

The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

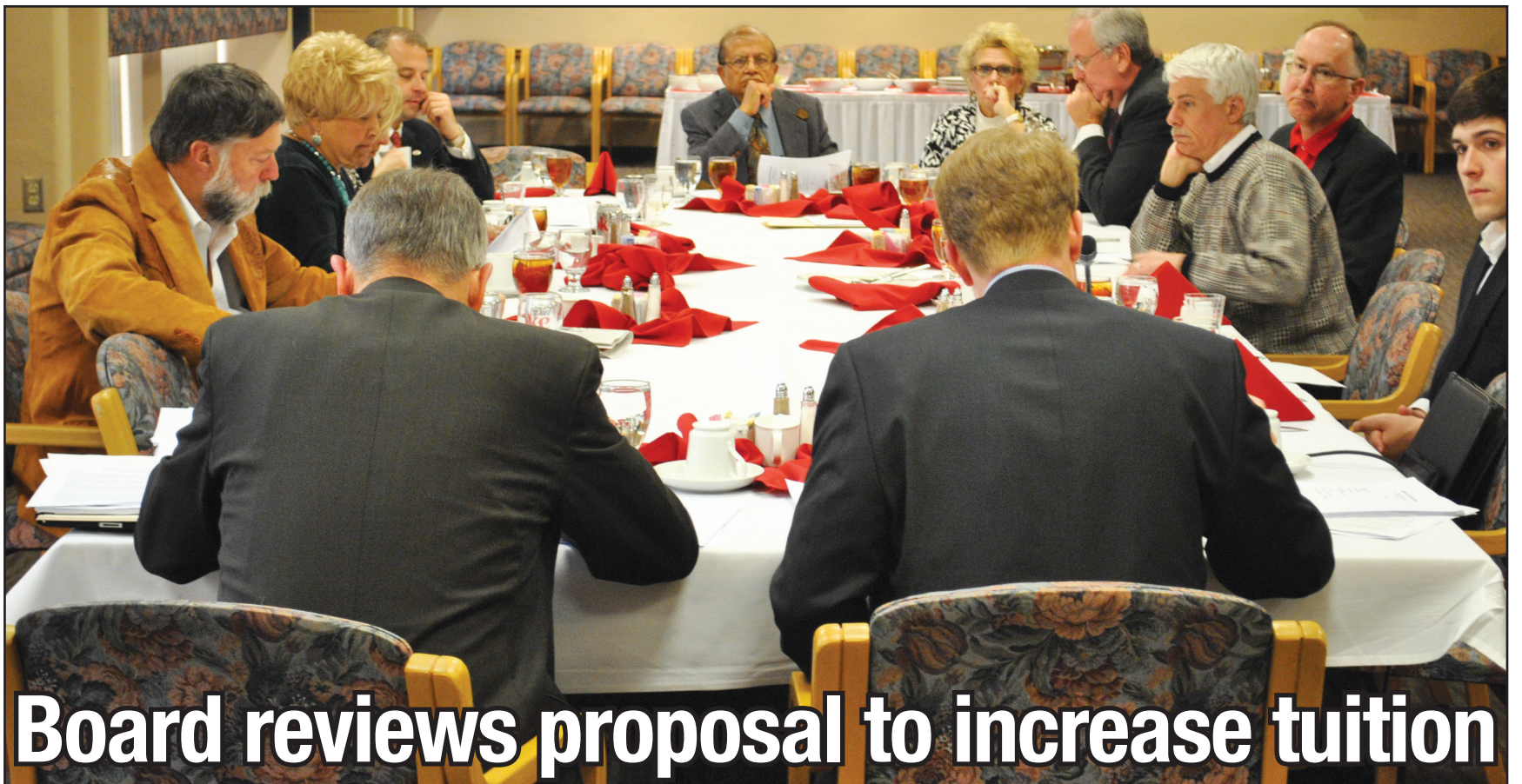
CHECK IT OUT

Students unwind with karaoke VIDEO ONLINE

'Jack up the Rev,' Jambar sports recap VIDEO ONLINE

Two YSU seniors run community gym VIDEO ONLINE

Team celebrates Thanksgiving in the Coaches Court PAGE 8



Board reviews proposal to increase tuition

Gene Grilli and Neal McNally, front, explain the university's budget to the board of trustees and President Cynthia Anderson during Friday's retreat. The two technocrats proposed a tentative plan to overcome the looming budget deficit, with the hopes of balancing this year's budget. Photo by Jordan D. Uhl/The Jambar.

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University's future solvency may come at the cost of students, should the board of trustees accept a revised budget proposal reviewed on Friday.

The board and members of the Cabinet held a retreat in the Presidential Suite of Kilcawley Center to analyze and discuss the current budget, which

is facing a \$7 million operating deficit.

However, it's the tentative budgets for the next two years that will likely upset students. Each calls for 3.5 percent increases in tuition.

If the forecasts remain the same and the board approves the tentative measures, tuition for the next two years will increase from \$7,451 this year to \$7,712 and \$7,973, respectively.

"It's a tough time for everybody," said Sudershan Garg, chairman of the board. "To maintain the program, we

need additional revenue."

Garg added that, with the continuous decrease in state funding, increases in enrollment and tuition are the primary sources of revenue. Tuition, fees and charges make up 72.3 percent, or \$114.8 million, of YSU's revenue. For fiscal year 2012, state funding is around 25 percent, forcing students to pay the remaining 75 percent.

"If we don't do it, we'll have to pay the consequences at a future date," Garg said.

Neal McNally, YSU's budget director, and Gene Grilli, vice president for finance and administration, presented an amended budget for FY 2012, which — should their projections be correct — would help YSU overcome the deficit.

"This is not a spending problem," McNally said. "This is a shortfall problem."

McNally and Grilli presented the

BOARD PAGE 3

YSU students place first in Moot Court competition

Patrick Donovan
NEWS REPORTER

Over the weekend, 14 Youngstown State University students competed in the regional Moot Court competition.

Seniors Kevin Hulick and Travis Watson placed first overall and advanced to the nationals for the third straight

year.

"This will be our final chance to make a run at the national title, and that is our goal," Hulick said. "It is possible. However, it will require a lot of luck and hard work."

The Moot Court event is a mock trial competition that simulates arguments presented to the Supreme Court. During

COURT PAGE 3

YSU students 'exercise' knowledge early

Caitlin Cook
REPORTER

Two Youngstown State University exercise science seniors will gain real-life coaching experience before graduation.

The nine-month development of Max Athletic Training will allow seniors Reuben Green and Joel Younkens to design and implement their training programs while providing the Mahoning Valley with a new sports performance facility.

Located in Boardman, the 3,200-square-foot facility has four power racks, four Olympic bars, posterior chain machines, lat pull-down machines and free weights, in addition to other training tools.

The idea for the gym originated from coach Ted Rendinell, director of operations at Max Athletic Training.

Younkens and Green said that opening the gym was all

about sacrifice and time management.

"It's always great to see ideas come together from multiple people for one common goal," Green said.

Green and Younkens said they hope to take what they've learned in the classroom to better local athletes, but also said they recognize the opportunity before them.

"The owner here has given us an awesome opportunity," Younkens said of Rendinell. "For him to put his trust in us to run this gym is pretty incredible."

Todd Burkey, who has been involved in strength training and conditioning for 15 years and is head of YSU men's basketball conditioning, said the experience someone would gain from facilitating his or her own workout program is invaluable.

"If you're immersed in [organizing and designing mul-

GYM PAGE 3



Student volunteers stand near a fire barrel in between Cafaro and Lyden houses during the 13th annual Shantytown on Saturday. Around 130 students participated in this year's event, which raised awareness of homelessness in the area. Photo by Kevin Alquist/The Jambar.

