

THE JAMBAR

The student voice of
Youngstown State University
since 1931.

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Today ☀️ 61° 52°

Wednesday ☀️ 62° 55°

Thursday ☁️ 60° 52°

Friday ☁️ 63° 40°



Remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar.

University hosts HR candidates

Dan Pompili
ASSIST. NEWS EDITOR

One of four final candidates for the position of director of human resources at Youngstown State University toured campus and met with administration Monday.

Porfirio Esparra, Jr. met with the search committee, President David C. Sweet, and Vice President of Finance — and Esparra's potential supervisor — Eugene Grilli, as well as engaging in an open forum with faculty, staff and students, and lunch with the board of trustees.

All four candidates are

scheduled to tour YSU this week. Christopher Yurkovich will be on campus Tuesday, and Carl Nittoli and Kevin Reynolds will be present on Friday.

Esparra retired as Superintendent of Airfield Management at the United States Air Force Reserve base in Vienna in 2006, after a 31-year career. He has since spent his time managing personnel in the health care industry, and is presently the senior director of employee relations at St. Elizabeth Health Center in Boardman, where he has worked since 2000.

He has worked for Humility of Mary Health Partners of which St. Elizabeth's is a

member, since 1992.

Yurkovich has worked since 1996 as a human resources manager at three separate industrial businesses, including ITT/Lear, an affiliate of General Motors, Corp. Since 2003, he has graduated into various managerial capacities for Volvo/Ingersoll Rand, where he is currently the Vice President for Human Resources.

Dr. George McCloud, Special Assistant to the President for University Advancement, and the chair of the search committee for the HR director said that several hundred resumes were received for consideration.

The applications were

submitted following a formal posting of the job description on July 8, by the firm of Mr. Lowell Gordon, Human Resource Alternatives. Gordon personally screened each applicant and eliminated those whom he did not feel met the criteria.

Gordon's list was then passed on to the search committee, comprised of administration, faculty, staff, and the Office of General Counsel. The board of trustees is not involved with the process.

McCloud said the committee used a modified Delphi procedure to reduce the selection to eight candidates for

CANDIDATE page 4

WORKING TOWARD THE WEEKEND



PHOTOS BY ADAM ROGERS / THE JAMBAR

Youngstown State University kicked off Homecoming Week 2009 Monday with various activities for students, staff and faculty. Jocko the Clown was on hand once again in the Kilcawley arcade telling jokes and making balloon creations. Outside, YSU ROTC took over the campus core with jousting and football toss competitions. More events will continue throughout the week. More photos on page 3.

More college students, higher unemployment

Doug Livingston
& Darlene Wagner
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTORS

Brenda Brady is one of 3,000 students enrolled at the newly opened Eastern Gateway Community College, a long touted educational system that will feed students to area four-year colleges.

Brady will attend classes through Eastern Gateway in the hope of realizing her lifelong ambition of becoming a college graduate and registered nurse.

Projections from the 2016 Job Outlook Report and enrollment data from Youngstown State University and Kent State University, however, indicate that Brady could find competition in landing a nursing job near the Mahoning Valley.

YSU's Office of Institutional Research and Policy Analysis indicates the number of nursing degrees awarded each year has more than doubled since 2002. Similar statistics from KSU show a 36 percent increase in students enrolled in the college of nursing over the past three years. The recent boom in nursing degrees is not merely a regional issue. On a statewide level, the Ohio Board of Regents issued a report in February that cites a 240 percent increase in nursing degrees awarded over the last five years.

The Job Outlook Report, compiled by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, projects there will be 192 openings each year for registered nurses in Trumbull and Mahoning counties, but there are already 436 students declaring nursing as their major at YSU in fall 2008 and more than 1,000 at KSU.

Nursing majors are also offered at numerous other regional colleges and universities.

Nursing, which is projected to grow faster than most occupations, is not the only field for which supply could exceed demand, according to the 2016 Outlook Report.

In fact, many fields requiring a four-year college degree or more are predicted to shrink, while occupations that require technical training or less are expected to grow.

For instance, the report predicts the highest growth in personal and home care aides, followed by social and human service assistants. And there will be the most annual openings for cashiers, retail salespeople, waiters and waitresses and fast food workers.

ODJFS statistics suggest that economic growth in the Youngstown-Warren-Boardman metropolitan areas will not sustain a larger, specialized workforce.

Students find loopholes in loan system, directors say

Doug Livingston
& Brittany Mollis
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTORS

Nearly nine out of every 10 full-time Youngstown State University students receive financial aid promising to use these funds for their education, but many freely admit they use proceeds for everything from car payments to clothing, and officials seem powerless to stop the practice.

YSU Senior Amanda Morgan started college in 2006 and each year borrows \$8,000. Like most college students in the nation, she receives a combination of grants and loans. After paying her yearly tuition

of \$7,000, Morgan says she has \$1,000 left, which she uses for books and shopping. One year, Morgan received \$12,000 in student loans; after paying off her tuition, the extra \$5,000 was used to purchase a car.

Morgan is not alone. As college students across the nation close out their first half of fall studies, many are receiving refund checks from federal student loans that have sufficiently covered their tuition. Refund checks, or reimbursement checks, are also sent out to cover the balance difference caused by a student who has elected to drop one or more classes.

More than 7,000 of the 8,000 students who receive financial aid at YSU do

"I'm not sure how many of those students have legitimate reasons. No system is perfect."

Denise M. Moss

so through federal loans. When these students drop their classes, the money goes right into their pockets.

Denise M. Moss, director of student accounts at the University of Akron, estimates that "at least 500 students out of 27,000 a semester receive refunds" after dropping classes.

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News Briefs

Student organization to host blood drive

A blood drive will be held in the Beeghly College of Education's McKay Auditorium on Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The blood drive will be sponsored by the YSU Student Organization of Dental Hygienists.

Free dance classes, concert to be available

Rhythm In Shoes, a dance and music company from Dayton, will offer free classes at various campus locations on Wednesday and Thursday. A free concert will be presented Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Bliss Hall's Ford Theater.

