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# Missing Truck Found

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The missing Parking Services truck has been found in a giant pothole on the north side of campus.

The truck was discovered by Youngstown State University students who are part of the program where students on academic probation fill potholes to receive re-admittance into the university. It is based on a similar program in which the Mahoning County Engineer's Office used prisoners to fill city potholes. The crew of under-achieving students found the missing Parking Services truck yesterday afternoon and the YSU Police Department is said to be elated.

The truck, which has been missing since Feb. 18, was found at the bottom of a pothole on Wick Avenue, just north of the Pollock House.

"We knew it was somewhere. It was just a matter of time before it showed up," an anonymous university official said.

Frank Toppehat, a member of the pothole crew that found the truck, was dumbfounded at

the discovery.

"I was just there and I saw this white thing at the bottom. I know I was supposed to cover it up with the smoking hot mixture of tar and gravel, but I just had to know what it was. So I strapped on a safety harness and had three of the other kids lower me down. I felt like I found a buried treasure," he said.

Toppehat and the rest of the pothole crew, who range from second-semester freshmen to twelfth-year seniors, began working on Wick Ave just before 4 a.m. on March 31 in an effort to get much of the work done before traffic got heavy.

Only minutes after 8 a.m., traffic was rerouted around campus after Toppehat found the truck and emergency services were called to the scene.

"I've never seen anything like this. This is truly a first that Youngstown can be proud of," Steele Planter, the newly appointed Youngstown Spokesman for Non-Industrial Matters, said.

This isn't the first time that missing university property has turned up in one of the enormous potholes. Last year, the city of Youngstown scrambled to find millions of dollars in an



PHOTO BY JOSH MEDORE/THE CROWBAR. EDITED BY STACY RUBINIC/THE JAMBAR.

After going missing on Feb. 18, a Parking Services vehicle was recovered on Monday. Frank Toppehat, the student who found the truck, described finding the truck as "like digging for buried treasure."

effort to recover YSU's 1997 National Championship trophy that was lost on Market Street.

The university has also recovered office furniture, large hunks of concrete from the Lincoln Parking Deck and, from time to time, students who got misdirected on their way home from downtown.

"In these times of economic distress, Youngstown State University will take any break we can get," a university spokesman said. "It might not have been one we planned on, but hey, a hundred grand is a hundred grand."

As for the road crew that found the truck, YSU will be

honoring them with the University Services award in a ceremony at the now-empty Pollock House.

"It's a honor to be given this award, but I was really hoping to be taken off academic probation or get some Pete's Points so I can get out of Cushwa or something," Toppehat said.

## University Reveals New Majors

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In an attempt to attract students from across the nation and to create cutting edge educational opportunities, Youngstown State University has introduced a host of new majors and classes to the curriculum.

The first new major announced, Pornographic Film Studies, was met with resounding support from students and community leaders. Administrators predict the new major will nearly double enrollment by attracting worldwide attention.

"In an innovative move by the university, we have announced the first ever, full-fledged Pornographic Film Studies major. We promise to offer a nuanced anthropological and artistic perspective that will revolutionize academia," said Larry Flint, recent hire in the provost's office. "This is not a cheap ploy to charge students for a worthless degree."

One community member already plans to enroll in the major when it launches this fall.

"I never thought that the university would offer a degree worth a damn. Now I can get a worthwhile education in one of my favorite subjects, and I only have to pay 10 grand for it," he said.

Several new classes will also be made available next year as part of the new avant-garde educational model.

The YSU Art Department announced on Monday that it will give credit for a new competition program called Mock Critique.

"With the success of the Moot Court class in political science, we thought we'd cut ourselves a piece of the pie," Pastelle Kearning, a professor brought in to teach the class, said. "The event begins when two competitors are released in a museum to circle around and loudly critique art. A panel of judges will decide winners based on two factors: how many pieces they critique and how inadequate they make other museum guests feel."

The political science department also announced on Monday a new "Liberals vs. Conservatives" class.