Students erect box shelters to raise awareness

Kevin Alquist
NEWS REPORTER

Members of the University Scholars and Honors Programs and Greek Life slept in boxes outside of Cafaro House through the chilly night on Saturday.

Approximately 130 Youngstown State University students volunteered their time to raise awareness of homelessness in the Mahoning Valley as part of the 13th annual Shantytown event.

Cory Okular, a planning committee member, said attendance was up from last year's count of 122.

"Each year, the event has gotten better," said Randi Yazvac, a third-year participant. "We've really spread the word about Shantytown, and it shows because more and more people are sleeping outside."

The event is held each year as winter approaches to put participants in the shoes of the homeless.

Yazvac said this year's temperature was higher than the two previous years.

"Two years ago, it was much colder, and

the ground frosted overnight," she said.

Freshman Megan Chambers said the good cause and the new experience is what motivated her to participate.

"This makes me thankful for what I have, and it shows that YSU students have sympathy for them and care about the situation they're in," she said.

During the day, students volunteered at the Second Harvest Food Bank, Gleaners Food Bank, Habitat for Humanity, Beatitude House and the Rescue Mission.

Okular said the group raised approximately \$2,200 that will be dispersed evenly among organizations that help the homeless and battered women.

Student Karly Herman bagged sweet potatoes at the Second Harvest Food Bank in her third year of volunteering with the Shantytown project.

"Besides getting someone who's hungry a meal, we are helping people stay healthy," she said. "The experience is humbling and very rewarding."

Another group of students worked with Habitat for Humanity to restore a house on

SHANTY PAGE 3



Ajleeta Sangtani performs "Mango, Spice and Everything Nice" on Friday during the Colors of India event held in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room. Photo by Rachel Lundberg/The Jambar.

Indian student remembers home

Rachel Lundberg
REPORTER

Although she's spent half of her life in the U.S., Ajleeta Sangtani remembers growing up in India.

She was accustomed to walking into neighbors' homes in India without knocking or calling ahead. She said they always offered food.

"We were in and out of people's houses all the time," Ajleeta Sangtani said. "We're very loud and very family-oriented."

Since moving to the U.S., Ajleeta Sangtani has celebrated her Indian heritage by performing in a festival hosted by her family's home temple in Sylvania, Ohio.

That's why she said it was exciting to continue this tradition at Youngstown State University through the Colors of India event, held Friday in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room.

As vice president of the Indian National Student Association, Ajleeta Sangtani was involved in multiple facets of the event — like planning, dancing and emceeding with fellow INSA members Avneesh Aggarwal and Geno Kordic.

She performed with a large group of friends in "Mango, Spice and Everything Nice" and provided backup dancing for "Classic Bollywood Medley."

Ajleeta Sangtani's parents and twin sister

attended the event, which featured Indian song and dance, food and traditional clothing.

Her father, Latit Sangtani, said he was "very intentional" about keeping Indian culture in his daughters' lives.

He emphasized India's community-driven culture, as compared to individualist culture in the U.S.

"The way friends are is very different here," Latit Sangtani said. "Friends are like family there."

The family was granted U.S. citizenship last year after 10 years of residency. She said her family couldn't leave the U.S. for three consecutive years.

"They ask you if you're a terrorist a whole bunch of times," Ajleeta Sangtani said.

The last step for citizenship is the U.S. history test. Ajleeta Sangtani and her sister thought the test was easy because they grew up attending U.S. schools. She had to help her parents prepare because they knew only Indian history.

Although the Sangtani family is content in the U.S., in their hearts, they're Indian.

"I often kid with both of them," Latit Sangtani said, referring to his daughters. "Both of them know 1.35 languages [from the more than 700 Indian movies in the family's library]."

Student Social Work Association adopts senior citizens

Alyssa Italiano
REPORTER

Members of Youngstown State University's Student Social Work Association are "adopting" the elderly this holiday season.

"It's always about the kids, so we thought we would do something for the opposite spectrum," said SSWA President Krista Brawley.

SSWA members designated the Adopt-a-Senior project — which involves students fulfilling the wishes of nearly 30 senior citizens — an essential part of the organization's agenda.

The SSWA teamed up with Austin Woods Nursing Center in Youngstown to make the project possible.

Brawley, a YSU senior, said the group votes on potential projects. With the group's approval, Adopt-a-Senior was launched.

"The elderly are not always thought of on the holidays like the kids are," Brawley said.

Brawley called local nursing homes but found a match when she talked to Chris Ford, activities director at Austin Woods.

"Krista and I were on the same page," Ford said. "I had already been doing the Adopt-A-Senior project so that every resident could receive a present."

Ford has provided gifts for the residents since she started 15 years ago.

"We wanted to give them more than a little something," Ford said. "I have great area sponsors who have been wonderful, and with the help of the YSU students, we are able to complete our goal."

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, people 65 years and older account for roughly one out of six Youngstown residents.

The care center planned to provide gifts, but one wing of the facility was not yet accounted for. That's where SSWA members will step in.

"We're one of the larger nursing homes," Ford said. "We have seven wings, and we're pretty close to capacity."

Brawley said the organization's members intend to volunteer as Santa's helpers to pass out gifts.

Brawley said that in her previous years as an SSWA member, the group lacked projects involving the elderly. However, Adopt-a-Senior is the perfect way to become more involved with this population.

"We'll get a gift list soon and can't wait to be a part of a nice holiday for these folks," Brawley said. "We want to give them more than a little something by giving them a happy holiday."

On board with Brawley, Ford aspires to accomplish the same goal with the project.

"I want to make sure that every resident believes in the magic of the holidays," Ford said. "With YSU taking a wing, I can get back to playing Santa."

Besides adopting the elderly, the association is working on the Adopt-a-Unit project that began in September. Brawley said the organization has sent more than 61 pounds of toiletries to those deployed in Afghanistan, with more still being collected and dispersed.

"We hope to show the soldiers that they are overwhelmingly appreciated for their heroism and be able to help them fulfill their needs," Brawley said.

Brawley said the main objective of the SSWA is to simply help others.

"Our organizational purpose is to unite and take effective action on campus and in our community to enrich the lives of others through our service goals," she said.

High-tech tools streamline college applications, costs

Sun Sentinel
(MCT)

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Students are finding clever ways to take a bite out of the cost of going to college, many getting help from local companies and the latest Web-based technologies. Some are doing so before they even settle on a school.

After choosing the path to higher education, the biggest decision for college-bound students — and parents — is what campus to select and how to pay for it.

Some students earn A-pluses for using the Web to cut down on time spent selecting colleges as well as costs for applying and attending — from travel expenses to book fees.

High school senior Karina Newman of Boca Raton, Fla., has turned to YourCampus360.com, which provides virtual tours and insider information, to research colleges she's considering.

"There are so many options and it's pretty hard to choose," Newman said. And the website is a convenient and cheap way for the 17-year-old and her parents to learn more about different colleges. "You get an overall feeling of what it is like to be there," she said. "You even see what the weather is like."

Newman most recently traveled via the Internet to Ohio University, Mississippi State and Oregon Tech. They are among her top considerations in addition to Miami University, where an older sister graduated and another still attends. "I will be using the site to check out other colleges, too," she said, without having to ask her parents or airplane tickets.

YourCampus360, with offices in Aventura, Fla., and New York City, is

free to use and offers an interactive and comprehensive experience via iPhone or Android smartphones, a computer or Facebook. Via all three platforms, take virtual walking tours, which include stops at dormitories, dining halls and football stadiums. Check out videos and photos with 360-degree panoramas while learning about everything from class descriptions to campus clubs, on-campus housing to nighttime campus escort services. Visitors can even apply online.