American Book Award winner will appear on campus

Award-winning poet Dana Gioia will speak Friday at 4 p.m. and present a poetry reading at 7 p.m. Both events will take place in Kilcawley Center's Gallery.

Armed Forces Boulevard dedication scheduled

U.S. Sen. Sherrod Brown will be present during the dedication of Armed Forces Boulevard, known formerly as Spring Street. A U.S. Coast Guard rescue helicopter will land on the north side of campus at 4:30 p.m., and will fly over the area at 5:30 p.m. to signal the start of the dedication. The ceremony will feature veterans, the YSU ROTC and the YSU band.

Police Briefs

Empty alcoholic beverage bottles placed in student's window

An officer was called to Kilcawley House on Wednesday. Empty alcoholic beverage bottles were displayed in a student's window. The student said he collects empty bottles, but the officer removed nine bottles from the room because they were a violation of housing rules.

Female resident found sobbing in Kilcawley House

A fight was reported at Kilcawley House on Wednesday night. A female was found sobbing after she erupted on some friends who were helping to calm her after an argument with her mother. The officers were able to quiet the woman down.

Man licks woman's hand in Williamson Hall

A woman was sitting at a table in Williamson Hall when a man approached her. The man grabbed her hand and began licking it. The female pulled her hand away, walked to the elevator and called YSU Police. Officers checked the building but were unable to find the subject.

Speaker raises alcohol awareness

Chelsea Miller
REPORTER

Youngstown State University celebrated Alcohol Awareness Week with a variety of activities ranging from alcohol-free fun like root beer pong to a candlelight walk of the track in remembrance of those who have died due to alcohol-related accidents.

Last week's activities serve as a reminder of the possible dangers alcohol could create and also a warning for students to be careful.

YSU first began celebrating National Alcohol Awareness Week in 2004. Housing coordinator Jacqueline Clifton said last weekend provided education regarding drinking.

"We're not telling students not to drink, but to do it safely," Clifton said.

To help spread this message, the YSU community welcomed Warren native Brent Scarpo to campus.

Scarpo, a former casting director who has worked on films such as "Matilda" and "The Shawshank Redemption," is now a nationally recognized public speaker who tours schools across the country addressing issues such as self-hate, servant leadership and alcoholism. Scarpo said his alcohol awareness speech is one of his favorites to present, especially since it hits close to home.

Scarpo's father, an alcoholic, abandoned him and his family when he was 4 years old. His brother, who is now estranged from the family, is also an alcoholic. Scarpo said one of the points he wants people to understand is that al-

cohol can change people.

Scarpo's program began not centered on alcohol, however, but as a speech entitled "Why Do You Hate Me?" This speech dealt with why people may hate themselves or others. Many of those with "self-hate," Scarpo said, participate in harmful activities such as alcohol abuse.

When giving a speech once to 700 students in fraternities and sororities, Scarpo asked the crowd, "How many of you consider yourselfs alcoholics or know someone you love who is an alcoholic?"

"Everyone raised their hand ... I almost fell off the stage I was so surprised," Scarpo said, adding that it was at that moment he realized he needed a separate program to address alcohol abuse.

Scarpo said his program is always different, as audience participation is key. During his presentation, Scarpo called for volunteers to come on stage and act out different instances where one may encounter alcohol. The direction students take is their decision.

In one of the scenes, students acted out being offered drinks by a stranger. Both girls on stage accepted the drinks; Scarpo later asked why they accepted them.

"They're free?" one girl responded.

Scarpo then told the audience of a former presentation where one of the participants wouldn't take the drink and lectured the other one why she should not take it either. He also offered them an example of a girl who went to the bar by herself and was raped by the bartender who put something in her drink. Scarpo rec-

ommended that girls always stay in groups when going out and never leave unattended.

Although Scarpo's program was mostly humorous, it also contained several touching and thought-provoking segments. During his presentation, an audience member relayed the story of her struggle with alcohol addiction and a recent DUI that resulted in her assessing her problems with alcohol.

Scarpo concluded his presentation with a tape of a 911 call regarding a former student, Adrian Heideman. Heideman was found by a fellow fraternity brother unconscious after a night of partying. His friends' efforts to revive him failed.

Scarpo said the 911 call was the last thing Heideman's mother heard, and Scarpo was so touched he named his program "Last Call."

Many YSU students were touched as well. Sophomore exercise science major Kenya Garner said she "probably won't drink for a while."

"If I do, it won't be a lot," Garner said.

Amanda Gray, a sophomore professional writing and editing major, said after the presentation, she was more aware of the dangers of drinking.

"I thought he was fun. It was very interactive," Gray said.

Scarpo said his main objective is for students to discover the role alcohol plays in their lives.

"I'm not saying don't drink," Scarpo said. "I wanted people to really examine their relationship with alcohol ... and depending on what that is, make choices to living a happy life."

SGA meeting discusses various programs and events

David Boyer
REPORTER

The Youngstown State University Student Government Association held a general meeting on Monday in Kilcawley Center's Ohio Room. Twenty-eight members were in attendance as well as two advisers.

Zach Brown, president of SGA, reported on the Helping Hands Food Drive which is taking place next to Arby's in Kilcawley. There was some confusion about where the food drive was taking place. Brown clarified that SGA volunteers should go to "the little window in the Arby's area."

The new SGA T-shirts and hoodies are now in and will be worn on campus by SGA members.

Vice President of Financial Affairs Sarah Stafford gave her report on SGA's budget. Of SGA's \$31,050.29 budget, \$9,368.64 has been appropriated to organizations on campus, including the YSU College Republicans, the Dance Club, YSUnity, the African Student Union and 14 more

organizations. Nearly 70 percent of SGA funds are still unobligated.

Members of SGA discussed their winter break retreat where members will go to Seven Springs Ski Resort. SGA members discussed fiscally feasible options for transportation.

Abbie Twyford introduced SR-F 2009-03, which is the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment. The bill calls upon YSU President David C. Sweet to sign the commitment to reduce the university's environmental footprint.

SGA member Donovan O'Neil spoke up about some possible issues with SR-F 2009-03.

