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Hartzell scholarship reaches \$250,000

Marissa McIntyre
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Michael T. Hartzell Memorial Scholarship recently reached \$250,000, keeping the patrolman's memory alive nearly nine years after his death.

The scholarship is awarded to students at Youngstown State University with parents involved in police work in Columbiana, Mahoning or Trumbull counties.

On April 29, 2003, patrolman Michael Hartzell was fatally shot in his police cruiser while stopped at a red light on West Federal Street. The gunman fled the scene and was later arrested in Pinellas County, Fla.

Several months later, YSU, along with Michael Hartzell's parents, established the scholarship.

Howard Hartzell, Michael Hartzell's father, said his son was somewhat quiet and reserved.

He said he thinks that continuing his son's memory through the scholarship would make him proud.

The first amount totaled approximately \$15,000.

"We never really had a goal in mind," Howard Hartzell said. "We never expected it to grow this much."

The funds have been raised through a series of golf outings at Knoll Run Golf Course.

"In the ninth year, to be able to present a check for \$250,000, to get a base of a quarter-million dollars, is truly an honor and a great joy to be able to support the police families in the area," he said. "With YSU's ability to invest, hopefully it grows even more."

This year's recipients include Derek McLaughlin, a freshman computer science major; Olivia Bolender, a sophomore criminal justice major; Daniel Farinelli; and Marc Ruse. Farinelli and Ruse are freshmen majoring in criminal justice.

Bolender, whose father works for the Boardman Police Department, said the scholarship shows the dedication of contributors.

"I can show them that I appreciate it," she said.

Ruse said the scholarship would give him a reason to get out of bed in the morning to pursue his education.

YSU and the Hartzell family plan to continue the scholarship.

"One of the glorious, beautiful things about our Mahoning Valley is that when tragedy strikes, it affects all of us," YSU President Cynthia Anderson said in Monday's press conference. "We are here with two parents who lost their son and who have turned a tragedy, not into a positive, but into something so much more beautiful for all of us."



(From right to left) Cynthia Anderson, Peter Kasvinsky and Martin Abraham were present for the announcement of the Phase Zero program. The program, a partnership between YSU and the YBI, will focus on helping small businesses compete for federal grants. Photo by Patrick Donovan/The Jambar.

YSU, YBI enter Phase Zero

Patrick Donovan
NEWS REPORTER

Small businesses in Youngstown will have a new outlet for funding thanks to a collaboration between Youngstown State University and the Youngstown Business Incubator.

The Youngstown Phase Zero program was unveiled at a press conference on Monday and focuses on helping the area's small businesses compete for federal grant funding.

Phase Zero will allow small businesses to apply for up to \$5,000, which can then be used to assist with research expenses that are a precursor to applying for government grants that help companies develop new commercial products.

Mike Hripko, director of STEM research and technology-based economic

development with the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, said the name Phase Zero seems to parallel how the community is starting to jump-start technology ventures.

But that is not the meaning of the name.

"Generally these grants are applied for in phases, so the name Phase Zero is meant to imply that it precedes the first formal application," Hripko said. "It is intended for entrepreneurs who are on the threshold of a groundbreaking technology or idea but might not have the resources to devote to research."

Martin Abraham, dean of STEM, said the program would connect small businesses to YSU's research resources — and students to valuable experience.

"Getting the students involved early on allows them to engage in the creativ-

ity of the work that is being done," Abraham said. "When we create a successful partnership, it opens up opportunities for further federal funding, and it creates a winning situation for everyone."

Abraham also said that growing businesses equal more jobs.

"Who are these businesses going to hire if not students who have already been engaged in the process?" Abraham asked. "The whole challenge is to build more opportunities for people here in Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley. This program is another tool and another opportunity to continue what we are already successfully doing. Projects like this are all part of the tremendous cycle of growth here."

The School of Graduate Studies and Research, STEM and the Raymond John Wean Foundation fund the program.

Youngstown's occupation stands its ground

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

Two days after Issue 2 was repealed, Youngstown Police Chief Rod Foley ordered Occupy Youngstown protesters to disassemble their tent.

Foley signed and hand-delivered a memo to the occupiers on Thursday afternoon. It said they were violating city ordinances 521.04 and 541.09 regarding sidewalk obstructions and affixing signs and placards on public and private property.

"They're just doing their job, and we acknowledge that," said Chuck Kettering, an Occupy Youngstown spokesman. "We don't want to obstruct them from doing their job, but we want to exercise our rights, and sometimes those two things don't mix."

Occupiers mulled around at midnight Thursday, expecting police to confiscate their belongings, but officers didn't show until midday Friday.

The movement's participants, who are geared toward getting corporate money out of politics and eliminating corporate greed, said they feel the



Protesters gather around a fire barrel in Federal Plaza after being told they are violating city ordinances. Their barrel and tent was confiscated by the Youngstown Police Department soon afterward. Protesters are formulating alternate plans to keep warm. Photo by Chris Cotelesse/The Jambar.

order to remove structures is a violation of their First Amendment rights.

"That's why I've advised people here to exercise their right to petition their government [and] to assemble peacefully," said State Rep. Bob Hagan.

Foley said the police aren't telling protesters they can't protest.

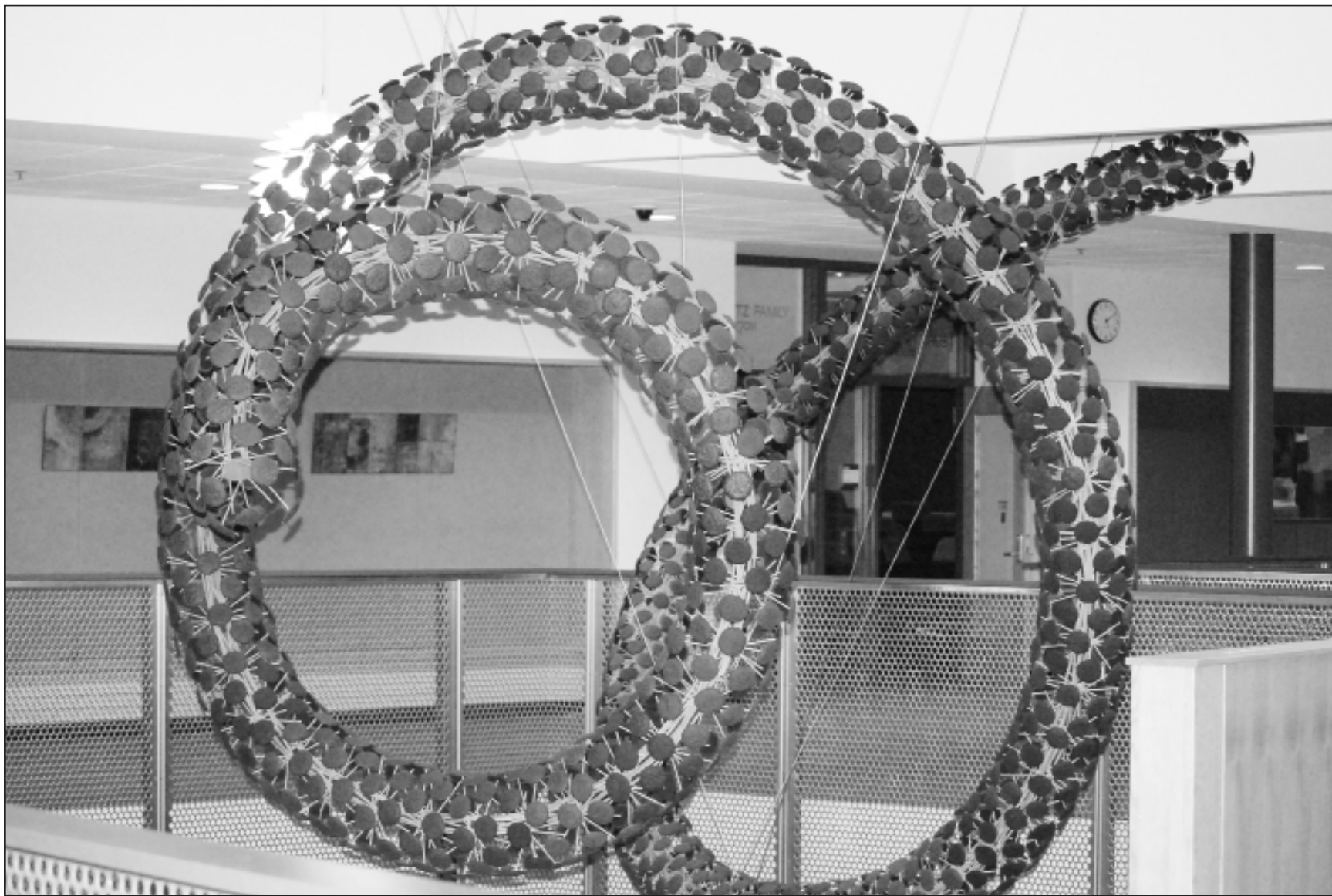
"It's a federal sidewalk," he said. "It's not a place to hang out and have a fire."