Jaclyn Sarnese, a junior at the University of Miami, plans to trim book costs with the help of a new location-based app called Yapik, which works like a Craigslist for college students, allowing them to trade or barter for goods and services. "It's really convenient, and I can sell my current textbooks after the semester and even buy new ones for next semester," Sarnese said.

Sarnese said she has used Yapik to monitor what other students are offering for trade, such as sneakers and football game tickets. "I even found an offer from a student selling car wash services," she said. Based on what she has seen so far, Sarnese believes she will be able to sell her old class books for more on Yapik than she could if she sold back to the campus bookstore. "And it looks like I will be able to buy a lot of next year's books for less than at the bookstore, which always has the highest prices."

Launched in September by University of Miami student Sabina Kaplan and University of South Florida graduate Cristina Dominguez, the free Yapik app for iPhone and Android devices enables students to buy or sell products nearby, chat with other students, and create profiles and lists of "favorite" friends. Currently the app is available for students at Florida International University, the University of Florida, and the University of Miami, but is scheduled to launch nationwide by next summer.

Other options: — Social networking: Facebook, Twitter and other networks deliver their own brand of insight and information. For instance, the University of Miami creates Facebook pages for

classes with the help of the Student Affairs Office. Barry University created a Facebook app allowing users to browse housing opportunities and register for orientation.

— College-related apps: Tap into your smartphone for help. CollegeMapp for iPhone costs \$4.99 and helps high school students by mimicking a guidance counselor, helping users organize college applications, track deadlines and research admission requirements. Find it at the Apple App Store. College Confidential is a free app for Android devices that provides a wealth of information about colleges across the country, from advice on the admission processes to tips on getting into an Ivy League school. Find it at the Android Market.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Green Energy Challenge team places second nationally

In both their team project presentation and the poster competition, six YSU students placed second in this year's Green Energy Challenge, winning \$2,800 for their accomplishments. The team — one of three finalists — traveled to San Diego to present its full-scale energy audit and upgrade to YSU's Cafaro House residence hall. This is the second consecutive year that a YSU team has placed in the nation's top three. This year's team features Justin Hosseininejad, Jason Nutt, Ethan Parks, Michael Sammartino, Jarrett Scacchetti and David Wright.

'New Harmonies' exhibit begins Tuesday

"New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music," a traveling exhibition produced by the Smithsonian Institution, will open 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor, located at 151 W. Wood St. It will run through Dec. 31. At the exhibit's opening, Zach Miller — a student in the Dana School of Music at YSU — will perform the music he wrote to accompany poetry written by Michael McGovern — the "Puddler Poet" and author of "Labor Lyrics and Other Poems." The exhibit, which is touring Ohio in partnership with the Ohio Humanities Council, focuses on the evolution of American genres like folk, country, bluegrass and jazz. A bluegrass performance to accompany the exhibit is scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday at the Youngstown Historical Center. The YSU Zappa Ensemble will perform at 8 p.m. Monday in Kilcawley Center, while the Malyuk Sisters (Celtic and old-time tunes) will perform at 7 p.m. on Dec. 3 at the Lemon Grove Cafe. David Morgan and Friends will perform at 7 p.m. on Dec. 6 at the Lemon Grove Cafe, and a steel drum band will perform during First Night festivities. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, call 330-941-1314 or 330-941-3452.

POLICE BRIEFS

Student reports strange man on campus

On Wednesday, a YSU police officer met with a female student who wanted to report a strange man who had been following her around campus. The student said she noticed a man sitting next to her table at Dunkin' Donuts on Nov. 15; shortly afterward, the same man was outside her classroom before class began. The man had also been standing next to her near vending machines in Ward Beecher Hall a few days earlier. He offered to buy her something, and she politely refused. However, he bought something anyway and gave it to her, then sat down and began talking with her. The student said she didn't want to be rude, so she listened for a short while and eventually left. The student's family encouraged her to report the incident. YSU Police told her to notify the department if she sees the man again.

Christman student-employee reports disorderly conduct

On Thursday, a female student-employee of Christman Dining Commons told YSU Police that as she was walking to the cash register, she accidentally bumped into a female student. Another female student began to argue with the student-employee about touching the student she bumped into. YSU Police told the students to leave the dining hall and to not return that night. They left without further incident.

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SHANTY PAGE 1

Broadway Avenue by painting, laying mulch and removing tile.

After the box shelters were constructed, Becky Miller, director of the Second Harvest Food Bank, spoke to the group about the difference participants are making by volunteering.

"We are feeding 13,000 people per week in Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull counties," Miller said. "We couldn't do [that] without help from volunteers."

Miller works to feed hungry children in the area with the Backpack Program, which provides needy children with nutritious food when other resources are unavailable.

"The Youngstown and Warren area is ranked third in the nation in child food insecurity," Miller said. "What that means is that these kids don't know where their next meal is coming from."

COURT PAGE 1

the competition, students are judged by practicing lawyers and judges on their knowledge of the law, their demeanor and their ability to answer questions from the bench.

Melissa Wasser, a sophomore political science major, is a first-year participant in Moot Court.

"Moot Court helps prepare students for law school by offering a competition that lets them experience real oral arguments," Wasser said. "It lets us see how arguments are presented in the courtroom, and the feedback and critiques from the judging panels help us to grow and improve our skills."

Of the 58 teams that competed, five individual YSU teams placed within the top 16.

Attorney Ron Slipski — who has advised, mentored and worked with the team since its inception — said the results of the competition reflect positively on YSU as a whole.

"I think that is a tremendous statement of what these students have accomplished," Slipski said of having five teams in the top 16. Slipski also teaches law and history at YSU.

Carla Napoli and teammate Josh Prest placed seventh overall and are waiting to see if they secured a spot in the national competition.

Napoli said it's important that people understand the amount of dedication the team puts forth.

"The most challenging part was the time involved," Napoli said. "Some of us started preparing for Moot Court in June, and the class didn't even start until the end of August."

Slipski said he could not be more proud of the effort and determination the team is showing this year.

"Watching these 14 students interact, help each other, challenge each other and intellectually demand from each other is truly a joy," Slipski said. "You often hear comments about the younger generation, but I am the older generation, and I have no qualms with turning the reins over when I see individuals like these students."

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BOARD PAGE 1

board with three options. Options one and two were on opposite ends of the spectrum, ranging from ignoring the problem to closing the deficit completely.

The third option, which was met with general acceptance, offered a middle-ground approach.

Taking the benefits and consequences of the first two plans, McNally and Grilli suggested a strategic approach, which includes increasing fees for students and drawing from reserve funds.

The plan will pull \$1.36 million from YSU's reserve funds.

Increased fees on sales and services will be added. This would affect the YSU Bookstore, parking services, housing and convenience fees on credit card usage.

Other measures have been taken to weather the financial situation.

Union-exempt employees have already agreed to voluntarily concede more than \$350,000 in monetary donations and furlough days.

"Their sacrifice reflects their understanding of our financial circumstances, their willingness to help us address those circumstances and their continued commitment to

Campus Connection

How do you feel about the possible tuition increase?



"I already feel college is expensive enough, so I don't think we should increase the tuition."

— Kristen Kalas, junior



"I feel like if they're going to increase the tuition that they should upgrade improvements around campus."

— Lanea Underwood, junior

YSU and our students," YSU President Cynthia Anderson said in a statement.

In September, McNally said the Early Retirement Incentive Program would produce net savings of \$1.5 million. In the meantime, YSU will benefit from \$1.7 million in vacant position savings in FY 2012 and \$628,200 in FY 2013. These savings are part of the FY 2012 budget and will not decrease the \$7 million deficit.

