

Weather >> mostly cloudy
 28 | 24
 Friday: snow, 30/15
 Saturday: cloudy, 31/23

Inside



▶ See you in January, YSU. Have a nice break.



▶ The Jambar looks back at the semester that was fall 2005 with some lists. They're pretty.

Special Section I
 see page 6

In Brief

Women's Club holds luncheon and auction

The YSU Women's Club will hold their annual holiday luncheon and silent auction 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday Dec. 9 in Kilcawley's Ohio Room. The theme of this year's event is Penguins on Ice. For more information, call Jan Schnall at (330) 941-1478.

Nominate professors for award

Provost Robert Herbert is accepting Nominations for the 2005-2006 Distinguished Professorship Award until Jan. 31. All students, faculty members, chairpersons and deans may make nominations. Twenty-four awards will be presented in April.

Xmas charity program seeks presents

YSU's Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity is collecting gifts for the Each Child Remembered Program, which provides Christmas gifts to children whose parents are incarcerated. Interested participants can get the name of a child from the Equal Opportunity Office on the second floor of Tod Hall.

the jambar poll question
 Last question
 Are you ready for Xmas?
 Yes 47% No 53%

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- ▶ Entertainment | 5
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the jambar

VOLUME 88, ISSUE 36 The student voice of Youngstown State University

YSU

Cashing in on stolen textbooks

By: Cheryl Thompson
 ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Posters urging students to sell back books to the Youngstown State University bookstore or Campus Book and Supply are common on campus, but some students try to take advantage of the opportunity for extra cash by stealing the books and attempting to resell them to the bookstores.

"We get a lot of it towards the end of the semester," Sgt. Rose Marsco of the Youngstown State University Police Department said. "Students will leave their books and when they return, the books are gone."

Marsco said book theft commonly occurs in populated buildings such as Maag Library, Kilcawley

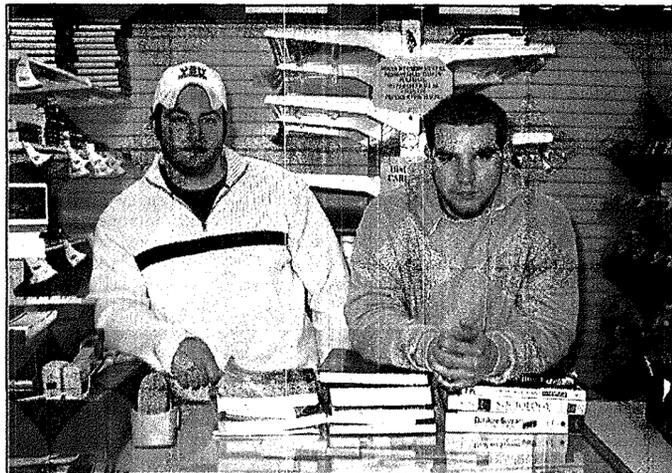
Center and DeBartolo Hall, especially in computer labs. He said students have a somewhat false sense of security while on campus, which results in students becoming careless.

"You wouldn't leave something unattended at the mall," Marsco said. "So why would you here?"

Sgt. Bryan Remias of the YSU Police Department said to some people, the last two weeks of the semester are a prime time to prey on unsuspecting college students.

Former YSU student Joshua West, 25, was arrested Wednesday after trying to resell a photography textbook he stole from Bliss Hall only five days after being arrested in

please see **BOOKS**, Page 2



Jambar / Katie Libecco
 Charlie Pierce, left, and Travis Fusselman, both employees of Campus Book and Supply, are shown behind the counter Monday. People selling stolen books pose a problem for the store.

YSU

Academic Senate looks to improve summer schedule

By: Cheryl Thompson
 ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Academic Planning Committee of the Academic Senate announced that they are currently investigating ways to improve the summer class schedule.

Till Meyn, the chair of the Academic Planning Committee, said his committee is planning to review the summer schedule to get rid of some inconsistencies and conflicting courses to make it more accessible for students and faculty.

"The summer schedule

as the way it stands is scattered, fractured and complicated. It's hard for both student and faculty to follow," Meyn said.

Meyn went on to cite that two different eight-week courses are overlapping and says students wouldn't be able to attend the classes they need.

"We're basically trying to find out why the schedules like this and get recommendations on how make it better," Meyn said.

The Senate held a meet-

please see **SENATE**, Page 4

YSU

Graduation speaker proud of YSU degree

By: Steve Lettau
 REPORTER

Former Youngstown State University baseball standout Stephen Bartolin Jr. will return to campus this fall as commencement speaker for the Fall Class of 2005 on 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec 18 at 2 p.m. in Beeghly Center.

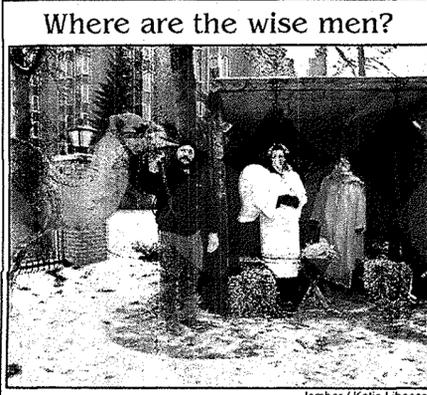
Bartolin, a Hubbard native, attended YSU and played baseball until his junior year when he was drafted by the Detroit Tigers

organization. Suffering a shoulder injury, Bartolin came back to YSU in 1975 and received a bachelor's degree in business.

He will also receive an honorary doctor of humane letters degree during the ceremony.