The notice came at a peculiar time to some. It was issued immediately after the election,

though protesters and police officers coexisted during the previous weeks.

"The police have been very congenial and courteous," said Scott Leonard, an English professor at Youngstown State

OCCUPY PAGE 3



“Corpus Mirabile” hangs in the Williamson College of Business Administration. The sculpture, inspired by the Fibonacci sequence, is built of welded stainless steel and black anodized cast aluminum. It is meant to be a metaphor for a corporation. The open surface reveals its strong inner structure and suggests the value of trust and transparency in manners of business. Photo by Chad Travers/The Jambar.

Sculpture promotes art at Williamson

Chad Travers

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

The Williamson College of Business Administration held a dedication ceremony on Thursday night for a new sculpture that hangs from the atrium ceiling.

The sculpture, named “Corpus Mirabile,” was designed by artists Gregory Gomez and Peter Andruchow and commissioned as part of the Ohio Percent for Art Program.

In 1990, the Ohio Legislature passed a law requiring any new or renovated public building that receives more than \$4 million in capital project funds to allocate at least 1 percent of those funds for original works of public art.

Ken Emerick, director of the Ohio Percent for Art Program, said the Ohio Arts Council had a “great experience” at Youngstown State University. After putting out an open call for public

art project proposals, the college assembled a nine-member committee to review the submissions.

“Open-call projects are the most adventurous type of projects,” Emerick said. “We had hundreds of submissions and a budget of over \$100,000. But everything went very smoothly. This was a model situation for the program and a great example of how this program can work.”

The committee narrowed the submissions to three finalists who were invited to tour the building. The finalists were then given six weeks to modify their designs to fit the space.

Gomez, a sculptor, painter and associate professor at Wheelock College, and Andruchow, a sculptor and metal artist who owns and operates Woven Steel Distinctive Iron Works in Boston, were chosen from the finalists.

“Corpus Mirabile” is meant to be a metaphor for the corporation, the designers said. The sculpture — made

up of many parts working together and going through cycles — is an ever-expanding entity. Additionally, its open surface, which reveals the strong inner structure, represents the importance of trust and transparency in business.

The Fibonacci numbers — a mathematical sequence in which each number is the sum of the previous two — inspired the designers. Fibonacci sequences often occur in nature — like the arrangement of leaves on a stem, the form of a shell or the shape of a pinecone.

“The piece is only based on the mathematical sequence,” Andruchow said. “If we had built it with the correct math, it would have been sticking out of the ceiling. We were inspired by the mathematics, but we didn’t feel like we had to be a slave to it.”

Greg Moring, professor and acting chairman of the art department, noted the importance of public art projects and their ability to revitalize commu-

nities.

“The first thing you think of when you look at a piece of public art is the aesthetics ... ‘Do I like it?’” Moring said. “But the second question most people ask is about the finances ... ‘Who paid for it?’ There’s often some resentment about public dollars spent on art. But it’s important to separate those two questions and take the business investment into account.”

Moring explained that many cities like Chicago, Columbus and New York have used an investment in public art to draw people and businesses back to disadvantaged and failing communities.

“These projects have a return like any other investment,” Moring said. “Art creates a business opportunity because it creates places that people like to visit. We need to find a way to convince places like Youngstown to see art as an investment in the community.”

Dumpster-diver’s thesis: Good stuff going to waste

The Seattle Times

(MCT)

SEATTLE — He’s an anthropology grad student, so David Giles has one foot in the ivory tower. But the other one? It’s squarely in the garbage.

For his doctoral thesis, the University of Washington student is examining how cultural assumptions of what is appetizing lead to the disposal of surplus, edible food. He’s become a pro at vaulting into Dumpsters, picking through their contents and befriending people who make a meal of other people’s leftovers.

In short: Giles is a Dumpster-diver.

The 31-year-old Australia native hopes his work will raise awareness of the volume of edible food that gets thrown out and will prompt people to think about how they might get more food into the hands of the hungry — perhaps by giving it to a food bank or handing it out to the homeless in a park.

“The first thing that hits you in the face is how good the stuff in the Dumpster is,” Giles said. “It’s thrown away because it’s not profitable.”

For Giles, the insight he’s gained from leaping into the trash raises important philosophical questions: “What makes a thing valuable, and suddenly not valuable?”

Giles became interested in Dumpster-diving (which, in most cases, is legal) as an undergraduate at the University of California, Davis, when he began rescuing furniture out of Dumpsters. He soon became aware of a societal subculture: a network of people who sustain themselves on throw-

aways.

When he began working on his doctorate in anthropology, he decided to make a more scholarly exploration of the availability of edible discarded food. He also explored the Dumpster-diving culture, doing extensive interviews with people who feed themselves this way. After he finishes his thesis next year, he plans to write a book about his research.

Giles’ academic adviser, associate professor of anthropology Danny Hoffman, said he’s learned a lot about Seattle and its subcultures through Giles’ work. “He’s definitely living out the project, and that’s part of what makes him a great anthropologist,” he said.

One evening in mid-October, Giles went on a Dumpster-diving trip in Sodo, within sight of Safeco Field. Several of the Dumpsters here serve as the last stop for food from the city’s most upscale grocery chains.

Making a quick survey over the open top of a Dumpster that smelled faintly of rotting food, Giles placed his hands on the edge and vaulted into the container. He ducked down and disappeared from sight for a moment, then came up with an unopened plastic container of juice — one of those exotic-flavored varieties that sells for more than \$3 apiece.

On the right night, this Dumpster will be half-full of such bounty — juices that have not yet reached their expiration date but have been cleared from the shelves to make way for fresher foods. “On the right day, it’s fantastic,” Giles said.

Next up: a Dumpster just north of the University District, where a fresh-produce stand has discarded plum to-

matoes and strawberries that are slightly overripe or flawed.

“This is a perfectly good onion,” he said, holding up the vegetable. “But it’s ugly.” In another Dumpster, he found a pumpkin with a smashed stem, some wilted asparagus and a large quantity of romaine lettuce. (Not a fan of lettuce, Giles ignored the romaine.)

When he gets his vegetables home, he’ll usually soak them in a sinkful of water to which he adds a half-cup of bleach, then rinse them.

Giles has gotten his monthly grocery bill down to \$100, but he knows people in the Dumpster-diving community who spend no money on food at all. That kind of dedication to finding food discards is time-consuming, though, and it helps to know the Dumpster dumping schedule in order to do it right, he said.

Who else Dumpster-dives? Giles describes a counterculture group: students, punk rockers, left-wing activists and people who can’t be pigeonholed into any group at all.

Shelly Rotondo, executive director of Northwest Harvest, a food bank with offices around the state, agrees with Giles that a lot of food goes to waste. By one estimate, 25 percent of produce is wasted.

But she thinks food banks are doing a good job of capturing food and getting it into the hands of the hungry, and that most waste now comes from households or restaurants. Rotondo said fruits and vegetables with flaws and imperfections never even reach the grocery-store shelves — they’re sent by distributors to the food bank.

“Northwest Harvest does fantastic work,” Giles agreed. And yet, he’s seen

the Dumpster evidence that lots of food ends up in the trash. He has not tried to quantify the amount of edible food that is thrown out in the Seattle area.

Dumpster discards and food banks have a shared history. The first food bank in the nation was founded when a community volunteer discovered that grocery stores were disposing of food that had damaged packaging or was near expiration, Rotondo said.

“My sense is people are paying good attention to this,” Rotondo said. “There is a system in place, and it’s working pretty well.”

The food bank is careful not to serve its clients food that the employees would not eat themselves. That can mean screening out some food that might actually be OK to eat, she said.

Giles hopes to encourage people to think a little harder about food that could be donated to the food bank, or even just given away to hungry strangers. He often works with a group, Food Not Bombs, that collects and cooks discarded produce from farmers markets and other sources, and serves it to homeless people in local parks. Giles also does public lectures at the UW on his work.