"It is imperative that we maintain a tight control on spending and enhance reve-

nue through increased enrollment and student retention in order to transition through this difficult fiscal period," Anderson said in a statement.

Although the board hasn't formally adopted it, Garg is confident the strategic approach will be approved at the next board meeting.

"It will be tough to get \$7 million in six months," Garg said. "Anything is possible, but you have to do drastic cuts, which will hurt a lot of programs, and we don't want to do that."

GYM PAGE 1

multiple workouts] and you're running those programs, that experience of being able to manipulate the different variables of the program is well beyond anything you gain out of a textbook," Burkey said.

Once the gym is fully operational, Green and Younkins will be in charge of designing programs for athletes and coaching them daily. The systematic approach employed by the staff will have various levels for different sports.

Rendinell grew up playing football in Youngstown, but he had few gyms to choose from.

"Even now, there are a lot of general fitness facilities where young high school athletes and young junior high school athletes go, but the level of instruction is not there, nor is the specific equipment that we've used at YSU and major universities and the pros to specialize a training for their sports," Rendinell said.

Rendinell said Green and Younkins received excellent educations at YSU and is happy to have them on staff. Rendinell said the knowledge base is what sets their facility apart from others in the area because all of its coaches have coached at the Division I level.

Brenda Shell said she liked the structured training environ-



YSU senior Reuben Green motivates Boardman High School seniors Devin Campbell (front) and Allen Sarky through a rough workout. Photo by Chris Cotelesse/The Jambar.

ment the facility provides for her son, Devin Campbell, who trained at the open house that was held on Sunday.

"I'm very excited, number one, to prepare him for what he is going to be expected to do in college and, number two, that he is learning to do everything right so he doesn't hurt himself," Shell said.

The Boardman senior looks to improve his game in every aspect possible to prepare for college football. Campbell said he believes the training with Green and Younkins will help him reach his future football goals.

"We have a trainer with us the whole time," Campbell said. "In high school, we just

get a book and go do everything in the book. There is nobody to get on us about what we do. The trainers here pay attention to everything we do and make sure we're doing everything right and ultimately want us to get better too."

Rendinell said he looks forward to the relationship with Green and Younkins, while ultimately helping young athletes reach their full potentials.

"At the end of the day, being exercise science majors, this also prepares us for what we are going to do," Green said. "So it's almost like we're doing homework while we are here. We are taking that stuff that we learn in class and putting it into play."



Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for Society for Collegiate Journalists

Menu
Western Reserve United Methodist Church
4580 Canfield Rd. Canfield, OH

noon- 3 PM on December 4th

Cost: \$7 for adults, \$5 for children 10 and under, 4 and under free (at the door); advanced tickets \$5 for adults, \$3 children 10 and under and children 4 and under free. Tickets can be purchased at the Jambar office.

Spaghetti, salad, bread and butter, beverages and dessert available



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- BUSINESS MANAGER:**
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- ADVISER:**
Mary Beth Earnhardt330-941-3095

CONTACT THE JAMBAR

E-MAIL..... editor@thejambar.com
FAX330-941-2322

Send letters to:
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Bend over, students

The Jambar
EDITORIAL BOARD

RELATED STORY
BOARD PAGE 1

The board of trustees and administrators are poised to shift more of the financial burden onto your backs.

On Friday, they reviewed plans to implement a 3.5 percent tuition increase over the next two years.

Their poor financial management and staggering enrollment overestimate have left the university with a \$7 million hole that, apparently, only we — the students — can fill.

The push to raise tuition comes on the heels of a national report released earlier this month by the Project on Student Debt. The report places Ohio seventh in average student debt. Nearly 70 percent of Ohio students have debt, averaging nearly \$28,000 per student in 2010.

A report released on Nov. 9 indicates that three out of four students between 18 and 24 years old are finding a college education harder to afford now compared to five years ago.

Many students attend YSU because it's affordable. These students sacrifice size and reputation so they can put gas in their tanks to get to school.

Yet, every facet of our education is under fire.

While tuition is hiked, the Cabinet's six-figure salaries can't be touched.

Budget reductions for departments were highlighted with the \$1.2 million cut in academic affairs, ultimately affecting our classrooms and coursework. While barely \$55,000 was cut from Tod Hall and the office of the president, all other departments lost between \$175,000 and \$750,000.

A meager \$350,000 donation from the administration is nice for public perception, but it's only 5 percent of the \$6.87 million the president, her Cabinet, college deans and department chairs rake in. And they're only 55 of the 211 non-union employees asked to contribute. Imagine if everyone carried the burden equally.

But, anyway, thanks for the change. We're sure it was cluttering your \$50,000 SUVs.

Only one trustee at the board meeting, Leonard Schiavone, mounted sincere concern about placing additional financial strains on students, which stirred seemingly coerced agreement.

If the board truly feels remorse over increasing tuition, it should look elsewhere.

It's cut operating budgets for every department, increased tuition for students, frozen hiring, collected peanuts from your cohorts, and downsized staff and faculty, yet it still can't find another way out of this mess.

Perhaps it isn't a revenue issue but more of a management concern.

JAMBAR POLICY

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.

OUR SIDE POLICY

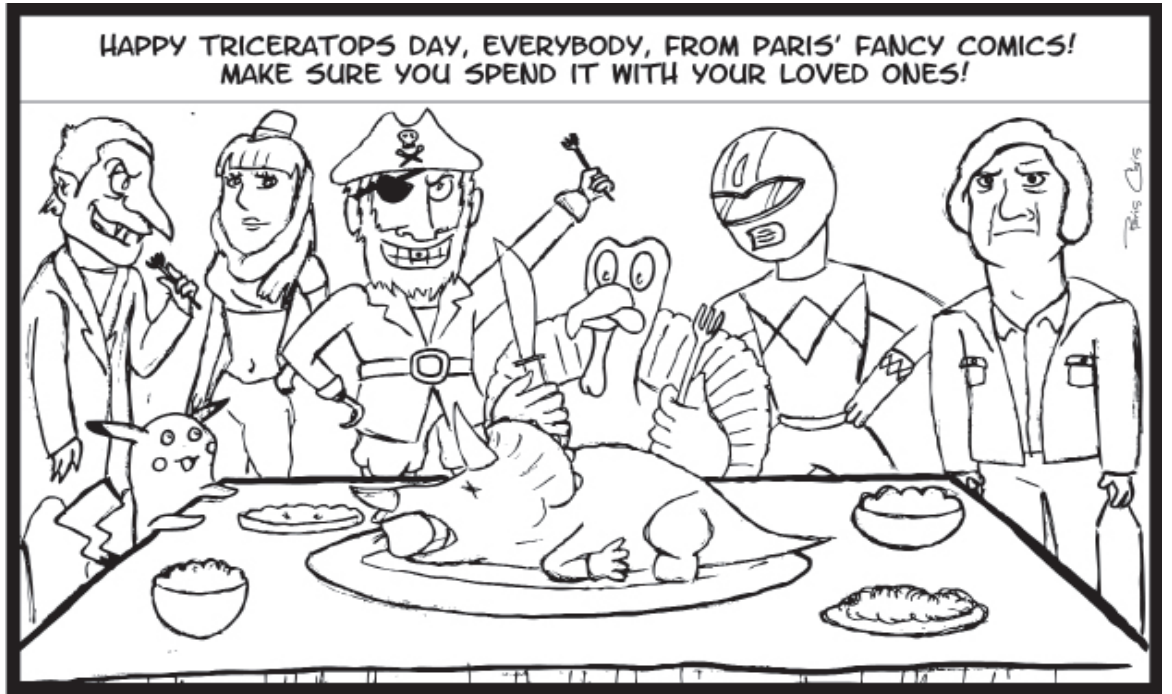
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Cartoon by Paris Chrisopoulos/The Jambar.



