

The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

NEWS 2
FEATURES 6
SPORTS 8
ONLINE

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Attorney Thomas Zena, left, addresses the court regarding the recently released ballistics report, as Jamelle Jackson and attorney Doug Taylor listen. Proceedings were continued today by Judge John M. Durkin after a request by attorney Louis DeFabio. Photo by Chris Cotelesse/The Jambar.

Ballistics report delays murder trial

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

Proceedings in the Jamail Johnson murder trial have been postponed after legal counsel for accused murderer Columbus Jones Jr. requested a continuance on Monday.

Attorney Louis DeFabio, Columbus Jones' attorney, asked Judge John M. Durkin of the Mahoning County Common Pleas Court to allot more time for preparation after a ballistics report from the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation's Firearms and Toolmarks Unit was made available.

The Youngstown Police Department requested an analysis of the crime scene to further evaluate the casings and shells found in the Indiana Avenue house.

The Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office made the report available to defense counsel on

Jan. 12, and DeFabio formally made his request on Thursday.

On Friday, Durkin granted DeFabio's request for an independent laboratory to examine the evidence from the report. Another pretrial will be held Feb. 16.

"Attorney DeFabio is going to notify the court how much additional time he is going to need in order to effectively and adequately defend Columbus Jones [at that hearing]," Durkin said.

DeFabio and his client were not present in court Monday. The other four defendants in the case, along with their counsel, were present, however.

Mark Jones, Columbus Jones' younger brother, is also charged with murder, but is indicated as a complicitor.

Thomas Zena, Mark Jones' attorney, said he felt the report further indicates his client as a second shooter. Jennifer McLaughlin, an assistant county prosecutor, nodded her head, symbolizing the

state's stance.

"Given that situation, obviously that directly impacts the defense," Zena said.

Zena said he also needs additional time to prepare, as the report could have influence over the role of Mark Jones as a shooter.

Attorneys Jeffrey Limbian, who is representing Brandon Carter, and James Melone, legal counsel for Demetrius Wright, waived their respective clients' rights to a speedy trial.

Zena and attorney Doug Taylor, Jamelle Jackson's representation, filed limited time waivers through Feb. 10.

"Based upon this evidence and your statements in court, this matter is going to be continued beyond the limited time waiver," Durkin said.

Zena and Taylor said their clients understood the latest delay and enter into a scheduling situation with the court, which they

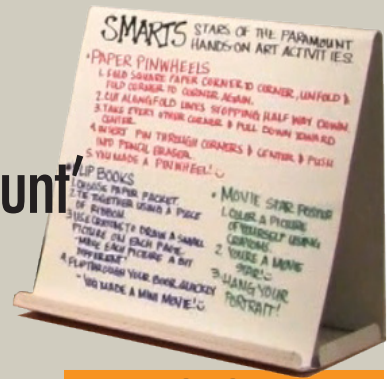
TRIAL PAGE 4



'Jack up the Rev': Jambar sports recap

VIDEO ONLINE

A 'Paramount' success



VIDEO ONLINE

Ashen Ward wants wins



VIDEO ONLINE

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Kilcawley plays host to 16th Financial Aid Awareness Week

Dustin Livesay
NEWS REPORTER

Freshman Jason Pinkard, an information technology major, receives financial aid, but is unaware of the various scholarships available.

"I see an academic adviser, but I have not seen a financial aid counselor about all my options," Pinkard said. "I don't think students are aware of the different options available."

This is the case for many Youngstown State University students, which is why the YSU Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships hosts an annual Financial Aid Awareness Week in Kilcawley Center. This week marks its 16th year.

Pinkard said he plans to visit the table this week to find scholarships.

"We are here to answer questions students may have when looking for aid," said financial aid counselor Jennifer Tomerlin. "Brochures are available telling students how to apply for scholarships that apply to each of the various majors."

According to a report in The Economist, the government has changed regulations on federal financial aid to help borrowers who are struggling to pay back loans.

Former President Lyndon Johnson originally set up financial aid in 1965, but regu-

AWARENESS PAGE 4

Gates to be installed in Wick Park

Kevin Alquist
NEWS REPORTER

Youngstown's Park and Recreation Commission and the Wick Park Neighborhood Association are working together to install gates at the entryways to Wick Park.

The purpose of the gates will be to block vehicular traffic at night.

Gary Davenport, president of the WPNA, said he feels that the gates will help secure the park from illicit and potentially dangerous traffic.

Sharon Letson, executive director of Youngstown CityScape, said the gates will not close off the park during the day and will not be an eyesore for parkgoers.

"Aesthetically, the gates

will be very nice," she said. "We wanted something more than pole gates that can serve a purpose as well as beautify the park."

Letson described the drawings that were submitted by the WPNA as stone pillars with swing gates attached, similar to gates at Mill Creek Park.

The plans were submitted to the Park and Recreation Commission on Jan. 13. Anthony Spano, of Youngstown State University's parking services, said the commission will meet again on Thursday to further examine the plans.

The Park and Recreation Commission previously expressed concern that the gates would create problems for police, fire and ambulance ve-

BARRICADES PAGE 4

SAP guidelines spark academic plans, affect federal aid distribution

Marissa McIntyre
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships at Youngstown State University denied federal aid to 471 students for spring semester, a sharp increase from the 150 denied for fall semester.

Federal financial aid programs tightened the guidelines in the summer, forcing students who fail to meet academic requirements to be placed on "financial aid probation."

Essentially, the regulation change removed financial aid from students who are out of Satisfactory Academic Performance compliance, which YSU uses to measure a student's success toward gaining a degree and meeting certain GPA requirements.