"We all know some political science classes can devolve into a void of partisan bickering. We thought we would respond to this issue by making a class dedicated to it," Asinos Elephanti, a new professor teaching the course, said. "Students will be put on two sides of the room, based on affiliation. Every day, I will introduce a new contentious topic of discussion. What happens next is up to them. We predict a lot of screaming and, a riot or two."

He continued to say that students will be assigned red or blue outfits to assure every student's identity can be boiled down to what political party they support.

The College of STEM announced a new online option for the math general education requirement, dubbed Select Topics in Mathematics in response to university-wide claims that "no one uses math in real life anyway." Though an anonymous source claims the class syllabus is virtually identical to Survey of Mathematics.

Other classes announced for next year include: Perfecting Passive-Aggressive Tweeting, Selfies: a Nihilistic Journey into the Self-Portrait, Writing Your Teenage Vampire Novel, and The Economics of You and Your Friend Opening a Bar.

## NEW CASTE SYSTEM

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A new student caste system, as part of a pilot program to improve student success, was approved at last night's Board of Trustees meeting. The new "Success Steps" initiative will sort students based on their accumulation of Pete's Points.

The Pete's Points program will no longer be based solely on students putting money into an account. The new system will allow students to accumulate reward points and lose points for "unacceptable" behaviors. The total amount of Pete's Points will directly affect the areas of campus and variety of services students can access.

"The [Youngstown State University] leadership believes that awarding Pete's Points for actions the university deems positive will help train students for their careers ... you have to take certain actions to be competitive in the job market and to make money. We're simply introducing that reality at the university level," said a press release by the Board.

The program is based on a controversial study in the quarterly academic journal Weekly Science Monthly. Jo Buttwater, the author of the study, is also a consultant charged with implementing the program for YSU. Buttwater has set up four caste systems — Penguins (20,000 or more points), Peacocks (19,999 – 15,000 points), Pigeons (14,999 – 10,000 points) and Garbage (-1 or less) — whose opportunities and physical lodgings on campus, called "Success Zones," rely solely on their acquisition of Pete's Points.

Buttwater said the premium caste of Penguins will be based out of Williamson Hall. The hall will be renovated to include the installation of ancient tapestries, free gourmet food options and hot rock massages.

Members of the Garbage class are not so lucky.

"Those with -1 or less Pete's Points, known as Garbage, will be limited to the basement of Cushwa Hall, which will help encourage their

growth as students," Buttwater said.

For the budget to allow Williamson's renovations, the power to Cushwa will be limited to three hours a day. Students will be given used car batteries from local scrapyards to power any devices. Media and academic computing will issue VCRs and vacuum tube television sets to every classroom to enhance the learning experience. Classes will be taught using videotapes from the early '80s and books scavenged from the various departments' discarded books tables.

While the methods may seem extreme to some students, the Board believes that the proposed system is fair.

"For example, students enrolling in the [science, technology, engineering and mathematics] degrees and athletics programs will receive an additional 10,000 Pete's Points upon enrollment. ... This will help the university to grow in line with the current demands by gently nudging students towards these programs. In contrast, those students who choose to major in the arts and humanities will lose 5,000 points as soon as the declaration of major form is signed," a member of the Board said.

The caste system even applies to parking. Penguins will have access to all lots, including faculty parking and, in lieu of available faculty spots, parking on any grass or walkway on campus.

Those of the lowest class will be allowed to park in the lots of surrounding area businesses, as well as around or within Wick Park. A shuttle from Wick Park will be available to pick up students at 5 a.m. on Tuesday and Saturday.

"It seems fair. My degree demands a lot of hard science and technical work. The new changes will help lessen the stress in my day-to-day campus life, which should help me focus on work," Sean Fancy Pants McVeigh, a mechanical engineering sophomore, said.

The Crowbar reached out to humanities students, but were unable to obtain a comment because the students immediately scurry under desks when approached by strangers.