Bartolin is the chair, president and chief executive of The Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colo. He also worked at The Greenbrier Hotel in W.Va.

please see **BARTOLIN**, Page 4



Jambar / Katie Libecco
 Stop by the Park Vista Retirement Home on Fifth Avenue today to check out a live nativity scene in front of the building.

YSU

Early College looks to boost enrollment

By: Bill Rodgers
 NEWS EDITOR

The Youngstown Early College program entered its second year with fewer students than the program's goal, Ron Chordas, Youngstown State University's associate provost, said to YSU trustees last Tuesday.

Chordas said YEC organizers would research similar programs in the state and present the board with recruitment plans to trustees in March. YEC's recruitment goal is 75 high school freshmen every year. There are 121 students are enrolled in the program, 66 new freshmen and 55 continuing students from the 75 who began attending in 2004.

In its second year, YEC had 44 students in 66 college courses for a total of 127

semester hours. The students earned a combined 2.95 grade point average, up from last year's 75 semester hours and 2.9 grade point average.

Chordas said YEC would begin collecting data from other early college programs, as well as Catholic and charter schools to see how those schools recruit new students. He said part of YEC's recruitment concerns could be guidance counselors from public schools recommending the program to students.

"Public school systems aren't used to being in the business of recruitment," Chordas said.

Another potential problem with recruitment, Chordas said, could be that going to an early college program is vastly different from the school experience most high school

freshmen are used to. "You're asking a student who went to school with his or her friends for eight years and asking them to leave that for a new experience in a college environment. It's a pretty big leap for a 14-year-old to make," Chordas said.

Chordas said no concrete ideas for recruitment were planned. He mentioned YEC representatives could go to more parent teacher nights. He also said that recruitment could pick up as word of the program spreads among Youngstown stores.

YEC set six goals for the 2005-06 school year. Among them is a goal to increase public relations, provide professional development for YEC teachers and staff and increase the level of community-wide student activities.
 Call Bill Rodgers at (330) 941-1989.

YSU

Student Government plans movie, other activities to help students with finals week

By: Cheryl Thompson
 ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Student Government Association has several events planned for finals week, including a free showing of the movie "Bad Santa," extended library hours and a way to get rid of unwanted textbooks.

Instead of closing at 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday and at 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Maag Library will stay open two hours later giving students the opportunity to get more study hours.

The library extended hours, which began Monday Dec. 4, are as follows: Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to midnight; Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. the week before finals and on finals week are Sunday from 1 p.m. to midnight and Monday through Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to midnight, with regular hours resuming on Friday Dec. 16.

Between study sessions, students won't have to go far to refuel as refreshments will be available at the library.

SGA will provide free cookies and hot chocolate this week from 10 p.m. to midnight and next week Jazzman's Café on the third floor will be giving out free coffee during the same time frame.

Need a break from studying? SGA will be doing its part to alleviate pre-finals week stress by hosting a free screening of Bad Santa today at 6:30 p.m. in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room.

Through SGA and Better World Books, "Books for Africa" campaign students can

donate textbooks that the bookstores won't buyback to be used on college campus throughout Africa.

The drive runs through Friday, Dec. 16, with seven collections site throughout campus including one at Kilcawley, Cafaro and Lyden houses, one near the Student Government office in Kilcawley Center and three outside of the YSU Bookstore.

All books used in college classrooms will be accepted in the drive with exception of course packets and custom publications.

Paul Walker, a student trustee and SGA's secretary of external affairs, organized the event. He said he is pleased with the response to the drive so far and encourages students and professors to keep on donating.

"It's a great way to recycle books the bookstore won't purchase back, while at the same time promoting world literacy," Walker said.

Professors in addition to students are good sources for used books, Walker said.

"They usually have tons of old editions to give away," Walker said.

Walker says that while most of the books will be donated to colleges in Africa, some of them will be sold in the United State and proceeds will go toward shipping the rest of the books.

Walker says volunteers are still needed to collect books from professors and spread the word about the project. Any interested individuals should e-mail him at plwalker@student.yosu.edu.

Call Cheryl Thompson at (330) 941-1913.

BOOKS, continued from page 1

Austintown for failure to appear in court on Dec. 2.

"He uses the campus for Christmas shopping, while other people will go to the mall, he steals from students to try to make a quick buck," Remias said.

This isn't West's first arrest in regards to textbook theft. According to police reports, he was charged with theft, receiving stolen property and trespassing in July 2005.

Remias added that West isn't permitted on campus and if he is spotted, the campus police should be called.

"Although he's been arrested before, they never keep him long," Remias said. "He's in and out of the system."

Remias added that students should be aware of where they put their belongings.

"As long as people like him were around, students should keep an eye on their

property," Remias warns.

Remias says the YSU Police Department hung up posters on the Crime Prevention Boards around campus to warn students.

The YSU Police Department also works together with the bookstores to stop thieves from profiting from stolen books.

When a student reports a book stolen, the police call the YSU Bookstore and Campus Book and Supply. They supply the stores with the name of the book and distinguishing characteristics.

Due to size differences, the two stores handle the information slightly differently. At the YSU Bookstore,

the larger of the two, the reported book is flagged in the store's computer system. At the smaller Campus Book and Supply, the employees are notified and watch for the book.

Because Campus Book and Supply buys back textbooks throughout the year and doesn't require students to show their ID's, they have more incidents of stolen book sell back attempts and Marsco said they know how to effectively help the officers.

"They know to give good detailed descriptions and will even go out to get a car's license number," Marsco said.

John Thomas, manager of Campus Book and Supply, said usually shortly after being informed about a stolen book, someone will try to sell it back.

Thomas said they don't tell the person attempting to

sell back the book that they know it's stolen and keep them in the store until police arrive.

"We'll hem and haw around, telling them that the computer is down or that we ran out money and need to go to the safe. Then the police take it from there," he said.