Jack Fahey, vice president for student affairs and ombudsperson, said that when the guidelines came out, he was concerned for the student population receiving federal aid.

But from that fear came "good news."

"It required us to sit down with each of those students," Fahey said.

Students receiving federal aid must meet SAP standards, which include GPA, maximum hours attempted and completion rate.

Under the revamped SAP, students with 32 hours or more must maintain at least a 2.0 GPA. Freshmen must hold at least a 1.75 GPA and complete 55 percent of their attempted hours. For each rank, the completion percentage increases 5 percent, topping out with seniors who must complete 70 percent of registered classes. Graduate students must complete half of their attempted hours and maintain a 3.0 GPA.

The major change from last year is the immediate removal of financial aid once a student violates SAP. Students who fail to meet GPA requirements are put on an academic plan with the Center for Student Progress.

Students can apply for financial aid after they regain compliance.

For others, particularly those who have completion percentage issues or who have attempted more than 150 percent of the hours necessary to graduate, regaining compliance could be more difficult.

A student's completion rate is cumulative. A poor completion rate from a history of dropping classes can be difficult to offset by the student's third or fourth year.

James Stanger, associate director for technology and support services in the financial aid and scholarships office at YSU, said the gap between the fall and spring semesters was predicted since the new system was implemented in the summer. In the fall, the office denied fi-

SAP PAGE 7

Campus Connection

Do you receive financial aid



"Yes, I'm not sure exactly, but FAFSA took care of it for me. I receive the Red [and] White Scholarship, too, because of my 3.5 GPA in high school."
- Jesse Huber, freshman



"Yes, I get a grant and a subsidized loan from the government that helps me pay for school."
- Alisha Davis, freshman

His mission: Give young men vision

Detroit Free Press (MCT)

DETROIT — Edmund Lewis never gave any thought to going to college.

Growing up, his grades were mediocre. Mostly, he hung out with friends, acting as if he didn't care about anything. He ran track for his high school team in rural North Carolina.

That's what young black boys did, he thought, never having had a father figure to talk with about what he could — and should — aspire to do.

Then one day during his senior year, a man who volunteered at his school stopped him and asked about his plans after high school.

"I don't know, and I don't care," was Lewis' response.

But he did care, and the man, Gregory Lee, knew it.

Lee told Lewis that he ought to go to college. And Lee went further: He helped Lewis fill out applications and apply for scholarships and paid the application fees.

"He basically took away every reason I had for saying no," Lewis said.

Four years later, Lewis graduated with honors from North Carolina Central University. In 2009, he received a master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan.

Since then, Lewis moved to Detroit and vowed to pay Lee back by giving back — following in the footsteps of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

He works as a community support specialist, coordinating services and programs through the Brightmoor Alliance, on Detroit's west side.

Since last year, he has spent hours volunteering at Community High School.

He recently formalized his volunteer efforts by creating a nonprofit called Minority Males for Higher Education. The intent of the initiative is to ensure that young black men have all the resources they need to get into college and be successful once there.

"There were so many things I didn't know, that can make you uncomfort-

able in a professional setting," Lewis said.

The group will teach young men such things as dressing for success and dining etiquette. In addition to visiting college campuses, the young men will attend plays and other programs to broaden their experiences.

The need is great. In Detroit, only 7 percent of black men ages 25 and older have a bachelor's degree or higher, according to 2010 U.S. Census data. But Lewis didn't need statistics to know the need.

"When I got to college, I realized I was one of a very select group of black males to go," he said.

Being there made him hunger for a better life.

"You can't envision anything else if you don't see anything else," Lewis said.

During college, he went on a civil rights tour that took him to the Edmund Pettis Bridge, the site of the attack on people marching peacefully for civil rights from Selma, Ala., to Montgomery, Ala. One of the marches was led by King.

Lewis began to see getting an education not as a personal feat but as a community necessity — a way to not only say thank you to Lee, but to men and women before him who had sacrificed to create opportunities for him and others.

During his college years, he began volunteering and joining and becoming a leader in such organizations as 100 Black Men and Omega Psi Phi



Edmund Lewis, 25, from right, talks with Jermaine Robinson and Kyle Baker Jr. 17, at Detroit Community High School in Detroit, Michigan, January 11, 2012. Lewis encourages young African American men to pursue a college education. He does so working primarily out of Community High School where he both volunteers and works as an outreach worker for The Brightmoor Alliance. Photo courtesy of MCT.

fraternity.

His grades and community service work earned him a full-tuition scholarship to the University of Michigan and led to a fellowship from the Max M. & Marjorie S. Fisher Foundation. The fellowship included an internship that introduced him to Brightmoor neighborhood in Detroit and Community High School.

He also volunteers at the school.

"He's up here so much, it's almost like he's on staff," said principal Aaron Williams. "He mentors our young people, helps them with college applications. He has even attended our parent-teacher conferences. He has a tremendous heart for young people. He and I share the same passion for helping young men, in particular. We know that keeping them on track in terms of getting an education can take them away from a life of crime. There's an unspoken culture that says all we do is rob, steal and kill. We know that's not

true."

The youngsters he works with expressed appreciation during a meeting at which he measured them for dress shirts and gave away coats and ties donated by members of his fraternity.

Aaaqi Peterson, 18, a senior, plans to go to North Carolina Central, just as Lewis did.

"His whole speech moves me to try harder and go farther," said Peterson, who wants to study business and music.

Emmanuel Whitley, 16, a junior, said Lewis built up his self-confidence.