"One issue being the costs that are going to come from enacting something like this, whether we are going to be charging a green fee to our students," O'Neil said. "I am just not very comfortable with the wording within the commitment itself."

SGA adviser Dr. Chet Cooper suggested SGA take a closer look at the Climate Commitment.

"YSU is doing some things,

but they are not doing enough to truly be a sustainable campus," Cooper said.

After some discussion, Brown said they are going to look into the details involved in the commitment and address it again in next week's meeting.

Seven organizations requested appropriations in SB F 2009-05. The bill was passed with a majority vote and appropriated a total of \$3,565 to the Institute of Management Accountants, Early Childhood Student Association, Dana Research Society, American Marketing Association, Greek Campus Life, YSU OCMEA and the Institute of Industrial Engineers.

SGA members also discussed the possibility of donating to the United Way of Mahoning Valley. SGA Parliamentarian Ken Oyler said, "It is a great idea."

SGA members discussed the possibility of accepting donations at the SGA tailgating event on Saturday and donating out of their own pockets.

The Meet the Reps event will take place Wednesday night at Buffalo Wild Wings.

NEOUCOM announces new president

Juliana Hull
REPORTER

On Wednesday, Dr. Steven Schmidt, chairman of Northeastern Ohio Universities Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy's



President Gershen

Board of Trustees, named Jay Alan Gershen as the new president. Gershen will be the sixth president of NEOUCOM and will succeed Lois Margret Nora on Jan. 15.

"We are delighted that Dr. Gershen has accepted our offer to become NEOUCOM's next president and we look forward to his arrival on campus," Schmidt said.

Gershen was the "unanimous choice" for president because of his experience in academic research, legislative affairs, community relations and business development. He is the vice chancellor for external affairs for the University of Colorado Denver and is in charge of business development, external relations and community affairs. Gershen also holds numerous positions on business advisory boards in the Denver area, the state of Colorado and nationwide.

Gershen received his bachelor's degree in psychology from the State University of New York, Buffalo and his Doctorate of Dental Science from the University of Maryland. He completed his clinical specialty in pediatric dentistry and his doctorate in education from the University of California, Los Angeles.

He was the first dental dean in the nation to gain graduate medical education support funds for all of the non-hospital based postdoctoral programs at the University of California. He has secured AIDS reimbursement funds for the nation's dental education institutions and has developed new teaching methods for the behavioral science curricula.

"The opportunity to serve as NEOUCOM's president is an exciting one, and I am truly honored to have been chosen for the role," Gershen said.

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Nokia sues Apple with claims of patent infringement

John Boudreau
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

Global mobile phone giant Nokia is taking its competition against iPhone maker Apple to court, filing a suit today that claims the Cupertino company is violating 10 of its wireless technology patents.

In a statement, the Finnish company said the violations "relate to technologies fundamental to making devices." Nokia claims the patent infringements are tied to GSM, 3G WCDMA and wireless LAN standards.

Nokia, the world's largest vendor of smart-phones, has been struggling amid the global downturn. During its third quarter, which ended Oct. 15, the company reported a \$836 million loss. It also said smart-phone sales dropped to 16.4

million units from 16.7 million from the previous quarter. Meanwhile, Apple on Monday reported a blowout fourth quarter with record-high sales of computers and iPhones. Sales jumped 25 percent year over year to \$9.87 billion. Apple sold 7.4 million iPhones in its fourth quarter, up 7 percent from the same period a year earlier.

The legal shot across Apple's bow amounts to little, analysts say.

"Lawsuits happen all the time with tech companies," said Broadpoint AmTech analyst Brian Marshal. "It's a minor inconvenience. Apple has some of the best attorneys on the planet. I'm not concerned about it."

At worst, a judgment against Apple could result in a \$12-a-unit payment to Nokia and would not impact Apple's

financial picture, Piper Jaffray analyst Gene Munster wrote in a note to investors. Such an outcome would be unlikely, he added.

"We believe Nokia is seeking a commercial settlement similar to its agreements with other mobile device makers, but is likely not seeking an injunction," Munster wrote.

Claims of patent infringement are common. Apple and Palm, for instance, have traded verbal swipes about each copying the other's tech secrets.

"Is this a valid claim or is Nokia trying to be a thorn in their side to try to slow them down?" asked Ben Bajarin, an analyst with Creative strategies. "Maybe Nokia is trying to do something to bring them back into the limelight. They had a terrible quarter."

Google adds social-network results to Web searches

Mike Swift
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

Google launched a new product Monday that will allow users to find recently updated public online postings by a person's network of friends, colleagues or media sources.

The goal of "Social Search," which came Monday afternoon at <http://www.google.com/experimental>, is to find relevant postings on Twitter, in blogs or other public Web content published by a user's circle of online colleagues.

Social Search would highlight content posted by those people every time a user does a Google search.

"We want to return a lot more relevant results to users, results that are either offered or linked by their social circle," said Google Fellow Amit Singhal.

A Social Search query for "Bridge School Benefit," Neil Young's annual acoustic fundraiser in Mountain View, Calif., wouldn't just produce the home page for the concert.

It would also highlight any tweets, blog postings or newspaper reviews produced by a user's designated network of friends or media sources.

Google considers today's launch an experiment and is asking users for feedback. But the company says the results it had using Social Search internally were "exciting" because they allow web users to save time by finding content posted by the people or sources they are most interested in.

Marissa Mayer, Google's vice president for search products and user experience, demonstrated a version of Social Search at the Web 2.0 summit in San Francisco last week. "I think it demonstrates our commitment to innovating in search," Mayer said last week.

The new product, executives said, is "completely separate" from the agreement Google announced last week to make available up-to-the-minute search results of Twitter postings. However, content available through that Twitter deal could be used to improve Social Search down the road.

CANDIDATE page 1

telephone interviews. From those, the final four were chosen.

The need for a new director comes on the heels of the last director's termination. Craig Bickley was placed on administrative leave in December 2008, following suspicion of illicit activity involving the improper salary adjustment

of former ACE union president Ivan Maldonado. Questions also surround Bickley's knowledge of the memo cited in the allegations of menacing against Maldonado.