Thomas echoed Marsco's statements about carelessness leading to theft. He said the best thing to do is take all of your books with you.

"A lot of kids don't think anything of leaving their books out in the open and it only takes 30 seconds for someone to steal your books," Thomas said.

Marsco said students can safeguard their books by making specific markings on pages or on the inside cover in order to prove if the person who reported the book stolen is the actual owner.

"If we can't prove beyond

a reasonable doubt that the book belongs to the person who reported it stolen, then we can't charge the suspect with anything," Marsco said. Marsco suggested high-

lighting or initialing certain page numbers that you know you would remember, such as your birthday or favorite number.

Call Cheryl Thompson at (330) 941-1913.



WEST

Classified

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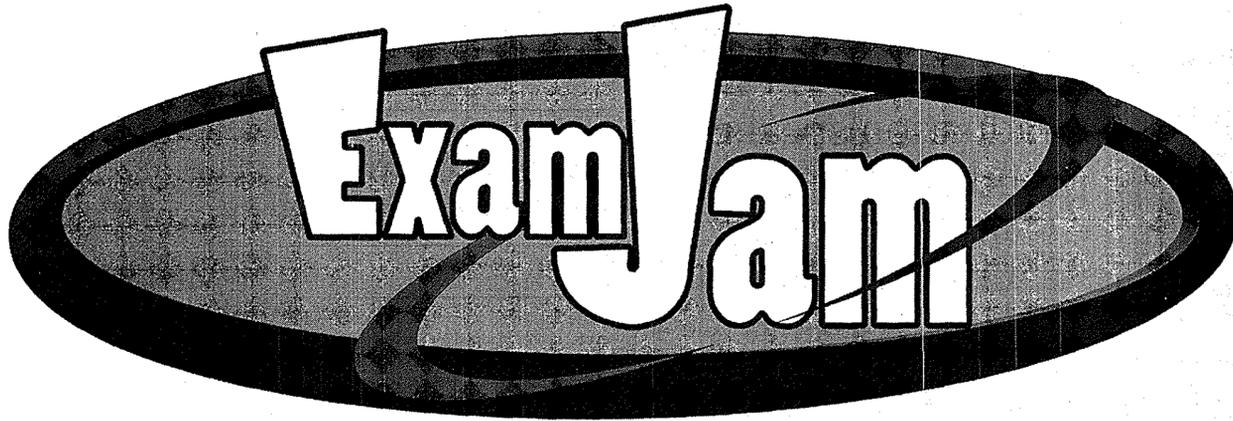
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Youngstown State University

Editorial & Opinion

Thursday, December 8, 2005

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thejambar
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OUR SIDE

Lead concerns handled well

Ivan Maldonado, vice president of the Association of Classified Employees at Youngstown State University, filed a grievance against YSU on Oct. 21 because of the possibility of lead exposure in Beeghly Center and Fedor Hall, the result of a fan that was replaced in the rifle range.

Since the claim, there have been two tests of lead levels. The first test consisted of 12 samples. Lead levels in the playground soil from Vee Care Day Care ranged from 44.6 micrograms per gram to 126 micrograms per gram, well below was the Ohio board of Health considers hazardous — 400 micrograms of lead per gram in soil at play areas. Ohio standards for lead vary by situation, with no regulations for acceptable levels of lead for roofs. However, the most lead allowed on residential horizontal surfaces is 400 micrograms per square foot.

As concerns were raised, follow up testing was performed in additional areas. Many of the samples further showed no hazardous levels of lead around Beeghly Center, Cushman and Moser halls. However, one sample from a drain on the roof of Beeghly Center was 10,000 micrograms per square foot, above safe levels.

A memo from the YSU's Department of Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety said the sample was anomalous and inconsistent with adjacent samples. John Kominsky, of Cincinnati-based Environmental Quality Management was brought in for additional testing and monitoring.

Because of limited access to the area where the sample was taken, the memo also said, "...there is no immediate potential for an exposure hazard."

Maldonado has said that he will keep the grievance has been on hold, without hearings, until the additional tests by Kominsky have been returned to the university. Results are expected within the next week.

YSU quickly took all of the appropriate actions to handle Maldonado's grievance, including bringing an objective expert to campus for round three of testing. Maldonado has also acted appropriately, pushing the university to make sure something is done about a potential threat to everyone on campus.

The response of both parties has been responsible and efficient.

At a time when it seems the cause of every problem at YSU is poor communication, they, and the YSU community, should take satisfaction in the fact that at least one system at YSU has effective communication and works smoothly.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Jambar editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambar and its Editorial Board members. Commentaries and columns reflect only the views of the individual who wrote the piece. Those wishing to schedule meetings with the Editorial Board should call the editor in chief.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters must be typed and should not exceed 400 words. Each letter must include a name and telephone number for verification purposes. Submissions are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters must be received by noon Friday for Tuesday's edition and by noon Tuesday for Thursday's edition.

The Jambar will not print letters that libel others or threaten harm. The editor in chief reserves the right to reject any letter. The views and opinions expressed in published letters do not necessarily reflect those of Jambar staff or YSU faculty, staff or administration.

COMMENTARY

Graduation marks accomplishments

By: Eric Grosso
FEATURES REPORTER

Graduation. Freshmen often view it as impossible. Seniors say it can't come soon enough. It doesn't matter what your major is. It doesn't matter what route you took to get through college. It doesn't matter how long it takes or how much money you owe when you're done.

For that one day, seniors know they've accomplished something. Something big.

The Fall 2005 Commencement Ceremony on Dec. 18 in Beeghly Center will mark the end of one journey and the beginning of another, as graduating seniors proudly walk in front of their family, friends, and fellow classmates for the last time as a college student.