"I didn't believe in myself," Whitley said. "Now I work harder in school, and I want to be a computer engineer."

Khari Greene, 17, also a senior, said the men can relate to Lewis because his background is similar to theirs. "It's just good for a man who doesn't even know us to start talking to us and saying he'll help us get to where we want to be."

Young activists go online to promote Middle East peace

McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

Jewish and Arab activists Monday held the first day of a two-day virtual peace conference to promote peace between Israelis and Palestinians. The event is hosted by YaLa-Young Leaders, an online group of around 40,000 that uses social media technology to promote peace and development in the region.

A Palestinian organizing volunteer, Mohammad AlQadi, speaking in an online chat session with a reporter, said of the group, "We believe in peace and being together. We believe in a two-state solution" — meaning an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel — "and respect to all. We are human."

YaLa volunteer Tom Dolev of Tel Aviv said in an online chat with a reporter that he hopes the conference creates

"fruitful connections between members, increases member base and ... implements projects for the economic well-being of the young generation of the region."

He added that what YaLa calls the Peace and Economic Cooperation Conference will be a chance "to forward our agenda for the future to world leaders."

Young Israelis and Palestinians created YaLa last year as a Facebook group. They use this and other social network sites to message one another and share ideas, photos and videos in the hopes of building a greater understanding between the groups.

In just eight months, the YaLa group has grown to more than 40,000 members, mainly from the Middle East.

Dolev said the group had participated informally in research and development with Microsoft to create a game that allowed players to coop-

eratively "build the Middle East" and had held a photography contest, but that the virtual peace conference was its first official action.

Leaders such as Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli President Shimon Peres taped speeches for the conference.

Clinton praised the eight-month-old YaLa group and evoked the wider Arab Spring movement, saying in the video, "Armed with conviction and aided by technology, you pushed forward the political, economic and social changes that are now pulsing across the region."

Peres hoped that the social technology YaLa employed could re-energize peace negotiations. "You live in a new age, where you can communicate freely, without censorship, without prejudices, without hatred, over all borders, all distances and all subjects. We don't have to repeat the past," he said in his videotaped speech.

Zvika Krieger, the senior vice president of the S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace in Washington, could not speak specifically about the conference but praised grass-roots efforts to find solutions in the Middle East.

Hold the SOPA

Marissa McIntyre ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Due to overwhelming protests, the Stop Online Piracy Act has been suspended.

"I have heard from the critics, and I take seriously their concerns regarding proposed legislation to address the problem of online piracy," said House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-Texas), one of those who originally proposed SOPA, in a press release.

The press release stated that the House Judiciary Committee will postpone consideration of the legislation until there is more agreement.

At Youngstown State University, many students disapprove of the act.

Junior Aaron Mrvelj said he was pleased with the decision to shelve the legislation but would like to see the bill stricken completely.

"I just don't think it's a very good bill for the government to consider," Mrvelj said.

He added that SOPA could go one of two ways: either it's postponed and the public begins to forget about it, or the government declines the bill.

Graphic design major Paya Marshall said she agrees that

the bill shouldn't go through.

"As a graphic designer, our work is out there all the time, and when other people take it, it's not as offensive as you think it is," Marshall said.

U.S. Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) pulled his support of PIPA in a statement posted on his Facebook on Wednesday. Since then, several others have followed.

"Based on the input so many of you have provided, I am removing my name from SOPA," U.S. Rep. John Carter (R-Texas) said Thursday morning on Facebook.

Senior Corey Herron said he believes the bill's wording could be the reason for the uproar and the postponement.

"It's pretty vague on the sites that they could block," Herron said.

"The committee will continue work with copyright owners, Internet companies, financial institutions to develop proposals that combat online piracy and protect America's intellectual property," Smith said in a press release. "We welcome input from all organizations and individuals who have an honest difference of opinion about how best to address this widespread problem."

