

The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

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Tuesday, April 17, 2012

Fighting for a future

Youngstown's youth lace up for a chance at a new life



Jake Giuriceo (left) spars against Lavelle Hadley (right) inside the Southside Boxing Club in Youngstown. Photo by Steve Wilaj/The Jambar.

Steve Wilaj
REPORTER

Le'Sean Edge — like everyone else — simply walked in.

At 6 feet 6 inches tall and 235 pounds, Edge introduced himself to Jack Loew, Southside Boxing Club owner and trainer.

For Edge, a boxing career is a ticket

out of Youngstown.

“Youngstown is Youngstown,” Edge said. “It got its negativity, but it got its positive side. ... You just make the best out of the situation.”

He said he came to the boxing gym because Loew knows how to make the best of things.

In 2007 in Atlantic City, N.J., Loew watched as his fighter, Kelly Pavlik, de-

feated Jermain Taylor and became the World Boxing Organization's middle-weight champion.

Raised on Youngstown's South Side and trained by Loew since he was 8 years old, Pavlik became the pride of the city.

He also provided inspiration for many amateur Youngstown boxers who hoped

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Tom Shipka, the YSU-OEA's founder, delivers the history of the union to commemorate its 40th anniversary. Photo by Marissa McIntyre/The Jambar.

YSU-OEA celebrates 40 years

Marissa McIntyre
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

As the Youngstown State University chapter of the Ohio Education Association turns 40, the current union president and two past presidents spoke on Thursday in Tod Hall.

Tom Shipka, founder of YSU-OEA, came to YSU in 1969 to take a position in philosophy. By late 1971, he would find himself chairing a committee to unionize the faculty.

“My last intention when I arrived was to get involved with organizing a union,” Shipka said.

He recalled the early days of organizing the union when members were worried about what was going to happen next — and, as a result, would meet at his house on Sundays to discuss

YSU-OEA PAGE 3

SGA election results spark controversy

Kevin Alquist & Marissa McIntyre
THE JAMBAR

In a Student Government Association election mired by controversy, Cory Okular and Justen Vrabel defeated Robert Park and Patrick Bascom by a vote count of 295 to 145.

But the official tally doesn't tell the entire story.

Okular and Vrabel were docked 15 percent after Vrabel allegedly solicited votes inside Kilcawley Center during vot-

ing, a campaign violation according to SGA bylaws.

In early March, Jared Buker, Jambar columnist and Alpha Phi Delta president, said he was approached by Park, who wanted to campaign at Buker's fraternity. After notifying SGA about Park's inquiry, a hearing was set up to decide if Park and Bascom had broken an SGA bylaw by campaigning early.

Buker said he showed up at the hearing but never officially

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Police fault student in fatal crash

Marissa McIntyre & Sarah Perrine
THE JAMBAR

The Youngstown Police Department charged Youngstown State University student Samantha Yoder with vehicular homicide for the car accident that killed Susan Welsh, 45, on Feb. 14.

Yoder pleaded not guilty during her arraignment on Wednesday. If convicted, she could face up to six months in the Mahoning County Jail.

Yoder was traveling southbound on Fifth Avenue in the left turn lane when she allegedly ran a red light and hit the Impala that Susan Welsh was driving westbound on Rayen Avenue. Susan Welsh and her mother, Elaine Welsh, 79, were both taken directly to St. Elizabeth Health Center, where Susan Welsh was in critical condition.

Susan Welsh died two days later.

Detective Sgt. Patricia Garcar, who investigated the case, said she believes Yoder

ran the red light because she was distracted while driving.

In the traffic crash witness report, Yoder said, “I was driving straight in the left lane on Fifth Avenue. All I remember was running into the side of the vehicle. I was sure the light was green. It all happened so quickly.”

According to the report, Yoder stated that she was not texting, but she admitted to being on the phone with her boyfriend.

A pretrial date has been set for May 7.



Cynthia Anderson, Youngstown State University president, takes notes regarding students' concerns over the possible mandatory \$100 transportation fee. The fee and the unseasonably warm buildings in March were two hot buttons during the forum. Photo by Jordan D. Uhl/The Jambar.

Anderson open for questioning at 'Q&A with Dr. A'

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

In the fall, Sharon Zeicu may need to pay a \$100 transportation fee — even though she doesn't park on campus. “I don't even own a car,”

Zeicu said. She added that she doesn't use the Penguin Shuttle either, which Youngstown State University officials say would be supported by the mandatory fee.

She relies on public transportation or walks, weather permitting, from her home

near the intersection of Belle Vista and Mahoning avenues.

Zeicu, 61, is already dealing with enough in her first semester as a nontraditional student. She said she lacks the computer skills necessary to

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Taking on Turkey

Chad Travers
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
REPORTER

With a high unemployment rate and jobs still hard to come by, some engineering students are looking to the Middle East and its petroleum industry for their future.

Marco Fox, a junior civil engineering major at Youngstown State University, recently returned from a semester abroad at Yeditepe University in Istanbul, Turkey.

Fox, who is interested in a career in the oil and gas industry, said Turkey represents a stable job market in a country that is more secular than many Westerners imagine.

"Americans have this perception of the Middle East that is shaped by what we see on the news," Fox said. "One of the most important parts of the experience for me was actually being there myself and meeting people and discerning for myself what's real and what's not."

Although he considers himself a Christian, Fox is interested in and has been studying Islam and Islamic culture.

"For someone who is thinking of working over there, I think it's important to understand the culture and the way people think," Fox said.

Although countries under fundamentalist religious leadership border it, Turkey's cultural climate is more secular than other countries in the region. Its political ties with the West make it an attractive option for Western students interested in studying in the Middle East.

"I've wanted to study abroad since I started school. I asked about it during my first and second semesters and was told that, especially with an engineering degree, it would be better for me to go earlier rather than later to avoid any problems with upper-level credits transferring," Fox said.

Yeditepe operates a reciprocal student exchange program with YSU that allows American students to study there for the same tuition rates



Students walk through the gates of Yeditepe University, established in 1996, in Istanbul, Turkey. Photo courtesy of Marco Fox.

they would pay at YSU.

Turkish students are also able to study in America under their Yeditepe tuition.

"I went through the Center for International Studies and Programs [at YSU]. It was very economical. The housing was free, and all my financial aid from YSU transferred. Any grants or anything I have here applied at Yeditepe," Fox said.

Each year, 40 to 50 YSU students choose to spend a semester or a summer term abroad, said Jef Davis, CISP director. The largest concentration of students go to Winchester University in England, but CISP helps students from all majors and programs study all over the world.

A substantial portion of students study abroad for their language requirements, Davis said.