I'll be one of those seniors, but I don't believe it.

After 134 semester hours and four years, I've completed my undergraduate academic career, a tiny part of the 37 percent of students that eventually graduate. Done. Finished. Goodbye playground, hello real world.

I became a published author during college, a major goal of mine, generating

articles, some amazing, some terrible. I got engaged to my beautiful girlfriend. I met strange people working in Kilcawley Center. I nearly fell off the scoreboard trying to film Penguins football in 50 mph wind for a small paycheck. I drank, sometimes too much, sometimes too little.

Looking back, I know I've done a lot. A lot more than I could ever fit into this commentary.

Hopefully, you are making your own memories, in and out of the classroom. All these experiences, when you graduate, will define you.

Without those memories, you'll be nothing in the end, boring and lifeless. Worse yet, you won't have another chance to change it.

"Looking back, I'm a totally different person than when I started," Sarah Yurco said, who will also graduate next weekend. Yurco insists that to find yourself, you have to look at academics as well as your peers.

"Classes define you as a professional," Yurco said. "But, who you meet and interact with outside of the classroom define you as a person, as an individual." Yurco joins many others who will

attempt to start their professional career after Sunday. She started early, working as a teller at a local bank. Three years later, she now works in a management position at one of the busiest branches in the area.

She noted that building professional connections is vital to the job search.

"Even if it's not exactly what you want, you need to gain experience in your field and build references before anything else," Yurco said.

One road ends, another begins. Few students know what road they'll be traveling down, like Yurco, when they graduate. Many students, myself included, don't have a solid path, at least not yet.

I could find a job working at a local television station, working in my major. I might find a job writing in the area. I could deliver pizzas.

Some might think not having a job after next Sunday could be a bad thing. I, on the other hand, consider it a blessing.

It means a fresh start, a welcome change. It means that as of right now, life could travel down a thousand different roads. The same feeling I had when I started college.

Call Eric Grosso at (330) 941-3758.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Administrators at root of YSU problems

Editor:
Once again, tuition at YSU is rising and students are justly angered. Permit me to offer a common sense plan to put a halt to this steadily increasing cost to the people who can least afford it, a plan that should be self-evident to everyone. Effective immediately, the Board of Trustees should institute a plan to reduce the number of university administrators by at least 50%. A good place to start is at the top. Does YSU really need a president? What has he done for you lately? His removal would place an additional quarter of a million dollars back into the budget. John Hobbit? Get rid of him! Hunter Morrison, the tree killer? He's back in Cleveland. How about our new provost? In September, he sent a two-page letter to the faculty which had a near-zero information content, although there were a few veiled threats included for color. In this era of tight budgets, higher education has no need of administrative drones who suck up the budget and create more problems than they solve.

I suggest that The Jambar, or any interested student, investigate the increasing number of administrators (a.k.a. locusts) hired by YSU since the 1970s. The results will surprise you.

Ronald G. Tabak
Professor of Physics & Astronomy

Budget analysis built on faulty premise

Editor:
Since I provided at least some of the documents Mr. Crist used to write his "Analysis" on Page 3 of the Dec. 1, 2005, edition of The Jambar, I felt I should respond to some points made in the article that were incorrect or need clarification.

But before I address the budget inaccuracies, let me say that, as the university's budget director, I was disappointed and, yes, even a bit offended at the use of words such as "surplus chicanery" and "accounting shenanigans" to describe various processes used to put together the university's budget.

YSU's \$150 million operating budget is a complex revenue and expenditure plan filled with intricacies that are not readily understood by the casual observer. While I appreciate the serious attempt to do so, much of the "Analysis" is built on faulty premises.

First, the article states that the carryovers (or surpluses) in the general operating budget at the end of fiscal year 2004 (\$3.4 million) and at the end of fiscal year 2005 (\$3.5

million) provide evidence that "YSU has somehow managed to earn nearly \$7 million more in revenue than it has expended." This is not correct. The carryover at the close of fiscal year 2005, in fact, includes the previous year carryover.

Second, the article notes that YSU has \$11 million in budget reserves. That, in essence, is accurate. It is important to note, however, that \$6.6 million of that constitutes long-term reserves — about 5 percent of the annual operating budget, a target established by the university's Board of Trustees. While \$6.6 million may seem like a high amount for a "rainy day" fund, it actually represents less than three weeks of expenditures for the university. The long-term reserve fund is one of the factors that the Ohio Board of Regents uses to measure the financial health of the state's public universities. Digging into those reserves could seriously impact those ratios. If the ratios get low enough, a university could be placed into a "fiscal watch" status. The bottom line? A 5 percent long-term reserve should be viewed as a minimum, and a reasonable and prudent amount necessary for the financial stability of the institution.

Third, near the end of the article and in reference to the budget modification that came before the Board of Trustees last week, the article states that "...administrators are just now budgeting an extra \$3 million for faculty and staff raises and benefits." That is not correct. Funds were set aside for these costs, most in the line item Short-Term Budget Stabilization Reserve. The writer is clearly trying to persuade readers that the administration did not properly plan for employee pay increases. That is not accurate.

Fourth, the article contains a proposal to reduce the proposed 6 percent tuition increase for fiscal year 2007 to 3 percent and to make up the difference by using carryover funds. The budget carryover at the end of fiscal year 2006 will be significantly less than in the prior year, and certainly will in no way be enough to make up the difference between the proposed 6 percent tuition increase and the suggested 3 percent hike.

Fifth, the article notes that carryover funds are moved "into various budgetary reserves, which are considered expenditures, but aren't actually expended on anything." This, again, is not correct. Most temporary reserves are transferred to other operating accounts and are, in fact, spent throughout the year.

