

THE JAMBAR

The student voice of
Youngstown State University
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Today 50° 40°

Wednesday 50° 49°

Thursday 48° 32°

Friday 48° 35°



Remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar.



Fourth home burned next to YSU fraternity houses

Josh Stipanovich
NEWS EDITOR

Within the past month, three houses located on the North Side of campus have been burned in suspected arson fires, and according to a Youngstown State University police report, the Youngstown Police Department had been called to a vacant house at 826 Pennsylvania Ave. for a residential fire alarm early Sunday morning.

Once YSU police arrived at the scene, the home was found burning, and the Youngstown Fire Department had already been on scene. It was one of the nine abandoned homes in the area to be torn down by the beginning of the year.

Chief of YSU Police John Gocala said he is doing everything possible to control the situation and added that students and residents living in the area need to call YSU if anything suspicious is happening.

"I'll be more than happy to put extra [officers] out to conduct the surveillance, but until you got some leads, you're driving around looking for somebody that doesn't belong ... I've got people out there, they're looking, and sometimes you just need a break," Gocala said. "We need those folks when they're up there [and] they hear a noise, if they see a suspicious car, they need to call."

Another abandoned home located on the left of the burning house sustained damage along with the other neighboring home, which is

the residence of the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity.

The report said the YSU police officer spoke with students living in the area and found that the residents living in the fraternity house were not present at the time of the fire, but YSU student and president of Phi Kappa Tau D.J. O'Hara said, two housemates were in town to watch the house.

O'Hara said once the fire began, a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house, which is located two houses down from the burned home, called members of Phi Kappa Tau, who then relayed the message to him.

"We're just really concerned about what's happening on the block," O'Hara said. "Our biggest concern was that somebody was going to get hurt ... it's the fourth house on our block."

O'Hara said he has noticed an increase in police patrol since the fire, and added police are watching the area and working as hard as they can without knowing who is doing it.

Vehicle operator of support services and adviser of Phi Kappa Tau Anthony Spano said he received a phone call around 3:40 a.m. Sunday, and after arriving at the scene at 4 a.m. the house was "engulfed in flames."

Spano added the flames were close enough to damage the fraternity house, and that it was a "very good thing" the students were not in the house at the time.

Students want neighborhood watchdogs

Emmalee C. Torisk
COPY EDITOR

Youngstown State University freshman Melinda Bolton has the YSU police department's phone number programmed into her cell phone and occasionally even has an officer escort her to her car after dark. After four house fires on the same street near campus — with one next to a fraternity house — Bolton said the risk issue has gotten out of control.

"Nothing's been done," Bolton said. "If these houses had been torn down like promised, this wouldn't be an issue and our students wouldn't be at risk."

Despite being a local resident, Bolton said she wouldn't live on or around campus for this reason, among others. She called the neighborhood where the fires happened a "blind spot," and said those who set the fires are "playing games."

"They're laughing at the police department," Bolton said.

Bolton said something must be done to make the area safer, and that perhaps creating more student housing would be an effective solution. Instead of allowing the old structures to be destroyed or demolished, remodeling and refurbishing the buildings would be a "fantastic idea."

"So many kids would love to live there," Bolton said. "There's such a demand for it. It's a house and has a homier feel."

Bolton said historic buildings near other colleges had undergone similar transformations, and that it would benefit the city and university. Although she acknowledged that it might be cheaper for YSU to buy the land and simply demolish the structures, renovating for student housing use would be worth it in the future.

"Right now, the houses are not worth that much. The neighborhood is worth nothing. [The fires] are giving YSU bad publicity," Bolton

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PHOTO BY LAMAR SALTER / THE JAMBAR

ARSON page 4

New student housing spaces selling quickly

Dan Pompili
ASSIST. NEWS EDITOR

Upperclassmen at Youngstown State University could soon have a new on-campus location to call home, if they act fast.

The first building of the Flats at Wick student housing complex is nearly one third full, and construction is still in its early stages.

The complex, which broke ground in mid-September, will provide 115 bedrooms in single, double, triple and quadruple room garden-style apartments.

Not only will the complex be equipped with two laundry rooms, two computer study labs, and a fitness and recreation center, Wi-Fi access will be available throughout the building and each bedroom will have its own bath. The building will also be security equipped.

Dominic Marchionda, president of U.S. Campus Communities the firm building the Flats at Wick said they began a market survey three years ago to assess markets

within 100 miles of their Youngstown base (The survey also analyzed the college communities at Toledo and Bowling Green). Marchionda said that they found the need was greatest and the response most positive at YSU.

Through a survey conducted by the student chapter of the American Marketing

The first building will cost \$7.5 million, which is being financed by Key Bank, Marchionda said. YSU is not investing any money into the project and will maintain no ownership of the property, but Marchionda said the tenants will be limited to junior and senior YSU students.

The building is located at 139 Madison Ave., across from Cafaro House residence hall. USA Campus Communities owns much of the land in that neighborhood, and the land owned by YSU is projected for lease to Marchionda.

Eighteen of 48 rooms are already leased.

"We've had a tremendous response. We're very enthused about the reception," Marchionda said.

The current building is the first of four projected for the site. Marchionda said that based upon the current response, the second building is projected to break ground in May or June of 2010.



PHOTO BY LAMAR SALTER / THE JAMBAR

Association in YSU's marketing department under Associate professor Dr. Peter Reday Marchionda's firm received responses from students providing a vision for what the campus community wanted in new housing options. They were reimbursed \$1,500 for their operating costs.

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News Briefs

Dana School of Music presents Romanian pianist

Romanian-born pianist Maira Liliestedt will perform 8 p.m. Tuesday in Bliss Recital Hall. Liliestedt was an award-winning pianist in Romania before moving to the United States in 1992. She will perform selection from Mozart, Liszt and Piazzolla. The concert is free and open to the public.

SMARTS Open House set for Dec. 1

Students Motivated by the Arts will host its seventh annual Holiday Open House 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday at the SMARTS Center, which is located at 258 Federal Plaza in downtown Youngstown. The SMARTS store sells an assortment of artistic and creative items.

YSU welcomes White House correspondent

Don Gonyea, White House correspondent for National Public Radio, will be the featured guest at a dinner sponsored by WYSU-FM. His lecture will be held on Thursday in the DeBartolo Stadium Club at Stambaugh Stadium. Gonyea has been the White House correspondent since 2000, and has been a reporter for NPR News since 1986. Student tickets are available for \$25.