Hoffman said Giles is raising good questions about food waste, how it’s generated and how it’s discarded. “It forces you to think about how we establish value, and what happens to things that are labeled as unwanted and unworthy,” he said.

“He’s nobody’s idea of a tweed jacket, pipe-smoking professor,” Hoffman added. “He’s doing work that’s very socially relevant.”

NEWS BRIEFS

Students present math, biology research at conference

Seven YSU students recently presented research at a national conference held at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. The YSU students were among more than 100 undergraduates who gave 50 oral and poster presentations on their research in mathematics and biology at the Interface of Biology and Mathematics hosted by the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Sciences. Sepideh Khavari — a mathematics major from Howland — gave an oral presentation titled "Mathematical Modeling and Analysis of Time-to-Peak Response in Biological Systems." Mark Radetic, a biology major from Austintown; Tara Sansom, a biology major and mathematics minor from Sandy Lake, Pa.; and Emilie Hall, a biology major from East Liverpool; presented a poster titled "Modeling the Growth of *S. maltophilia* 02 in the Presence of Selenite with a Look at Protein Expression." Bradley Slabe, a mathematics major from Austintown, and Bobby DeVita, a biology major from McDonald, presented a poster titled "Mathematical Modeling and Data Analysis of the Growth and Acetone, Butanol, Ethanol (ABE) Production of *Clostridium beijerinckii*." Kevin McLane — a mathematics major from Girard — participated in the research but couldn't attend the conference. Sam Jacobowitz — a biology major from Syosset, N.Y. — presented "Tachykinin Modulation of Prefrontal Cortex Neuron Activity." Jenna Hallapy, a mathematics and biology double major from Columbus, and Joe Copploe, a biology major from McDonald, participated in the research but couldn't attend the conference.

POLICE BRIEFS

Pregnant student harassed

On Nov. 7, a pregnant student told YSU Police that another female student had threatened her on Nov. 4. The pregnant student said she received a text message from her friend during a religion class in the Lincoln Building. The message stated that the female student (who is in the pregnant student's class) wanted to strike the pregnant student and, if she looked at her during class, she would put her in the hospital. The pregnant student added that on Nov. 6, the female student drove by the pregnant student's home in Struthers and threw garbage in her front yard. She notified the Struthers Police Department. The pregnant student said she fears for her safety (as well as for the safety of her unborn child); she believes that the female student will cause her serious physical harm.

Non-hazardous gas leak found on Wick Avenue

On the evening of Nov. 7, YSU Police reported to Wick Avenue in response to the strong odor of natural gas. The Youngstown Fire Department and YSU's maintenance department arrived on scene, and Dominion East Ohio Gas searched the area with a gas detection meter. Almost two hours later, the gas company found the natural gas leak on Wick Avenue; the leak is 25 feet north of the pedestrian bridge over the street. The leak is not hazardous, and it will be repaired.

Officer confiscates hunting knife

On Nov. 8, a university police officer noticed a male student with a knife attached to his belt enter Lyden House. The officer confiscated the knife. The student told the officer that it was his hunting knife and that he always carried it with him. The officer placed the knife in an evidence locker and told the student to contact YSU Police the following day to make arrangements to retrieve it.

OCCUPY PAGE 1

University and an Occupy Youngstown supporter. "With [Senate Bill 5], we had a dog in the same race, but their boss is telling them to deal with this."

Leonard said he is suspicious in nature, thinking everything is connected, but is uncertain if the police are cracking down on the protesters because Issue 2 has been repealed.

"My sense is, so far, the police considered this to be a necessary evil," Leonard said. "I don't think that they are unsympathetic. On the other hand, it is literally two days after the election, on the eve of a holiday where we can't do anything about this legally."

Foley said the notice came at the time it did because police had been too laid-back about it at first, and it was getting out of hand.

No formal legal action has been taken, and Leonard refused to comment on whether there would be.

Foley said he would comply with a court's ruling should it side with the protesters.

Hagan met with Youngstown Mayor Chuck Sammarone on Thursday morning regarding the protesters. Sammarone indicated he was under the impression the

movement had a specific end date of Nov. 8.

"I asked him to extend it," Hagan said. "He said he didn't want to do it because he wanted to be consistent with zoning. Because of the new emphasis on zoning, he didn't think he could allow [the tent] to happen as well."

Now with no tent and the weather getting progressively colder, the minds behind the city's occupation are beginning to shift gears.

"There's discussion of possibly renting or subletting a storefront in the meantime," Leonard said.

Jacob Harver, owner of the Lemon Grove Cafe and supporter of the occupation, said he wasn't aware of these plans, but this is exactly what made the movement so unique.

Leonard said Youngstown's faction struggles to draw the numbers of larger locations, such as the original Zuccotti Park occupation.

"We may need to do other things," Leonard said, indicating the lack of influence a few people standing on the street corner in the middle of the night would have.

As a professor and member of YSU's chapter of the Ohio Education Association, Leonard has seen verbal support but

Campus Connection

Should the Occupy Youngstown protesters be allowed to stay downtown?



"Apparently, they're violating all these codes and everything, and they should be allowed to protest like regular protestors."
— Corey Clements, freshman



"They don't bother me, so they can do what they want."
— Brittney McIntosh, freshman

not the same amount of physical contribution.

He added that even the verbal support has not been the same now that their contracts are no longer on the line.

"There's nothing worse for our democracy than people acting only in their own interest, rather than the collective interest," he said.

He emphasized how he wasn't criticizing his co-workers but rather encouraging them to be more supportive of

the movement.

"The Occupy movement has planned to be in this for the very long haul," Leonard said. "We have to continue to maintain that attitude. It's a struggle to right what is wrong in politics and our economy. It's going to take a long time to turn it the other way."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Attempts to reach Mayor Chuck Sammarone were unsuccessful.

CLASSIFIEDS

HOUSING

2 BR-HOUSE 1ST FLOOR-near YSU Parking lot. Has ADT, appliances, washer and dryer. \$500 plus utilities. Craigslist 'Sept 29' call 330-533-4148.



Will Red Planet rover send groundbreaking data over?

Los Angeles Times (MCT)

LOS ANGELES — One of the most sophisticated space vehicles ever made inches along the rocky landscape, aluminum wheels grinding like a spoon in a garbage disposal.

Here in the Mars Yard at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, what passes for the Red Planet looks like a vacant lot in Hesperia. The vehicle being tested, a replica of the latest Mars rover that will soon be crawling around up there, looks like a giant mechanical insect — six wheeled legs, an articulating arm and a pair of blue camera lenses like eyes peering from a boxy head.

This month, NASA's most ambitious Mars rover mission to date is scheduled to lift off from Cape Canaveral, Fla., aboard an Atlas V rocket. It's a \$2.5 billion gamble scientists hope will give unparalleled insights into how Mars evolved and whether it ever could have supported life.

The Mars Science Laboratory — nicknamed Curiosity — was developed at JPL in La Canada Flintridge, Calif., and will be the fourth rover to traverse the planet's harsh terrain. But unlike the earlier Mars rovers — Sojourner, Spirit and the still-cruising Opportunity — Curiosity will do more than look for evidence of water.

Curiosity is a robot astrobiologist. During a mission expected to last at least two years, the rover will use a battery of scientific instruments to analyze Mars' geology and atmosphere, looking for the elements and chemical compounds that are the building blocks of life.

Scientists hope the information Curiosity gathers will exponentially increase their understanding of Mars and bring us closer to answering the most profound and tantalizing of questions: Could life exist beyond Earth?

"Humans are hard-wired to want to know the answer to that," said Bill Nye, executive director of the Planetary Society, the Pasadena, Calif.-based nonprofit that advocates for space exploration. "If we found life on Mars, it would change everybody's view of our place in space."

Curiosity will take 8.5 months to travel the 354 million miles to Mars — and two years to cover about 14 miles

of its surface.

The rover is expected to land Aug. 5 near the Martian equator inside Gale crater, a chasm about the combined size of Connecticut and Rhode Island with a three-mile-high mountain of layered sedimentary rock at its bottom.

Scientists believe the crater, thought to date back billions of years to when Mars was warm and wet, will reveal the planet's evolutionary story the way the Grand Canyon's strata expose the history of Earth.

"It's going to be like reading a novel — and it's a long one," said John Grotzinger, the project's chief scientist. "It's going to be a wild journey looking into the guts of the history of Mars."