Bickley was further found to be guilty of an \$8,000 state auditor's finding involving activities during his term as executive director of human re-

sources for Columbus Public Schools in 2007.

Bickley had stated prior to his hiring at YSU that he had been cleared of the charges.

Martin Bramlett has been operating as interim director of Human Resources since March. It is unknown whether Bramlett submitted a resume for consideration to the search

committee.

McCloud said, addressing the storied past of the HR director position, "my most constructive mode of thought is looking forward not backward. We have a very conscientious committee doing everything with a special level of determination."

McCloud would not com-

ment on the candidates themselves but said the search is proceeding as planned.

The final decision will be made by Grilli.

"We're taking every step to tee up the decision for Vice President Grilli, so he has excellent choices," said McCloud.

COMMUNITY page 1

The Job Outlook Report rates the Youngstown area's job growth rate by 2016 last at 1.2 percent. The employment growth rate is well below the state average of 4.1 percent.

ODJFS Workforce Analysis for 2009 indicates that over 32,000 Mahoning residents are employed outside the county every day. In conjunction with Ohio's unemployment rate at 11.2 percent, up from 6.7 percent just a year ago, the need for jobs is growing.

Data from the reports has prompted YSU economics Professor Todd Porter to consider whether society is becoming overeducated and if there is really a need for so many training schools and colleges.

Rep. Tim Ryan explains that in order to ensure the work force being trained today is employed locally tomorrow, you have to improve the "quality of life" in the Mahoning Valley. Stimulating "the arts, the music, the entertainment, the bars, the downtown living," Ryan said, will entice entrepreneurs and business owners to invest in the Mahoning Valley's economy and industry. Nonetheless, "in addition to that, you need to have jobs that are created."

The creation of the Eastern

Gateway Community College fits into Strickland's Strategic Plan for Higher Education, which boasts an additional 230,000 students in Ohio colleges by 2017.

The funding for this project, however, does not come from the Ohio Department of Education. Ryan claims most of the \$1.9 million government Community Based Jobs Training Grant that served to launch the Eastern Gateway Community College "was Department of Labor money." Ryan also states that finances for these kinds of educational programs are made available through Title I of the Stimulus Bill, "which is for under-served school districts like Youngstown."

While Strickland claims "in the emerging 21st century economy, jobs will go where the workforce is most educated," some denounce this education-equals-economic-growth philosophy. Still others, like YSU student Amanda Morgan, remain fearful of the near future.

Morgan confessed that "because of the way the economy is, right now I'm thinking it might be a better idea to just stay in school ... than get out and not find a job."

LOAN page 1

"I'm not sure how many of those students have legitimate reasons," Moss said. "No system is perfect."

Moss said the student loan process is "usually abused quite a bit before someone is stopped. It's a very generous process to the students."

While filing for financial assistance, every student fills out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid form. No FAFSA form is accepted without being signed and dated. By signing this document, students contractually agree that they "will use federal and/or state student financial aid only to pay the cost of attending an institution of higher education."

However, while most students use the money for books and tuition, others claim they spend their refund checks on car insurance, a substitute for a paycheck, living expenses and shopping. One YSU student even likened his federal student loan to a credit card, saying "it's there if you need it."

The process by which a student receives federal loans is mandated by loosely defined federal regulations and each higher learning institution's refund policy. According to the United States Department

of Education, "if the loan has not been disbursed when the student's enrollment status changes ... the loan for which the student is no longer eligible is returned to the lender."

The U.S. Department of Education goes on to explain that "if the loan has been disbursed, the school may -- but is not required to -- adjust the award amount for that term."

Stina Olafsdottir, manager of student accounts at Kent State University, said once the loans have been given out, the student is responsible for returning any unused funds due to dropped classes.

"[Students] now owe us," she said.

Through this process, the student is capable of exacting funds that are virtually impossible to be taken back. There are a few programs in place to check students' thirst for quick cash. Programs like YSU's Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy, also in use at other universities, catalog students who continually drop classes. The program determines a problem related to attendance or academic shortcomings and cuts off future federal funding until the outstanding balance is paid.

But the programs are flawed. The SAP program allows students to receive federal financial aid until "a student's attempted hours ... reach 150 percent of the maximum hours needed to complete an associate or bachelor's degree." This loophole allows for students to withdraw federal loans for a period much longer than needed to graduate.

James Stanger, associate director of financial aid at YSU, said the SAP program does not catch offenders every time. In fact, Stanger claims that students who do not meet academic qualifications for financial aid are sometimes not discovered until the second or third attempt. Even then, the financial aid money is tucked away in the student's account, out of reach from the government and the university.

According to <http://www.finaid.org>, issues with failing to complete coursework and withdrawing from class early account for 75 percent of all student loan defaults. The trend is alarming. The U.S. Department of Education reports that default rates on federal student loans will reach 6.9 percent, the highest rate of default since 1998.

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Taize Service

On Thursday, Oct. 29 at 7:00 p.m. there will be a Taize service of beautiful music with meditation prayer, scripture, silence and calming reflection held at the First Presbyterian Church, 201 Wick Ave. In the candle-lit Sanctuary all who come may join in with the First Presbyterian Church Motet choir, the St. Columba Cathedral Choir and the Poland Presbyterian Chancel Choir. It will be a half hour service which will enrich all who come. All are welcome.



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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 summer sessions. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.

OUR SIDE EDITORIAL

Old problems, new ideas

RELATED STORY

Community, page 1

THE JAMBAR EDITORIAL BOARD

The Job Outlook Report for the Youngstown area shows only a 1.2 percent increase in job growth by the year 2016, but despite the increase, the city will still be well below the state average of 4.1 percent.

Rep. Tim Ryan has said time after time that the city needs a jump-start economically, socially and physically, starting with downtown. Tell us something we haven't tried before.

Spare us the same excuses. The city needs a definitive plan that shows progress on the streets and the communities.

This is especially hard now, however, with the nation's economy in a recession. It's nearly impossible to measure growth.

But if Ryan is truly serious about restoring the Valley, there are a few angles he may want to consider, and so should the rest of us.

Years ago, the opportunity presented itself to bring riverboat gambling to downtown. The initiative, of course, failed.