Police Briefs

Equipment theft in Debartalo

A faculty member reported an unknown person(s) took a YSU Eddirol tape recorder from on top of her desk inside Debartolo Hall. She advised that her office door is usually open during daytime hours. No signs of forced entry were found.

Recovery of lost property

An athletic director reported that a concerned citizen found a woman's purse in Beegly Center during a men's basketball game. The owner could not be located at the time of the report. The property was tagged and placed in YSU property.

YSU students signs confiscated

A Lyden House front desk worker reported four residents carrying cigarette billboards in to the building. The residents told the responding officer that they did not have permission to take the signs from an unidentified business.

Swine flu attacks college campuses

Elizabeth Cherneff
MCT

WASHINGTON - At The Johns Hopkins University, the boar war is well underway.

Just ask Dennis O'Shea, a university spokesman and co-creator of The Johns Hopkins H1N1 glossary for students, a dictionary-style list defining everything from boar wars (all-out campus efforts to prevent the spread of H1N1) to pigs in a blanket (sick students complying with a doctor's advice to stay home, drink fluids and get plenty of rest).

Enlisting the creativity of his co-workers, O'Shea and several colleagues came up with the H1N1 glossary as a humorous yet equally informative public communications strategy.

"We just thought everyone could use a break from the hard sell," said O'Shea, a Baltimore native who has worked at Johns Hopkins for 19 years. "And we thought that since we put a lot of good flu prevention information into the definitions that anyone who hadn't been paying attention to the hard sell might start to 'get it' if they saw and laughed at the glossary."

In the wake of increasing reports of swine flu cases on college campuses, the H1N1 glossary is giving students and university administrators a reason to laugh. And for many, it is a rare source of comic relief during an otherwise humorless fall flu season.

In the weeklong period between November 7-13, the number of reported influenza-like illness cases in colleges and universities reached 6,373, according to the American College Health Association. The ACHA has been monitoring reported influenza-like illnesses across member universities since late August of 2009.

In the college environment marked by dorms and 200-person lecture halls, swine flu symptoms appear to be showing few signs of slowing down. The numbers have

contributed to an influx of preventative and precautionary measures at universities across the country.

At Emory University, professionals from the university's School of Medicine and School of Public Health created an online H1N1 Response Center with Microsoft, designed to help students evaluate potential flu symptoms. Though response centers like Emory's do not replace actual medical care, they do reflect rising concerns about student health clinics struggling to keep up with hundreds of potential cases of H1N1 influenza.

Overflow at student health services prompted one student newspaper columnist to voice concern about whether a university's swine flu response might be more harmful than helpful. Alex Shoucair, a George Washington University senior and writer for The GW Hatchet student newspaper, cautioned against the hysteria that frequently overshadows pandemics and related advisories.

"After talking with my peers, it became obvious to me that everyone had a lot of misconceptions about the swine flu and that a lot of it had to do with publicity," said Shoucair.

Free seasonal flu vaccines, hand sanitizing stations and campus-wide emails are some of the more common ways to keep university communities informed and updated. But university officials also recognize the difficulty of pinpointing one strategy's effectiveness when dealing with a pandemic.

Washington State University made national headlines this fall when more than 2,000 influenza-like illnesses were reported during the first weeks of September. Paula Adams, a Washington State University spokeswoman, noted the university community seemed to take appropriate precautions without excessive levels of hysteria or panic.

"It is difficult to tell which precautionary measures have been the most effective on our campus," said Adams. "But whether it has been our actions or the

natural progression of the pandemic, the new cases of influenza-like illness at our campus have declined significantly since the first couple weeks of classes."

At other schools, no precaution is too much. Earlier this fall, Cornell University's Inter-Fraternity Council voted to suspend all fraternity events for a week in response to probable H1N1 cases. The decision received mixed reviews from both students and administrators skeptical of the policy's effectiveness.

Policies regarding illness-related absences from class are also being called into question. While many universities have encouraged individuals with swine flu symptoms to stay home, no questions asked, others disapprove of this approach, simply calling it an excuse for students to freely skip class.

University officials have good reason to take precautions against H1N1 within campus communities. According to the latest research from the Centers for Disease Control, the number of hospitalizations from H1N1 cases has been particularly high amongst younger people. With vaccine shortages already being experienced across the country, colleges are competing with state and local agencies and area hospitals to receive the first vaccines.

In the meantime, H1N1 continues to elicit a variety of reactions. The Arizona Daily Wildcat, the University of Arizona-Tucson's campus newspaper, good-naturedly encourages the student body to get plenty of rest while maybe reconsidering that next fraternity party. And even at Johns Hopkins where the H1N1 swine flu glossary has resonated well with the community, the preferred approach is to remain realistic.

"It's still true that people are getting sick, and we will probably continue to have cases at least until the vaccine becomes more widely available," says Dennis O'Shea. "But we hope we have helped to minimize what otherwise might be an even worse caseload."

Blast from the past

• Dec. 1, 1970

Sen. Birch Bayh to speak at Powers Aud. tomorrow

Senator Birch E. Bayh Jr. to speak at Powers Auditorium. He is claimed to be the next Democratic Presidential Nominee for the 1972 election.

Student job outlook stays bleak for winter break

The University Placement office was unable to place 250 students who have put in applications for part-time employment. Less than 12 students have found jobs.

Brothers sleep as frat house is robbed

The Zeta Beta Tau fraternity was robbed last Thursday between the hours of 4 and 8 a.m. Some items stolen was: \$20 and some clothing. The house is located on 14 Indiana.

• Nov. 30, 1971

Prexy says Dems ignored part of findings... Young Dems await Pugsley's word

The Young Democrats Organization is demanding an apology from President Pugsley for a remark he made attacking the organization. He said "...an unauthorized illegal reproduction of the university seal and the name of the university."

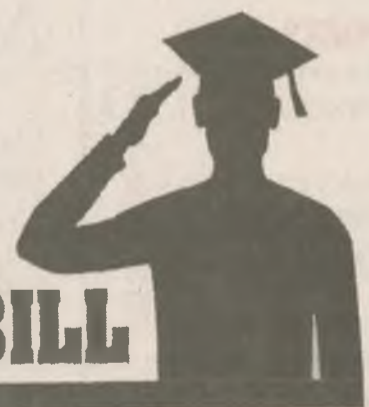
First Senate vote Fri. on student rep. issue

The University Senate will be voting to allow a student voting membership to be written as an amendment to the constitution. Two student representatives would be elected by each undergraduate college.