Davis added that a full-time summer study abroad program fulfills the eight-credit language requirement at YSU.

Studying abroad can be beneficial for students from

all departments and majors, Davis said.

"Students who study abroad tend to have a more sophisticated view of the world and their position in the global community," he said. "Students who study in more challenging areas or for longer periods tend to have more job opportunities when they complete their education."

Davis said the intellectual task of working to understand another culture promotes cognitive development and helps to teach skills that are in demand in the job market.

"People [who study abroad] become more curious about how they interact with other people and how other people interact with them. It really enhances almost any major," Davis said.

Fox also took advantage of the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program, which offers grants to qualified American undergraduate students to study abroad. The program receives congressional fund-

ing and is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and the U.S. Department of State.

Students are required to submit grant requests to the program, which are reviewed and accepted at a rate of only one in four.

In the last few years, one or two YSU students per year have received Gilman scholarships, Davis said. This year, two students have been awarded official state department grants for intensive language studies abroad.

In order to overcome the language barrier, Fox completed two semesters of Hebrew and two semesters of Arabic language courses. But, at least in major cities, he found that most of the locals were fluent in English.

"If you just make a small effort to show them you're trying to learn and appreciate their culture and language, they really open up to you. The people were some of the friendliest I've ever met," Fox

said.

Fox said he took one engineering course during his time at Yeditepe because he wanted a lighter course load that would allow him to travel and experience various Middle Eastern cultures and countries.

"The engineering professor I had there had actually taught at Cleveland [State] University, so he spoke very fluent English and was easy to understand," Fox said.

Fox also completed several of his general education requirements, such as speech and history, at Yeditepe. Those credits will transfer to YSU.

Fox said he is considering pursuing a minor in the new natural gas program that is being offered at YSU and then possibly a master's degree in petroleum engineering that will allow him to work in the oil and gas industry in the Middle East.

He said he thinks his experience in the region will help distinguish him in a competitive job market.

Where's the beef . . . going? Arby's contract up in November

Alina Rios
REPORTER

The contract between Youngstown State University and Arby's ends Nov. 30. After 30 years in Kilcawley Center, Arby's may be replaced, should YSU not renew the restaurant's contract.

In February, YSU offi-

cial released a request for proposals to various restaurants and franchises for the 8,500-square-foot space.

More than 50 restaurants, including Burger King, Chick-fil-A, Au Bon Pain, Chipotle, Panera, Jay's Famous Hot Dogs, Subway and Sbarro, were contacted to send a proposal for the space.

"We are seeking a con-

tractor to provide fast food dining options that will appeal to our students, faculty, staff and many visitors," said Matthew Novotny, executive director of student services.

The proposal asked for creative and innovative ideas for the space on the first floor of Kilcawley Center to complement the existing features and catering services.

The university is looking to increase traffic and increase student, staff and visitor satisfaction.

Proposals for the space are due by 2 p.m. Thursday. Contractor presentations are scheduled for April 30.

If the contract with Arby's is not renewed, the proposed build date for the newly selected restaurant is scheduled for the end of fall semester after design plans have been approved. Any new business should be open and ready for customers in January.

The new restaurant will have a contract for seven years and six months, or from Dec. 1 to May 31, 2020. The contract also specifies health regulations, insurance liabilities and responsibilities, and Kilcawley Center rules and regulations.

The new occupant will benefit from a high number of sales for the majority of the year. From July 2010 to June 2011, total sales at Arby's were \$526,836, including \$52,680 in Pete's Points sales.

The university will also benefit from commissions — a portion of each eatery's sales that goes toward the Kilcawley Center operating budget to supplement rent

and utilities.

Each restaurant's commission rate depends on annual sales.

The university received \$74,391 in commissions from total sales at Arby's between July 2010 and June 2011. For the remainder of 2011, sales at Arby's were \$256,250, with \$38,437 in commissions.

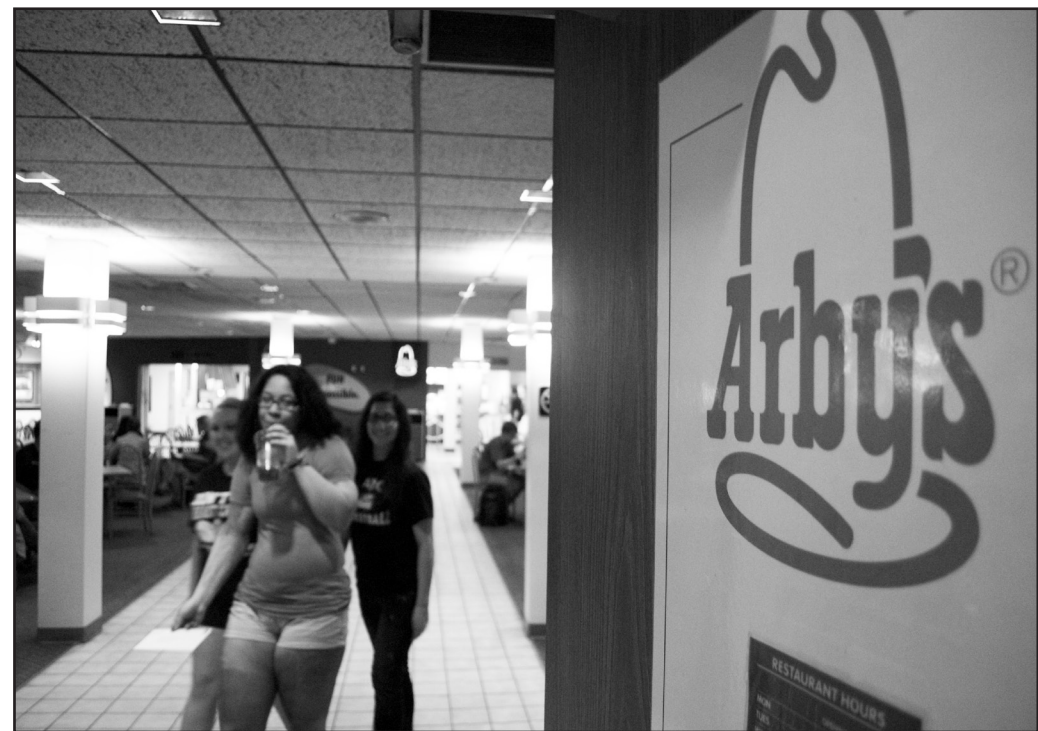
The contract for the new restaurant mentions upholding the scholarship program that Arby's has awarded throughout the years. Arby's provides seven \$600 scholarships annually.

Along with the scholarship, students are hoping for something new.