The current gambling initiative promises to preclude any possibility of bringing gambling to the Valley. Ever. Just look at our roads. Rest assured, the streets in Las Vegas don't look like that.

History has taught us that vices will always find profit. Alcohol was a booming industry during the Depression, even when it overlapped Prohibition.

Vices like marijuana could be legalized in the state and taxed.

Nobody wants to abandon the industrial image of Youngstown. It is gone. We must think outside the box. Bringing a revitalized economy is not the natural result of the same old notions and lamentations.

We're not suggesting handing out joints and poker chips to everyone, but some new thinking wouldn't exactly hurt.

Consider what has worked for other places, find the parallels and implement them.

OUR SIDE POLICY

The editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor and news editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and draw on the opinions of the entire writing staff. The Jambar's business manager and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

YOUR SIDE POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. E-mail submissions are welcome at editor@thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification and the writer's city of residence for printing. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries that are libelous or that don't defend opinion with facts from reliable sources. The editorial board will request a re-write from the submitting writer based on these requirements.

Letters will not be rejected based on the view expressed in them. Letters may be rejected if they are not relevant to Jambar readers, seek free publicity or if the editorial staff decides the subject has been sufficiently aired. The Jambar will not print letters that libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The Jambar does not withhold the names of writers of letters or guest commentaries.

The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of Youngstown State University.

WALMART FIRES EMPLOYEE FOR CHASING AFTER THIEF



The views of this syndicated artist do not necessarily agree with those of The Jambar.

Petting Zoo



Melissa Mary Smith
COLUMNIST

Retail Hell

This past August, I celebrated three years at my cashiering job.

Well, I didn't so much celebrate as I just found a corner to weep in.

When putting ourselves through college, many of us have to hold down jobs in any sector of the goods and service industry; food and retail are the most popular.

In my time spent working retail, I have unfortunately seen how petty and gruesome society can be.

I used to have a romantic image of people: everyone was honest, polite, patient and understanding.

Needless to say, when I

started my first retail job, that image was shattered.

Retail has taught me...

That people want what they want now, and if you make them wait for even five minutes, expect to hear complaining.

That whenever you explain policy to an upset customer, no matter how little you're paid or what lowly status you occupy in the company, it is your fault.

If you're a female, expect to get sexually harassed or asked out to dinner at least once by a male customer.

It's not worth letting a nasty customer ruin your day. Let it go.

Try not to get worked up over meaningless scuffles with co-workers. Remind yourself that you won't be there forever and that you're moving on to better things.

That you are replaceable. Companies might do unique things to welcome diversity amongst their employees but a monkey can do your job. In the grand scheme of things, you're simply seen as a name and number.

No matter how hard you work at something, even if it's a task assigned to you by a manager, expect to get little to no recognition for it.

There are stupid people and there are mean people. Most of the rudest customers tend to be the stupidest. All you can do is take a deep breath and call for a manager.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

SEND US AN E-MAIL

THEJAMBAR@GMAIL.COM

As Washington debates tourism to Cuba, consider the timing

MCT
MIAMI HERALD

In Havana a 50-year dictatorship considers dropping the ration book that has defined its control over a citizenry that has come to depend on its meager allotment of staples like rice, beans and coffee.

In Washington a free society debates whether to allow American tourists into Cuba even if the Castro brothers' government has yet to take a baby step to reciprocate President Barack Obama's initial opening for more travel and remittances by Cuban Americans to the communist island.

The backdrop for these two seemingly disparate moves? A global recession that has Cuba's regime scrambling for cash, and a change in U.S. leadership that has travel providers hoping to cash in on Cuba.

The Miami Herald has long supported maintaining the trade embargo on Cuba because of its dismal human rights record but lifting travel restrictions to stimulate more people-to-people contacts that bypass the Cuban government's chokehold on information.

Even if American tourists stay in gussied-up areas and few get to see the desperate situation that most Cubans are forced to live, these same tourists can leave a mark on Cubans. Americans, by their interactions with Cuban workers in hotels, restaurants and on the street, could help to erase the propaganda the Cuban re-

gime has fed its people for five decades about the "evil imperialist monster to the North."

So, yes, more travel to the island makes sense, though President Obama's loosening of travel rules for Cuban Americans and others on academic or cultural trips is already helping on that front.

The question members of Congress should ask now is whether this is the right time to be opening up all travel to Cuba — in the midst of a recession where tourist meccas from Miami to Las Vegas are hurting with empty hotel rooms. So far, neither Raul Castro, who now is supposedly in charge, or his brother Fidel, who remains recovering from an intestinal illness, has offered any hope to Cubans that their lives will be better soon.

Political repression remains a challenge for Cubans trying to build a civil society, as Generation Y blogger Yoani Sanchez has experienced, most recently this week when Cuba denied her the right to travel to New York to accept a prestigious award at Columbia University.

If travel is opened to Americans, they should go with their eyes wide open. Even the food and services that Cuba's hotels offer are lacking by most world travelers' standards. That, too, should be a wake-up call for American tourists enamored with a "socialist paradise" that exists in name only on ration cards likely to become extinct.

What are you dressing up as for Halloween?

"Going as Greek god and goddess."
Ronnie Palowitz and Charlene Tabat

"As a banana."
Landon Deflorville

"Going as a drunk person."
Mike Warner

AN UNDEAD YOUNGSTOWN

City, local spots prep for first ever Zombie Crawl

Lamar Salter
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

Imagine zombies running through the streets of Youngstown. Hordes of the undead trekking downtown ripping through Barley's, leveling Downtown 36, crashing through Rosetta Stone and leaving The Lemon Grove upside-down.

While a "Dawn of the Dead" scenario in the city isn't very likely, Youngstown is working on an alternate, more environmentally friendly idea.

Friday, the undead will take over the downtown Youngstown scene for Zombie Crawl, a first ever event that will partner local restaurants and bars with the city.

Sponsored by the Mahoning Valley Historical Society, The Oakland Center for the Arts and city planning, Zombie Crawl will transform average Joes into iconic undead creatures.