A NEW GI BILL FOR A NEW CENTURY

POST - 9/11 GI BILL



Are you waiting for your VA Education Benefits?

The Department of Veterans Affairs has made funds available for Veteran students who are still awaiting their education benefit claim to be processed. Eligible veterans can receive up to a \$3000 advance, which will be recouped from future benefit payments. If you are a student who applied for one of VA's education programs and have not yet received your monthly benefit payment for the Fall 2009 term, you can request a one-time advance payment at your local VA Regional Office or through VA's website, www.va.gov.

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Are you a Twitter 'meformer' or an 'informer'?

Niala Boodhoo
MCT

It seems like we have a hard time forgetting about the "I" in Twitter.

That was the conclusion by two Rutgers professors who studied the content of 3,000 tweets sent by 350 Twitter users.

The communication and information professors, Mor Naaman and Jeffrey Boase, found that there tend to be two types of Twitter folks. The majority, or 80 percent, were what they called "meformers" — Twitter users who sent out messages that revolved around themselves, updating others about their activities or sharing thoughts and feelings.

The other 20 percent are "informers" — people who were actually sharing information. Not surprisingly, the informers tended to have larger social networks and be more interactive. In their study, on average, informers had at least twice as many friends and followers compared to meformers. Another interesting note: women tended to be more "meformers" than men.

Because they're academics, Naaman and Boase came up with a technical description for not just Twitter, but all the short, instant ways we communicate these days, be it through a Facebook status update or other ways we end up in people's Newsfeeds: They called it social awareness streams.

Naaman told me he thinks people talk about themselves simply because it's the easiest thing to do — it's natural, and it is probably what we all talk about most of the time. He also thinks that as people get more used to these streams,

like we had to do with e-mail, or even the telephone, usage will adapt. Naaman himself has even done this — after doing the study, he told me he realized his Twitter account was too much meformer than informer, so he set up a new account.

Twitter's picked up on this, too: Recently, the question "What are you doing?" was changed to "What's happening?" — an evolution perhaps in how they see people using the site.

Because Naaman and Boase think social awareness streams are becoming an important part of the way some people communicate, both through public and personal relationships, they don't come down that hard on the meformers as you think they would.

"Although the meformers' self focus might be characterized by some as self-indulgent, these messages may play an important role in helping others maintain relationships," they wrote in their study.

I don't have a problem with meformers, per say — there are plenty of "meformer"-focused Tweets that are interesting, funny or help you connect with someone. But as someone who spends a lot of time wading through social awareness streams, some days, I think I'm drowning in self-indulgence.

Naaman also told me that they've just really started getting into studying this — so we'll be on the lookout for future findings.

In the meantime, always worth remembering: if we are really about wanting to develop relationships on social networking sites, we should limit the screaming or whining about ourselves, start listening and interact.



Stress season

How to untangle family conflicts that tie you in knots during the holidays

By Joe Mazzone
McClatchy-Tribune

So, how did your introduction to the holiday season go? Was yours a Norman Rockwell Thanksgiving? Did everyone gather at Grandma's and swap cheerful memories of days past? Compliment one another on how good the passing years have been to you all? Demur from mentioning any promotions and raises or killings in the stock market?

Or was it a bit more ... challenging? Did the folks make not-so-subtle comments about grandkids and the lack thereof? Did Aunt Marian and Uncle Jack snipe at each other continuously? Did you envy the turkey going into the oven?

We chatted with three folks who help others get through stressful situations to get their thoughts on surviving the holidays:

■ Jessica Katz Jameson is a professor in the Department of Communication at N.C. State University. She specializes in "the role of emotion in conflict management and the dialectical tension of autonomy and connection in conflict processes." Just the person to have moderating your next family get-together.

■ Dr. Robert Bashford is a psychiatrist at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill, N.C. A practitioner of what he preaches, he and his wife decided a few years ago to avoid the stress of holiday shopping by going before Thanksgiving day. "We planned a dinner around it, hit it pretty hard and got 80 percent of our shopping done. And it was fun."

■ Susan Orenstein is a Cary, N.C., psychologist whose focus is on the relationship between college kids and parents.

We presented them with stressful situations that might have arisen over Thanksgiving. They offered their thoughts on avoiding repeats for the remainder of the holidays.

Q: Dinner was disappointing. My family always does the traditional turkey with dressing, gravy and mashed potatoes and eats in the formal dining room. Bob's family smoked a pig and ate in the back yard. It just didn't seem like Thanksgiving.

A: "We all have pictures of the perfect holiday based on what we grew up with," says Jameson. "As we get older and have changing relationships, those visions collide. We need to talk about our expectations beforehand" to avoid conflict.

Q: When is a good time to have that conversation?

A: "Probably a month ago," says Jameson. Sooner, that is, rather than later.

Q: I'm not good at confrontation.

A: "It's a tricky ground," acknowledges Jameson. "Especially this time of year." Start the conversation with positive assumptions, she says. "You want to make sure this is a great holiday for everyone." To do that everyone needs to list what's most important to them. They also need to accept that the stuff on down the list may not happen. Acknowledge the limited time and resources, agree to your priorities and proceed. Understand you'll need to make sacrifices.

Q: Where's a good place to start?

A: "I think you look first at what went wrong last year," Bashford says. "Look for different ways to do things. I had some successful friends tell me, 'To heck! With this, we're going to the beach.'"

Q: Since we're in a confrontational mood, is this a good time to tell my sister how she's messing up her life?

A: No. "Now isn't the time to confront people and have big conversations," advises Orenstein. There's already stress, people drink too much. "Sometimes people want to say something and it comes out as sarcasm. People aren't comfortable being direct. Being indirect and sarcastic makes it more painful." Plan a heartfelt conversation when you have time to focus on just that conversation.



Q: Mom was especially edgy on Thanksgiving. I think it was because she cooked the entire dinner.

A: "Women sometimes get stuck cooking and cleaning," Orenstein says. "It's nice to get everyone to help. Delegate ahead of time. Have different family members bring a dish." That delegation thing, by the way, goes for everything — from planning parties to buying gifts to keeping the house tidy — this holiday season.

Q: I don't know. Mom is pretty territorial about her kitchen.

A: "If someone wants to be a martyr, it's that person's house, it's that person's kitchen," Orenstein says. There's not much you can do about it.