"I hope we get a new restaurant in Kilcawley," sophomore Sarah Bowman said. "I live in Buechner, and sometimes I need a change from the dorm's food, but everything on campus is usually expensive. I hope whatever they choose, it's a little cheaper."

Junior Stephanie Furman said she just wants something everyone will like.

"I know a lot of people don't eat at Arby's because it's mostly fried food," Furman said. "Hopefully, if they pick a new place, it will have more options."



Veronica Cromartie, Annie Carpenter and Paige Everett leave Arby's in Kilcawley Center after finishing their lunches. Photo by Chris Cotelesse/The Jambar.

YSU-OEA PAGE 1

collective bargaining.

Throughout the last 40 years, YSU-OEA has gone on strike twice.

The first strike fought for pay raises and better health care. Under current YSU-OEA President Julia Gergits, the fight continued with a weeklong strike in 2005 and turbulent contract negotiations in the fall.

Between Shipka and Gergits, former OEA President John Russo carried the torch.

Russo dealt with YSU faculty being the lowest paid in the state, as well as working to raise the bar for faculty by suggesting the hiring of more full-time faculty.

"It's always stressful to be an untenured faculty member," Gergits said about union members' fear of being laid off.

In the 2000s, conditions were either OK or "really bad," she said. Stability was another challenge she's faced, as the union came close to striking again in 2011.

Tom Maraffa, professor of geography at YSU, is a part of the negotiating team for YSU-OEA. His involvement with negotiations in the past



YSU-OEA President Julia Gergits delivers the union's trials, tribulations and accomplishments since she's been president. Photo by Marissa McIntyre/The Jambar.

has been different, as he's represented both administration and faculty.

"In the most recent negotiations, I represented faculty," Maraffa said. "Regardless of which team I've been on, I view my role as trying to access the best outcome for each side and the university as a whole."

Maraffa came to YSU in 1985 and worked various ad-

ministrative positions from 1992 to 2010.

Maraffa said although the stress of negotiations can result in undesirable behavior, there hasn't been a negotiation that hasn't ended in an agreement.

YSU-OEA has also worked to help teachers manage time between teaching in the classroom and conducting research.

"We fight for conditions a lot," Gergits said.

She said making the classrooms more 21st-century friendly will improve the teaching environment as well as students' ability to retain information.

Looking into the future of the union, Gergits said she would like to see younger faculty members get involved.

"We have a lot to get ready for in the next negotiations," Gergits said.

Raising wages for junior faculty members, an issue Gergits said she foresees in the 2014 contract negotiations, was a focal point for Russo's presidency as well.

"Our problem was convincing the senior faculty members that this is what we had to do. Otherwise, they will be permanently behind," Russo said.

YSU-OEA will welcome guest speaker Sheldon Gelman on Friday at 3 p.m. in Tod Hall to speak about the role of Ohio universities' presidents in shaping Senate Bill 5.

Gelman's article, "Adopting Ohio Senate Bill 5: The Role of the Public University Presidents," was published in the Albany Law Review in March.

"Like a lot of Ohio faculty members, I was surprised that a lot of university presidents sided with Senate Bill 5," Gelman said.

He said he decided to write the article because he was offended, and felt it to be deeply wrong that university presidents may have kept their views a secret.



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NEWS BRIEFS

New Yorker staff writer to lecture on Tuesday

George Packer, staff writer for The New Yorker, will give a free lecture titled "Do Journalists Care About the Working Class?" at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center. The lecture, which is part of the YSU Center for Working Class Studies Lecture Series, is co-sponsored by YSU's journalism program. Packer, who is on leave from The New Yorker and is a visiting scholar at the Center, is working on a book about American decline and renewal. For more information, contact John Russo (330-941-2976, jbrusso@ysu.edu) or Sherry Linkon (330-941-2977, slinkon@ysu.edu).

Islam poetry lecture scheduled for Tuesday

The Center for Islamic Studies at YSU will host a presentation by Max Reinhart — professor of Goethe studies at the University of Georgia — titled "The Poetry of Islam in Johann Wolfgang von Goethe" at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The presentation will take place in the Trustees Room of Tod Hall, and it is free and open to the public. A banquet with Reinhart will be held at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday. The cost is \$10, or \$5 for students. To make reservations for the banquet, call 330-941-4675 or email islamistudies@ysu.edu.

YSU stages two operas this week

The YSU Performing Arts Series and the Dana School of Music will present two one-act operas Thursday through Sunday in Bliss Hall's Ford Theater. Thursday through Saturday performances will be at 7:30 p.m., while the Sunday matinee show will be at 3 p.m. The operas are "La Serva Padrona (The Servant Turned Mistress)" by Giovanni Pergolesi and "Dido and Aeneas" by Henry Purcell. To reserve tickets, call 330-941-3105. Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$10 for senior citizens, YSU faculty and staff, and high school and college students from other universities; and \$5 for YSU students with valid ID. Parking is available in the Wick Avenue deck for a minimal fee.

POLICE BRIEFS

YSU Police look into stadium burglary attempt

On Friday, YSU Police reported to the president's loge in Stambaugh Stadium in reference to an attempted burglary. The reportee led officers to a secured kitchen area where pry marks and damaged locks were discovered on a cabinet containing liquor. YSU maintenance workers opened the cabinet, and, to the best of the reportee's knowledge, nothing was missing from it.

Man gets arm caught in campus elevator

On Friday, YSU Police responded to a man whose right arm was caught in a Cushman Hall elevator. The man refused medical treatment and told YSU Police that he would wait to see how it felt the next day. YSU maintenance workers said they would have the elevator checked out.

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ANDERSON PAGE 1

succeed in college.

It was student concerns like these, and the unseasonably warm weather that led to sweltering buildings in March, that gave students the opportunity to grill YSU President Cynthia Anderson at the "Q&A with Dr. A" session, held in the Presidential Suites in Kilcawley Center on Monday.

Anderson kicked off the Q-and-A session by updating the roughly 15 students in attendance on the status of campus renovations and the new smoking policy.

"I'm not surprised [with the turnout]," Anderson said. She said it would be nice if more students took advantage of the opportunity to express their concerns directly to her.

It took a little prodding by Anderson to get the crowd going.

"Tell me what can we do better at YSU," Anderson said. It was met with silence. "How about that chilled water, you guys? I had to hear about it. I got hate mail."

John Hyden, executive director of facilities, then explained how the campus cooling system works, and how it's much more complicated than simply flipping a switch.

Other issues discussed were efforts YSU is undertaking to boost the retention rate and market itself to other parts of the world.

But the majority of the hourlong open forum was spent dispelling rumors about the proposed transportation fee.

