive elements, into our air and water.

Fracking has resulted in contaminated water wells, homes exploding and drinking water that is so polluted that it can catch on fire when a cigarette lighter is held near the faucet.

In 2009, as a result of drilling, almost all aquatic life was killed along a 30-mile stretch of Dunkard Creek, which flows into the Monongahela River. Our Mahoning River is just beginning to

recover from years of pollution caused by the steel mills. Do we really want to put it in danger again?

The U.S. Army and the U.S. Geological Survey have determined that fracking and injection wells can both cause earthquakes. If one injection well can cause 11 earthquakes in Youngstown, what will happen when we have a multitude of wells in the area?

As an institute of higher learning, YSU should focus on developing clean energy, protecting our environment and restoring the Mahoning River and the brownfields rather than exacerbating the pollution by promoting fracking.

Back before Boardman's sewer lines were run under Mill Creek Park, beautiful, large aquatic salamanders called hellbenders could be seen in the creek. Today, they have disappeared and are, in fact,

endangered in Ohio. Look at the unforeseen effects DDT had on songbirds!

As John Muir once wrote, "When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world." We don't know what long-term effects fracking might have on our environment, our wildlife and our health.

A green/clean energy resource institute would be worthy of YSU's efforts and would serve — and keep safe — the people and land of Youngstown much better than the proposed Natural Gas and Water Resource Institute would.

— Chris Khumprakob

Assistant director of Individual
Intervention Services,
YSU Center for
Student Progress

Middlebrooks shoots for stars

Nick Mancini
SPORTS REPORTER

During her four years at Youngstown State University, senior guard Kenya Middlebrooks was part of a 0-30 season and worked with two different head coaches.

When Bob Boldon took over for former head coach Cindy Martin, the transition was tough, Middlebrooks said.

"Coaching style was different. The way they talked about everything and their philosophy about the game was different," Middlebrooks said. "It was a little bit of a difficult transition at the beginning. He wants us to work hard, and we are seeing the results we knew that were good for us."

Senior guard Macey Nortey is the only player left, along with Middlebrooks, from that team. Nortey said they never thought about leaving.

"It was just so much turmoil," Nortey said. "Just thinking about it, we were like, 'We have to do this.' We thought, 'We can't leave. We have to stick this out and do this together.'"

Nortey added that Boldon's system has progressed.

"It was rough, but we knew this

is what we wanted to do, and we stuck it out," she said.

This season, the Penguins have won 10 games, the best since the 2007-2008 season in which they finished with 14 wins.

Middlebrooks said having a year under Boldon has helped the team this season.

"Being there from last year and the experience last year, [Boldon] likes for us to shoot a lot of [3-pointers]," Middlebrooks said. "The coaches have a lot of faith in us to continue to shoot 'cause they will fall."

In a Jan. 26 home game against the University of Detroit Mercy, Middlebrooks had her best individual performance in a Penguins uniform. She set a career record of 30 points and broke the school record by hitting eight 3-pointers in the 80-67 victory.

Middlebrooks said she always has confidence in her shot.

"I think a lot of my shots that I shoot are going to go in," Middlebrooks said. "This game, they were going in for me, so I just continued to shoot them up. Coach told me to just keep shooting. He was drawing up plays for me to get wide-open shots."

Nortey said there is nobody she would rather have as her shooting guard.

"She's just a clutch player," Nortey said. "Obviously, we are both veterans, and Coach looks to us, and I feel like we embrace it well. I love playing with her. She knows that if I am getting her the ball, she better put it in the basket."

Before Middlebrooks came to YSU, she attended Toledo's Waite High School where she was a four-year letter winner. She was also named second-team all-city and third-team Division I all-district.

She chose YSU because she liked its size.

"I didn't want to be in a university that was too big and the furthest class was 30 minutes apart," Middlebrooks said. "It is small, and everyone kind of knows everyone."

Nortey and Middlebrooks have been roommates since they arrived at YSU.

"I came in the summer before, so I was the only freshman here, and I got acclimated to everything way before she did," Nortey said. "Freshman year, we were just so busy."

Nortey said she wasn't close to Middlebrooks, but that all changed in their sophomore year.