Q: I got the turkey in late because I had to go to three stores for same-day-picked green beans, my cornbread didn't rise, everyone wanted to know why there wasn't pumpkin pie and pecan pie, and the wine I chose apparently was the wrong vintage. Then I had to run out and get full-fledged mayo because — again, apparently — Miracle Whip is a poor substitute on a leftover turkey sandwich. I wanted to scream!

A: What you experienced, Jameson says, is a phenomenon called "emotional flooding." "The more running around, the more racing to get menus prepared, to buy gifts — that's the time you're most likely to get flooded if someone calls to change plans or add to your list of things to do." You'll know when it's happening, she says, in part because your heart will race and you'll start sweating. "Give yourself permission to not answer right away. Tell them that you need to consult your spouse, check the calendar and you'll get back to them. We tend to overcommit during the holidays." Be aware of this and don't be afraid to take an adult time-out.

Q: Adult time-out? Like go for a walk or take a bath?

A: Exercise is generally good stress relief, Jameson says, though some studies have shown it can actually heighten emotions. "Do whatever you do to work off steam: Close the door, turn off the phone, listen to music. Different things work for different people."

Q: It was Thanksgiving Day, for Pete's sake, a day to be thankful. Yet I kept having periods of feeling blue.

A: "The holidays increase and exaggerate whatever negative emotions we're having," Bashford says. "Loss, loneliness, divorce, our children are away. On the whole, it's not a good time for people who are not doing well, the walking wounded, like most of us. Then you've got the TV blissing away, telling us to spend money. This is so corny but it's so true that we've been driven away by TV and its expectations of the true value and meaning of the holiday season."

Q: What can I do that will ease these feelings?

A: "Simplify," Bashford says. "Slow down. Assign gifts, pull numbers and buy for just one person (in the family). Do easy things, see a movie." Don't overeat, don't drink so much. "Don't watch television."

Q: It's a good time not to watch TV? Not even the annual 24-hour marathon showing of "A Christmas Story"?

A: "There is never not a good time to abandon television," Bashford says.

HOLIDAY STRESS

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ARSON page 1

"I would say [the flames] were ten extra feet from the driveway because it did do some damage to the house ... that's how hot it was," Spano said.

Broken windows and heat damage was done to the Phi Kappa Tau house, Spano said. The damage was minimal and would be able to be repaired quickly by the landlord, whom Spano said has taken care of

everything and has been very supportive.

"I'm concerned for Phi Kappa Tau and you also have SAE ... thank God that no one has gotten hurt, but it's just to a point where you got four houses within not even 30 days," Spano said.

"I mean everything is a concern when you have arson or natural [fires] on the same street.

REACTION page 1

said. "YSU can set an example by doing something good for the community."

Junior Jason Berg said this problem is especially troubling, considering the fires' proximity to YSU students. He said the university needs to take a more proactive role in dealing with this issue and pay more attention to problem areas.

"This isn't a thing to take lightly," Berg said.

Joel Davis, freshman, also said the area needs to be safer, and that perhaps campus police officers need to expand their coverage.

"It's a threat," Davis said. "There need to be more cameras and more security."

Freshman Michael Giles said the recent fires could also negatively contribute to the city's reputation.

"They're a bad influence on Youngstown," Giles said. "The city already has a negative aura."

Tom Pesce, a former YSU

student, lives close to where the fires occurred, and said both he and the university have been affected. Still, he said the police are becoming more active and "starting to take a little bit more notice" of area happenings.

"Before, they didn't want to bother," Pesce said.

Pesce said it is fortunate no one has been killed in the fires, but is concerned about the future.

"You never know. You have no idea," Pesce said. "You just don't know what's gonna happen."

Junior Greg McGlynn echoed these ideas. Even though he said the fires were "pretty dangerous," considering human lives were involved, they were overall "a basically 'good deed.'"

"They had to get torn down anyway. They were all abandoned houses," McGlynn said. "It's saving the city some money."

APARTMENTS page 1

"At this rate, we anticipate being sold out by February," he said. "It's on a first come first served basis. As soon as their background check is run and their application approved, they're in." Marchionda said that all applicants will have background checks run.

Single units will cost \$685 per month, doubles \$565 per student per month, and quad units will be \$510 per student per month.

According to a press release from February of this year, YSU will have the right of building design approval, choice of management company, and may even manage the building itself if the University so chooses. All buildings will be limited to residence card holders, and will have a YSU resident Assistant living on site.

"The university has worked very closely with Dom Marchionda," said YSU director of university communications Ron Cole. "We see this as a partnership that is working and

will continue working to help us meet our housing needs."

The final version of the proposal shows 320 parking spaces, and Marchionda is continuing negotiations for land that will provide more parking. Director of Campus Planning and Community Partnerships Hunter Morrison said that students residing at the building will have the added benefit of parking. Morrison also said the primary reason YSU was interested in the partnership with Marchionda was because of the multi-bedroom-unit plan that Marchionda was proposing.

"We are very excited for the new opportunity for our upper class students," said Associate Director of Housing and Residence Life Danielle Meyer.

Marchionda said the building is under roof and they are currently preparing for rough interior framing and installation of mechanicals. He said they are ahead of schedule for their projected July 5, 2010 opening.

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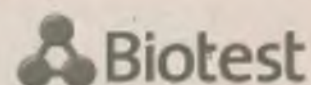
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Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press Honors. The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during summer sessions. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic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

OUR SIDE EDITORIAL

Fool me once

RELATED STORY

Arson, page 1
THE JAMBAR
EDITORIAL BOARD

Earlier last month a group of concerned citizens gathered in Wick Park to discuss the recent arsons that took down three houses in one night on the North Side. The meeting included discussions about handling and preventing future fires in the city.

Everyone was on the same page, from the residents to the police and fire department. Even a \$5,000 reward for any information on the fires was offered. It seemed like everyone was going to keep a watchful eye out and be their brother's keeper.

But then it happened again.

It seems like that in this city, as soon as progress is made, problems occur.

Right on the heels of the construction of the new Wick Apartments, just across the street on Pennsylvania Avenue, yet another fire took down an abandoned house right next door to the Phi Kappa Tau fraternity house.

It's hard to pinpoint who would be at fault for this case.

While we would like to see complete peace in the city, it is virtually impossible to protect every nook and cranny of our 34-square-mile city and even more daunting to expect the complete safety of every person in a population of nearly 73,000. Our civil service departments certainly do the best they can.