Even though students, including Zeicu, raised concerns over mandatory parking fees, Anderson and Gene Grilli, vice president for finance and administration, repeatedly stressed that the final form is still uncertain.

"The transportation fee proposal needs a lot of work. We're at the beginning stages," Anderson said.

Students who already purchase a parking permit won't see a change on their bill.

"It's not an increase whatsoever," Anderson said. The fee will apply to all students enrolled in six or more credit hours.

Grilli and Anderson said the fee is necessary in order for the university to accrue additional revenue needed to maintain the parking lots and decks. Additionally, enabling all students to park on campus would make it easier for the YSU Police Department to keep them safe.

"We cannot keep you safe if you're parking all the way across Belmont Avenue," Anderson said.

Anderson said several opportunities exist between now and when the board of trustees reviews the proposal in May for students to voice their opinions and concerns.

"It is a matter of fairness," Anderson said. "Is this fair and equitable?"

While YSU doesn't have enough parking spaces for every student to be on campus at the same time, Grilli said because of the way class offerings are structured, there will always be enough spaces.

SGA PAGE 1

filed a grievance for one simple reason.

When Buker showed up, "They just weren't there," he said. The room was empty.

That was incident one. Incident two happened on the first day of voting when Vrabel was talking to prospective voters inside Kilcawley Center.

Campaigning inside Kilcawley Center is forbidden during the election on Tuesday and Wednesday, as it's seen as an unfair advantage, Katie Carpenter, SGA's election board commissioner, said.

But Vrabel said he wasn't campaigning.

"What I had told the person was, 'Hey, did you vote yet?' Basically that was taken to be, 'Go vote for me,'" Vrabel said.

Vrabel said he was aware that they were not allowed to directly campaign in Kilcawley Center, but was not aware that encouraging others to vote was included in the rule.

"So the other candidates, Park and Bascom, filed a grievance. After that, we had a hearing to discuss [the grievance]," Carpenter said.

During that hearing, a video shot by Bascom was deemed speculative by the elections committee and never entered into evidence.

The video showed Alina Rios, a Jambar reporter, working behind the Candy Counter in Kilcawley Center on Tuesday during the elec-

tion.

She commented on several students approached by and talking to Vrabel only feet away from the counter.

One of those students was senior Mike Adamson, who bumped into Vrabel at the Candy Counter during the election.

Adamson asked Vrabel if the voting was still happening, to which Vrabel replied yes.

Adamson added that he voted for Vrabel, but he was not coerced in his decision.

Freshman business major Gina Gilmore also ran into Vrabel. She said Vrabel asked her to vote by the steps outside of Kilcawley Center.

"Justen said, 'There's voting going on inside for SGA. My name is Justen from the college of STEM,'" Gilmore said.

Gilmore said Vrabel did not specifically mention that he was involved in the election, nor did he say, "Go vote for me."

While the elections committee did not investigate these incidents, the grievance filed by Bascom, who said that he did everything he could to stay within the campaigning guidelines, swayed the elections committee to dock Okular and Vrabel 15 percent.

Bascom said he saw Vrabel talking with voters inside of Kilcawley Center on Tuesday, which Vrabel admits he did. But what was said was the crux of the debate.

A formal complaint was submitted on Tuesday by Bascom, which he presented to the SGA election board. It included his eyewitness accounts and the video.

"We decided that that was very questionable and not sufficient enough evidence," Carpenter said.

Vrabel had presented a written statement from YSU student Wilford Barnes saying that Vrabel did ask him to vote, but this did not sway the way he was going to vote.

"The evidence that played into account was just what various members of the committee had heard," Carpenter said.

The hearing was held Wednesday night after the elections had closed. This was when the board elected to dock 15 percent of Okular and Vrabel's votes.

When Bascom heard of this, he thought it was better than nothing, but still doesn't feel like it was a fair election.

Okular said he received the news like a punch in the gut. He added that he would like to put this behind him and prepare to serve the student body.

"I think, in the end, results will speak for themselves, and at the end of next year, you can say I did a good job, that I left YSU better than when I came here and that will be my reputation," Okular said. "People won't remember the 15 percent blemish if you do a good job."

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Student Government Accountability

The Jambar
EDITORIAL BOARD

SGA
PAGE 1

Another chapter unfolds in SGA as Cory Okular and Justen Vrabel take the helm.

We're hoping it's another chapter in a different book, because nobody read the last one.

We could list befuddled quotes from multiple students who have no idea what SGA stands for, but the numbers speak volumes to SGA's lack of publicity.

Only 3.6 percent of students voted in last week's election.

In our opinion, more students were annoyed by the campaigning outside Kilcawley Center — and apparently inside near the Candy Counter — than actually voted in the election.

But publicity isn't the biggest issue; transparency and responsibility are.

When The Jambar approached SGA in early April, we wanted to let the student body know what the king of all student organizations does.

We were told to check SGA's meeting minutes posted online. Unfortunately, those minutes hadn't been updated for nearly two months.

Our story ran April 4, the same day the minutes were miraculously updated. If SGA is responsible for spending our money, then they should also be responsible for telling us what they spent it on in a timely fashion.

The organization doled out about \$32,000 in the last fiscal year. That's \$13,000 less than SGA executive members receive in student stipends.

If they don't adequately serve the students, then we can think of better and nobler ways to spend their \$45,000 in compensation. Perhaps we could afford three full scholarships.

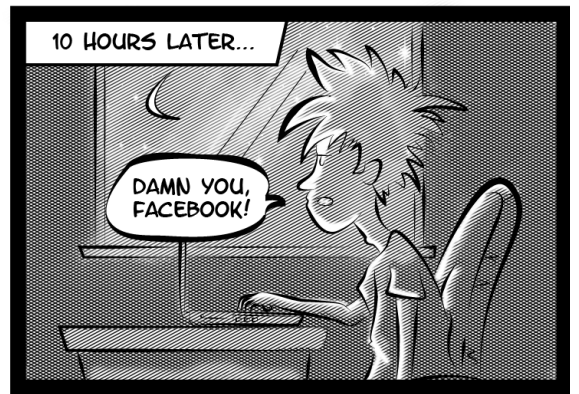
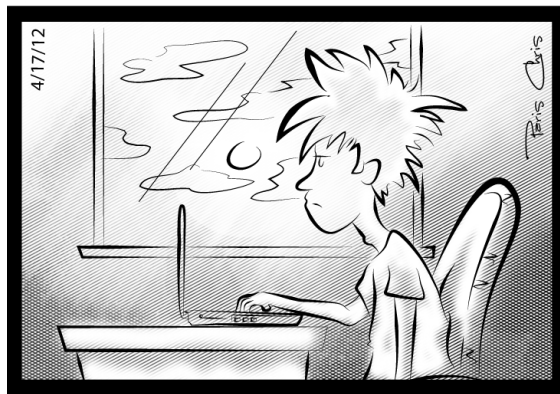
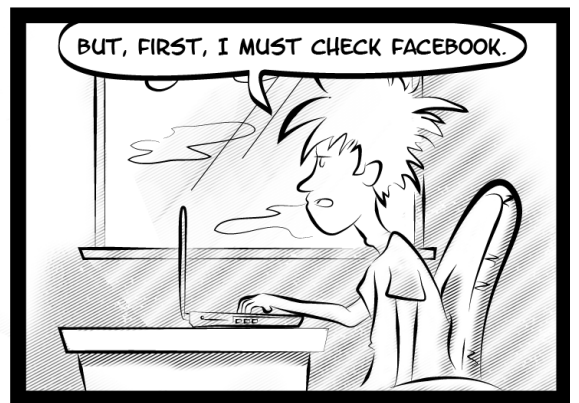
But that's unreasonable. SGA has a purpose. We understand that.