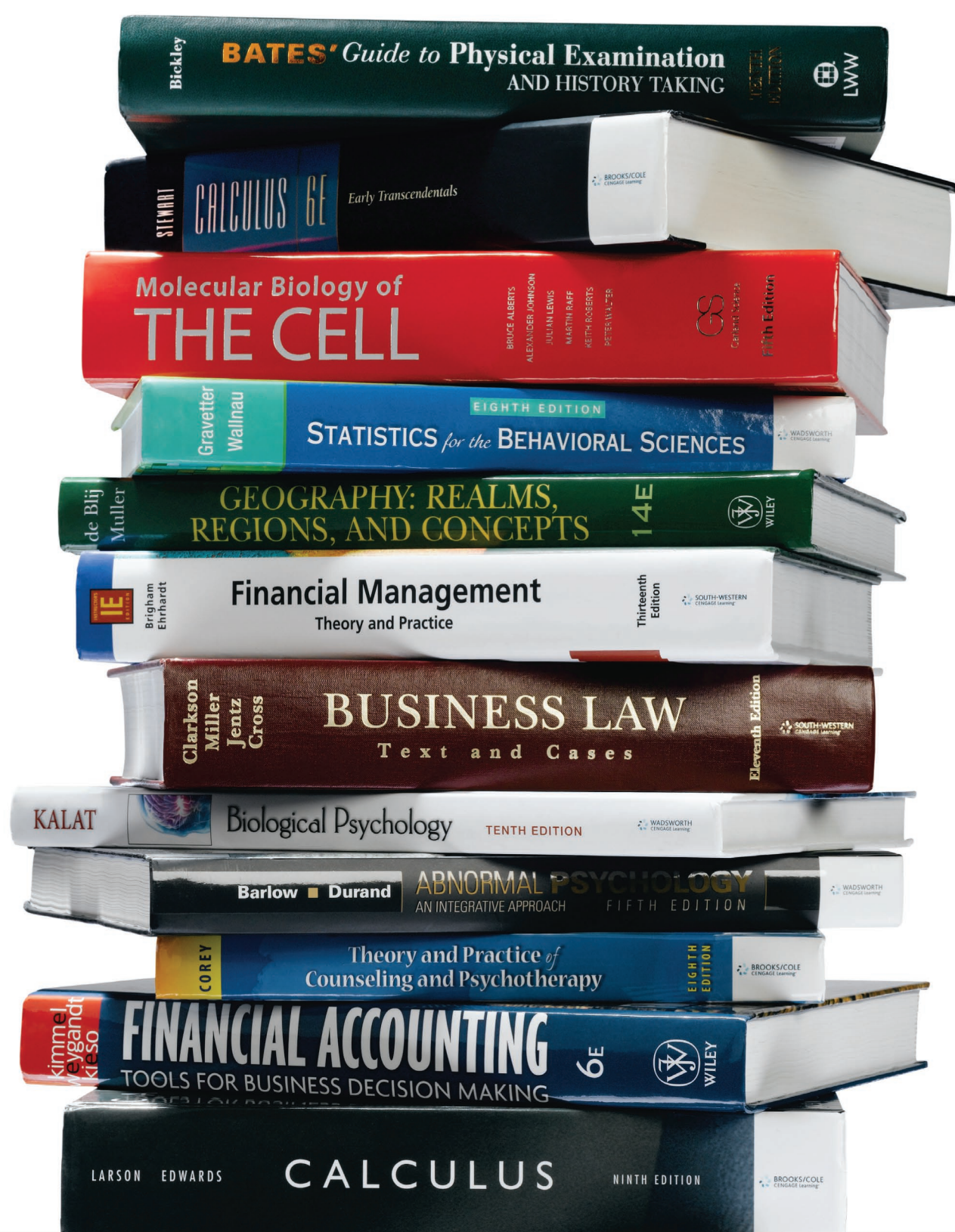
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NEWS BRIEFS

Blackbox Productions presents 'Riff Raff'

University Theater's Blackbox Productions will perform Laurence Fishburne's drama "RIFF RAFF" Thursday through Sunday in Bliss Hall's Spotlight Arena Theater. Performances start at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with a matinee performance on Sunday at 3 p.m. The production is intended for mature audiences, and children will not be admitted. Tickets are available by calling the University Theater Box Office at 330-941-3105. Admission for the general public is \$5, with \$3 discount tickets available for students, senior citizens and Penguin Club members.

Convicted felon speaks on campus

The Williamson College of Business Administration has planned a lecture from Sam Antar, a convicted felon who was a former certified public accountant and the former chief financial officer of Crazy Eddie. Antar will present "Lessons about White-Collar Crime from a Master Criminal" at 7:30 a.m. on Feb. 3 in Rooms 3422 and 3423 of Williamson Hall. The presentation is free and open to the public. To make reservations, visit <http://www.yzu.edu/wcba> and use the Williamson Symposium link. Alternatively, call Christine Shelton at 330-941-3068. Antar will speak again at 12:30 p.m. as part of an Ethics Conference presented by the WCBA. This presentation is open only to YSU students.

Expert on Holocaust to visit YSU

The anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp, is Friday and will be honored with a presentation — "International Holocaust Remembrance Day: The Purpose and Politics of Memory" — by Monika Flaschka, a visiting assistant professor at the College of Wooster. The presentation, held in the Gallery of Kilcawley Center, is free and open to the public. For more information about the presentation, contact the YSU Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies at 330-941-1604 or at judaic@ysu.edu.

POLICE BRIEFS

Book bag stolen from bookstore

On Thursday, a man told the police officer on duty at the YSU Bookstore that his blue book bag was stolen from a cubicle during the 10 minutes he was in the bookstore. The book bag contained two textbooks and a calculator. YSU Police notified Campus Book & Supply to look out for the stolen books in case someone attempts to sell them back.

Woman slips on ice

On Thursday, a woman at the Student Health Clinic told YSU Police that she slipped and fell on ice as she was walking through the inner core of campus. The woman told YSU Police that she injured her left knee and ankle. She was later transported to an emergency room.

Car keyed in M-2 deck

On Jan. 17, a woman told YSU Police that her car had been keyed while parked in the M-2 parking deck, resulting in a 4-inch scrape on the vehicle. The woman said the two suspects antagonized her in class earlier that day. The victim's mother, who owns the car, called the mother of one of the suspects, which resulted in a verbal argument. Later that day, the suspect's mother filed telecommunications harassment against the victim and her mother.



TRIAL PAGE 1

would agree to, despite its appearance as a violation of the waiver.

Near the end of the hearing, Limbian expressed frustration with the bill of particulars for Carter, which he received just before the hearing.

"It doesn't particularize anything; it simply restates the alleged offense," Limbian said. "We're still left in the dark trying to defend something that we don't know is a problem."

Durkin said he would accept another, more specific request from Limbian.

"I know we're not really the main focus of this whole matter, but at some point it's going to become necessary to understand exactly what we're defending against," Limbian added.

The state will continue, as planned, with trying Columbus Jones first. However, as the case proceeds, the order in which the other four cases are heard will vary given the court's findings.

A final pretrial will be held Feb. 16 in Durkin's court.