But fool me once, shame on me; fool me twice, shame on who?

It really doesn't matter now.

If this fire turns out to be yet another case of arson, then the time for assessment is done. No more meetings. No more agreements. Action needs to be taken.

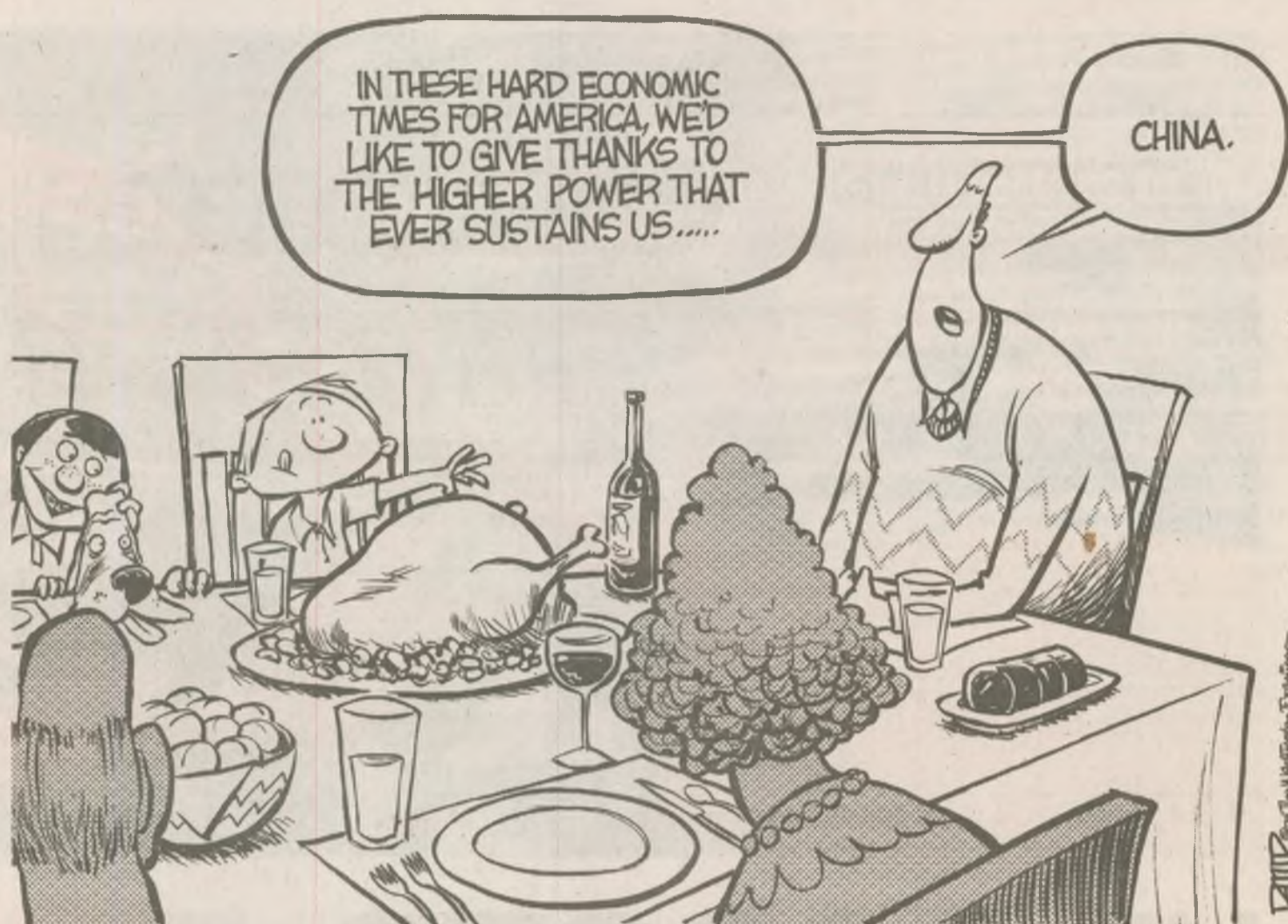
How long can we wait for the city to finally make the necessary actions needed to stop this before it gets any worse?

We would wonder what the case would be if instead of burning down an abandoned building, this fire actually caught onto a fraternity house or apartment building, endangering the lives of our fellow students.

Fires happen all the time; that's why the city has a department for it, but there is obviously a trend happening on Pennsylvania Avenue.

So whatever needs to be done, if it is stronger surveillance of this area, parking a patrol car on the street or creating a complete neighborhood awareness program, actions need to be taken now.

We shudder to think how far we will allow ourselves to get fooled a third time.



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

Petting Zoo: MySpace is where dreams go to die



Melissa Mary Smith
COLUMNIST

Over the past five years, I've kept a slew of social networking accounts: Friendster, Livejournal, three different Twitters, Facebook and the increasingly useless MySpace.

Yesterday, a friend of mine accurately described MySpace as a 'ghost town.'

Despite there being millions of registered users, every time I log into my MySpace, I feel incredibly lonely; whenever I look at my profile, virtual tumbleweeds blow past my screen.

It's hard not to see the shift in people's usage of MySpace to the uber-stalkerish Facebook.

People's appetites in consuming more and more information about their fellow human have grown to outrageous levels. Recently, Facebook has satiated these appetites.

I commend every one of my friends who have been brave enough to cancel their MySpace accounts in favor of Facebook.

I somehow still feel obligated to keep my Myspace, though.

I mean, many of us have put a lot of effort into building our photo albums and friends list and constructing quirky blurbs in our "About Me" and "Jobs" sections.

Deciding to hold onto my

MySpace is somewhat comparable to staying in an unfulfilling relationship; all you can think about is all of the good times you've had. You know you can do better, but don't have the guts to end it.

Sooner or later, like any bad acid flashback, MySpace will no longer be "A place for friends," but an awful memory of an obsessive time when we were unproductive, distracted, immature and sought validation through picture comments and bulletin posts.

Now if you excuse me, I need to update my Facebook status for the 30th time today and get my Bejeweled Blitz and Farmville on.



What do you think really happened with the Tiger Woods incident?