And, to be fair, our editor-in-chief, who did not participate in this editorial, also receives a full stipend.

He estimates that he spends about 55 to 60 hours a week in the office. We know. We see him here all the time. What we don't see are the countless hours he spends working at home.

How long do SGA members spend in their offices again?

THE Jambar cartoon



Cartoon by Paris Chrisopoulos/The Jambar.



Jared Buker
COLUMNIST

'The Big Picture' Romney: the serial flip-flopper

Now that Republican nominee hopeful Rick Santorum has suspended his campaign indefinitely, the limelight shines brightest on Mitt Romney, the GOP's lone ranger.

I say lone ranger because, though Newt Gingrich hasn't officially backed out yet, he did bounce a \$500 check last week, highlighting the pathetic state of his campaign and its pending failure.

So this means Romney will face off against Barack Obama for the privilege of American presidency, a job that will in no way be easy for either man.

The Washington Post and ABC News both polled Obama ahead of Romney 51-44, though Fox News yielded drastically different results, with Romney actually ahead of Obama 46-44.

Most likely, that is more of an ideological discrepancy than a legitimate phenomenon, seeing as Fox News in all likelihood polled with a hint of bias. So, though the race is in fact close, it seems Obama has the edge.

And that edge should only get sharper as the two men enter the battleground of mudslinging and debate.

What do we know about Romney? Wealthy individual from birth, Mormon missionary in France during most of the Vietnam War, former governor of Massachusetts when the state was basically a laboratory laying the grounds for semi-universal health care and notorious flip-flopper.

That's right; Romney has proven himself to be a flavor-of-the-week kind of politician. Far too often, he has made contradictory statements that make my head spin.

He essentially plays devil's advocate — with himself.

For example, Romney said before the campaign that he has "never supported the president's recovery act — no time, nowhere, no how."

Later, he said this on CNN: "I think there is need for economic stimulus."

That is like two ideological freight trains colliding with one another, and Romney prefers to watch the wreckage from, well, right where the trains meet.

Youngstown State University junior Drew Webster said he feels this is the biggest hypocrisy in the entire Romney campaign.

"He is the John Kerry of the GOP," Webster said. "When he was governor of Massachusetts, he was very pro-health care and felt everyone should have it. And now, we look at the debates, and he is condemning president Obama for Obamacare."

Romney did the same thing with abortion, one of his most stalwart issues, by saying first that he is pro-choice and then later saying Roe v. Wade should be overturned.

Sure, all politicians dabble in the art of flip-flopping a little during a campaign, but not in such a blatant manner as Romney.

It is almost insulting to know that a presidential prospect could earn the office without anyone being sure what he really stands for.

It doesn't end there; he has flip-flopped on his opinion of Ronald Reagan, his take on mandates and his stance on participating in the Vietnam War.

One of Romney's top strategists even compared him to an Etch A Sketch, meaning that, when necessary, you can shake him up and start a totally different slate.

Cryshanna Jackson, an assistant professor in the political sci-

ence department at YSU, said she views Romney's inconsistency as an attempt to be as moderate as possible.

"Some people like the fact that he isn't blinded by party ideology," she said. "I think he can be hurt by this. He's not divided enough to pull in a large number of the Democratic vote."

That seems like a nice way to say that Romney has tried to straddle the fence between Republican and Democratic values, and because that divide is so staunch in modern politics, such a strategy could only be detrimental.

I spoke with attorney Richard White, who teaches a critical thinking course at YSU, to see what motivates Romney's erratic political dialogue.

He said he believes the origin of Romney's flip-flopping is strictly political — as long as he stays within the shades of gray.

"I don't think that there's a lot of critical thinking involved in the decisions that he makes," White said. "He has been known as a flip-flopper, and I'm sure that Obama and his crew will be getting those quotes and saying, 'Here's where you were two years or two months ago, and here's where you are today.'"

Lately, Romney has been fading more and more to the right to appease the Republican Party; in fact, that is what spawned the Etch A Sketch comment.

But it is important to analyze a candidate's entire political career, not just his or her current campaign platform, to get an idea of what he or she really stands for.

In Romney's case, you might discover a serial flip-flopper whose biggest consistency is inconsistency.

JAMBAR POLICY

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

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An open letter to Youngstown State University

You know you've been somewhere too long when you start to see all the good things that happened slowly winding backward.

I've seen a writing center, a teaching center, a nontraditional students center and a women's center dry up and disappear for lack of support. I've seen a strong arts and sciences college divided so that the sciences part could get more money and the arts part could become less relevant.

We are about to implement a general education plan almost exactly like the plan we abandoned several years ago, because our accrediting agency found it hopelessly inadequate. The new (old) plan will enable our students to avoid a well-rounded ed-

ucation and a global perspective even more than they already do. That's not the fault of the hard-working folks who are struggling to develop a general education program that will suit the current climate. That's the fault of a university that values a four-year graduation over a meaningful education.

And, to ensure that this is the case, we are now removing the foreign language requirement for many of our Bachelor of Science degrees. The message is clear. There is no reason for our science- and engineering-oriented students to have a global perspective. We are not training them to be citizens of the world. We are training them to graduate, get

jobs and (hopefully) make gobs of money.

My hopes for them are greater. At risk of coming across as hopelessly old-fashioned, what is the purpose of a university? The STEM college is not an affiliated technical school. It is a part of a grand vision. And we should be training students to be more than well-trained employees.

We should be giving them the world. We should be educating them to give back to the world. Because THAT is what a university is.