If Curiosity were a car, it would be advertised as fully loaded: six aluminum wheels that can be steered independently. A mounted laser to vaporize rock. Seventeen cameras to take high-definition images, scientific measurements and navigate the rover. A robotic arm to drill into rock and scoop up samples. Instruments to detect in those samples organic compounds and elements associated with life on Earth.

And under the hood: a nuclear-powered engine that will give Curiosity a top crawling speed of 2 inches per second.

All that hardware gives the rover a curb weight of a ton. That's five times heavier than its predecessor, which bounced along the Martian surface nestled inside huge protective air bags before coming to rest, like a beach ball tossed from a low-flying airplane.

"The air bags needed to land Curiosity would have been two or three times the weight of the rover itself," said Adam Steltzner, a JPL engineer in charge of ensuring the rover lands in one piece. "There's no landing rocket that could have handled that weight."

So Steltzner's team has engineered an innovative, multi-staged system that, unlike the beach ball approach, will use sensors and advanced computer software to guide Curiosity's descent to a relatively pinpoint landing.

As planned, the craft carrying the rover will hit Mars' atmosphere at 13,000 mph. Thruster rockets will slow

and steer the craft, positioning it for landing. At about 1,000 mph, a parachute will deploy and slam on the brakes. Finally, a "sky crane" will emerge from the craft's descent stage and gently lower a tethered Curiosity to the ground.

All this in just six minutes. "It looks kind of crazy. And it's definitely novel," Steltzner said. "But we believe it to be a very simple process."

A lot is at stake. The Curiosity rover is one of most complex projects in NASA's history. It's also \$900 million over budget and two years late.

An audit released earlier this year by NASA's inspector general criticized managers for repeatedly underestimating the cost of working around the project's numerous technological hurdles — a common complaint of the agency through the years.

All this comes at a time of budget cutting at NASA and a lack of consensus among scientists and politicians as to where the U.S. space program ought to devote dwindling dollars.

"If this fails, it's going to be a disaster," said Nye of the Planetary Society. "Congress will become ever less trusting of the true costs of these missions and the ability of the people doing it."

But Nye says the 26-month delay has a huge upside: it reduced the risk of failure.

"Everyone involved is working very hard to make sure that this succeeds," he said.

The sky crane landing system is key to a more ambitious future mission: a planned partnership with the European Space Agency to send a rover to collect rock and soil on Mars and cache the samples for an eventual return to Earth.

"There's no such thing as a perfect landing system on Mars," said Steve Squyres, lead scientist for the Spirit and Opportunity rovers. "It's a highly unpredictable environment. It's always possible that a gust of wind or a pointy rock could ruin your day."

The hold of Mars on the imagination of humans is eternal.

Over the last 50 years, more orbiters, probes and rovers have been flung at Mars than any other corner of the cosmos except our moon. Getting there isn't easy.

About half of the dozens of spacecraft sent to Mars have either malfunctioned, crashed or disappeared.

Because it's the only planet in our solar system that could have sponsored life — the rest are too hot, too cold or made of gas — public expectations of early trips to Mars were so high that the results seemed disappointing even when the missions succeeded.

In 1965, when Mariner 4 sent back the first extraordinary close-up pictures of the Martian surface, thoughts of "green men" and cities abruptly came to an end.

"Hope that a future astronaut might someday find life on Mars faded deeper than ever into science fiction," Time magazine glumly reported at the time. "The bleak, pocked surface of the red planet looked dead indeed."

In the years since, Mars missions have methodically built a scientifically rigorous portrait of the planet that offer insights on Earth's early history and future.

"Going from a living Mars to a dead Mars set the agenda of missions for years to come," said John Grunsfeld, a former astronaut and chief scientist for NASA who is now deputy director of the Space Telescope Science Institute. "We focused on basic science, how planets are formed and what that says about Earth."

With this in mind, JPL scientists are downplaying the likelihood that Curiosity might actually find organic matter — a key ingredient for life. Finding conditions that would signal that Mars once could have supported life would be breathtaking in itself.

"You can't promise more than you can deliver. That's what happened" before, said Grotzinger, the mission's chief scientist, a geologist new to the space game.

As wet sediment hardens to rock, organic material is destroyed. Finding even a shred of the stuff in early Earth rocks is extremely rare, Grotzinger said.

Detecting organic matter in one narrow stretch of Mars shouldn't define whether Curiosity is a success, Grotzinger said.

"This is like looking for a needle in haystack — and the haystack is the size of Mars," he said. "But that doesn't mean we won't try."

College student winning fight to walk again after stroke, with help of new device

McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

MIAMI When Brian Riscigno, a chemistry major at Florida International University, suffered a stroke at age 24, the young man who was accustomed to jogging four miles a day could no longer walk or speak or drive the beloved 1984 Nissan ZX Twin Turbo his grandparents had given him.

But Riscigno's a fighter. Today, he speaks with just a slight hesitation and takes daily walks with his mother, Sylvia, around the 1.1-mile lake near their house in southwest Miami. He was even able to walk through the sand in the Florida Keys earlier this year as best man at a buddy's outdoor wedding.

Riscigno credits his recovery to his own hard work, the help of his physical therapist and his mother — and to a relatively new medical device called Bioness L300 Foot Drop system. It has taken over some of his brain's former work in sending signals to his legs and ankles, telling them to lift his foot to take a step. The same device is retraining nerves around the damaged area in his brain to slowly take over some of the work themselves.

"It has changed his life," his mother says.

Before the 2008 stroke, Riscigno was doing well, working on his dream to become a high school chemistry teacher. Then came the day his

headache wouldn't go away.

"He said to me, 'Mom, I feel kind of weird.' Then he fell against me and onto the floor," says his mother, Sylvia. "It was a nightmare."

Doctors had to cut away a piece of his skull to relieve the brain swelling and keep him in Baptist Hospital of Miami for nearly three months. They blamed a rare, hereditary blood-clotting disorder.

The stroke damaged his brain and took away most of his speech, part of his eyesight and the use of his right arm and foot.

"I couldn't even speak for two months," he says now. "I couldn't sit up or eat solid foods. I didn't fully understand what had happened. I was just out of it."

After the stroke, two grand mal seizures, a major operation and months in the hospital, Riscigno started to recover.

"I think I coped fairly well once I started recognizing faces and people again," he says. "But I would have crying episodes, pity parties. My psychologist explained it was part of the way the brain heals itself."

"I didn't leave the hospital for weeks," his mother says. "I slept in a corner. I slept on the floor."

Even after weeks of standard physical therapy, Riscigno couldn't properly raise his right foot to take a step. So therapists fit him with the new "foot-drop" system developed by a California medical firm.

"It was a beautiful thing,"

says Baptist physical therapist Lida Rivera-Perez. "The first time he used it, he got a muscle contraction and he was able to walk across the room, maybe 30 feet, with a cane and somebody helping him."

With a few adjustments to the device and dozens of therapy sessions, Riscigno regained his ability to walk.

"He can negotiate stairs, walk on grass and uneven terrain," says Rivera-Perez. "He can keep up with anybody walking. They don't have to slow down for him."

The foot-drop device, called a neurological prosthesis, won FDA clearance in 2006 and is used in up to 600 hospitals and clinics around the United States, says Keith McBride, vice president for global marketing and corporate training for its maker, Bioness Inc., of Valencia, Calif.

The system consists of a small computerized device called a "functional stimulation cuff" strapped to the leg just below the knee, a "gait sensor" attached to the ankle with a plastic pad extending beneath the heel and a patient-operated control unit similar to a TV remote control.

When the patient begins to take a step, his heel lifts off the pad, and the gait sensor sends a wireless message to the cuff, which in turn sends radio frequency signals through the skin to the leg muscles that trigger the ankle to lift the foot.

The NESS L300 costs \$6,000. Some insurance policies will pay, others won't.

The idea, called "functional electrical stimulation (FES)," has been around since World War II, but only in the past few years has the equipment become sophisticated enough and small enough to be carried on the patient.

An earlier FES device by another firm, replete with boxes, multiple wires and doctors' control panels, was used to move the paralyzed legs of "Superman" actor Christopher Reeve to exercise them and prevent muscle atrophy. Reeve experienced some "functional gain" to his leg muscles before he died of other causes, according to the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation's Paralysis Resource Center.

The newer device now is used for patients of stroke, partial spinal cord injury, multiple sclerosis and traumatic brain injury. Veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan are using it in Veterans Administration hospitals around the country, McBride says. A more advanced unit costing about \$10,000 is coming out now, stimulating patients' knees, legs and hips, he says.

Neurologists say the foot-drop system can do more than help the patient walk.