"We did everything together," Nortey said. "We would cook, watch TV, do homework, just get into a routine [of] just hanging out and doing everything together. She

is just a great friend, great teammate."

As a senior, Middlebrooks has been able to build many great relationships with her teammates. She considers that the best part of being at YSU.

"We consider each other family," Middlebrooks said. "We are all sisters, and we know a lot about each other, and that is kind of refreshing because a lot of people don't get to experience that."

This season, she has started all 22 games for the Penguins and is second on the team with 11.3 points per game. She leads the team with 57 3-pointers.

Boldon said Middlebrooks has given the Penguins a solid second scorer next to junior forward Brandi Brown.

"I think it has been beneficial for us because she has been able to do it in a different way than Brandi," Boldon said. "She has been able to help us stretch our defenses, which has enabled us to become more diversified offensively."



'Lifeblood of sports' Intern turns page



Senior Dennis Pixley shoots around at the Rec Center on Monday. Pixley practices in preparation for intramural basketball games. Photo by Joe Catullo Jr./The Jambar.

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Senior intern Dennis Pixley is in his fifth and final semester with the Office of Campus Recreation and Student Programming, but he isn't done just yet.

Pixley wants to leave his mark within the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

Straight out of Rayen High School, Pixley went to Youngstown State University not knowing what to expect. He almost transferred to another school because he felt so alone.

"I think, for the most part, I didn't know anybody because most of my friends didn't go to Youngstown State," Pixley said. "When I came in, I didn't know anybody, and I didn't know how to meet people."

Most of Pixley's friends went to Kent State University or the University of Akron. Pixley also thought about attending Ohio State University because his sister was a student there.

Mike Beverly, senior coordinator for multicultural student services, told intramural sports coordinator Joe Conroy before the 2007 fall semester to take a look at Pixley because of Pixley's enthusiasm and passion for sports.

Beverly has known Pixley since the summer of 2006, when Pixley applied for the Summer Bridge Program, which helps students transfer from high school to college with computer programs and workshops.

The Rec Center calls every summer and asks Beverly for potential interns, which is how Pixley got the position.

"He was a great kid from the start," Beverly said. "I think what I see most is his hunger."

Conroy said he will miss Pixley when he graduates and that Pixley has been his "life-

blood of sports" in the last five years.

"His knowledge has grown immensely the last five years," Conroy said. "He is my go-to guy when it comes to simplicity, which is all of our online signups."

After his freshman year, Pixley began his first year as an intern in fall 2007, still contemplating the possibility of transferring.

"When I first started the job, I didn't know if I would stay," Pixley said. "It ended up being a great decision."

Pixley fell in love with the competitive nature of intramural sports. He helps as a referee and competes in football and basketball.

Pixley also played basketball and ran track as a freshman in high school. He played football the next three years, beginning as a quarterback and ending as a wide receiver.

Pixley compares himself to Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Jeremy Maclin — while somebody else is the speedy DeSean Jackson.

"I think, for the most part, I was a possession receiver," Pixley said. "I can run decent routes, and I could catch. I wasn't the big-play guy."

Pixley began making his mark in fall 2008 when he noticed many tournaments involving video games and wanted to incorporate that into YSU.

Pixley brought in his own Xbox one day and began "Halo 3" and "Madden NFL 08" tournaments.

Halo tournaments quickly died, but the Madden tournaments remained. In the fall, 30 students competed. The video game featured this spring is "NBA 2K12."

"The one thing I helped bring in was video gaming because we didn't have it at all when I came here," Pixley said.

"I hope, after I leave, it's still here."

The tournaments began with one Xbox. They've since evolved, with Game Stop and ROTC donating 16 consoles.

Another proud moment for Pixley was when he introduced extramural sports, which involves intramural teams traveling to places such as Columbus and Dayton to compete in regional tournaments.

"We've been doing that for the past few years, and I've been the vice president of those," Pixley said. "Since then, I've become the president of them."

Before Pixley graduates, he is attempting to include one new feature: Intramural Player of the Week.

"It's all about the students, and they should be rewarded for their great efforts in intramural sports because it's so much fun," Pixley said.