AWARENESS PAGE 1

lations have been adjusted over the past several years to better serve students.

For instance, federal aid will no longer cover classes taken a third time.

Gina McHenry, associate director in the financial aid and scholarships office, said she feels that the federal government's new regulations are necessary.

"The federal government has taken a firmer stance while holding students to a higher standard in education," McHenry said. "It's encouraging students to do better and not drop classes that they have already signed up for."

McHenry added that she hopes the awareness will help students understand that there are a lot of ways to pay for their education without draining their wallets.

The priority deadline for students to apply for federal aid is Feb. 15, and many students receiving scholarships may need to reapply each year.

"Students need to know whether their scholarships are automatically renewable or not," McHenry said. "Students aren't always aware that they need to reapply for their aid."

Students may also apply for grants that are available through the federal government. The most popular grant is the federal Pell Grant, which is available to undergraduate students. This grant is capped at \$5,500 for the 2011-2012 school year.

Loans are also available for students who do not receive enough money through grants to pay for schooling. The loans come in the form of subsidized and unsubsidized. These loans do gain interest, though.

Financial Aid Awareness Week is set up so that students have a better understanding of the aid that is available. But the information given out is not exclusive to YSU.

"We are also going into the high schools so they can get an early start on looking for aid," McHenry said. "All the information we give out can be applied to any school that they choose to go to, not just YSU."



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BARRICADES PAGE 1

hicles in the case of an emergency.

Davenport said that, depending on what the final gates look like, emergency responders will have a key or key code.

"The gates really won't present a problem for emergency vehicles," Davenport said.

The installation of the gates is part of the WPNA's plan to improve the park using a \$100,000 grant from the Youngstown Foundation.

Ryan Longbrake, 31, who regularly jogs around Wick Park, said he likes the idea of blocking traffic at night.

"You'll see cars parked with their lights off at night," Longbrake said. "I'm sure everyone who drives through there at night isn't doing any harm, but when you don't know, it can be intimidating and scary."

Jon Corder, of Ohio Avenue, which is adjacent to Wick Park, said he is happy to see a step in the right di-

rection for his neighborhood.

"The gates will make it easier for police to patrol what goes on in the park at night if cars can't enter the park," he said.

Youngstown Police Chief Rod Foley met with Davenport in December to discuss the gates, and his support was included in the letter sent to the Park and Recreation Commission.

Davenport said he hopes to see the gates installed by fall.

Social-networking rivals offer workaround for Google social search

San Jose Mercury News

MCT

SAN JOSE, Calif. Google's social-networking rivals have apparently teamed up to offer users a tool that allows them to avoid the integration of Google's core search business and Google+.

The "bookmarklet," a free browser add-on available at <http://www.focusontheuser.org>, instead will use Google's own algorithms to show a search result's most popular social-networking destination. That means a Facebook or Twitter account that is used more often and has more followers than a Google+ profile is likely to show up.

The workaround avoids Google's recent major change to its core search business, which it dubbed Search Plus Your World. A user signed in to a Google account now receives personalized results based on that user's network of friends — including personal photos, status updates and other content shared on Google+, the Mountain View, Calif., company's new social net-

working feature, or Google's photo-sharing service, Picasa.

According to the Focus on the User website, the downloadable add-on was developed by Facebook, Twitter and MySpace engineers, who say they wanted to answer one question: "How much better would social search be if Google surfaced results from all across the Web?"

Google's newest foray into social networking debuted in June on an invitation-only basis, then opened its doors to all users and eventually entities, such as companies. Since then, it has rapidly added users, with Google executives announcing during the company's earnings report last week that 90 million users now have profiles on the social network.

When Google announced it was going to integrate Google+ content into its industry-dominating search engine, some in the industry squawked that the practice was unfair, led by Twitter, which publicly stated the practice would hurt people searching for breaking news events.

"We're concerned that as a result of Google's changes,

finding this information will be much harder for everyone. We think that's bad for people, publishers, news organizations and Twitter users," the San Francisco microblogging service said in a written statement.

Facebook has never publicly voiced opposition to Google's new search algorithms, but a blog post from Wired co-founder John Battelle states that the workaround was actually developed by Facebook product director Blake Ross, who helped develop Mozilla's Firefox Web browser. Battelle writes that Ross showed him the tool last week and asked him not to share the news until Ross had time to gauge the reaction of Facebook management, lawyers and other social networks.

Facebook did not immediately respond to a request for verification of Battelle's account nor confirmation that it has a hand in the new offering. Twitter confirmed its engineers contributed to the project; Google did not immediately respond to an email request for comment.

got an opinion?

Send letters to:

thejambar@gmail.com

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF YOUNGSTOWN — ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, DIVISION OF WASTEWATER, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS: \$61,179.82-65,535.08.