When patients suffer stroke or other head injury, messages from the brain no longer reach the ankle to raise the foot to take a step, according to a February 2010 article in the academic journal U.S. Neurology by Dr. Richard C. Senelic, neurologist and medical director of the Rehabilitation Institution of

San Antonio. Paralysis of the legs' flexing muscles causes the foot to flop downward. It's called "foot drop."

But over time, the repeated motions stimulated by the device strengthen the patient's muscles and re-educate nerves surrounding the damaged area in the brain to take over the functions once performed by the damaged area.

"At Baptist, we use it early after a stroke, and we can speed up the patient's natural recovery," says Dr. Bradley Aiken, medical director of rehabilitation at Baptist, who has used it with a "couple dozen" patients in the past three years. "In some cases, we're able to wean them off the units."

Riscigno sees improvement. "I've regained a bit of movement in my ankle even without the device. I don't have much power, but I can move. It's a big step for me."

He still can't drive his '84 Nissan because of his impaired vision, his mother says, but he tinkers with it from time to time. And he still hopes to get that chemistry degree from FIU. He's taking neurological and psychological tests to see if he's able to resume his studies.

"I try to be a positive person," Riscigno says. "My parents and grandparents and whole family have been really supportive."

Riscigno got rid of his cane a year ago. He's not sure if he will ever be able to walk properly without the device.

"Right now? No," he says. "But anything's possible."

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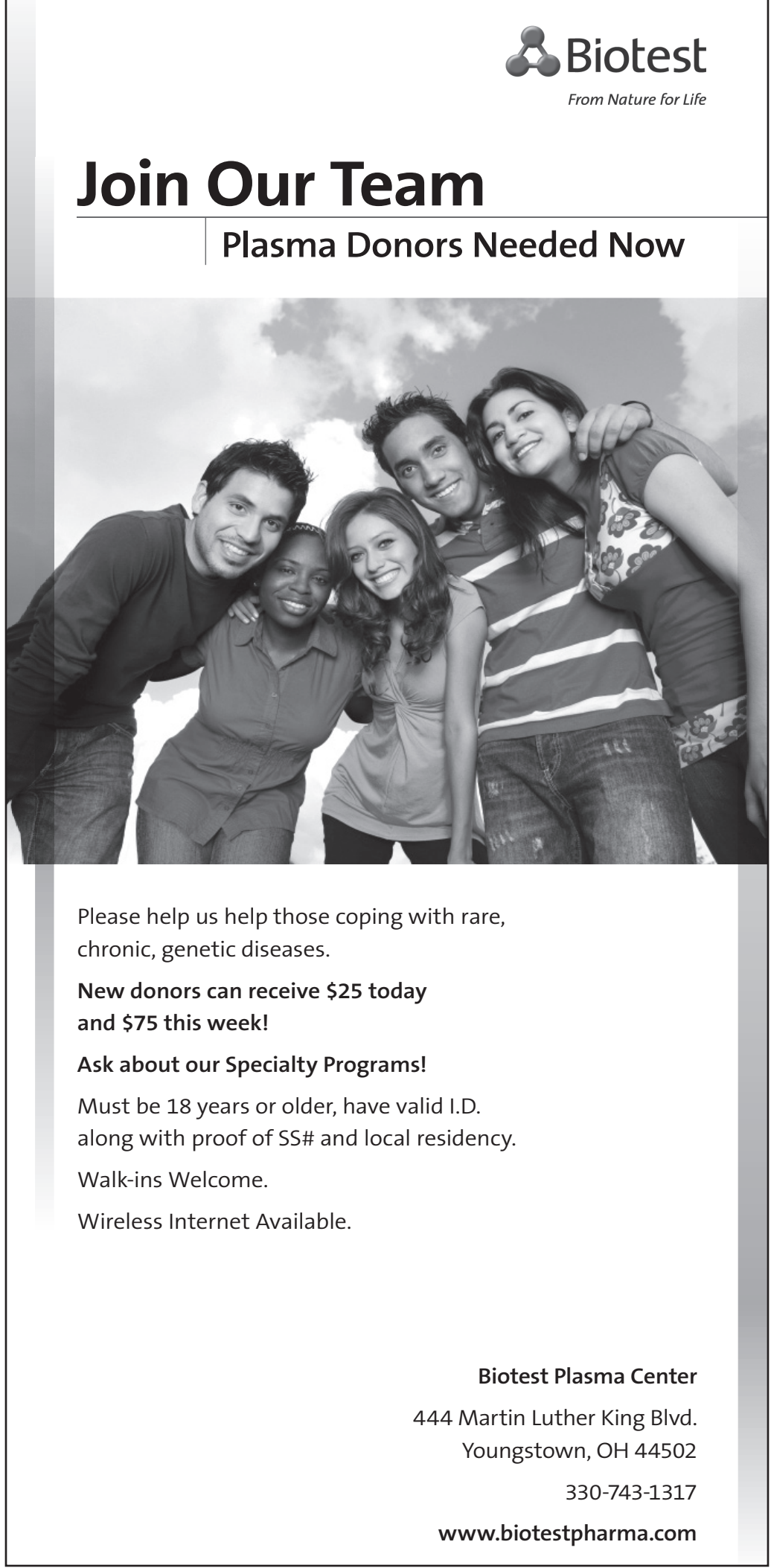
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A 'fearful' gather-

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RELATED STORY
OCCUPY PAGE 1

The campaign against Issue 2 has subsided, yet the Occupy protesters remain. Their fortitude is commendable, and we no longer doubt that their intentions are genuine.

But the public seems to be fed up with the national distraction that has garnered more disapproval than political change.

The public could care less about the movement, even though two out of three Americans feel that wealth should be more evenly distributed, according to a poll conducted last month by CBS and The New York Times.

So the anger of the 99 percent is echoed throughout the nation, and perhaps it's justified, but the Occupy movement has failed to galvanize that support.

According to a recent Quinnipiac poll, Americans oppose the movement by a 39 to 30 percent margin. Popular consensus has swayed as opinions registered by a CNN poll last month reflected a favorable view of the movement by a tight margin of 32 to 29 percent. In that same poll, however, about one in four people admitted to having never even heard about Occupy Wall Street.

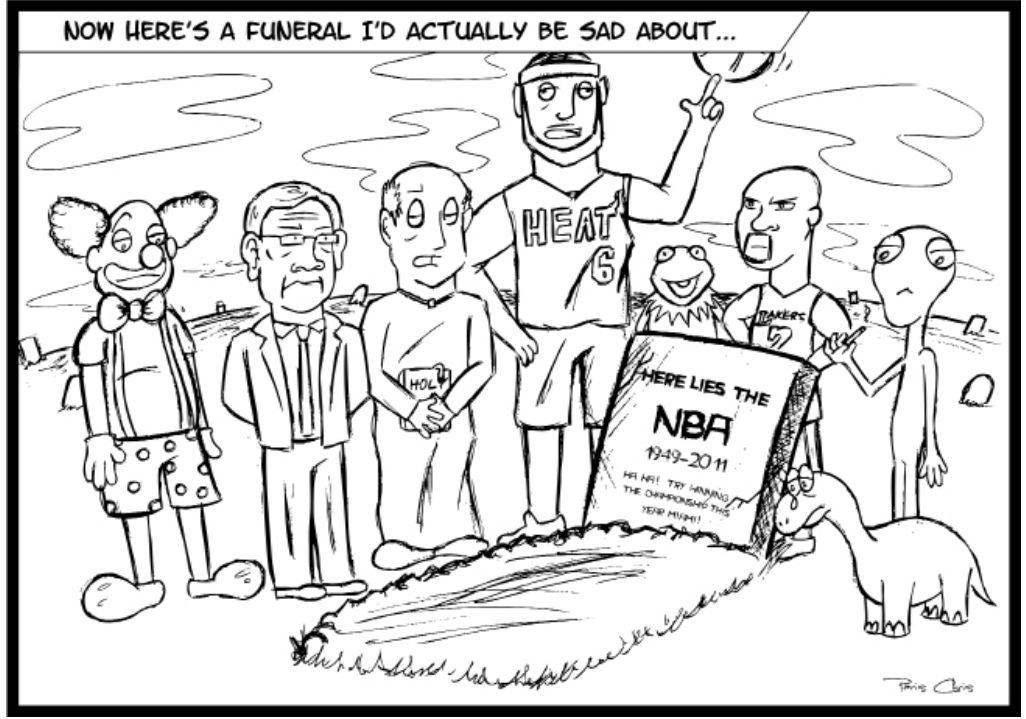
Likewise, a November NBC News and Wall Street Journal poll shows that nearly half of America has no definitive opinion about the movement whatsoever.