"He was drinking."
Pat Egry



"I think he and his wife got into a fight and he got drunk and stormed out in anger."
Mandy Alcorn



"It was stupid."
Walter Hartsok

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YOUR SIDE POLICY

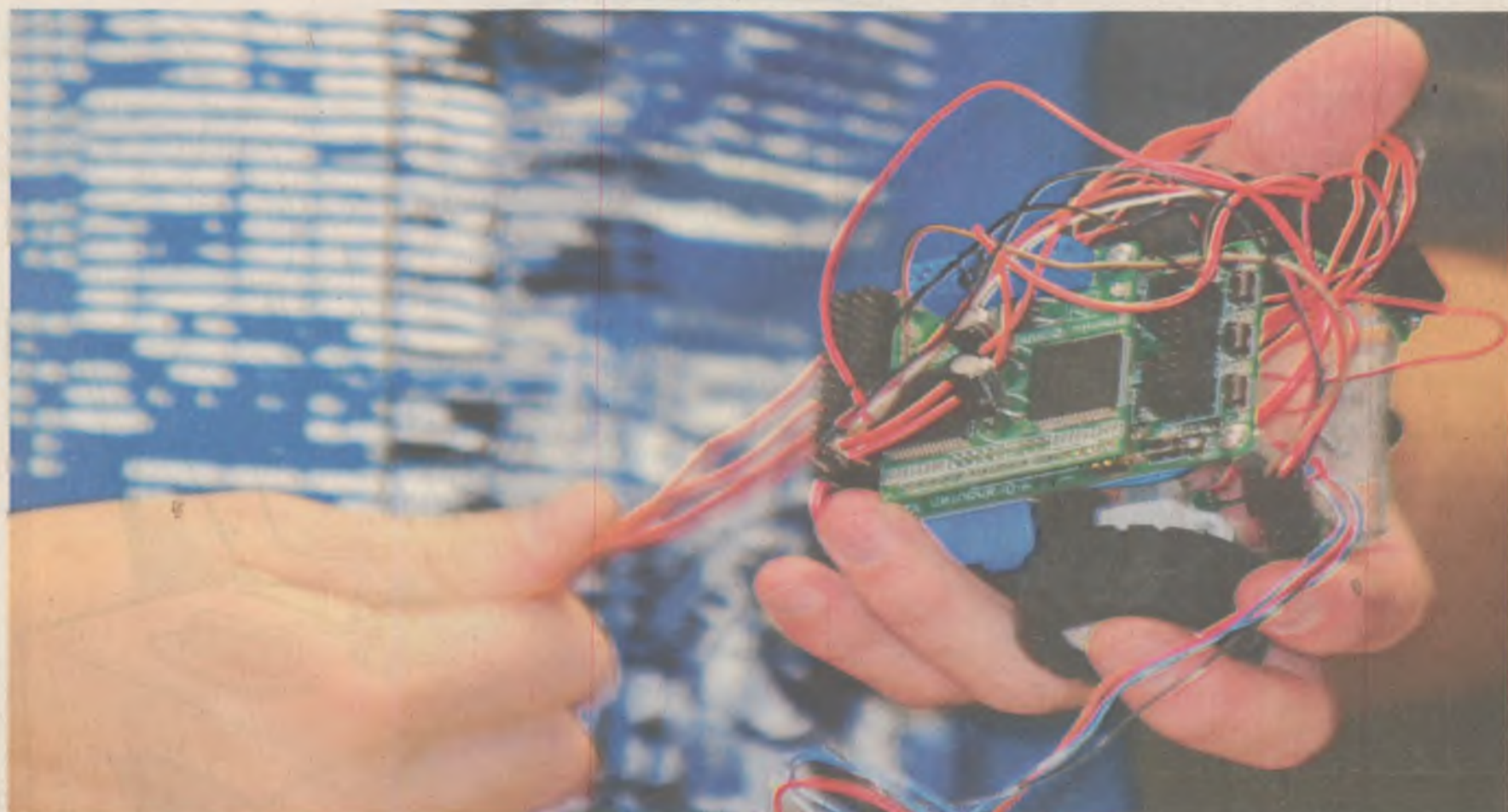
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PHOTOS BY JOSH STIPANOVICH/THE JAMBAR

MR. ROBOTO

Student looks to win robotics competition

Lamar Salter

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

While thoughts of science fiction movies and television shows still come to mind whenever someone talks about creating a robot, the study of robotics is becoming a prevalent technological innovation and Youngstown State University students like Craig Butrick are steadily bringing the imagination to reality.

A 26-year-old engineering student born in Florida, Butrick has had a life-long interest in technology.

"I've been doing something geeky since I was pretty little," Butrick joked.

From podcasting to nuclear engineering, Butrick's affinity for all things technology is large in focus.

Now in his third year at Youngstown State University, Butrick works part time at RadioShack, which he feels is a fitting position. In addition to his normal 9 to 5 lifestyle, Butrick talked about his time working for the Navy as a nuclear engineer.

"I was on a submarine," Butrick said. "They offered me 250,000 for my schooling and 30,000 in cash to go."

Butrick spent four years traveling around the world in places like Italy, Spain and the Persian Gulf before establishing himself in Ohio.

So when the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, a worldwide organization dedicated to advancing technology, presented a student competition in autonomous robotics,

Butrick found an opportunity to shine.

"I saw the entries that were entered last year, and they were pretty bad," Butrick said.

Butrick said none of the entries actually completed the tasks of the competition, which requires the created robot to successfully traverse a maze to the exit. "None of them finished the maze," Butrick said.

Butrick looks to change the outcome this year with his robot.

Although it still needs work, Butrick and a student team of engineers have been working on the project since about May and are hoping to have the hardware built by December and the software by competition time in April.

"I have hundreds of sketches I have made of what I wanted it to look like before we started," Butrick said.

But creating robots for competitions is just a short-term goal for the engineer.

With dreams of working for The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, a federal agency in The United States of Department of Defense in Robotics, Butrick hopes to become involved in some groundbreaking innovations.

"Can you imagine a world where you tell a car to go somewhere and it will just drive you there," Butrick said. "Robotics has so many applications that it's hard to describe."

With big dreams and a lot of experience, Butrick looks to become the man behind tomorrow's greatest technological advancements.

"Engineering is the innovation that makes the world go round," Butrick said.



Engineering student Craig Butrick and a team of student engineers have been actively building a robot since May in preparation for competition.

Hot tech gifts for the holiday season

Daniel Brown
REPORTER

Searching for that perfect gift for the techie in your life can be difficult. The key is to find something new, flashy and practical, but that can be a difficult task.