Local makeup artists will be at Oak Hill cemetery on the city's Southside to help with the zombification process.

The Mahoning Valley Historical Society will also be giving guided tours through the vast graveyard as well as hosting a Halloween party full of ghost stories, contests and dancing.

Zombie crawl has partnered with local bars for drink specials in accordance with the event.

Jacob Harver, owner of The Lemon Grove

said the event highlights a "wonderful partnership in the city" and was excited at the co-operation.

"We're seeing a new model of how communities operate," Harver said. "It's a new era for downtown."

The Lemon Grove will be offering "zombie drink specials" and Halloween-themed drinks like pumpkin martinis.

The cafe will also be hosting live music and "the after hours sessions," a separate Halloween event.

Rosetta Stone will be hosting music and drink specials as well, in addition to holding a costume contest.

Manager Chuck Sop said Rosetta Stone would be having a two-day Halloween event in addition to Friday's celebration for the weekend.

Local Ohio band Redline will be performing Friday from 9-1 a.m.

"Whenever there is a holiday, the city usually comes together for an event," Sop said.

Being a first ever event, the city is hoping to make Zombie Crawl an annual tradition for Youngstown, so expect an undead showcase to return around this time next year.

"Whenever there is a holiday, the city usually comes together for an event."

Chuck Sop, Rosetta Stone



Photo courtesy of Youngstown Zombie Crawl

Zombie drink specials and events

- Buffalo Wild Wings: \$3 Bombs**
- Draught House: \$2 Dollar Drink Specials**
- Barley's: Mike Lewis Pre-Halloween Bash**
- Cedars: The Sweet Delights**



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WWW.MYSFACE.COM/THEZOU

Zou's 'Rocky Horror' makes Halloween a drag

Nicholas Kloss
REPORTER

In classic Youngstown Halloween tradition, local indie rock favorite The Zou will be performing their annual rendition of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" at Cedars Lounge on Saturday.

"We're the only band in the country that does something like this," said Zou founder Khaled Tabbara.

Members of The Zou, who are in the midst of writing

new material for a full-length record and are planning to rerelease their album "Archaeopteryx" on a yet-to-be-named independent record label this spring, will take the stage for a set of Zou originals followed by "Rocky Horror" fan favorites: "Science Fiction/Double Feature" and "Dammit Janet," among others.

"We're not trying to reenact the actual production of 'Rocky Horror' ... it's more of a rock band playing 'Rocky Horror' songs with Zou style," Tabarra said.

The show is scheduled to begin at 10 p.m. with Rachel's Secret Stache from Akron, Floatation Walls from Columbus and two sets in full costume by The Zou.

"You never know which member of the band you'll see half naked," said guitarist Rob Thorndike, who recalled causing somewhat of a stir at a past Halloween performance. At this show, Thorndike sported a gold Speedo and eye makeup in true "Rocky Horror" fashion on stage.

The Zou will also unveil a collection of rarities titled

"Mis-Zou-llaneous," featuring recorded versions of "Rocky Horror" tracks, outtakes and music videos. This will be available for \$5.

Prior to The Zou's set, a costume contest hosted by Viking Jim of WNCN 93.3 will be held, with prizes ranging from two tickets to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, \$30 gift certificates to Indie Wax and Zou merchandise going to the sexiest, scariest and most original costumes.

"We have the best costumes in town at this show,"

Tabarra said. "'Rocky Horror' is about indulgence, self-expression and open-mindedness."

The band recalls a year the most original costume prize went to a woman who was an amputee and had a prosthetic wooden peg leg constructed for her pirate costume.

"It's a unique and true Halloween experience that brings people that wouldn't normally come downtown to Cedars," said Zou bassist Murad Shorrab.

"This is a one-of-a-kind party," Thorndike added.

Dedication in Denim: GBNF Denim (Gone But Not Forgotten)

Gary S. Angelo
FEATURES REPORTER

Although lacking a storefront, Gone But Not Forgotten Denim carries rock-inspired denim and creates distress alterations and printing design for jeans and other forms of apparel.

Kelly Bowell's business also carries leather accessories and screen-printed hoodies, bandannas and T-shirts. Bowell also makes apparel and products out of recycled denim.

"People can send their old denim jeans to get altered or repurposed," Bowell said.

Bowell travels with her business, setting up GBNF booths at various music festivals and rock shows such as Vexfest and Rock The Block in downtown Youngstown.

"We book shows with bands and design their T-shirts and merchandise," Bowell said, adding that she plans on having a Web store up and running within six months.

Bowell got her start in wardrobe design working behind the scenes at Packard Music Hall. She was an assistant designer for "Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" and "Camelot." Later, she toured with Youngstown alternative acts Graphic Pink, Cherry Monroe and Dear Violet, preparing their wardrobe and hair for shows and photo shoots.

"It was like playing dress-up; I always had fun with the bands, slopping and distressing their clothes," she said, adding that she began ripping and destroying jeans when she



PHOTO BY GARY S. ANGELO/THE JAMBAR

was 20 years old.

Bowell was inspired to name her company Gone But Not Forgotten as a dedication to her late father.

"My father passed away from scleroderma, a rare autoimmune disease with no cure. He had a cherry tattoo and underneath it said, 'Gone But Not Forgotten,'" Bowell said.

Bowell mentioned that her father was ill right around the time she was trying to launch her business, and that

is why she chose the name.

"I like to say my wardrobe business is inspired by love, loss and music," Bowell said.

She also has a "Send Your Denim" policy, which is a way for people to recycle or repurpose an unwanted pair of jeans.

"This is our way of going 'green,' and a way for people to get a cheap deal and be environmentally friendly," she said.

Bowell said people will send their jeans to her if they want their jeans ripped, torn or altered.

"People will often say, 'I like that one pair that you had displayed at one of your shows. Could you rip and tear and sew black stars in my jeans?'" Bowell said, adding that for now, customers usually do this on a meet-and-consult basis. "If a pair of jeans is boring, we like to add life to them."

Bowell said GBNF Denim is still underground at this point and caters to the alternative crowds, but her line of clothes is suitable for everyone, including children. Bowell also does custom leather embellishing and denim destruction. She also sews patterns and logo patches in jeans, along with making handcrafted jewelry and belts.