L.J. "Tess" Tessier
YSU Department of
Philosophy and Religious
Studies

A cup of Joe Maxx downtown

Local coffee shop serves community

Christopher Kochera
REPORTER

Upon entering Joe Maxx Coffee, the distinct aroma of freshly ground coffee and the sound of barista-operated machines fill the air.

Less noticeable is the risk of starting a new business in a turbulent economy. "The business plan of Joe Maxx Coffee was to put coffee cafes in underserved neighborhoods that could support a coffee shop that had either been overlooked or big chains weren't interested in going into," proprietor Mike Avey said.

Avey tested the waters by opening a coffee shop in Girard in April 2011. The success of the shop gave him the confidence to open Joe Maxx Coffee in Youngstown.

"I saw a need for building a coffee cafe, and I figured the best way to get to know people from outside the area was to go into the center, because so many people come into town for the day to work or go to school," he said.

The cafe, located on the first floor of the Realty Building on East Federal Street, opened in November. Since then, the business has experienced an increase in customers and revenue.

"We're very happy with the business performance and the customer

flow rate," Avey said.

Avey is no stranger to the risks and rewards of entrepreneurship. After a work-related accident forced him to retire from his job as an emergency medical technician/firefighter in 1999, Avey started several small businesses, including a gold and diamond business.

"The whole idea of entrepreneurship has become a passion of mine," Avey said. "The enjoyment of taking an idea from conception to watching it develop and giving benefit back to the community has been a very big highlight to my entrepreneurship thus far."

Avey said starting a new business is always risky, especially with the current economic climate.

"Starting any small business, the numbers are stacked against you," he said. "You always wonder when you unlock the door and turn on the open sign whether the community is going to support you. It takes a lot of confidence in your business plan to really feel comfortable."

Avey said the help of several friends, including manager Jennifer Wilkinson, has added to the success of Joe Maxx Coffee.

"When you have a new business, it's all about learning," said Wilkinson, a Youngstown native. "Starting the business has been absolutely incredible."



Barista Kaley Costello makes a frozen mocha at Joe Maxx Coffee in downtown Youngstown. The coffee shop has increased revenue and clientele since opening in the fall. Photo by Christopher Kochera/The Jambar.

Wilkinson previously worked as a regional trainer for a national chain, and worked to help other independent coffee shops.

"I've been doing this for many years. I really think we're going to be OK," she said.

While preparing a frozen beverage for a customer, barista Kaley Costello said that she enjoys working at Joe

Maxx Coffee.

"It's been a blast," Costello said. "I like getting to know such a mix of customers, from lawyers to students."

Avey said he plans to expand his business in the future.

"We have several new cafe target locations picked out," he said. "We plan to expand the brand as fast as we can, but also maintain the balance between growth and brand quality."

Kick the risk

Student organization plays kickball for healthy hearts



Future Physical Therapists Society President Nicole Pavlichich finalizes the list of teams for the Kick Start Your Heart Kickball Tournament on Saturday. Photo by Kacy Standohar/The Jambar.

Kacy Standohar
FEATURES EDITOR

Someone dies from cardiovascular disease every 35 seconds.

"It's really kind of shocking and staggering that even among all forms of cancer, cardiovascular disease is still the leading cause of death," said Gina Berila, communications director at the Youngstown area's American Heart Association branch.

Noting this issue, the Future Physical Therapists Society at Youngstown State University planned a kickball tournament to raise money for heart health research and education.

On Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., 16 teams will compete in the Kick Start Your Heart Kickball Tournament in the Watson and Tressel Training Site. The teams include various student organizations.

Future Physical Therapists Society President Nicole Pavlichich said she hopes to raise \$1,000 at the event. All proceeds benefit the American Heart Association.

The Student Government Association provided financial appropriations to pay for YSU security at the tournament, while the YSU Police Department also provided funds. The Sandwich Factory donated concessions.

Pavlichich said the event is free and open to the public. She also encourages an audience to attend.

"This is our first year, so things are still a little hectic, but anyone who is not playing is more than welcome to come and support," she said.

Pavlichich said this event strikes a personal chord.

"Heart disease also kills more women than all forms of cancer combined," she said. "As an exercise science major, we learn all about how much of a problem cardiovascular disease is. However, many people are still uninformed."

She said she hopes the kickball tournament will raise awareness of the disease.

"One of the ways to lower your chance of developing CVD is by being physically active," Pavlichich said. "Playing kickball is a great way to get your heart rate up."

A few teams are signed up from all corners of campus with the same goal of fighting the disease. The tentative teams include the American Chemical Society, Average Joes, University Scholars, SGA, Sigma Chi Fraternity, the Exercise Science Club and the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center staff.

Berila said other annual events in Youngstown, such as the Heart Walk and golf outings, are great ways to put effort toward the cause.

Ben Clement, Future Physical Therapists Society treasurer and secretary, said kickball is a great way for student groups to socialize.

"I believe kickball was chosen because it was a fun event that would raise a competitive edge between other organizations, such as fraternities," Clement said. "We thought that it was an attractive offer and, at the same time, would help us raise money for the Heart Walk."

Crosby, Stills, Nash ... and Vitale?

Chelsea Telega
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Joe Vitale Sr. handed his son a tambourine and told him to play along to the song "Teach Your Children." Joe Vitale Jr. was 10 years old, standing on the Blossom Music Center stage in front of 19,000 people.

"I was terrified that I was going to throw the whole band off. Even though I just had a tambourine, I was like, 'OK, I don't want to screw this up,'" the younger Vitale said.

His father — and band mate for the evening — plays drums for Crosby, Stills and Nash.

The father and son will visit the Lemon Grove Cafe on Saturday for a cider tasting, book signing and acoustic performance by the younger Vitale. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Ballyhoo Music Festival.

The elder Vitale joined Crosby, Stills and Nash in 1977 and has performed with other big-name artists such as The Eagles, Joe Walsh, Peter Frampton and Dan Fogelberg.

"You name them, I've played with them," he said.

The Canton native started performing in Youngstown, though, and said he is excited to revisit his roots.

"Youngstown's just full of great people," he said. "Before I started on the road with national bands, I used to play in Youngstown, Boardman, Poland, Struthers and all those places when I was in a local band."

Scott Austalosh created the Ballyhoo Music Festival in 2011 as a fundraising effort for local cancer charities. He said the younger Vitale contacted him about performing at the event.

He said although Crosby, Stills and Nash is an older band, the elder Vitale's name is noticeable because of his experience alone.