Once shy and nervous, Pixley transformed into a boss who treats everybody the same, said senior Courtney Rothbauer.

"He cares about intramurals," Rothbauer said. "Not only is he a hard worker, but he brings his humor. I not only see him as a boss, but as a friend as well."

Rothbauer is in her second year at YSU, after spending the first two at the University of Mount Union.

One person Pixley helped is sophomore Jocques Spragling. Pixley got Spragling a job at the Rec Center.

"He's a good friend, always shows up on time, always smiling [and] down to earth," Spragling said.

Pixley is a finance major and sociology minor. He said he would like to be a banker one day or do something he enjoys.

"At this point with the job market, I just want a job," he said. "Point me somewhere where I won't be bored."

Gavolas fights through illness, returns for home finale

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

When the Youngstown State University Diving Invitational concluded on Sunday, it marked the end of the regular season for swimmers and divers and reflected the tough road they encountered.

Diving coach Nick Gavolas missed the entire month of December because he spent 13 days at Northside Medical Center with a rare case of pneumonia.

"Coming back, I wasn't at full strength," Gavolas said. "I get tired very easily, so practices, which normally run two to three hours, have been cut down to a couple of hours."

When Gavolas returned, junior diver Casey Hill said it was rough trying to get back into a rhythm.

"It was tough for us because we didn't really have anybody to push us for a couple of weeks, so we kind of were stuck doing the same things over and over again without anybody truly correcting us," Hill said.

Swimming coach Matt Anderson said it was an interesting time.

Gavolas' absence was during Christmas break. Therefore, many swimmers did not see how much time he missed, Anderson said.

"It certainly made an impact on the divers because they obviously see him every day," Anderson said. "As a coaching staff, there was some challenges along the way, and not just out of concern for his health, but also making sure the program moves forward."

Gavolas carried an oxygen tank on his shoulder during Sunday's event, and said the event could have gone better.

"We were a little tired, and I think it showed," Gavolas said.

Hill was one of the tired divers.

"I think it's because I'm so exhausted from training all season," Hill said. "I still consider this season a success. Today was just a bit off, and everybody has an off-day."

While the divers concluded the regular season on Sunday, the swimmers ended on Friday in Beeghly Center against the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Seniors Nishani Cicilson, Audy Grubbs, Kristin Walker and Katie Wolf were honored beforehand. Anderson said it was good for the underclassmen to see.

"For the rest of the team, it's important to recognize how much work those seniors have put in and what a difference they made to the program so that they can grow and see what it takes to become successful," he said.

Anderson added that it made for a good meet. Freshman Ashley Dow broke two pool records, earning first place in the 100-yard backstroke and 200-yard backstroke with times of 58.61 seconds, and 2 minutes, 6.65 seconds, respectively.

Anderson said it is good to see Dow succeed as a freshman, ready to compete at the Horizon League Championship, which begins Feb. 22 in Milwaukee.

"For the most part, she's the type of person that gets excited about a meet, but doesn't crumble under the pressure," Anderson said. "She's going to be a contender, and we're excited to see where that ends up."

Hill finished first in the one- and three-meter dives, with scores of 260.84 and 262.35, respectively, collecting wins 17 and 18 this season.

Gavolas added that Friday was special because the seniors were honored.

"The good thing about the diving part is we're all underclassmen, so we're still building," he said.

Already the diving leader, Hill said she is not looking forward to next year because it will be her last. She even has a tattoo on her lower right ankle of the USA Diving logo because she loves the sport.

"I am a little nervous in the fact that it is my senior year, and I don't want to leave, but it's kind of bittersweet," she said.

The teams are focused on the HL Championship. Gavolas said he expects his team to be competitive.

"I expect to place at least three in the top 10, hopefully all four, but we'll find out then," Gavolas said. "Casey won the three-meter last year, and she's very capable of winning it again this year."

Hill said the teams are better prepared this year.

"We brought in a lot of good swimmers, and, as far as divers, we're more comfortable going in and knowing what we're doing," Hill said.

Anderson said he also expects a good showing, and added that he gives the regular season a B+ grade.

"I was hoping we would see a couple of school records down by this time, and that's the only reason why I don't give it the true A," Anderson said.