We've criticized the local occupation, calling it unfocused and lacking cohesion, and recent polls suggest that our assumptions are true.

While the Occupy Youngstown tent did not impede the sidewalk or obstruct pedestrians, it symbolized a movement that more people fear than support.

The tent sat on the same concrete square that housed a weekly farmers market. It wasn't taken down because of an ordinance.

Across the country, police forces are cracking down on the protests. In Youngstown, police and government officials are nipping the movement in the bud before it blossoms into anything that even resembles an encampment or, worse yet, a full-on Oakland riot.



Cartoon by Paris Chrisopoulos/The Jambar.



Who's to blame? My take on Penn State

Jared Buker
COLUMNIST

Jim Calhoun's job during the fall of 2000 was to clean the showers of the Lasch Building at Penn State University. He claimed that one night he witnessed Jerry Sandusky, Penn State's defensive coordinator from 1977 to 1999, performing oral sex on a young boy he had pinned in the corner.

After seeing horrible things while fighting in the Korean War, Calhoun believes what he saw that night in the shower is something he will never forget. He currently suffers from dementia and lives in a nursing home.

The identity of the young boy is unknown.

I read all 23 pages of the statement released by a statewide investigating grand jury.

I had to. I was engaged in an argument about recently fired Penn State head football coach Joe Paterno, and I was appalled that anyone could actually defend this man and still sleep at night.

But then I read those 23 pages. If you haven't heard, Sandusky is facing 40 counts of sexual abuse of young boys. He founded a program called the Second Mile, which works to improve the lives of children in absent or dysfunctional families.

For 15 years, he allegedly used that to cover a sick, pedophilic fetish that targeted vulnerable kids looking for a father figure. He allegedly took them to church, let them sleep in his basement and even brought one boy to a bowl game while he was with his wife, just to earn their trust.

Sen. Rick Santorum even gave Sandusky a Congressional Angels in Adoption Award in 2002 because the whole thing was hidden so well.

There are eight documented victims in the grand jury's report, and some of the accounts are incredibly disturbing.

It's a crime so perverse and so disgusting that it must be impossible for anyone with a heart to even understand it.

The human mind is capable of demented and twisted things.

I hope they bury you, Sandusky. I'm almost ashamed to reside in a state with a city that shares your

name.

However, I also agree that Paterno deserved to get fired ... even though I don't think he really knew what was going on.

Read the report. In March of 2002, a graduate assistant claims to have witnessed Sandusky having anal intercourse with a boy he estimated to be about 10 years old. He immediately called his father who told him that Paterno needed to know what he saw.

Here's where things start to get ambiguous. In his testimony, Paterno said the graduate assistant came to his home and told him he saw Sandusky "fondling or doing something of sexual nature" to a young boy. Right there, the story has already changed.

We'll never know if the graduate assistant softened the story for Paterno or if Paterno simply lied in his testimony, but it struck me odd that in a 23-page report, Paterno was not mentioned at all after Page 7.

A week and a half after the graduate assistant spoke to Paterno, he had a meeting with Tim Curley, athletic director and Paterno's immediate superior, and Gary Schultz, senior vice president for finance and business.

Paterno was not present. The graduate assistant told them that he witnessed what appeared to be anal intercourse, but when Curley testified, he said the graduate assistant never said anything about intercourse.

To me, it really sounds like Paterno was cut out. I think his superiors thought he would spill the beans, so they never really involved him or even let him know just how disgusting some of the accusations against Sandusky really were.

I think that Paterno thought his defensive coordinator got caught acting a little sleazy with some kid. Based on that, he figured telling the athletic director was good enough.

I'd like to think that, given all the available information, Paterno would have notified the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

But it seems like his higher-ups treated Paterno like some senile old man on some kind of need-to-

know basis, which is probably also why they fired one of the best college football coaches of all time over the phone.

It seems obvious that those at Penn State did everything they could to avoid getting caught. According to some of the victim accounts discussed in the statement, the identity of the victim is unknown because Penn State either never pursued the victim or the university told police to let it go.

One thing is for sure: If even one of these allegations ends up being true, not only does Sandusky deserve the worst kind of punishment possible, but so do the scumbags involved in covering it all up.

I believe if you knew what Sandusky was up to, and you didn't do everything in your power to stop him especially when it's as easy as calling the police, then you really didn't care what Sandusky was doing in the first place.

Christopher Bache, a professor in the department of philosophy and religious studies at Youngstown State University, seems to agree. To him, this should've been a moral no-brainer for those involved.

"Morally, there shouldn't have been any dilemma," he said. "When you see a crime being committed like this, you stop it in the minute and in the day and in the month it occurred."

How could you sleep at night if you didn't?

It seems like everyone heard about this whole situation at the same time. That's a bit odd. Some of the testimonies in the statement are from January of last year, and Sandusky was subject to investigation twice before in 1998 and 2002 for his deranged activity, even though Penn State President Graham Spanier denied knowing about these investigations.

What happened with Sandusky was covered up so well and for so long.

It truly is shocking. It makes you wonder what else we don't know about. But more than that, it makes you wonder how a man could do such unspeakable things while several other men turn a blind eye.

I ask again: How do you sleep at night?



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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 the first summer session. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. The first copy of The Jambar is free. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I feel obligated as a veteran to write this letter on behalf of veterans, students and faculty that were in attendance at the Reading of the Names on the 10th of November.

This year we had a guest speaker, and, while I know his/her name, I will not identify them. I do not know s/he personally nor do I know if s/he is a veteran. I will say this, though; their conduct during their speech was absolutely appalling. The speech started off well, comparing Youngstown State University's veteran student sizes to other universities and how well we stack up.

However, this is the only praise the university received from this speaker. They then began a personal attack on the university and Dr. Anderson because of perceived shortages of personnel in the Veterans Office, a lackluster facility and inconvenient office location. They ended their speech with "When will YSU figure it out?" indicating this individual believes that other universities have better facilities and personnel.

Using this occasion as a forum to make this attack on the university and Dr. Anderson was a disgrace to all veterans, students and faculty in attendance. I believe our guest speaker chose the wrong place and the wrong time to pull out their soapbox and start preaching.

Having recently moved back to the area, I was amazed at how much support for veterans I saw on a daily basis. However, as I support events, I notice every year that regardless of the day, whether it is September 11, Veterans Day or Memorial Day, there is always one event where the focus is taken off the event for a personal agenda. I do not understand why we simply cannot respect the original intent of the day or event.

THOMAS ERICKSEN
SENIOR MILITARY SCIENCE
INSTRUCTOR, YSU

Preserving the history, rebuilding the future *Facade will pay respect to once-grand theater*



Despite efforts, *The Paramount Theater* on Federal Plaza was unable to survive the test of time. It has sat dormant since 1976. Photo courtesy of Matt Lambros/afterthefinalcurtain.net.

Kacy Standohar
FEATURES EDITOR

If it weren't for the former Liberty-Paramount Theater, Rita and Jack Russell would never have met.

At 14, Rita Russell began working at the theater as a candy counter clerk. The year was 1944, and her mother was an assistant to the manager.

She said the Paramount Theater — which opened as the Liberty Theater in 1918 and reopened as the Paramount in 1929 — was crowded, showing motion pictures continuously throughout the weekend.

"The whole lobby would be filled with people around the candy stand on Saturday

and Sunday," she said. "It's the fondest memory I have."

While working to pay her \$90 annual tuition to Ursuline High School, she met Jack Russell who also worked at the theater.

"People would line around the block, even in the cold," he said. "It didn't matter."

The couple remembers a time when multiple different theaters stood downtown.

This month, the McDonough Museum of Art will collect similar stories through the Paramount Oral History Project. These memories will be recorded and edited by students in Youngstown State University's telecommunications and art departments.

When the theater opened on Federal Plaza, it featured silent movies and vaudeville

acts, seating up to 1,700 people.

Since the 1970s, though, the building has been left to decay.

The theater will soon be demolished, leaving only its stately terra cotta facade.

Jacob Harver, owner of the Lemon Grove Cafe, said although it would be nice, the structure cannot be saved. It's simply not feasible.

"It is just beyond the point of saving," he said. "The plan is to put an open-air amphitheater behind it. We really lack this in Youngstown."

For now, many remain focused on keeping memories of the theater alive.