Phone applications are popular, with the iPhone leading the way. The Viper SmartStart system combines the popularity of these and the practicality of remotely starting your car. The system collaborates with an iPhone application so you can start, unlock and lock your car from anywhere. You can also open your trunk and hit the panic button. There are two different products to get your system SmartStart ready. The first is for those already with a Viper remote start system in their car; this carries a manufacturer's suggested retail price of \$299. The second is for people who do not have a compatible Viper system, and has a MSRP of \$499. A one-year service plan is included in these two products. The service plan is \$29.99 after the first year.

In TV shows like "Star Trek," you will often see important people passing around computerized tablets. However, not many know this technology is already available. Now the techie in your life can be closer to be the Trekkie he always wanted to be with the Archos 9 PTablet. Archos describes it as the

Netbook of the future. The device is Wi-Fi and Bluetooth compatible. All typing is done on the 8.9-inch screen with the QWERTY virtual keyboard. It comes loaded with Windows 7 Starter Edition and has a 1.3 megapixel webcam. Its processor is an Intel ATOM Z510 1.1 GHz, has 1 gigabyte of memory and a 60-gigabyte hard drive. You can preorder the Archos 9 PTablet from the Archos store for \$549.99.

Universal remotes are neat gifts, but universal remotes that can control even your gaming consoles make it great techie gifts. The Harmony One Advanced Universal Remote can control up to 15 audio, video or gaming components in a person's house. The remote, by Logitech, has a full-color touch screen that makes it easy for anyone to pick up and use. On the products page on Logitech's Web site, there is a compatibility check so users can check what items of theirs will work with the remote. This item retails for \$249.99.

Many speculate that 2010 is the year that e-readers become big business, so it's no wonder that Barnes and Noble is trying to get in on the business with their Nook. Barnes and Noble describes the Nook as being the first in several categories. It's the first e-reader with a color touch screen for navigation, the first 3-gigabyte, Wi-Fi enabled e-reader, the first e-reader with digital leading so you can let other users borrow your digital copies for up to 14 days, the first Android based e-reader. The



Nook has 2 gigabytes of internal storage and allows for the use of microSD cards. Also thousands of free e-books will be available. Users will get exclusive content at Barnes and Noble locations. Barnes and Noble claims that the Nook will provide a better reading experience because of the e-ink display. Nook is available for preorder now for \$259, but isn't expected to ship until Jan. 4.

With all these wireless devices, something to charge them with is a necessity. This is where the Powermat comes in. The Powermat allows the charging of three wireless devices with the use of Powermat receivers. Just attach the receiver to the device, place it

on the mat and the device will charge. The Powermat can charge Bluetooth headsets/headphones, cell phones, digital cameras, digital readers, handheld game systems, MP3 players and other devices. Devices can also be charged by a Powercube; this allows you to charge hundred of mobile devices using one receiver. There are Powermats for home and travel; both retail at \$99.99.

These aren't the only tech items available, but are just five unique items for shoppers to think about when shopping for the holidays. Customer reviews on shopping Web sites are great ways to figure out if a certain product is the right choice.

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Loss of passion a key factor for athletes quitting

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

The pressures, expectations and responsibilities of being a student-athlete at a college or university can occasionally cause some players to buckle and quit. At Youngstown State University, these reasons exist for many, yet some refuse to quit no matter what.

Sophomore starting strong safety and Texas Christian University transfer Sir Demarco Bledsoe loves football and said he could find no conceivable reason to ever quit the game he loves: football.

"I would die to get to the next level if that's what it takes. I want to move on to the next level after college. It's a nonstop grind for me," Bledsoe said. "I got people I have to look out for. I got

mouths to feed. I would never quit."

Bledsoe said one reason student-athletes quit is because they simply lose the passion they once felt for their sport. Bledsoe added that a lack of playing time could also play a key role in an athlete quitting a team.

"They just get tired of going through the same routine over and over, and not getting any playing time," Bledsoe said.

Not playing can affect athletes. Perhaps at one time, some athletes were star players, but are now minor players. That can be tough to swallow.

"It goes through your mind, 'Damn, do I really want to put up with all of this and still not get any playing time?'" Bledsoe said.

Head track and field coach Brian Gorby has won countless champion-

ships at YSU. He has a theory on athletes quitting called the bell curve. Gorby said that out of 100 athletes, 10 will do exceptional, the middle 75 to 80 will do average and contribute and the other ten will really struggle to fit in and will possibly contemplate quitting.

Gorby also said that keeping recruits who live between one to two hours away, as opposed to those who are from out of state or far away within the state, helps in the retention rates of student-athletes. Gorby adds local kids won't quit as much as a kid who lives eight hours away, mainly because of distance.

"Sometimes people have situations beyond their control like a death in the family or a financial situation," Gorby said about various other reasons why student-athletes would quit.



Sophomore strong safety Sir Demarco Bledsoe said some athletes quit because they lose their passion for the game.



JAMBAR ARCHIVE PHOTO

Who wants to be a mascot?

Rob Harris
REPORTER

Most collegiate mascots were former cheerleaders at one level or another and some even have a background in gymnastics. Not Alina Rios.

The 21-year-old senior became Youngstown State University Mascot Pete Penguin out of both necessity and circumstance. Rios was an eighth grade English student of Michelle Markota at Springfield High School. Markota is also the YSU Cheerleading and Mascot Advisor and when there was an opening Markota knew where to turn. As Rios explained, "Michele knew I wouldn't be embarrassed jumping around as a giant penguin."

Despite her lack of experience Rios is a natural, though there are things that have taken some getting used to. "You don't have much peripheral vision [inside the costume.] If someone is standing around you, you can't see past your waist. So it's hard when the little kids don't stay in one spot because you can't really see them, they are so short," Rios said.

Being a college mascot can be time consuming but for Rios the pros definitely outweigh the cons. "The little kids' faces just light up, that's

one of the best things about being a mascot. But my favorite thing is attending football games, and how the older people interact with you after they've had a few drinks. It's pretty funny," she said.

Pete and Penny Penguin are pretty busy. Not only do they attend most YSU sporting events, they also make public appearances. The YSU Athletic Office has even put together a formal request form for both the Cheerleaders and Pete and Penny. A PDF of the form can be found at ysusports.com. "They have us go all over. My favorite thing to do outside of YSU games is going to the Phantom games at the Covelli Center because they let us play on the ice. They even have us go to other mascot birthdays, like the Chick-fil-A Cow and the Cardinal Mooney Mascot," Rios said.