I appreciate the opportunity to correct and clarify the article. I only wish that Mr. Crist had called and asked me about some of these issues and his conclusions before publish-

ing, as his "Analysis" added to the confusion surrounding YSU's budget and largely dismissed the fiscal challenges that confront the university. I urge him to do so in the future.

Jeff Taylor
Director of Budget Planning
Youngstown State University

University responds to reports of lead

Editor:
There has been much discussion of late, some of which has appeared in The Jambar, regarding the issue of lead exhaust from the rifle range in Beeghly Center. It is important for everyone to have a clear and accurate understanding of what has taken place, what is the current situation, and what is planned to address the concerns that have been raised.

For a number of years, the Beeghly Center rifle range exhaust fan contained a pleated filter that was equivalent to a furnace filter. When that fan failed earlier this year, the University retained a professional engineer to determine the type of replacement fan that was appropriate for this application. After researching the regulations, the engineer determined that no filter was required on the fan and this has been confirmed by the regulatory agencies. Installation of the new fan triggered concerns among some regarding the impact of an unfiltered rifle range exhaust fan on the adjacent Fedor Hall playground area and Beeghly Center roof area where the fan is located.

The new fan has not been utilized since it has been installed. Therefore, any presence of lead in the adjacent Fedor Hall playground area or on the Beeghly Center roof is not attributable to the operation of the new unfiltered exhaust fan. However, in order to be responsive to concerns that were raised, the University sampled the playground

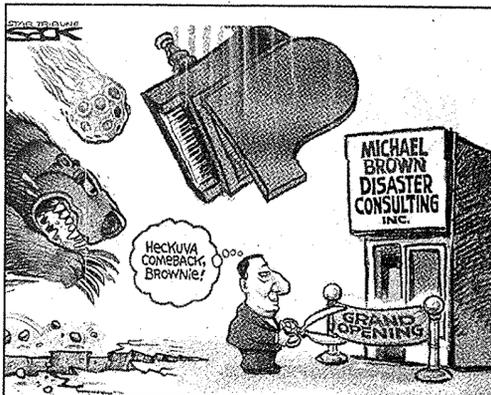
area and roof for lead. All of the results, except for a drain on the roof, indicated no cause for concern. The University nevertheless committed to follow-up testing and monitoring of these areas.

The roof drain area, approximately the size of a cookie sheet, produced a high result. Further testing of this area is required to verify and understand the source of this result in order to determine what response is appropriate. We have retained a consultant regarding the roof drain and follow-up testing and monitoring. Until the consultant's work is complete, we are treating the roof drain area as if it contains lead. This area is inaccessible to the public and presents no potential hazard to employees unless they work in the immediate vicinity of the drain. Pending the outcome of the consultant's report, maintenance workers have been instructed that if work on or near the drain is required, they should consult with the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety regarding appropriate safety measures while performing their work. Contrary to reports in the Jambar, employees have not been barred from accessing the roof without special permission.

We take very seriously the health and safety of the campus community. The University has been and will continue to be proactive regarding concerns that have been raised about the new rifle range exhaust fan. We will complete our follow-up testing, take any appropriate remedial action required, and conduct appropriate follow-up monitoring of the Fedor Hall playground and Beeghly Center roof.

John Hyden
Executive Director
Facilities & Support Services

Sandy Denman
Director, EOHS



YSU FOOTBALL

Penguins to face Big Ten champs in 2006

By: Justin Smolkovich
SPORTS REPORTER

The Youngstown State University football team will face one of its toughest opponents ever next fall when it travels to Happy Valley to battle the Penn State Nittany Lions, the Penguins' second Division I-A foe in as many years.

The Sept. 16 game will mark the Penguins' first-ever gridiron meeting with a Big Ten opponent. The Nittany Lions finished the 2005 regular season at 10-1 and co-champs of the Big Ten alongside Ohio State topped off by an automatic birth in the BCS on Jan. 3 where they will play Florida State in the FedEx Orange Bowl.

Athletic director Ron Strollo said in a press release that he was excited to be traveling to yet another big time program.

"This is a great opportunity for our school to play against one of the most prestigious

"This is a great opportunity for our school to play against one of the most prestigious institutions in the country when it comes to college football."

— Ron Strollo

institutions in the country when it comes to college football. We are grateful for the chance to play Penn State and I know everyone involved with our football family is excited as I am to compete against a school from the Big Ten on the gridiron for the first time," Strollo said.

The game between traditional powers, albeit in different divisions, came after Louisiana Tech, who had originally scheduled a game against Penn State backed out of the game, leaving an opportunity for the Penguins to jump on.

The Penguins on the other hand were scheduled to make a trip to Boston Massachusetts to take on Northeastern, but

decided to make the trip to Happy Valley instead. The Penguins will likely add Northeastern to the schedule in the future.

The game against the Nittany Lions will mark the 40th time the Penguins have battled a Division I-A team. The Penguins sit as even as possible at 19-19-1 all time versus the Division I-A squads.

Associate Director of Athletics, Rick Love, said that playing teams in Division I-A would remain a possibility for the Penguins, however the Penguins are looking for closer regional games to fill their 11 game schedule.

"I think if there is a game that is close that makes sense," Love said of the possibility of scheduling regional I-A teams in the future.

"We are not looking to play Utah or UCLA."

Love also said games against larger schools could be used as great recruiting tools, as the Penguins boast quite a few team members from the Keystone State and a large alumni base.

"These games allows alumni, students and family the opportunity to travel and see a game," Love said.