Multiple interviews were recorded over the weekend. Interviews will continue at the McDonough on Saturday

from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

On Jan. 21, the museum will host a benefit from 6 to 8 p.m. to raise funds for the project.

From Jan. 3 to Feb. 3, the museum will showcase these interviews.

"It is the past and vision for the future," Harver said. "It's just a shame that so many buildings downtown have been torn down. So many could have been saved."

Harver said this project, along with recent developments downtown, contribute to Youngstown's bright future.

"The new apartments downtown, the Federal Building and the new V2 [Wine Bar Trattoria] are all part of this renaissance movement,"

he said.

Rita Russell said the rise of TV and shopping malls marked the city's downfall. She said the area used to include large department stores like Strauss' and McKelvey's.

"It's kind of depressing to drive by [the theater] sometimes," Rita Russell said. "It's kind of like visiting an old home over time."

Harver said the goal is to eventually put a glass atrium over the open amphitheater.

"It would be great for summer festivals and even a New Year's Eve ball drop event," he said.

Rita Russell added that she dreams of having downtown come alive again.

"To have the area pick up again ... that would be a wish of mine," she said.

EarthTalk: Is diet soda linked to health problems?

Emagazine.com
(MCT)

Dear EarthTalk: I drink diet soda but I'm told it's bad for me and linked to health problems. Is this true and if so can you suggest any healthier alternatives?

— Mitchell James, Ronkonkoma, N.Y.

While rumors have circulated for years that diet sodas are unhealthy, researchers have found no direct links between such drinks and specific human health problems. Aspartame (also known as NutraSweet) is the sugar-alternative of choice for most diet soda makers. It's 180 times sweeter than sugar but contains no significant calories and does not promote tooth decay. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) first approved aspartame in 1974, though health advocates held up its widespread use for over a decade.

Over half of Americans consume aspartame regularly in soda and other foods — all told, diet varieties accounted for some 29 percent of the soft drink market for the top 10 sodas in 2010, according to Beverage Digest — so it is certainly reasonable to be concerned about any potential health effects. However, initial reports that implicated aspartame in seizures, headaches, depression, anxiety, memory loss, birth defects, multiple sclerosis, systemic lupus, methanol toxicity and even cancer turned out to be false (even a hoax), according to a wide range of reputable, peer-reviewed studies and clinical and epidemiological research.

Another concern that has been voiced about aspartame is that it produces methanol when metabolized, which converts to formaldehyde (and then formic acid) in the body. But studies have shown that the amount of methanol in as-

partame is less than that found in natural sources such as fruit juices, citrus fruits and some fermented beverages, and that the amount of formaldehyde generated is also small compared to that produced routinely by the body from other foods and drugs.

While aspartame and diet sodas have not been linked directly to specific health problems, researchers who surveyed the eating, drinking, smoking and exercise habits of some 2,500 New Yorkers between 2003 and 2010 did find that those who drank at least one diet soda per day had a 61 percent higher risk of so-called vascular events (e.g. heart attack or stroke) than those who avoided Diet Coke and other products with aspartame. "If our results are confirmed with future studies, then it would suggest that diet soda may not be the optimal substitute for sugar-sweetened beverages for protection against vascular outcomes," reported the study's lead author, Hannah Gardener of the University of Miami School of Medicine.

But others say that such a finding constitutes a link, not proof of cause and effect — and that those who have switched to diet sodas may be replacing the calories they used to get from regular sodas with other unhealthy foods that may be increasing their risk of heart attack or stroke.

The takeaway should be that those who drink soda regularly, diet or otherwise, should be sure to exercise and eat right otherwise. Or, better yet...give up the soda entirely. According to Katherine Zeratsky, a nutritionist with the Mayo Clinic, healthier choices abound. She suggests starting off the day with a glass of 100 percent fruit juice and then drinking skim milk with meals. "Sip water throughout the day," she recommends. "For variety, try sparkling water or add a squirt of lemon or cranberry juice to your water."

Yo* Calendar

Tuesday

Guest Artist Recital
Tuesday, 8 p.m.
Bliss Recital Hall

Open Mic
Tuesday, 9 p.m.
Up A Creek Tavern

Karaoke
Tuesday, 10 p.m.
Horseshoe Bar

Wednesday

String Area Recital
Wednesday, 12:15 p.m.
Butler Institute of American Art

Women's Chorus
Wednesday, 8 p.m.
Bliss Recital Hall

Lemonaoke
Wednesday, 10 p.m.
Lemon Grove Cafe

Thursday

Lunch with Jim Dudash
Thursday, 11:30 a.m.
Lemon Grove Cafe

Youngstown Area Community Band Practice
Thursday, 7 p.m.
Bliss Hall

Saxophone Studio Recital
Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown



Eliminating federal student loans would be disastrous

McClatchy-Tribune News Service (MCT)

Rick Perry's senior moment in Wednesday's GOP presidential debate — when he couldn't remember the third federal agency he would abolish — was cringe-inducing. But it was two of the other candidates on stage who should be hanging their heads in shame.

Texas Rep. Ron Paul and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich both, incredibly, called for abolishing the federal student loan program, saying it was "an absurdity" that is "dramatically fail-

ing." Perry seemed to imply he agreed.

None of them, surely, is among the tens of millions of low- and middle-income students — 9 million in the last academic year alone — who relied on a federally backed student loan to pay for college. Eliminating the loans and subjecting students to the vagaries of the private market would put college out of reach for many while increasing indebtedness for others. Either way, the nation's ability to develop an educated workforce for the coming decades — an already imperiled but crucial national priority — will be further damaged.

Last year, the Obama administration cut private lenders out of the student-loan market, saving about \$80 billion over 10 years to be funneled back into education. The private market had been wasteful and in some cases predatory, charging high rates and fees and misleading consumers, according to a 2008 study by the National Consumer Law

Center.

Even worse, the private market nearly froze during the economic collapse.

Thankfully, the government was making the majority of student loans at the time. But imagine if Paul's and Gingrich's ideologically pure vision were reality, and there were no federal loans. Even as demand surged for higher education, students would have no way to pay for it. Or rather, poor and middle-class students wouldn't. The wealthy, as ever, would be fine.

That's why federal loan subsidies — along with Pell Grants, which conservatives also attack — are so important. California alone expects a shortfall of 1 million college graduates to fill jobs by 2025. There's no way to close that gap if only the rich can afford an education.

Student loan debt approaches \$1 trillion nationwide. It's a serious problem. But abolishing federal loans is no answer, any more than eliminating Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac would end the

foreclosure crisis.

Reform is needed. The main driver of student debt, according to most experts, is skyrocketing tuition. The government should use its leverage to demand that costs be kept better in line with inflation, perhaps through changes to delivery models such as more online courses. Students who have federal loans should be required to make steady progress toward a degree, and colleges that accept the loans must have guidance programs in place to help them do so.

An educated workforce is precisely what government should be investing in for the long-term. It's no different from other kinds of infrastructure — roads, bridges, broadband service — that help everyone prosper. Leaving this to the private market would be devastating to poor and middle-class students, to businesses and to our future prosperity.

Come to think of it, only banks would benefit from Paul's and Gingrich's idea. Something to ponder.

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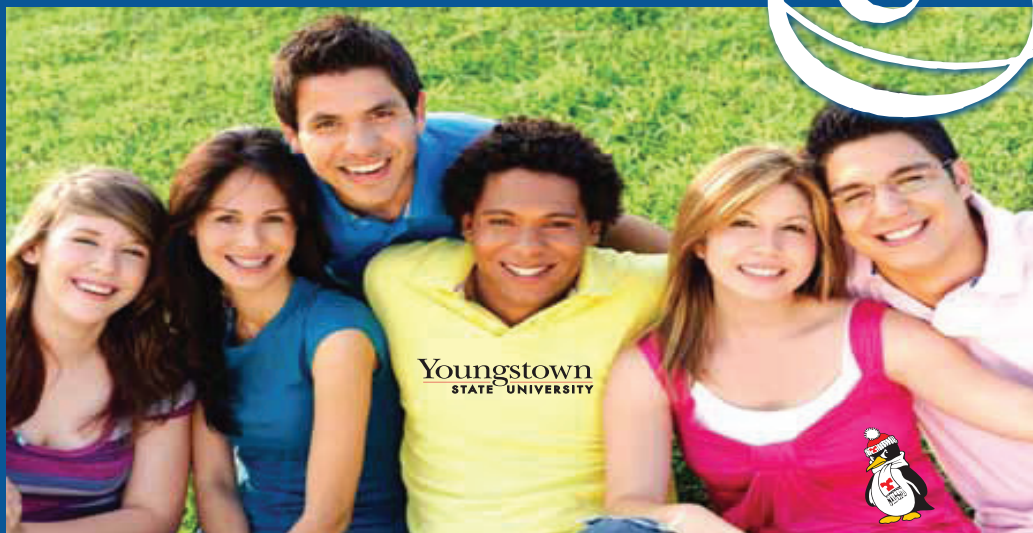
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Kern, Grove earn weekly honors

Nick Mancini
SPORTS REPORTER

Two senior volleyball players earn Jambar Player of the Week honors after helping the Penguins earn a victory in the final game of the season on Saturday.