Put on your city

Jared Buker
COLUMNIST

By now, most of us have heard the shocking news that Youngstown is the poorest city in the entire country.

According to a study done by the Brookings Institution, nearly half of the people living in Youngstown are living in poverty.

Youngstown is a real riches-to-rags story, huh?

It gets worse. I woke up Thursday morning to the news that three people had been murdered only a few minutes from my house. Twenty-two people have been murdered in this town so far this year.

I am all about having pride in my hometown; I agree with Young Jeezy in the importance of putting on for my city. But it's getting harder and harder to see the good in Youngstown.

No matter how bad it gets, though, there always seems to be something unshakable about the citizens of Youngstown. We see our city de-evolving into a grocery list of negative statistics, but we don't let it take the wind from our sails.

Sometimes, it doesn't matter what you do or where you do it. All that matters is who you did it with, and I think that's why it is so hard to tarnish that good old

Youngstown morale. We all walk the same streets and frequent the same places, and it means something to us that we have made so much out of so little.

I mean, look at our local music scene. Look at how hard some of us try to make Federal Plaza fun on the weekends. How about the wonderful accomplishments of our beloved Youngstown State? We've even had famous Youngstownians like Kelly Pavlik and Bernie Kozar represent us on a national level, even if they later fell from grace.

Call me crazy, but I love Youngstown. I would be nothing but thrilled to raise a family here and send my kids to Youngstown State University.

For outsiders, Youngstown can be defined by its poverty and crime rate. But to those of us who grew up here, work here, go to school here, fell in love here, had a drunken heart-to-heart here and don't want to leave here, Youngstown is way more than that.

Youngstown, or anywhere for that matter, can only be defined by those who make the most of it and try to grow as a community every single day.

I think living in Youngstown is

kind of like being at a lame party with your best friends. If they're really your friends — the ones you would always pick to spend your time with — then who cares if the party is lame? When you're 100 years old, you won't remember the party, but you'll never forget your friends.

Looking for something about Youngstown to be proud of? Be proud to live in a city full of people who refuse to let the volatility of their home shake the vitality of their spirit.

Writer Nelson Algren once reminisced about Chicago, and it sounds like maybe he shared the same kind of nostalgia:

"Once you've become a part of this particular patch, you'll never love another. Like loving a woman with a broken nose, you may well find lovelier lovelies, but never a lovely so real."

I will be in graduate school in September (I hope.), and I know that my career could very well mean I end up living somewhere else. Let's face it: You have to go where the money is, and it just isn't here.

But no matter how bad the poverty rate is, when I come back to Youngstown, I'll know I'm home.

Insider trading: Just another congressional perk

McClatchy-Tribune News Service
(MCT)

On Tuesday, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt published Peter Schweizer's "Throw Them All Out." Normally, 224-page tracts by political think-tank fellows sink without a trace.

But this one got the full "60 Minutes" treatment on CBS Sunday night, as if it were some kind of celebrity or political tell-all. Which, in a way, it is.

John Boehner! Nancy Pelosi! John Kerry! Spencer Bachus and more, Republicans and Democrats alike, all with inside information about pending government actions, all of whom, Mr. Schweizer suggests, benefited from amazingly well-timed investment decisions tied to those actions.

"There are all sorts of forms of honest grafts that congressmen engage in that allow them to become very, very wealthy," Mr. Schweizer told Steve Kroft of "60 Minutes." "So it's not illegal, but I think it's highly unethical. I think it's highly offensive and wrong."

We'd have to agree with him. So many scams, so little time. It turns out that members of Congress are exempt from the kind of insider-trading rules that could send lesser mortals to prison. So are their staffs. So are lobbyists.

So it was entirely legal for congressional leaders to make personal investment decisions after attending a critical meeting in September 2008 when Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson warned them that Wall Street was about to collapse.

Mr. Boehner's financial disclosures indicate that the very next day, he cashed out of a fund designed to profit from inflation. Sen. Dick Durbin's, D-Ill., records show that he cashed out \$40,000 in mutual funds and parked the money with Warren Buffett's

Berkshire Hathaway Co. Mr. Bachus, R-Ala., now chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, went short on the American economy and cashed in.

All later said no tips were involved. Like an apocalyptic warning from the treasury secretary isn't a tip?

What's more, an entire industry, called political intelligence, has grown up around this phenomenon. Former members and former staffers prowl the halls, schmoozing with their former colleagues, picking up tidbits that they sell to corporate clients for as much as \$25,000 a month.

Alan Ziobrowski, a business professor at Georgia State University, analyzed more than 6,000 stock transactions by members of Congress going back up to 15 years. He reported in 2009, "I mean they do better down market, up market. They just outperform the average . . . We have every reason to believe they are trading on information that the rest of us don't have."

Since 2006, a bill has been kicking around that would ban members and their staffs from trading on inside knowledge. The Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge (STOCK) Act has gone nowhere, under two Republican speakers, Dennis Hastert of Illinois and Mr. Boehner, and one Democratic speaker, Mr. Pelosi, of California. All three are featured in Mr. Schweizer's book as having benefited from inside knowledge.

Not everyone is convinced the STOCK Act is a good idea. Alternatives would include full and immediate disclosure of every trade by members and their staffs, or a requirement that all investments be placed in fully blind trusts.

We suspect there's nothing nefarious involved here. Rather it's a sign of how insulated Congress is from the real world. It's like free airport parking — just a little perk that proves how special they are.

The right and left alike should be able to agree: It's time to hear the debate and call the roll.

High school students join Marching Pride for a day



Freshman Angelica Vega (left) mentors longtime friend Rhea Hems (right) as part of Senior Day, hosted by the YSU Marching Pride. Photo by Chelsea Telega/The Jambar.

Chelsea Telega
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

Campbell Memorial High School senior Rhea Hems has always battled low self-esteem. Most other students, she said, didn't understand her — until she joined band.

"I've never really been accepted by my peers, and

band was the only place I felt accepted," Hems said. "My friends and I joke and say that marching band is for misfits."

On Saturday, Hems and 25 other high school seniors participated in Senior Day, sponsored by the Youngstown State University Marching Pride.

The event allowed students to get a behind-the-scenes look at how a collegiate

band prepares for performances.

"High school is so much different," Hems said.

Hems said she was surprised that some Marching Pride members even stretch before their performances.

Hems' brother is a freshman bass drummer for the Marching Pride. She plans to follow in his footsteps by playing baritone for YSU.

Her father, two aunts and two younger siblings also participated in marching band. Her mother was in concert band.

Throughout her six years as a part of the CMHS band, Hems grew to love it.

"The first two years of marching band, I hated it because I got picked on, but, by the third year, I loved it and wanted to stick with it," Hems said. "My parents are happy that I found somewhere I'm comfortable."

Angelica Vega, a CMHS graduate, is now part of the Marching Pride, and she serves as a mentor to Hems.

Vega has marched for five years and has spent one year playing trumpet for YSU.

"I think it's a great idea for the students to experience this," Vega said. "It's awesome that they can see what our day is like so they're not scared to sign up."

Vega said she would have enjoyed the chance to work with the Marching Pride while still in high school.

"Now that I've experienced it in college, I have a lot more knowledge about it," she said. "It's different than high school. You learn more technique."

Brandt Payne, director of athletic bands, said the number of high school students who participated in the event impressed him.

He said the event is a major recruiting tool for the Marching Pride. Subsequently, he intends to continue the event in the future.