"A lot of the T-shirts I make are customized to that person, and I do all kinds of embellishing," Bowell said.

Bowell has attempted many experimental stunts with jeans including shooting them with guns and running over them with trucks.

Bowell has worked with many local musicians and artists in the Youngstown area. She will set up her showcase at several upcoming local events such as the Papa Roach show at The Wedge. Bowell said she wants to participate in more shows, festivals and events.

Bowell sees her line of work as her creative refuge and healing mechanism.

"I always see my business being successful in the future. I think people are inspired by my entrepreneurship and seeing my dream come true," Bowell said.

Oltmanns strives for a light sound on new CD



PHOTO BY COURTESY OF CAROLINE OLTMANN'S

Gary S. Angelo
FEATURES REPORTER

Caroline Oltmanns, a Dana School of Music piano professor and soloist, released her fourth solo CD, "Pastorale," in September. "Pastorale" is a collection of works by Ludwig van Beethoven, Frederic Chopin and James Wilding, Oltmanns' husband. The CD was released and distributed through Filia Mundi Records.

Oltmanns' mission on "Pastorale" was to create the ultimate ambiance of a recital, but with softer textures.

"Pastorale" is a recital CD made in the studio and is supposed to be like a recital with interpretations of different composers," Oltmanns said.

Oltmanns is confident that she has evolved artistically on "Pastorale," as compared to her previous releases.

"I like to mix standard repertoire with new works, both in concert as well as on the recordings," Oltmanns said.

Oltmanns was inspired by the need to create a fresh version of Beethoven's pieces on her new CD.

"I try to refer only to the text and try not to get bogged [down], giving the music an improvisational feel as if it was created in that moment," Oltmanns said.

Oltmanns records and plays pieces that she feels she can

add to or comment upon.

"I think that Beethoven is often interpreted as being old-fashioned, heavy and distant, and I am trying to make his music subjectively meaningful and recreated," Oltmanns said.

Oltmanns appreciates the music arrangements she put into "Pastorale."

"I like the lightness of 'Pastorale,' the serenity of the sound and the improvisational aspect," she said.

Oltmanns is keeping the music close to the text as it was written, but at the same time she is tapping into her own creativity, and not concerning herself too much with rules. Oltmanns said "Pastorale" is her most mature release to date.

"I still feel the music this same way. I hope to evolve in my music for my next recording project," Oltmanns said.

Oltmanns said she hopes to mature on a human level and wants this to be present in her new music consistently.

"I like to just understand works of great composers on a high level. I hope that the lightness on 'Pastorale' touches my listeners that same way it touches me," she said.

Oltmanns said some of her major influences on the new CD are life's experiences and art.

"I see my music as tolerant and accepting of others, as well as serene," Oltmanns said.

HOMECOMING WEEK HIGHLIGHTS

Tuesday, Oct. 27

10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Campus Core

Build a penguin or create a personalized pair of flip-flops. The rain space will be the lower arcade of Kilcawley Center.

Noon, Arby's

Watch as 10 student contestants take on Arby's Classic Roastburger Bites. Rich Morgan and WKBN-TV/Channel 27 will broadcast the contest and the mid-day news from Kilcawley Center. The first contestant to finish eight Classic Roastburger Bites wins a \$50 YSU Bookstore gift certificate. All contestants will receive a Homecoming T-shirt and other gifts.

Wednesday, Oct. 28

9 a.m.-1 p.m., Kilcawley Center's Lower Arcade

Spin the Penguin Prize Wheel for a chance to win fantastic prizes and register for a chance to win the grand prize: a YSU tailgating party package. Contestants must wear red and white, but also drink a 20-ounce bottle of any Coca-Cola product to register. Crystals and key chains are also available to be made in the campus core with 95.9 KISS-FM spinning tunes.

Noon, Peaberry's Cafe

WFMJ-TV Channel 21 will host the noon news from Kilcawley Center and air the Monster Mashed Potatoes Eating Contest. Watch as 10 contestants compete to be the first to finish the mashed potatoes and a 20-ounce Dasani water. The winner will receive a \$50 YSU Bookstore gift certificate. All contestants will receive gifts for participating.

6:30-9:30 p.m., Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room

Students can enjoy food and entertainment from cultures all over the world at the Housing Multicultural Halloween Party. There will be a costume contest, free food and drinks, musical entertainment, games, prizes and fun.

Thursday, Oct. 29

6-10 a.m., Kilcawley Center's Lower Arcade

Join Hot 101's morning show hosts, along with giveaways and games.

10:30 a.m.-Noon, Peaberry's Cafe

The Audience Response Trivia Game Show involves contestants answering trivia questions that are projected onto a screen. The faster the contestants answer the questions, the more points they're awarded. The contestants with the highest point totals from each round will advance to the final showdown. More than \$250 in cash will be given away.

7-10 p.m., Peaberry's Cafe

The Penguin Pre-Party features entertainment, free food, drink specials and an open mic competition. Ten contestants will also compete in a cavatelli and meatball eating contest.

Friday, Oct. 30

8-9:30 a.m., Arby's

The first 200 students with a valid YSU ID will receive a voucher for a free breakfast sandwich, potato cake and coffee or small soft drink.

6-8 p.m., Ward Beecher Planetarium

The planetarium will feature "Night Lights."

Saturday, Oct. 31

Noon, M24 student lot

The Student Government Association will host the Student Tailgate. Show your support for YSU football, and enjoy friends, food and fun. Free T-shirts are available while supplies last.

2 p.m., Wood Street

Enjoy the traditional Homecoming parade before the home football game at 4 p.m.

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TAILGATING

The pregame routine before the big game ever begins



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE JAMBAR ARCHIVES

Rob Harris
 REPORTER

Tailgating may have begun at the very first college football game between Rutgers and Princeton in 1869 when fans traveled to the game by carriage and grilled their sausages at the "tail end" of the horse, or it may have started in Green Bay in 1919 with the inception of the Packers. No matter the origin, over the years tailgating has become synonymous with football at all levels.