The Penguins, who earned their first ever Gateway Conference crown, are coming off an impressive 8-3 campaign, which included a week four match up with the Pitt Panthers. The Penguins have also made frequent trips to Mid-American conference members Kent State and Akron and even traveled to Cincinnati to battle the BearCats in the early 1980's.

Kickoff for the game is still undetermined while the remainder of the Penguins' 2006 schedule will be announced in the near future.

Call Justin Smolkovich at (330) 941-3758.

COMMENTARY

Gravy Claus and other failed Christmas traditions

By: Bob Mackey
COLUMNIST

We're all familiar with the image of the white-bearded, red-suited, atherosclerosis victim Santa Claus, who sneaks down our chimneys, or perhaps burrows through our dry wall like a ferret every year to spread Christmas joy. What many of you may not know, however, is that this modern image of Santa was popularized by the Coca-Cola Company, in an effort to regain some kind of popularity after the government forced them to take the dangerous narcotic out of their drink, and the word "vitality" out of their product description. Fortunately for the soda company, their new holiday ad campaign worked, and now one's brain can't help but fill with warm fuzzy memories upon seeing the old, Norman Rockwell-esque advertisements which portray impish children leaving an overworked Santa bottles of Coke in a fiendish attempt to give him Type 2 diabetes.

By co-opting Saint Nicholas and legends about Norwegian chimney monsters, Coke was able to give the holiday season an iconic character which children can visit and urinate on annually in malls across the country. Some holiday traditions barely make it past the drawing board, though, and these miscarriages of Yuletide cheer are such embarrassments to the human race as a whole that they've been edited out of all known history books. Thanks to the efforts of my crack research team, I've been able to learn much about a few of these past holiday transgressions, and I hope to shed a little light on them, lest history repeat itself.

Gravy Claus: A little known part of FDR's "New Deal" policy, Gravy Claus was an attempt to bring joy to the children of an

economically crippled country, as well as feed the starving population of America with hundreds of thousands of gallons of World War One surplus gravy. Possessing the indomitable spirit that Americans were once known for, FDR decided to play the role of Gravy Claus himself, outfitting his wheelchair with hoverjets designed by top White



House basement scientists. In a scheme later ripped off by the movie "Speed," FDR delivered one of his famous fireside chats on Christmas Eve 1934, fooling a nation into thinking that the president was sitting in a log-heated White House, instead of traveling from rooftop to rooftop distributing gravy. "Please hold a bucket in your hearth," heard many times during that radio address, came to be FDR's best known quote, beating out the banal, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." Sadly, a misjudgment of velocity by the president caused him to topple off of the roof of the third house he visited that

night, flooding the city Chicago with 10 feet of pork gravy.

The Burning Bush: In the 1960s, the Roman Catholic Church was a little uneasy with the fact that the common hippie was beginning to resemble Jesus; the only notable difference between the two being the stink of patchouli oil (Jesus smelled like camels, which is much better).

holy water was provided with each tree; however, the Church managed to overlook that they had been using kerosene as holy water since Vatican II. Due to this tragedy, until the 1980s it looked like the Rapture had actually happened.

To Russia with Hate: With the American enmity of all things Russian culminating with the character of Ivan Drago from Rocky IV, in 1985 President Reagan encouraged Americans to send Christmas presents to poor, Russian children, with a note attached to each gift, on which "I just break you" would be written. These gifts were to be sent only out of spite, and would include such child-hated contents as socks, underwear, and hollowed-out bibles filled with non-alcoholic vodka. This tradition broke the Russian spirit yearly until 1989, when America tried to send Yakov Smirnoff back to Russia as a "gift." When Yakov made the brilliant observation, "In Soviet Russia, present gives you," upon reaching Siberia, communism instantly fell, making movie villains boring from that point on. As a result of all of this, Tetris was created, finally making it legal for women to play video games.

In the spirit of the Christmas season, I encourage everyone to try and make up their own holiday traditions. They certainly won't be as tragic as the aforementioned failures, and who knows, maybe your tradition will become as popular as the Christmas stocking or the New Year's Eve diaper. Just make sure that you're not treading on any trademarks of litigious soda corporations.

Bob Mackey can't believe that his Chanukah story "Jerry the Jewincant" was rejected by publishers. He can be reached at (330) 941-1913.

WEEKEND EVENTS

Friday

- Vanishing Kids at Nyabinghi. Imagine new wave, dance, punk, and goth all rolled into one, and you'd have the truly unique Vanishing Kids.
- Triple Threat at Salty Grog's in Boardman. Playing rock and blues for over ten years, they must be doing something right. Includes former members of Graphic Pink and Special Forces.
- Sam Goodwill at Labernacle EPC in Austintown. Their Myspace.com page says they are inspired by '70s limitations, 80s polish, 90's passion. Neat.

Saturday

- The Hern Brothers at Salty Grog's in Boardman. Over 5,000 shows spanning 25 years, The Hern Brothers bring their polished "Rock-N-Roll" to Boardman.
- Lady Fantastic at Grange Hall in Canfield. Music fans are bound to find something they like, as LF is paying with Built To Crash, Ten Court Fall, Sanity Fare, Xcentrophobia, and Made In Canada.
- The Huckin' Fillbills at the Ice House in Austintown. Call them what you want, but this classic and current part rock and roll cover band won't let you leave without having a good time. How many bands have you met that can play AC/DC, the Killers, and Billy Idol at the same show?
- Simply, Ed at Joe's Tavern. Drink and sing karaoke while Ed makes fun of you.