The Assistant Superintendent is responsible for supervising and coordinating the activities of plant operators, maintenance, and other personnel in accordance with general policies and guidelines established by the Superintendent on an around the clock basis and administering and reporting for the City's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR THIS EXAMINATION AS ESTABLISHED BY THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF YOUNGSTOWN ARE AS FOLLOWS:** State of Ohio Class III Waste Water Operators certification is required. Applicants must be able to obtain a State of Ohio Class IV Waste Water Operators certification as issued by the OEPA within two (2) years of appointment. A minimum of fifteen (15) to twenty years (20) years experience in the operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment plants, pump stations, and sewer systems is desired. Voluntary Laboratory Analyst license Class IV is desired. Twenty years (20) of progressively responsible experience in the wastewater field with at least fifteen (15) at a management level is desirable. **EXAMINATION INFORMATION: TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE EVALUATION:** Applicant's grade will be determined based on Education and Experience found in the application and resume. Each applicant is required to submit a detailed resume of his/her education and experience at the time of filing application, supplemented by proof of educational attainments, training and experience (original transcripts required). All candidates for employment with the City of Youngstown must be a resident of Mahoning County or an Ohio County that is adjacent to Mahoning County at time of hire. Application must be made on the regular application form available at the Office of the Civil Service Commission, 26 S. Phelps Street, 7th Floor City Hall, Youngstown, Ohio. Applications will be accepted from 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 through 4:00 p.m. on Friday, January 27, 2012. Applicant's applying for City Resident Bonus Credit must show proof of residency by providing the following: Driver's License, Bank Statements, Utility Bills, Mortgage Release/Lease, and/or Insurance Statements. In order to be considered applicants must submit four (4) different proofs of residency from one (1) year ago and four (4) current proofs of residency. **APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AFTER 4:00 P.M. ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2012.**

2012-2013 Financial Aid Awareness Week

Stop by one of our tables for information on financial aid for the 2012-2013 academic year. The priority deadline to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on the Web and the YSU Institutional Aid Application is February 15, 2012.

The following is a list of places, dates and times when staff from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships will be available to distribute forms and answer questions:

Monday, January 23, 2012	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Tuesday, January 24, 2012	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Wednesday, January 25, 2012	10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Thursday, January 26, 2012	10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**All dates are in the Kilcawley Center-1st floor across from Candy Counter

SAP is a bandage, not cure

The Jambar
EDITORIAL BOARD

RELATED STORY SAP PAGE 1

Federally mandated changes to the Satisfactory Academic Progress program crack down on students who abuse financial aid. The change aims to alleviate some of the fiscal burden on the federal government but only exacerbates YSU's budget issues.

Compared to the fall, three times as many students are out of SAP compliance this semester. That means 471 students lost federal financial aid.

We admit that the fault lies with the students who failed to meet GPA and completion percentage requirements.

But if they took classes this semester, loans paid their way. Aside from the fact that these loans will be forgiven in 20 years, we're worried about the students who didn't come back.

Fall enrollment for three of Ohio's public universities decreased from 2010 to 2011. YSU was one of those three, losing more students than any other public university in the state.

And with more students losing financial aid, enrollment numbers will continue to plummet.

Some of the students will drop out of college altogether. Some will find their way to Kent State University or the University of Akron.

The transfer students will be the ones with completion percentage issues, the perpetual class droppers, not the ones with GPA issues.

"If you're transferring from YSU with a 0.5 GPA, other schools may look at that transcript and not even accept them," said James Stanger of YSU's office of financial aid and scholarships.

We agree with Stanger that students with poor GPAs are as unappealing to Kent as they were to YSU, but public universities will gladly take in the others, the ones who simply dropped too many classes.

Why?

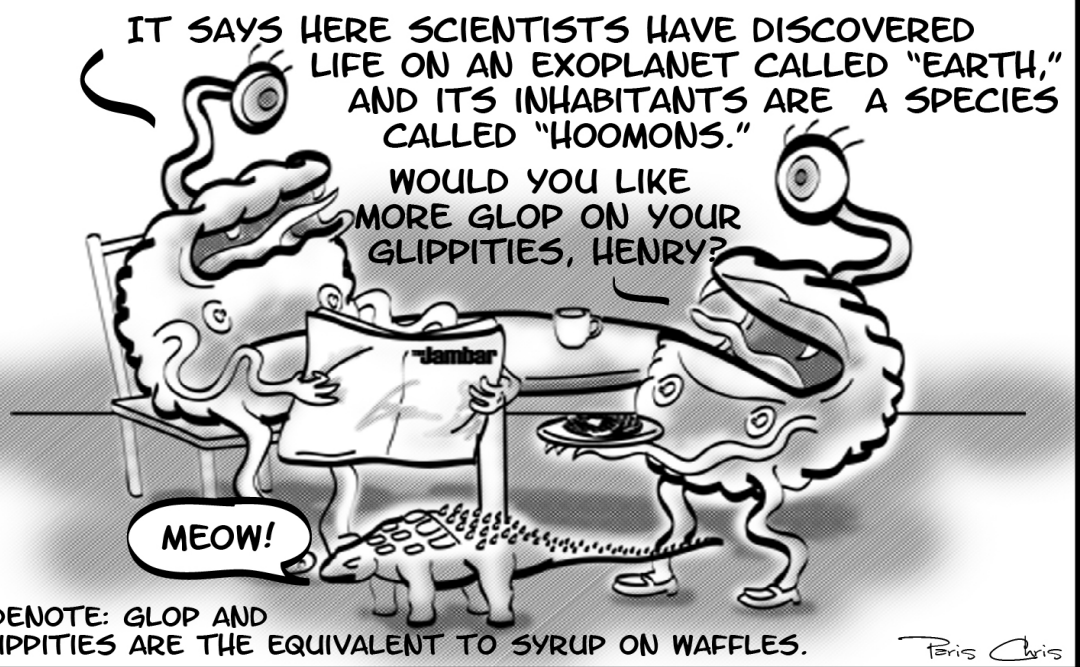
Students are dollar signs for public universities. Students contribute more than 70 percent of all revenue here at YSU, and any other university's admissions office would be foolish to not accept a student, pending poor grades.

The practice of slipping from one campus to another is common. We all know students enrolled elsewhere, waiting to get that GPA that might bring them home to YSU, or maybe someone using YSU as a stepping stone to another school.