The Columbian-born photography major loves her current job, but don't plan on seeing her as the next Phoenix Suns Gorilla or Moondog, the Cleveland Cavaliers mascot. Rios's dream job is to become a photographer for National Geographic. In this economy she isn't going to limit her options, though. "Right now I'll take what I can get, weddings, senior pictures, if anyone wants their pictures taken after college let me know," she said.

Tressel's shadow looms as successor leaves

Dan Brown
REPORTER

Jim Tressel left Youngstown State University after the 2000 season. Memories of 135 wins and four national championships remain in the city that can't let go of the man who left it behind.

The YSU football program thought they had their next Tressel when they hired defensive coordinator Jon Heacock to take over. In recent years, many fans have been clamoring for Heacock to be replaced. After nine years, a 60-44 record, two Missouri Valley Football Conference titles, one playoff appearance and no national championships, rumors were flying that Heacock would not be returning as head coach. On Nov. 22, those rumors came to fruition as Heacock announced he was resigning as head coach.

Dana Balash is the WFJ sports director and has been working at the station since 1985. He was with WFJ for the entire YSU Tressel era. It's hard for coaches to replace legends, and Balash always thought that the task would be hard for Heacock.

"I've always said the two toughest jobs in the valley were replacing Don Bucci at Cardinal Mooney and replacing Jim Tressel," Balash said.

And it was. Heacock was never embraced like Tressel. Fans groaned unhappily for the majority of his tenure.

Ron Strollo played football for Tressel at YSU from 1988 through 1991. In 2001, he succeeded him as athletic director at YSU. Strollo has the task of trying to find the man to bring YSU football back to prominence. Although it's not fair to say they're seeking a replacement with YSU ties, Strollo said it's obvious they're likely looking for another Tressel.

Strollo played on the first of four championship teams at YSU for Tressel. Like most people around the Youngstown area, he doesn't have anything bad to say about the man he affectionately still refers to as "Coach". But looking for the next Tressel might not be fair for the next hire. Is Tressel and his past success becoming Youngstown's burden?

David Lee Morgan, an award-winning

sports writer for the Akron Beacon Journal, doesn't believe so.

"I don't think the past is hurting YSU because you don't live in the past. You work for the future and you try to carry on a tradition, a legacy that was established. You may not reach that level, but you must always strive to reach it," Morgan said.

Morgan said telling the city to let go of Tressel is like asking Ohio State University fans to let go of the Woody Hayes era. But OSU fans have more to talk about than YSU fans, having recently won their fifth consecutive Big Ten title.

What was the difference in their tenures? Why was Tressel embraced, while Heacock was maligned for much of his tenure? Besides wins, some would point to Tressel's natural charisma and ability to work a crowd.

Balash said Tressel is very media savvy and knows how to win over an audience.

"Tressel says a lot not answering questions," Balash said. "He knows how to control the media."

Strollo said he was happy for Tressel when he was named head coach at OSU. He knew at some point Tressel's ride at YSU would come to an end.

"To keep him for 15 years, we were pretty fortunate," Strollo said.

With Tressel coaching one of the more prominent teams in all of college football, his former job at YSU gets mentioned a lot. This exposure only helps a place Tressel calls "one of my three hometowns along with Cleveland and Columbus."

"His success is our success," Strollo said of the promotion YSU receives due to Tressel and his team's success.

Tressel will always be remembered in Youngstown and he will always remember Youngstown fondly.

"My time at YSU was magical ... great kids, colleagues and community," Tressel said.

While some fans have little confidence in YSU football at the moment, Tressel is confident better times are coming.

"I was fortunate to be at YSU during some special times, but there will be greater days ahead," Tressel said.

Tough road ahead for YSU men's basketball team

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

The roller coaster ride that is the 2009-2010 Youngstown State University men's basketball season hit another dip as the Penguins lost to the Pittsburgh Panthers on the road, 72-56 last Saturday.

The game through the first half was one where the Penguins kept within striking distance of the Panthers. The Panthers would lead by seven or eight but then the Penguins would make a few baskets and trim the lead. The Penguins held their ground and the game was tied at 42-42 at one point in the second half before the Panthers blew the game open and eventually won by 16.

"We played good for 30 minutes and the last 10 minutes we missed a bunch of foul shots and easy shots," head coach Jerry Slocum said.

The Penguins had won their previous two games, one on the road against St. Peter's and the other at home against Geneva. The Penguins record now stands at 3-3.

The schedule does not favor the Penguins as their game against the Pittsburgh Panthers was just the tip of the iceberg. The next four games for the Penguins are on the road and three out of those four games are against Horizon League opponents. The time for the "new Penguins" to emerge, who are supposed to contend with the elite teams in the league this season, has

arrived. This road trip will be crucial for the team morale and will go far to how the team will do in the Horizon League standings. The Penguins can win games on the home court, but the underlying questions with this team will be, can they win the big games on the road?

All three Horizon League games the Penguins will play on their long road trip are against opponents picked by the media surrounding the Horizon League to finish above the Penguins. The toughest opponent the Penguins will face lies in their upcoming tussle against the Wright State Raiders Dec. 5. The Raiders currently stand at 3-2 on the season. The Raiders have wins over Portland State, Belmont,

and Central Michigan. The Raiders dropped their most recent against the Northeastern Huskies, 70-67. A season ago, the Raiders finished 20-13 overall while compiling a 12-6 Horizon League record.

The University of Detroit-Mercy was a team the Penguins had some success with a season ago. The Penguins nipped the Titans on the road 80-78 but lost in a tough overtime game at the Beegly Center last season 68-64. Even though the Titans finished with the worst record in league play last season at 2-16, the media still picked them to finish sixth in the Horizon League, one place above the Penguins.

The team that finished behind Butler in the regular season standings was the Univer-

sity of Wisconsin-Green Bay, a team the Penguins play on Dec. 19. The Penguins lost on the road 78-61 to the Phoenix a season ago. The Penguins avenged the loss as they took care of the Phoenix later in the season on the home court, 77-73.

Senior DeAndre Mays has stepped up early in the season and leads the team in scoring with 11.7. His hot hand early in the Pitt game gave the Penguins a shot at winning the game as he hit two early three-pointers back-to-back. The Penguins have a balanced scoring attack as five players on their team average more than eight points a game and through six games, five different players have lead the team in scoring.