MASS for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Will be celebrated on Thursday, December 8th at 12:05 pm in the Ohio Room - Kilcawley Center & 7:00 pm - The Newman Center

For more info: (330) 747-9202

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The Jambar takes on everything from the fall semester

Bill Rodgers' top 5 YSU news stories

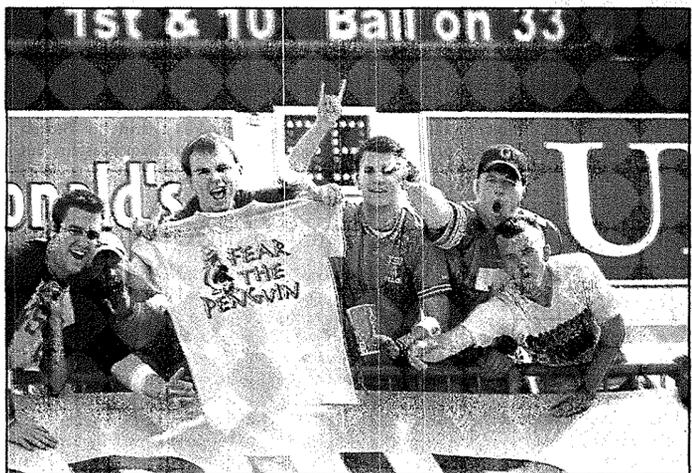
- 1. The Great Strikes of 2005**
Sitting at the top of the list are the contract negotiations between the Youngstown State University administration and faculty and Association of Classified Employees unions that resulted in both unions going on strike. ACE negotiations officially broke down Aug. 16, joined by the faculty Aug. 22.
Concerns that YSU students would miss school as dead-end negotiations stretched up until the zero hour were put to rest when the faculty exited strike headquarters the night before the semester commenced to announce they had voted in favor of the contract 182 for and 119 against.
At 6 a.m. the following morning, an exhausted Christine Domhoff, union leader for ACE, phoned this reporter to announce that ACE would be going back to work as well under a tentative agreement to be voted on at a later date. The union and administrative negotiators had met in an overnight meeting with mediator State Sen. Mark Dann who made a last minute appearance at YSU to get ACE back to work by the start of the semester.
Under the new agreements, the two unions receive a 3 percent pay increase over the next three years. This is also the first year that employees contribute to health care premiums, a cost saving measure for YSU. The two unions went back to work and life at YSU returned to normal.
Almost the outcome of the strike still affects YSU two months later, not the least of which was in recent tuition talks by the board of trustees.
- 2. Tuition hikes tabled**
Coming in at a close second is the recent decision by the YSU Board of Trustees to withhold deciding tuition for 2006 until their next quarterly meeting in March.
YSU administration recommended last week that the trustees vote to increase tuition at YSU by six percent, the maximum increase allowed by Ohio law. YSU President David Sweet cited declining state support, which was projected to decrease by another 2 percent next year, as the main reason YSU had to lean on its students to pay a balanced budget.
3. Rec Center draws record numbers
After spending more than 10 years waiting in the wings, YSU's \$12.1 million Andrews Recreation and Wellness center opened up on Sept. 25. The center, which has a jogging track, 53-foot rock wall and meditation room, drew more than 1,600 students and faculty through its doors the day it opened.
4. Lead scrutinized
At the end of October, ACE Vice President Ivan Moldonado raised concerns that a new exhaust fan installed over the rifle range at Beechly Center could be potentially releasing hazardous amounts of lead into the air above the Wee Care Daycare Center.
5. YSU football player arrested
Still adorning freshman Anthony Norman's the facebook.com profile are messages from friends saying "Free T-Norm." The YSU football player was arrested Tuesday, Oct. 25 outside of football practice, charged with the murder of Akron resident Christopher Harris.



top 5 pictures

Katie Libecco's top 5 changes in Youngstown

- 1. The Chevrolet Centre Opens and the SteelHounds Find a Home**
The Chevrolet Centre opened in downtown Youngstown this October, giving the people their arena. Now Youngstown has an eclectic mix of entertainment and the blue-collar sport of hockey.
Since October, the arena has hosted 11 SteelHounds games and some pretty big acts. 3 Doors Down, Shinedown, Lil John, the Ying Yang Twins, Tony Bennett and Clay Aiken have all taken the stage.
The idea to open a convocation center in Youngstown began in 1999 by former Congressman James A. Traficant Jr. of Poland, with plenty of critics. However, enough supporters backed the project to create
Business is increasing downtown, and so is hope for the future of Youngstown. There are fun things to do downtown. There's year-round sports entertainment in Mahoning Valley, between the Scrappers at Eastwood Field, racing at Sharon Speedway and Quaker City Raceway and the SteelHounds hockey.
2. A new Youngstown mayor
On Nov. 9, 52 percent of city voters elected the first black mayor of Youngstown and the first independent candidate to win the seat in about 80 years — Jay Williams. He and Senator Robert F. Hagan campaigned neck and neck throughout the summer and fall. Hagan brought in 39.84 percent of the vote.
Williams' victory is a triumph for other young political candidates with big, positive plans. He has a unique opportunity to promote diversity throughout the city. A new mayor means new ideas, and Williams is full of ideas. Hopefully, he'll follow through and his supporters will stand behind him to get things done in the city.
3. YSU football gets respect again
Youngstown State University's Jon Heacock was named Division I-AA, Region Four Regional Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association with Thiel College's Jack Leipheimer. Heacock was also named the Gateway Conference Coach of the Year for the first time in his career.
YSU didn't get a playoff bid, but the football team proved itself this year. With a lot of young talent, there's hope the team will go all the way in the next few years.
4. Youngstown 2010 plan revealed
The Youngstown 2010 Planning Team released the final version of Youngstown 2010 in September after two-and-a-half years of planning and community input. 2010 will serve as the road map for Youngstown's recovery and is the first city-wide planning process in more than 50 years.
5. 711 opens
Forty years ago, the idea was born to create a link between I-680 and the I-80/State Route 11 interchange in Girard. Like the Chevrolet Centre, funding for the new highway wasn't secured until 1999. The 711 Connector officially opened to the public on Oct. 24.