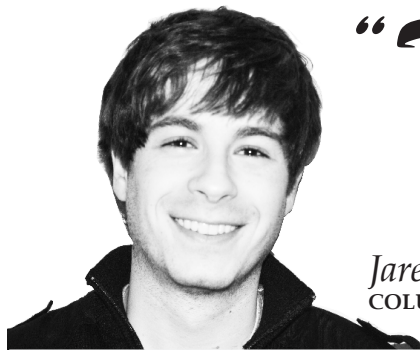
It happens because of a severe lack of oversight.

There must be uniform accountability across the state. The Ohio Board of Regents needs to look into why students are constantly jumping from college to college and let the universities know who they are before they end up here.

ALIENS HAVING BREAKFAST FROM THE PLANET HD 85512 B.



Cartoon by Paris Chrisopoulos/The Jambar.



"The Big Picture" Oh, what I wouldn't give

Jared Buker
COLUMNIST

They say all good things must end.

But in my last semester here at YSU, I wish it wasn't so.

I've found myself fighting pangs of nostalgia the likes of which I've never tussled with before, and, for the first time in my 22 years of life, I fear it may be a fight I could lose.

When I was younger, I put graduation on a pedestal.

"I can't wait to get out of this town" is easy to say when you know you'll be there for a while.

But now that graduation is on my horizon, I feel as if I wished life away, and, oh, what I wouldn't give to live parts of it over again.

Over the holiday break, I realized how far apart I had grown from my high school friends — so far in fact, that when one of them bought me a Christmas present, I was truly taken aback by it.

I, of course, was empty-handed.

Worse than that was realizing how out of touch I had become with my own brother, who lives in Columbus.

Dave is my only sibling. Until

about age 13, we rarely played a video game unless both of us were present. I spent a portion of my senior year of high school at dive bars playing drums in his band so I could spend more time with him.

But we grew apart as we got older, and I know we were never as close as we could've been. I realized how true that was when, this Christmas, I hadn't the slightest clue what to get him.

I have only one brother, and he needed only one present, and I was still stumped.

Oh, what I wouldn't give to play some "Major League Baseball Featuring Ken Griffey Jr." for Super Nintendo with him again.

I started to wonder if all of my college friendships would end up like my high school friendships and my bond with my big brother: nostalgic shells of their former selves.

The nature of companionship can be very fleeting. One fight can tear down the walls of friendship forever, and a little distance can make your best friends seem like pen pals.

If you're reading this during lunch in Kilcawley, look at the person you're sitting with. Chances are, you won't be as good of friends when the realities of life take you in different directions.

But the nature of everything can be fleeting. Most awesome things in life don't last forever, and, if they did, they probably wouldn't be as awesome. We'd take their longevity for granted and be complacent with their awesomeness.

So we need to appreciate and cherish every moment for what it is: a memory that will shape us forever. We must live life as if there is no peak — but instead slowly rising hills that dip only if we let them.

I like to think I could die one day on my highest hilltop, and, as I sit there, know I reserved a part of my heart for all of the people and all of the places that influenced my life, even if they are just memories.

Although at times it may seem like the beginning of the end, I'll know it's just the end of the beginning.

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.

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Is this the good old boy/girl system rearing its ugly head once again?

I am taken aback by an opportunity that is seemingly trying to pass me by. On Nov. 29, Youngstown State University posted a job posting for the position of the YSU police chief.

I applied within the open window, which of this writing remains open. I applied on their online application system. Upon entering my application and information, I was immediately notified by the online system that I was not qualified for the position.

Please note these are the minimum qualifications for the position:

bachelor's degree in law enforcement required, master's preferred, with minimum five years full-time experience at a senior level within law enforcement.

possesses Ohio law enforcement certification or be eligible for certification as a law enforcement officer in Ohio.

Now for the rest of the story (a Paul Harvey adage):

I took the time to inquire from the YSU human resources office as to why I was considered not qualified for the position, providing the following information.

I retired from the Ohio State Highway Patrol after approximately 30 years of service. Approximately 16 of those 30 years were within what would be considered a senior-level position.

I began my undergraduate work in law enforcement administration at YSU — but strategically shifted my pursuit to human resource management. Why? Because I realized after leaving law enforcement and wanting to enter the "business world," a degree in

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

law enforcement is viewed as restrictive.

However, I did not end my academic pursuit upon obtaining my Bachelor of Science degree in human resource management. I continued my academic quest, earning my Master of Science degree in organizational leadership.

Simply stated, my practical experience coupled with my academic achievements, I think, would certainly qualify me (to not necessarily be given the job) to, at minimum, be given an opportunity to be fairly considered for the YSU chief of police position. Is there no equivalency? I think in this case the aforementioned surpasses equivalency.

I am a native of Youngstown, and from time to time over the year have read various articles in the Vindicator concerning the disparity of minorities in positions of leadership and influence at YSU.

Of course, I view this situation as directly affecting me. Yet, now I can see why disparity questions frequently surface.

Upon speaking to one of the workers at YSU's human resources office, part of his response was, "Well, there are rules we have to follow, and in this case these are the rules." He continued on: "You working for the Ohio State Highway Patrol certainly understand rules and regulations." I could only respond with a resounding "yes."

However, I also know rules and regulations have to be and/or need to be challenged so that effective change can be implemented. (Thank God someone challenged the rules of slavery, Jim Crow, the right for women to vote, etc.)