Defensive specialist Bri Kern and outside hitter Brittany Grove helped the Penguins defeat Loyola University Chicago in four sets. The Penguins won both meetings against Loyola this season.

The win was the Penguins' fifth overall and third in the Horizon League. They ended the season winning two of their last three games.

Grove said it was nice to get a win in her final game.

"It was pretty emotional," Grove said. "Being here for four years and knowing it's your last time playing here is emotional, but we love our team, and it's nice to finish on a strong note and on a win."

In the game, Kern led the Penguins with 13 digs. Grove helped with nine total attacks and seven digs.

"My senior year was excellent, and the whole team made it great," Kern said. "It was nice to have Brittany here as my fellow senior. I kind of look at her as higher up than me, so I kind of hold her in a higher status than me."

The Penguins lost a close match to the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay in four sets on Friday. Kern finished with six digs and one assist. Grove helped with four total attacks and three digs.

Kern participated in 25 matches this season and finished with 192 digs, 83 sets, 30 assists and 15 serving aces.

Before coming to Youngstown State University, Kern played at Centenary College of Louisiana in her first two collegiate seasons. She led Centenary in kills, posting 227 as a freshman and 184 as a sophomore.

Head coach Krista Burrows said Kern's career impressed her.

"Kern has only been here for two years, but she was a captain this year and did a really good job," Burrows said. "She had a strong two years here, and I am glad to see them go out with a win."

Originally from Indianapolis, Kern earned all-county and state honors as a senior at Roncalli High School. She also participated in track, gymnastics and dance. She was a two-time regional qualifier in track and gymnastics.

Grove played in 24 matches and posted 62 digs, 55 sets and 39 kills this season. She finished the year with 150 total attacks.

Burrows said Grove's experience helped the Penguins this season.

"She really came around this year," Burrows said. "She accepted her role well. She has just been solid and a good person to be around."

Grove attended Madison Comprehensive High School in Mansfield. She was a four-year letter winner for the Rams and a team captain for one season. She was a second-team All-Ohio selection as a senior.

'We're only as good as our next game'

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

The 2011-2012 men's basketball campaign is off to a 1-0 start after the Penguins' first season-opening road victory since 2000.

Saturday's game against Samford University ended with a 76-69 win for Youngstown State University.

The Penguins trailed late in the second half before gaining the lead. Jerry Slocum, head men's basketball coach, said the team made halftime adjustments on the defense.

"[Samford is] a hard team to guard," Slocum said. "In the first half, I don't think that we had a possession defensively that I felt real comfortable with, and then, in the second half, I thought we kind of got a rhythm of what they do. I thought we did a really, really good job."

Sophomore guard Kendrick Perry elaborated on the halftime adjustments.

"We just focused more on defense," Perry said. "Our offense, throughout the whole night, we executed. We knew, in order to be successful, we had to get the stops that we needed."

Slocum said the team played well and with great focus.

"I thought, as the game wore on, we got more comfortable," Slocum said. "Overall, I was really pleased with our intensity. I was also really pleased with how we shared the basketball. To win on the road, you got to make sure to take care of the ball. I thought we guarded very well in the second half."

The Penguins open home play on Tuesday night against Notre Dame College (1-0) in the first-ever meeting between the two schools.

"[There] are kinds of games in the past where we have not gotten prepared for that we should have mentally," Slocum said. "[We need to] have respect for every game that we play, and we need to play well at home and take care of our own floor."

Perry said the win over Samford is "only one game."

"We can't let one game dictate our season," Perry said. "There's a quote in our locker room that says, 'We're only as good as our next game.' We have to go out there like we're playing Butler [University]."

Against Samford, Perry scored a career-high 28 points. He added four assists, four steals and three rebounds.

"The first game last year, I guess I tried to adjust to the college game, but now this year, and after the tremendous



Members of the YSU men's basketball team go up for a rebound in a game last season against Wright State University. Ashen Ward and DuShawn Brooks (pictured left and center) represent the lone seniors on the team this season. Photo by Nick Young/The Jambar.

offseason we all had, I think that we're all more focused this year [and] probably more in tune to getting that Horizon League championship," he said.

Slocum said Perry is "as quick a kid with control that I've ever coached."

"It's not like a surprise to us because in our scrimmages, he's been doing the exact same stuff," Slocum said. "He just can play at a level speed-wise that's hard for people to really prepare. All of a sudden, you think you've got him cornered, and then he just has such good anticipation and basketball IQ."

Slocum added that Perry is not selfish.

"Not only did he score the ball well but probably got other guys ... four to five, [maybe]

six, baskets for us," Slocum said. "A lot of times [it is] that second pass where he drives that kicks in. He's not only good in terms of his own abilities, but he also really raises the level and makes other guys better."

The Penguins did not return from Samford until Sunday evening and have one day to prepare for Notre Dame.

It's a tough week for the Penguins, Slocum said.

"We did everything that we could do [on Monday] in terms of getting back to some of those basics that we have to get back to," Slocum said. "We'll spend a lot of time on it on Wednesday, and we'll do a little more [on Tuesday]."

Perry said the team might have only one or two days to prepare for some future games,

particularly in conference play.

The Penguins play two of their 13 home games on Tuesday and Friday.

"When you only have 13 home games, every one of those suckers needs to be important," he said. "I tried to tell that to our guys [on Monday] that we're not like the bulk of the teams on our schedule that have 16 [to] 17 home games."

Perry also said every home game is crucial, but he feels no added pressure.

"It's important [and] it's crucial that we seize every opportunity that we have at home and on the road, but more importantly at home," Perry said. "It's just coming in and doing what needs to be done. We're not a team that's going to make excuses for ourselves."

Dream continues for basketball alumnus

Caitlin Cook
REPORTER



Former Youngstown State University basketball standout Vytas Sulskis is competing in the highest Lithuanian and Baltic basketball leagues after six years of playing basketball in the U.S.

While he is a rookie in the Lithuanian league, the 23-year-old native of Vilnius, Lithuania, is no stranger to the game he's played since childhood. His aunt was an Olympic basketball medalist; his sister is a professional player in France; and his father is a former player.

This season, he has a chance to compete against NBA players as a member of the Kedainiai Triobet.

During the season, Sulskis will play against former Toronto Raptor Sonny Weems. He plays for the Lithuanian team Kauno Zalgiris, along with Ty Lawson of the Denver Nuggets.

"I'm definitely looking forward to that experience," Sulskis said.

Sulskis said he never thought he would play in the U.S. after high school. At 16, Sulskis, who knew little English, moved to Florida to better combine studying and playing basketball.

"I knew I always can get back to Lithuania to my family, but I loved it from day one and never regretted the decision," Sulskis said.

Sulskis' size and ability immediately enticed Jerry Slocum, head men's basketball coach at YSU.

Sulskis led the Penguins last year with 392 points, averaging 13.1 points per game. He was also named the YSU/Vindicator Athlete of the Year.

"Here is a kid that worked hard every day, was respectful, went to class, was a 3.0 student, loved basketball and loved YSU," Slocum said. "Guys like him are what's good in athletics, and it's what keeps coaches going that have done this a long time."

Slocum said Sulskis made the commitment after graduation to stay in shape and work hard.

"Once you go and play that next level up — whether it's the NBA or overseas basketball, [or] any time you play professionally — it becomes a lot more about strength and size," Slocum said.

Sulskis said he is having fun living out his dream.

"Basketball here in Europe is a lot more physical, and players are very smart," he said. "Here, all the players are good, and in any game they can come out and score."

Sulskis' team is working to be one of the eight — out of 12 — teams to qualify for May's Lithuanian league playoffs.

"I am just happy for him," Slocum said. "I think it speaks that if you work hard, you can achieve your dreams. He worked hard enough to do those things."