"[The elder] Joe's resume is so extensive that you would literally have to live on another planet to not hear a song that he has participated in," Austalosh said. "His name may not be too recognizable, but once you've seen who he has been involved with, people will know."

The elder Vitale said his passion for music is like a family heirloom. His father and brother were both musicians. He continued the musical tradition with his son, too.

However, the younger Vitale, now 34, didn't take up the family trade right away.

"When I was younger, like so many other kids, I wanted to be an astronaut, and I studied that forever really intensely," he said.

It wasn't until his experience at Blossom Music Center that he changed his tune.

"I was still very much into the space program, but I decided to try to change the path of my life, and I started learning to do music," he said.

"My parents got me a little eight-track recorder when I was in high school and started writing songs."

Now, the younger Vitale performs electric and acoustic music with his band, the Joe Vitale Jr. Band. He said the music is a blend of classic rock and industrial, referring to it as a cross between Nine Inch Nails and The Who with cleaner lyrics.

The elder Vitale, 63, said he is working on an album with Joe Walsh from The Eagles. He said it is "slow time" right now and touring hasn't started yet.

After 40 years of traveling, the elder Vitale said he welcomes the short break. He added that he considers his life a lucky one.

"Some of the places I've gone to I probably would have never gone to, but my work brought me there," he said. "It's been really fun to be able to travel. People wait a lifetime to travel, and it's my job, so I've been really fortunate."

While he was on the road, the elder Vitale would tell his wife tales of the tour and the people he worked with.

Over two and a half years, she compiled a book with the stories he told her. The book, "Backstage Pass," will be sold at the Lemon Grove Cafe.

The younger Vitale said the 488-page book was a family effort.

"It's a book of humorous stories, and there are over 762 photographs," he said. "My mom wrote the book, my dad told the stories, and my mom and I put the book together and assembled the layout for it."

Among the comical stories, the elder Vitale shares trials and tribulations during his time with Crosby, Stills and Nash, as well as the good times.

Although he said he feels he has contributed enough musically to be a part of the band's title, he takes comfort in the fact that he was in what he called "the safety zone."

"You've got to remember, when we do really great, they get all the glory, which is good, and I'm glad," he said. "But if something happens where we have a horrible show or something horrible happens, it's always those three names that get blamed."

Austalosh said the visit from the Vitales will give local fans and aspiring musicians the inspiration they need to move forward. He said allowing fans to meet a rock legend is a rare opportunity.

The elder Vitale said, from his experience, the most important thing for budding artists to have is persistence.

"It's very discouraging at times, but it's also very encouraging to keep at it," he said. "There was some burning fire in me that would not go out; I would never give it up. You may have to put it on the shelf temporarily, but you never throw it away."

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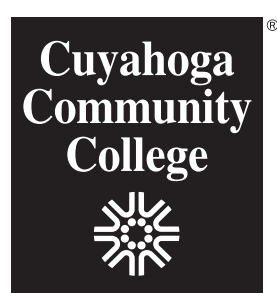
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Dreams put on hold

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

When junior linebacker Thomas Kipp arrived at Youngstown State University in 2010, his dream was to suit up for the Penguins for at least one game.

Although he was just a walk-on, Kipp saw YSU as the best fit. The treatment he received from YSU personnel solidified his decision. Other universities offered scholarships, but YSU was one of the few Division I schools that showed any interest.

Last season, Kipp was a member of the Penguins but did not see action. He was named the scout team's defensive player of the week against Saint Francis University on Oct. 22 and the scout team's special team player of the week against Western Illinois University on Oct. 29.

"He's a guy that flies around, a guy that football means a lot to him," Eric Wolford, YSU head coach, said in October. "He's another spring away from just continuing to develop and do things we need him to do to be a contributing factor here."

However, Kipp will never fully know what it'll be like to step foot on the field on game day. He practiced with the team for the last time on Monday.

On Tuesday, a flight from Pittsburgh to Tranbjerg, Denmark, will bring Kipp home.

His father, Gunther, never fully recovered from a stroke approximately seven years ago, a day Kipp said he'll never forget.

Kipp was eating breakfast before school started one morning when his dad had the stroke. He wasn't able to fully comprehend what had happened until he returned home.

Kipp said he does not have a vivid memory of what happened but will remember that day forever.

Kipp didn't feel comfortable discussing the details of his father's illness,

but said the stroke is still a contributing factor in his father's medical woes.

During his final practice at YSU, Kipp said it felt different.

"Right now, it's not the same feeling," he said.

Kipp added that he will miss the players the most, especially sophomore offensive tackle J.P. May.

Kipp and May have known each other for about a year, and the two have become best friends.

"On the field, he's definitely a positive guy," May said. "I know he's not first team or anything, but he's definitely a positive guy. I know he tries his best. I know he's a hard worker."

Before
Y S U .
K i p p
p l a y e d
j u n i o r
v a r -
s i t y
a n d
s o m e



varsity in 2006 and 2007 at Milwaukee Lutheran High School as a foreign exchange student.

Internationally, Kipp helped lead the Danish Junior National Team to a second-place finish at the 2007 national championships. Kipp was also a member of the Aarhus Tigers AFC before joining the Sollerod Gold Diggers in 2010.

The Gold Diggers won the national championship that year.

Wolford said "Kipp Dinger" was an experimental player and had a chance to play at least one down this year.

"He's a guy we have fun with," Wolford said. "We know that he's a little bit of an experiment, but he's done well for a guy who hasn't played a lot of football. He wants to learn the game of football, but he's got to attend his family."

Joe Tresey, first-year defensive coordinator, also said Kipp was a pleasure to be around.

"He was very interesting," Tresey said. "He's just a team guy. Everything that he did, he enjoyed what he was doing. He busted his rear end every day. He really liked what he was doing, and that's very impressive."

Wolford found out about Kipp's departure roughly a week ago, but Kipp's decision to leave was made a few weeks ago.

"I was not doing what I needed to do in school," Kipp said. "I just spent a lot of time talking to people back at home. I would really love to stay here, but after a week or so, I kind of realized that that might not be the best decision, no matter how much I wanted it."

It's bittersweet for Kipp, who misses his family, yet homesickness has caused his grades to slip.

"If I really want to keep my life on track, I really need to get home," he said.

Kipp has enrolled at the Aarhus University and plans to continue playing, and maybe coaching, the game he loves.

Kipp said school is part of the reason he is returning home. If it was only because of his father, Kipp might have stayed for another semester.

Sports Briefs

Men's tennis splits over the weekend

The YSU men's tennis team split its two road matchups this past weekend. On Saturday, it traveled to Valparaiso University and won, 7-0. On Sunday, the Penguins made the trip to the University of Illinois at Chicago and lost a tough match, 4-3. Their record is 8-9 for the spring season.