"A big part of this is that we represent the university, no matter where we are," Payne said. "Another big part of it is how we perform. The biggest part is that we are a big family. Having fun and enjoying the experience is what matters."

Vega said she feels a strong bond with her bandmates.

"We're family," she said. "We have to stick together. We have to play together. If one person falls apart, the rest of us fall apart."

Vega said it was a great feeling to be able to reassure students like Hems that collegiate marching band members are often more accepted than those in high school.

"That lifts a huge weight off of my shoulders," Hems said. "I have low self-esteem, but it gives me a sense of security that I can walk around and not be judged. I can be myself."

'A perfect outlet to let go of nerves and act a fool' Locals let loose on karaoke stages

Jenna Medina
FEATURES REPORTER

Jaye Mills plays the songs he loves and hates at the Lemon Grove Cafe every Wednesday night. Meat Loaf isn't his favorite, so that's when he typically rushes outside to smoke a cigarette.

For those who request Mills' music from a karaoke song list, the opportunity to stand on stage and sing a favorite track almost makes them feel like a professional.

It's no surprise that Lemonaoke attracts regulars.

Mills, who began his career at private parties, has expanded to bars and clubs throughout the years. He got the gig after Jacob Harver, owner of the Lemon Grove Cafe, noticed his talents.

"It has been almost a year since I started there, and every week keeps getting stronger and stronger," Mills said.

Nearly every night somewhere in the Mahoning Valley, people go out on a limb in front of strangers — singing drunk, tone-deaf or with passion, faced only with the risk of slight embarrassment.

They have one desire: enjoyment.

From the Lemon Grove Cafe, to neighboring Barley's, to Los Gallos Mexican Restaurant, the voices of professional non-professionals fill the air.

These local bars allow people to make fools of themselves by singing outrageously into a microphone while audience members tap their feet or dance ...

or laugh.

"It's a perfect outlet to let go of nerves and act a fool," said David Szakacs, a junior at Youngstown State University. "Karaoke loses its luster when it gets taken too seriously. It is nothing to be scared of."

Anne Garwig, a bartender at the Lemon Grove Cafe, said Lemonaoke is good for business.

"Wednesdays are consistently busy but not always slammed compared to shows on a Friday or Saturday," she said.

Mills said his regulars have their favorite songs to sing, such as "I'm on a Boat" by The Lonely Island, "Just a Girl" by No Doubt, "Thunder Road" by Bruce Springsteen and "I Believe In A Thing Called Love" by The Darkness.

Mills said a number of songs drive him crazy. He can't stand "Picture" by Sheryl Crow and Kid Rock.

"There are a few songs I secretly refuse to add to my list: 'Friday' by Rebecca Black or 'Teach Me How To Dougie,'" he said. "But I guess my secret is out now."

However, Mills said the songs picked during Lemonaoke have been the best variety he's ever had.

"I think it is because the crowd is so diverse," Mills said. "In one night, I will play Billy Joel, 'Phantom of the Opera,' Jay-Z and a random Disney song."

YSU junior Mike Tokarsky takes advantage of karaoke whenever he has the opportunity.

Tokarsky, who said he enjoys singing "Miami" by Will Smith or "Livin' on a Prayer" by Bon Jovi, was inspired as he

drunkenly watched people perform karaoke at the Canfield Fair one year.

"After watching their performance, I was filled with so much inspiration, or maybe it was the alcohol," he said. "Either way, I decided to give it a shot."

Standing up on stage to sing karaoke for the first time is an experience Tokarsky will never forget.

"Never sing rap songs drunk," he said. "The words will creep up on you."

Communication major Brooke Stull likes to sing Christina Aguilera or Britney Spears with friends at O'Donold's Irish Pub and Grill in Austintown.

"We usually have some cheesy little dance to go with it," Stull said.

Sophomore Joe Fry has a little bit of history with his favorite karaoke song.

"I've been singing the 'Fresh Prince of Bel-Air' song ever since I was in high school," Fry said. "It's my theme song."

What urges Szakacs to get up on stage is knowing that it's fun to let loose.

"The risk of being a complete fool isn't as much of a risk as it is a guarantee for me," he said.

Szakacs, who prefers to see a karaoke singer who makes him laugh, said he doesn't get nervous before performing.

"I could have fun murmuring words to a Nickelback song even knowing that everyone, including myself, dislikes Nickelback," he said.

Juan R. Figueroa, owner of Rumba the Show, enjoys getting involved with his entertainment business in order to help others break out of their shells and have a good time.

Rumba the Show's karaoke locations

are Los Gallos in Struthers and Boardman, as well as Potosino's Mexican Grille in New Middletown.

Before every karaoke session, Figueroa and his team start out with a few popular party songs such as "I Gotta Feeling" by The Black Eyed Peas and "Celebration" by Kool and the Gang. They also play Latino music and a Rumba the Show theme song to get people in the groove.

"I try not to play the same songs because people get bored," Figueroa said. "Sometimes I'll surprise them and make them sing all different stuff. We try to get involved with the people and dance with them."

Figueroa said common songs include "Before He Cheats" by Carrie Underwood, "Pour Some Sugar On Me" by Def Leppard and "La Bamba" by Ritchie Valens.

"Men seem to always want to sing 'Margaritaville,' and women always want to sing Bon Jovi," he said.

Figueroa said it's important to expand the Hispanic and Latino culture through singing and dancing.

"We started it [Rumba the Show] because there was nothing around here that was Latin for the people to make them dance, make them sing, things like that," he said.



Long lines can lead to Black Friday deals

Jessica Johnson
REPORTER

The day after Thanksgiving is now regarded as the official start of the holiday season — and holiday shopping.

Time magazine reported that the term "Black Friday" was first used in reference to Sept. 24, 1864, when a financial panic began due to the plunging price of gold.

Black Friday was redefined when Philadelphia newspapers copied the term to describe the intensity and large size of shopping crowds in the 1960s.

By the 1990s, Time reported, Black Friday was no longer a term but instead an unofficial holiday in the retail world.

By 2002, it became the holiday season's biggest shopping day.

Black Friday continues to take the retail world by storm. Several shopping centers and department stores have joined forces with crowds to increase profits.

Retail establishments up store hours and offer one-day promotions and sales to keep the crowds coming back for more.

In certain instances, Black Friday can turn deadly. In 2008, holiday shopping resulted in a death by trampling in a New York Walmart and the shooting of two

California Toys R Us shoppers over a toy dispute.

Ranker.com, a website that boasts "the best lists about everything," counts these among the 13 most brutal Black Friday injuries, incidents and deaths. The list also includes a miscarried pregnancy and the paralysis of an older woman.

The Youngstown area has not yet made headlines for any instances of competitive shopping violence.

However, Black Friday still means the same to some Youngstown State University students as it does to the rest of the country.

Sophomore Courtney Hughes said she has been participating in the crazy shopping experience since she was 16 years old.

This year is no exception.

"I get all of my shopping done that night," said Hughes, who is hoping to purchase a new iPod touch this year.

Hughes has been fortunate enough to never have any major horror stories.

"The only issue I've had is the item I'm shopping for not being in the right spot," she said.

Junior Addonnis Harden has gone shopping on Black Friday for more than a dozen years. This year, she'll be on the hunt for a boxing bag for her husband and two sons.

"I've never been looking for one specific thing, so I don't have any crazy stories," she said. "I just go shop and watch the other people and have fun. Park-

ing is the worst thing about it. I can deal with the rest."

Harden isn't the only one who dislikes the traffic. Senior Ashley Zehentbauer said the only bad part is the crazy drivers.

"I have not gone really early before," she said. "I'm trying to stay out of the madness until I have children."