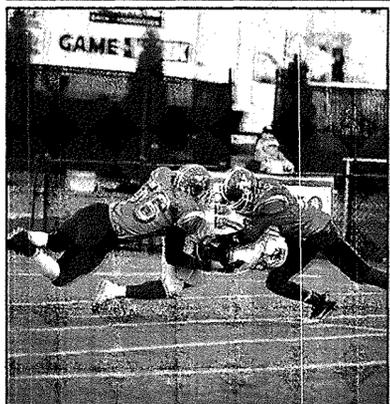
Bob Mackey's top 5 things that never happened

- Ah, 2005. Six whole years away from partying like it's 1999, and what has it gotten us? A whole lot of nothing, that's what. I honestly can't remember anything that happened this year, and neither should you; 2005 was BoringTown, population all of us. I think at one point this year I made a really good sandwich, but this may just be a delusion created by my brain in an effort to make 2005 seem like it was worth waking up for. Even though I know it wasn't, in the spirit of making 2005 look interesting, I now present five things that never happened. Just remember: if you lie enough, the truth becomes irrelevant.
- 1. Country goes down**
Members of the world of Southern entertainment — from Jeff Foxworthy to the corpse of Gene Autry — moved to an underwater city this year in an effort to separate themselves from a country that has been growing increasingly liberal since the reelection of George W. Bush. Not much is known about the domed city of Lowest Common Denomitopia, except for the civil wars that have caused much bloodshed in the underwater kingdom. If you press your ear to the ocean's surface, you may still hear the haunting war cry of "Git-R-Done."
 - 2. Hollywood comes alive**
Breaking free from the yoke of its human masters, Hollywood became a living, breathing sentient entity capable of making movies of its own volition. Sequels to movies never made began appearing at cinemas; these films became very popular due to Hollywood's penchant for using its famous shadow lasers to vaporize cities that didn't cooperate.
 - 3. Mayonnaise gives up**
In what can only be summed up with the words "about time," America finally realized the superiority of Miracle Whip. All mayonnaise factories were demolished, and all factory workers were deported for their responsibility in making the inferior "treason sauce," as it came to be known.
 - 4. Dinosaurs come back to Earth and are real jerks about it**
Surprising the world, dinosaurs — those things from that one Michael Crichton novel — arrived on Earth via the comet they had previously left on, shattering old beliefs that they were frightened to extinction by cavemen and their appliances made out of smart-aleck birds. Instead of allowing scientists to observe them, the dinosaurs insisted on telling the world that humans were destroying the planet, and then they kept putting "Earth Day is every day" stickers on everything. In a historic world summit on pollution, the dinosaurs were murdered and put in the ground in the interest of making gasoline for flying cars in the future.
 - 5. Price of The Jambar raised**
In what could only be described as "madcap," a money-hungry administration, sick with the syphilitic fever of tuition-hunger, decided to pervert their powers and double the cost of The Jambar, making the price jump from free to double-free. What this meant for students was nothing but confusion and diffused anger, as the meaning of double-free was lost on their young minds. Sharply-dressed, rich old white men were stationed outside of Jambar distribution centers; these men were commanded to clear their throats loudly and straighten their cravats whenever a student picked up a copy of the paper, which didn't happen very often.



Mark Stevens' top 5 things in The Jambar that offended you

- 1. Abortion equals sandals**
"Feels if a woman doesn't want to be pregnant, she should have at the very least the same grace period of deleting the sale from her body's credit card as she would have in returning a pair of sandals to Payless." — Mark Stevens, "... if they can't take a joke," Aug. 29.
- 2. A Sweet Ass**
"So McGovern, Mielke, Vogel and myself tried to explain to him what a Sweet deal is, not an easy task considering his head is so far up his ass that it's a wonder he heard anything we were saying at all." — Leonard Glenn Crist, "Strike Wars," Sept. 20.
- 3. The rant**
"You had dreams and now they've all gone to hell, so you spend your whole life drunk off misery and faked involvement, spending 15 hours a day plotting your child's life for the next 10 years, planning out fake-ass, structured development that will only end up creating unstructured, socially-inept dumbass adults who will one day create a utopian society of ball-waxing and roman orgies, morning, noon and night, all the while never really realizing that your child doesn't need you to plan out the next ten years of his or her life, and all he or she really needs is for you to take ten goddamn minutes out of yours and explain what decency and respect are really all about and that he or she needs you to PAY SOME FREAKIN' ATTENTION so your son doesn't have to grow up thinking that the only thing that women are good for is packing his lunch, like you do or your wife does, or getting him off, like the 12-year-old neighbor girl does; or, if you have a daughter, so she doesn't have to grow up thinking the only way for her to earn friendship or feel important is for her to see how many different colors of lipstick she can wrap around a boy's penis without 'meaning it.'" — Mark Stevens, "... if they can't take a joke," Sept. 8.
- 4. God's a busy woman**
"But I guess God is busy killing Supreme Court justices and hunting down Venezuelan presidents." — Leonard Glenn Crist, "Commentary," Sept. 8.
- 5. His beard is Chuck Norris-esque**
"Take a look at the Bible; not the Old Testament, which had a persnickety jerk of a god who sent bears to eat children, but the New Testament, where god chilled out and had his bearded socialist son tell everyone to take it easy, until they killed him." — Bob Mackey, "Commentary," Oct. 25.



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Aug. 29, page 1;
Oct. 18, page 1;
Oct. 4, page 1.

Jambar file photos