Phantoms begin playoffs

The Youngstown Phantoms began the 2012 Clark Cup playoffs Monday at the Covelli Centre in a best of three series against the Cedar Rapids Rough Riders. The Phantoms finished in fourth place with a 32-21-7 record.

Football holds annual spring game

The YSU football team held the 40th annual Red-White Spring Game on Friday at Stambaugh Stadium. Junior quarterback Kurt Hess threw two first-half touchdown passes to lead the red team to a 28-14 victory. Sophomore linebacker Travis Williams led all defenders with 10 tackles.

Penguin Spotlight



Damian Eargle

Year: Junior
Weight: 215 pounds
Height: 6'7"
Hometown: Youngstown
High School: Warren Harding
Position: F

Junior forward Damian Eargle was named to the CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major All-Defensive Team, the website announced on Monday. Eargle set the Horizon League single-season blocks records for all games and league-games only last season with 116 (65 in HL action). He also owns the conference career record with 122 blocks in conference play, and he ranked third in the country, averaging 3.7 blocks per game.

'Jack Up The Rev'



Sports Editor Joe Catullo Jr. will recap Saturday's 40th annual Red-White Spring Game and the Youngstown Phantoms' first career playoff game.

FIGHTING PAGE 1

to escape the streets and make a name for themselves.

"We exploded," Loew said on the effects of Pavlik's success. "We did get a lot of new kids."

Almost five years since that championship bout, things have changed.

With a reputation damaged by reported alcohol abuse, Pavlik is no longer the pride of Youngstown. He lost the WBO title in 2010, and then he parted ways with Loew in 2011.

Still, one thing remains constant: The door of Loew's Southside Boxing Club is always open, and there are always young fighters walking through it.

"I have my gym here, and they walk through the door, just like Pavlik and all my other fighters did," Loew said. "I don't go calling around for fighters. ... I think it's just like anything in business. If you put out a good quality, they'll come to you."

Edge, 26, arrived at Loew's gym two years ago.

Originally from Massillon, he joined his brother in Youngstown in 2007, never intending to pursue boxing.

Although he liked the sport as a child, Edge said he never boxed before.

"Has [Youngstown] pulled me into boxing? Yeah, I believe it has because of the environment I live in," Edge said. "To me, boxing is the best escape route as far as staying out of trouble and keeping my head on straight."

Similarly, boxing has had the same effect on Lavelle Hadley.

A Springfield, Ill., native, Hadley — unlike Edge — is not new to the sport. Boxing since age 12, Hadley, 22, moved to Youngstown a year ago, and said he wanted to take his boxing career to the next level.

"I heard about Jack Loew and that he had a good gym," Hadley said.

Where Edge and Hadley are alike is the role boxing plays in their lives.

"Boxing keeps me out of trouble," Hadley said. "It keeps me positive."

Boxing has provided support and purpose for Edge, Hadley and many other Youngstown youths.

In a city with a 49.7 per-



Jack Loew (left) works with amateur fighter Lavelle Hadley (right) inside the Southside Boxing Club. Loew trains many hopeful boxers from the Youngstown area. Photo by Steve Wilaj/The Jambar.

cent poverty rate, Loew said he has dealt with "thousands" of hopeful kids and young adults, many coming from brutal backgrounds.

"We've had some pretty rough kids that have come through this gym who thought they were rough out on the streets with their buddies," Loew said. "When they come in here, they get a little humble."

When talking about Edge and Hadley, Loew describes them both as having "good work habits."

Located in a city where he can find "a bunch of thugs and punks," Loew said he values attitude, work ethic and responsibility in his fighters.

"We've took some real badasses off the street and done some good work," Loew said.

"I don't want troublemakers," he added. "I've had young kids come in here who just started and tell me, 'Coach, I punched a kid in the mouth today.' I tell them, 'Well, I'll see ya next week.'"

Loew said there isn't a single troublemaker among the 40 "kids" in his gym.

And he provides more than just a boxing gym. He provides a life opportunity — for free.

"We don't charge 'em anything," Loew said. "And, yeah, it gives them a great opportunity

to make something of themselves."

Hadley, who works part time at a fast food restaurant, said he believes this opportunity can be his way out of Youngstown.

"I think I can make it out of here with boxing," Hadley said. "With Jack behind me, I can get there."

Edge and Hadley share the same goal: become a professional and win a championship.

Loew said he knows the odds are against them.

"I tell all my kids, 'Don't be embarrassed if it doesn't work out for you, because it probably won't,'" he said. "This sport, maybe 5 percent will survive."

Even so, Loew said he doesn't let the odds hinder his effort.

"I'm gonna take what their goal is and enhance their goal," Loew said. "If their aspirations are to turn pro and be the middleweight champion of the world, I'm with you."

Loew recently entered Edge and Hadley in the Golden Gloves amateur boxing tournament. Hadley was eliminated early in the tournament. But Edge advanced out of the Cleveland regional, and will participate in the nationals in Mesquite, Nev., on April 28.

"This tournament can open up a lot of doors for me, or it

can shut a lot of doors for me," Edge said. "It's a make or break situation."

Preparing for the vital tournament, Edge works out at the Southside gym six days a week. He said he also runs the steps of Stambaugh Stadium at Youngstown State University — which he attended for two years.

When working with younger kids, Loew said he has a trick he often uses.

"I make them bring me their report cards," he said. "Not that I'm gonna do anything about it, but they don't know that."

Loew said he strongly encourages education to his fighters. His prouder moments are persuading some fighters to obtain a GED diploma.

"We didn't make them, but we kind of talked them into going back and getting their GED," Loew said. "Of those four or five kids, two or three did go on to take some classes at YSU. ... But not everybody is cut out for college."

Edge said he did not attend spring classes at YSU because of family issues.

"It was hard for me to stay focused on school," Edge said. "The saying goes, 'School isn't for everybody.' Not saying I don't have the potential to do it, but sometimes life's situations prevent you from doing certain things. ... You just gotta go with what God's path has for you."

Edge said he believes that lacing up a set of gloves is that path.

When Edge steps into the ring later this month, he will be given what he was looking for the day he walked into the Southside Boxing Club two years ago: the opportunity to prove his boxing skills to a national audience.

With a successful showing, he may be on the fast track to a professional career.

With a poor showing, he may be back to the daily grind of life in Youngstown.

It's the cruel reality of the dangerous sport that many young men choose to gamble their lives on.

Loew has seen both sides. "I've had all kinds of different kids in here, from every walk of life," Loew said. "Fail or succeed, we're gonna affect them one way or another."