Senior Kyle Reinke went shopping last year on Black Friday for the sole reason of being entertained by the wild crowds.

"The way people act on Black Friday is ridiculous," Reinke said.

Reinke accompanied his friend who was shopping for video games. When the two decided that the long lines were too much to bear, Reinke suggested hiding the games in the store and coming back for them the next day.

"Some old, overweight, grumpy woman said there was no way you can hide them and that people will find them, so I just wanted to prove her wrong," he said.

Reinke and his friend returned the next day to find the games in the same spot.

"So I guess there is a way to beat the lines at Walmart," Reinke said.

Stores like Best Buy, Target and Walmart are among the most bombarded on Black Friday. These stores would not disclose any Black Friday information.

UC president vows to review police procedures at campuses

Los Angeles Times (MCT)

LOS ANGELES Two University of California, Davis campus police officers have been placed on paid administrative leave over their controversial use of pepper spray on student protesters, university officials announced Sunday as the UC system president said he was "appalled" by the incident and promised a review of police procedures at all 10 UC campuses.

Mark G. Yudof, the UC system president, said he would be talking to the 10 campus chancellors, as well as experts and other campus groups "to conduct a thorough, far-reaching and urgent assessment of campus police procedures involving use of force, including post-incident review processes."

"Free speech is part of the

DNA of this university, and non-violent protest has long been central to our history," Yudof said. "It is a value we must protect with vigilance. I implore students who wish to demonstrate to do so in a peaceful and lawful fashion. I expect campus authorities to honor that right."

Yudof said he was prompted to seek the review by the UC Davis incident as well as by how campus police at UC Berkeley used their batons on protesters at a recent demonstration there.

A video that showed an officer spraying a group of UC Davis students who were huddled on the ground Friday quickly went viral on the Internet, drawing outrage and calls for the chancellor's resignation.

UC Davis spokeswoman Claudia Morain said the two officers placed on leave were the only officers they were able

to identify as having deployed pepper spray.

The officers, whose names were not released, will remain on paid leave indefinitely.

UC Davis Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi initially did not criticize police, but on Saturday said she would convene a task force to look into the incident. On Sunday, she said the faculty, students and staff who will serve on the task force will be chosen immediately and that they will have 30 days to complete their report.

"I spoke with students this weekend, and I feel their outrage," Katehi said in a statement. "I am deeply saddened that this happened on our campus, and as chancellor, I take full responsibility for the incident. However, I pledge to take the actions needed to ensure that this does not happen again."

Police said officers were

trying to get out of the protest area when they used the pepper spray.

UC Davis Police Chief Annette Spicuzza told reporters Saturday that the decision to use the pepper spray was made at the scene. "The students had encircled the officers," she said. "They needed to exit. They were looking to leave but were unable to get out."

But the school said in a statement, "Videos taken during Friday's arrests showed that the

two officers used pepper spray on peacefully seated students."

The incident occurred as police were attempting to clear an overnight encampment of 25 tents associated with the Occupy Wall Street movement. Ten protesters were arrested on misdemeanor charges of unlawful assembly and failure to disperse. Eleven were treated for the effects of pepper spray, including two who were taken to an area hospital. The students were treated and released.



The NEWS Outlet

The NewsOutlet - www.thenewsoutlet.org

- The NewsOutlet, YSU's nationally recognized media cooperative, is now accepting applications for Spring 2012 paid internships.
- Interns will report and produce stories in all media platforms for professional news organizations.
- Candidates should have completed News Reporting and have a strong interest in telling compelling stories.
- Please send a letter of interest, a resume and writing and reporting examples to Mary Sweetwood at mdsweetwood@ysu.edu.
- Deadline for applications: Dec. 15.

The News Outlet, a partnership between Youngstown State University, WYSU-FM, The Vindicator, Kent State University, The Akron Beacon Journal, The University of Akron and Rubber City Radio (Akron), links student reporters with media professionals and journalism faculty to provide critical information to Ohio citizens through investigative and enterprise journalism.

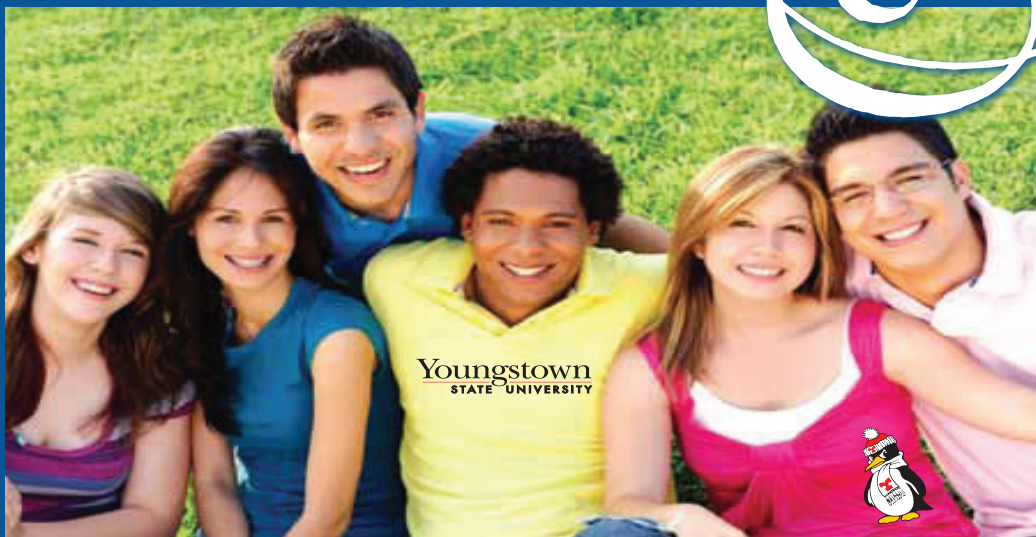
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ATM now located in the lobby of Beeghly Center

This offer is available to the next 100 Youngstown State University Students to present this certificate and valid student ID when opening a new CareFree Checking account with debit card attached to the checking account. Students will receive a 2 GB USB flash drive lanyard upon account opening. The \$100 cash bonus will be paid after the account has been opened for 30 days. Accounts overdrawn or closed within 30 days of opening are not eligible for cash offer. Offer not available to individuals who have opened a Farmers checking account in the last 12 months. Student purchases checks after mini check pack. Limit one checking account-related reward/premium per customer, per calendar year. Offer is subject to cancellation without notice, cannot be combined with any other offer and expires December 31, 2011. A U.S. mailing address is required. The \$100 deposit and value of the flash drive/lanyard will be reported on form 1099-INT. Bank terms and conditions apply - see Deposit Account Disclosure at account opening.



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Jones strives for respect

Nick Mancini
SPORTS REPORTER

After spending two collegiate seasons away from home, Youngstown State University senior guard Tieara Jones was ready to return.

"Just the team, the camaraderie, the chemistry brought me back here," Jones said. "Of course, with my family still here too was a big factor. It's nice to come back to your hometown."

Jones attended Foothill College and the University at Buffalo before coming to YSU. As a sophomore at Foothill, Jones helped the team advance to the Elite Eight of the California Community College Athletic Association's state championships.



JONES

Jones attended Rayen High School, where she was a four-year letter winner. She averaged 17 points and 11 rebounds as a senior and was named to the Mahoning Valley All-Star Team.

She also played volleyball at Rayen and earned a letter during recruiting. However, Jones said the sport wasn't anything special to her.

"I never really spent much time focusing on it," she said. "Basketball was always my number one passion."

After just one full season

for the Penguins, Jones is considered a team leader.

"She talks a lot to us, kind of gets us going and into the rhythm," said senior guard Kenya Middlebrooks.