When the Penguins take on South Dakota State on Saturday, in celebration of Homecoming Week, tailgating will become one of the main attractions.

Former Penguin tight end Derrick Bush and Youngstown State University senior Kyle Jones discussed their tailgating rules.

"Beer and good company are all that I'm here for ... when Derrick played I didn't miss a home game. The win was always the most important thing," Jones said.

"We get here about three

or four hours before kickoff and we're hanging out playing cornhole right up until game time," Bush said.

Jen Kurcon, a 1991 graduate of YSU, agreed with the students' assessments, adding three words: beer, food and friends.

"But we also have a little music, [and] we like to dance. It's a family atmosphere here," Kurcon said.

Most alumni care less about the outcome of the game and more about the tailgating. A 1986 alumnus named Bruce exemplified this carefree attitude. "[It] doesn't matter what the team is doing. It's about getting together with friends and the beer, Coors especially," Bruce said.

One member of Bruce's tailgating crew is Alex Giambattista, a 1981 YSU graduate.

"There is one thing that we don't like," Giambattista said. "We're really mad ... [when] we can't come back to eat and drink at halftime anymore."

The consensus among tailgaters is that food, beer and fun are the three main components to a great tail-

gating afternoon. The foods available include the ordinary barbecue chicken, ribs and bratwurst to the not-so-typical quesadillas and the labor-intensive deep-fried turkey, which takes more than an hour to prepare just right.

The fun usually includes a TV, and with recent upgrades in technology, possibly an HDTV so fans can watch the Ohio State University Buckeyes or the University of Michigan Wolverines play before kickoff.

No tailgating gathering is complete without cornhole.

"Cornhole is the main attraction as far as I'm concerned. The game is secondary. I'm here to drink and toss," said YSU senior Gil Pagan.

Sophomore Doug Star said the most important thing is to support the team.

"If you're tailgating, you're getting hammered, but you're also supporting the team. It's all about the pregame. But you gotta get here early; if you're not here by 1 p.m., you're not doing too much," Star said.

Boscaljon leads by example on the court



Ruth Boscaljon jumps up high to smash the ball during a practice session.

PHOTO BY KEITH LANGFORD JR./THE JAMBAR

Keith Langford Jr.
 SPORTS EDITOR

Senior Ruth Boscaljon leads by example on the court as she leads the volleyball team in kills (276) and blocks (110).

"It's nice to be mentioned with those numbers. But I have always been focused on the team. If we don't win, numbers: kills, blocks, etc., don't matter. The team is my focus. We win or lose as a team," Boscaljon said.

Along with her attributes on the court, Boscaljon might also list Homecoming Queen on her resume. Boscaljon says it's a huge honor to be on the 2009 Homecoming Court, and she's excited about representing the Student-Athlete Aca-

ademic Committee.

Boscaljon enjoys the beauty of spiking the ball upon her opponent but said being on Homecoming Court "is a once in a lifetime opportunity."

She picked Youngstown State University as her college because of the strong special education focus the campus had to offer. She wanted to go to a school that focused on children with disabilities. Boscaljon's coaches at the Fusion Volleyball Club encouraged and pushed her to play her best and pursue a collegiate career in volleyball.

The Penguins are in the top six teams in the Horizon League this season. Boscaljon says the key to staying in the top six, is to simply keep on winning games.

"Well the goal is to win. We need to keep pushing ourselves

to the next level during every match. We need to continue to play our game throughout the whole match. We need to dominate," Boscaljon said.

The volleyball team has struggled on the road this season. The Penguins are 2-9 and need to improve in that aspect, Boscaljon said.

"Playing at another facility also causes a player to adjust, but we just have to maintain our level of play wherever we are," Boscaljon said.

The time Boscaljon spends with the team on road trip, practice and in the down time, ranks high with Boscaljon, who enjoys all the time and success of playing with the Penguins.

"Each and every trip with these girls is an awesome memory, rather each day is. There are too many [memo-

ries] to go through, and some that will never go outside our team," Boscaljon said.

Boscaljon firmly believes in her team and feels her team can make a strong push at the Horizon League crown this season.

"Each season I've been here at YSU, we have had the potential to win the Horizon League and this year is not different. The way we have been playing lately, there is no doubt we will be fighting for the championship," Boscaljon said.

Boscaljon has the rest of the season to look forward to as the Penguins try to secure a playoff berth in the Horizon League postseason, but this Saturday, she has a chance to become Homecoming Queen.

Swim team to compete at Niagara

Chelsea Miller
 SPORTS REPORTER

The women's swimming and diving team hopes to make up for its loss last weekend with a match Friday against Niagara University.

Head coach Matt Anderson said the team needs to work on a few facets before the matches ahead. "We're starting to get better with each meet," he said. "We're not quite at potential yet."

Anderson said the biggest challenge the Penguins will have to overcome this year is getting the freshmen used to the new level of competition. With 12 freshmen on the team, inexperience plays hard into their schedule. Anderson said he is working on getting the girls used to their roles on the team so they will be stronger in competition.

Anderson has several strong team members this year. Sophomore Audria Grubbs has already shown major improvement from last year, along with Nishani Cicilson, who Anderson said, looks to be one of the team

leaders.

Cicilson, who has already competed in the Federation Internationale de Natation Amateur World Swimming Championships in Rome, is also topping the charts at Youngstown State University. Friday, Cicilson won the 50-yard freestyle in a meet against the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay with a time of 25.06 seconds and second in the 200 backstroke in 2:20.34.

"[Nishani] is truly an untapped talent and we're starting to see some of that come through this year," Anderson said.

Freshman Casey Hill also did well in the meet against Green Bay with a one-meter dive score of 246.17. The score earned her the fifth-best score in school history and the highest since 2006.

After Niagara's recent win, Anderson predicts a close match for the Penguins. "They have the home advantage, so that will be a bit of a challenge," he said, but he is optimistic. "If we swim as well as we can, we should be able to beat them."

INTRAMURAL PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Armani Johnson was nominated as Intramural Player of the Week after having three touchdown catches and one interception on a goal line stop for his flag football team, the Spartans. Johnson is a junior marketing major.