Jones averaged 7.7 points and six rebounds per game last season while starting in 27 of the Penguins' 29 games.

She said last season could have gone better.

"We weren't where we wanted to be at the end of the season, so we grinded all summer long to get where we wanted to be, and I think we are in a pretty good spot right now," Jones said. "Everyone is focused, and we are just ready to win games."

Head women's basketball coach Bob Boldon said Jones was a big part of the team last season, both offensively and

defensively.

"We are really excited about where we are going to be this year," Boldon said.

Boldon added that he expects much of the same from Jones this season.

"She is a kid that can provide a lot of energy and guard multiple positions," Boldon said. "She makes a lot of plays defensively, probably our best defensive player. She is able to take some of the pressure off our point guards offensively. Her versatility is a big help for us."

In the offseason, Jones worked on many things to improve her game, but she chose to pay more attention to defense.

"I wanted to focus on taking more charges," Jones said. "I also want to stay out of foul

trouble. I think in the first few games this season I have done a pretty good job in both of those categories."

Boldon said Jones had a productive summer.

"I think she's been in the best shape I have seen her in since she has been here," Boldon said. "She has put on some muscle, and she is getting to a lot of basketballs and causing a lot of problems defensively."

Jones said the team wants to make some noise this season.

"We just want to win games at this point," Jones said, reflecting on the team's 6-24 finish last year. "We are trying to make a run in the tournament. We obviously are trying to grind and get that number one spot in the conference. That's our biggest goal: trying to make people respect us."

Team celebrates Thanksgiving in the Coaches Court

Candace Mauzy
REPORTER

Jerry Slocum, head men's basketball coach at Youngstown State University, will be catering to his players that cannot make it home for the holiday with his annual team Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday.

Each year, Slocum and his wife invite the team to their home for a Thanksgiving dinner that includes two turkeys, several pies and the traditional sides.

"Historically, Thanksgiving has been kind of an unique situation for us," Slocum said. "The last three or four years, she has found out everyone's favorite pie and made everyone a pie."

But this year there is a twist.

Because of a busy schedule this week, the Penguins will flock to the Coaches Court in Beeghly Center.

The Penguins travel to Pennsylvania State University on Wednesday and won't be back until late that night. Another road trip to Saint Francis University in Loretto, Pa., is required for Saturday's game. This means that the team will be practicing on Thanksgiving Day.

"After practice, we are going to have all the basketball players, all of our families, wife and kids will be there," Slocum said.

Sophomore Josh Chojnacki, from Erie, Pa., will spend his Thanksgiving with the team for the first time.

"We don't have to bring anything because the coach is having it all catered, which is really nice," Chojnacki said. "I was supposed to go home, but I am staying here now because of the dinner."

Freshman Fletcher Larson, a New York native, will eat dinner with the team and then spend time with his family who is coming to visit him in Youngstown.

Assistant coach Byron Thorne said he usually visits his in-laws in Erie.

"Because of the schedule and practice, we thought [it would be] a good thing to do it on campus this year," he said.

Thorne will be attending the dinner with his wife and their son.

The dinner will begin around 5 p.m., and there will be enough turkey and stuffing for everyone — plus leftovers for the team.

"For us, it is a special time of year because during Thanksgiving, you are usually with your family, but we just think it's important that the guys are together," Thorne said. "Since they can't go home, we're their family."

Penguins take undefeated record to PSU

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Junior Tim Frazier has collected 100 points, 27 rebounds and 33 assists through the first five games for Pennsylvania State University (4-1).

Jerry Slocum, head men's basketball coach at Youngstown State University, said Frazier is the quickest guard the Penguins will face all year.

"You have to control the star," Slocum said. "He's a really good player, but they've got some kids that can complement and shoot the basketball. We've got to make sure that we are up for the task physically in terms of being able to execute offensively."

The Penguins (3-0) travel to face the Nittany Lions on Wednesday. Slocum said the team must be physically and mentally prepared.

"They're kind of a group that plays half-court defense physically," Slocum said. "We have a huge challenge ahead of us."

Junior forward Damian Eargle said the game's outcome depends on the Penguins' defense.

"They have a very good guard that likes to push it," Eargle said. "I think that if we get back on defense to stop that guy, we'll be fine. They're still a young team too, so I think we can rattle them."

Eargle finished Friday's overtime win against the University of California, Riverside, with 11 points, 11 rebounds and eight blocks. He finished two blocks away from becoming the first



Junior forward Damian Eargle attempts to block a University of California, Riverside, player during Friday night's game at Beeghly Center. Eargle was two blocks short of recording YSU's first triple-double. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

Penguin to record a triple-double.

Eargle is averaging 13.3 points, nine rebounds and five blocks per game through the first three this season.

The Penguins go against Penn State as the underdog, but Eargle said it's a good feeling.

"I don't know who, at our level, would not want to play like that," Eargle said.

"It just excites us more to play this game. I'm sure everybody is excited about it in the locker room too. Our energy is going to be there."

The Penguins are off to their first 3-0 start since the 2001-2002 season. Along with their win over UCR, they played a close contest against Samford University.

"I think we've got kids that are better basketball

players, that are really committed, and the time they've put in is showing the benefit," Slocum said. "That's what you hope for when you get into close games like that."

After Wednesday's game, the Penguins will return home for Thanksgiving. YSU will be back on the road on Saturday against Saint Francis University.

Hess, Ward named Jambar Players of the Week

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Two Youngstown State University student-athletes earn Jambar Player of the Week honors this week.

Senior guard Ashen Ward helped the Penguins win two home games on Tuesday and Friday with a combined 32 points, eight rebounds, five assists and seven 3-point field goals.

He recently surpassed 100 career 3-point field goals and is two away from becoming 10th on the all-time YSU list.

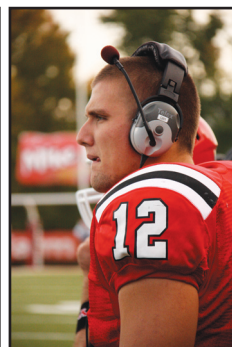
"I wish that he had four years left," head men's basketball coach Jerry Slocum said. "He's really having a leadership year for us. He has everybody's ear, cares and has given a great investment to this year, and [he] is playing tremendously."

Ward said he's been practicing and focusing more on his defensive and driving ability in addition to his shooting.

"Being able to shoot makes me a threat, but to be able to put the ball on the floor, it makes not only me but my team



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[better]," Ward said.

Ward, a Cleveland native, attended Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School. He was named a third-team Division III All-Ohio selection and a McDonald's All-American as a senior. As a junior, he was named the Division III Ohio Player of the Year and a first-team All-Ohio selection.

Ward started all but one game last year and led the team with 50 3-point field goals, the first Penguin to do so since Quin Humphrey in the 2006-2007 season. He is tied for eighth in the Horizon

League with an average of 1.7 3-point field goals made per game.

While Ward earns his first Jambar Player of the Week award this season, sophomore quarterback Kurt Hess wins his third.

Hess threw for 298 yards and a school-record five touchdowns. He also committed no turnovers against Missouri State University on Saturday.

Despite a record-setting performance, the Penguins fell to the Bears, 38-34, within the last 10 seconds.

The Penguins finish the season 6-5 and were one win away from the playoffs. Hess said it was not a successful season.

"I'm sure he [head coach Eric Wolford] tells you all the time the standard is championship and making the playoffs and winning our conference," Hess said. "We didn't achieve our goals this year. I'm disappointed, but I'll learn from it."

Hess finishes the year with 186 completions, 2,460 yards, a school-record 26 touchdowns and eight interceptions. Hess also rushed for 165 yards and three touchdowns.