Had I known for this position (which, by the way, I have been waiting for some time to have the

opportunity to be considered for) was merely contingent on having a bachelor's degree in law enforcement, I certainly would have prepared myself accordingly. Oh, did I state I do possess a Bachelor of Science degree in human resources and a Master of Science degree in organizational leadership, coupled with more than 16 years of leadership experience with the Ohio State Highway Patrol?

Obviously, YSU's bachelor of law enforcement is nirvana, trumping all other academic experience.

I guess it is still not too late (for me to return back to school, that is) but waiting another possible 16+ years for the opportunity to become available, I'm sure the administration will have figured out some other tactical way by then to earmark whom they want for the position.

Let me restate this: What I am trying to say is that the next time around, certainly some other minimum hyperbole qualification will be in place, which will clear the way for the person and/or persons whom the powers to be have slated for the position.

Not to take anything away from those who applied and/or were interviewed, but right is right. YSU, this is wrong.

Finally, I am still waiting to receive a call back from the chief of human resources at YSU, as well as President Anderson's scheduler, for an appointment. Evidently, they are both tied up doing other things, hoping the interview process will be completed before they return my call.

Just my two cents. Oh, yes, and by the way, I do feel better.

William G. Thompson Jr.
McDonald



A passion for productions Locals create comedic drama

Kacy Standohar
FEATURES EDITOR

Former Youngstown State University student Mike Forney is out to give his past love life a chance. He's decided to revisit his previous relationships, but he's not calling his exes.

He's been writing, producing and directing a theatrical production instead.

In December 2010, Forney, 32, the founder of Hot Topix Book Club, began writing a play script titled "He Loves Me! She Loves Me Not?" This production about love, commitment, fear and relationships hits the stage Feb. 18 at the DeYor Performing Arts Center in Youngstown.

The story involves character Dajah Henderson, played by Terrie Hughes, and an unexpected proposal from her boyfriend, played by DeVon Thomas. The surprise provokes chatter and gossip from her friends and family, leaving an impressionable Dajah with a tough decision.

"Everything Dajah hears are all a bunch of stories from

my past dating life about different types of relationships ... when I was a cheater, arrogant, successful, etc.," Forney said. "I can relate to every character in the play."

Forney said American actor, producer and playwright Tyler Perry inspired him.

"It was ingenious that he created his own path and production company," Forney said. "[Perry] took what people call nobodies, regular community people, and formed productions."

While Forney has acted in many local plays in Youngstown and Detroit, he was eager to write his own.

"I thought plays had died, but [Perry] brought them back," he said. "I thought I was the only one who still loved plays."

Forney met a woman named Velma Perry while blogging. He said they had discussed ideas for a new production and kept in touch via email to continue planning the play.

"When I reached out to her again to tell her it was working and to get more advice, she was gone. ... She had passed away," Forney said.

"That's when I knew I had to do this."

Forney still wanted to incorporate his late friend's ideas. But he didn't want to do it alone. He teamed up with Darcelle Formby, a 2010 YSU alumna.

Formby, 24, who earned her degree in chemistry and resides in Cleveland, was never involved in plays as an undergraduate. However, she said she always had an interest in acting and a knack for poetry.

Today, she finds herself playing many roles. She's an actress, co-writer and assistant director for "He Loves Me! She Loves Me Not?"

"The hardest part of this is arranging rehearsals while keeping the cast together and informed," Formby said. "We have many different, strong and confident personalities like most actors ... but at the end of the day, it's about keeping it cohesive and fun."

Casting auditions were held downtown at Imbibe Martini Bar, but Formby said most of the parts were chosen by word of mouth.

She and Forney worked on the script while she was

in Youngstown. She added that they correspond over the phone and computer to formulate ideas when she is in Cleveland.

Formby said she is happy to have such a talented cast of students. They have been rehearsing on Saturdays for the past seven months.

Freshman communications major Dana Dumas is part of the 22-member cast. Though she participated in plays during high school, Dumas said this is a very different experience.

"Our directors have less experience, so it is more of a relaxed, less structured, going with the flow," Dumas said. "I'm not nervous for my part, but I'm nervous for the play."

Interacting with people is something Dumas said she enjoys. She added that she feels this experience is beneficial to her major.

"I love seeing how different people from different places work and take correction," she said.

Brandi Black, a sophomore studying theater, is also an actress in the play and said she hopes to add this to her experience at YSU.

"We have a very focused cast, and the vision is coming to life," she said. "Now it's just the tedious things like development and becoming the character."

Sophomore Adrian Watson, another cast member, relishes being in the spotlight.

Watson is a member of the Premier Poets Guild and said he is used to performing in lounges, churches and at other events.

He added that, with his passion for poetry, he isn't nervous for the show and looks more at the big picture.

"The best part is getting to know people I never knew before. ... Even though ages are all different, I enjoy seeing people at different stages of their lives," Watson said.

Tickets for "He Loves Me! She Loves Me Not?" can be purchased online at <http://youngstownsymphony.com>. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., and the play begins at 8 p.m.

Forney said he has one main goal for the production.

"They say the coolest stories are the most real, and I just want to inspire," Forney said. "I want people to pick up where we left off."

'I'm not going to change anybody. God changes people.' Local organization offers new community of faith

Chelsea Telega
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

A local pastor and Youngstown State University graduate is getting down to the basics of Christianity with the Project 614 worship experience, and he's not picky about who joins him.

"We don't care what you wear, what you look like or what your past is. We have one goal: showing the grace of God to others," pastor Jared Woodward said.

Project 614 is a movement focused on people ages 18 to 39. The objective, Woodward said, is to help people who may be disconnected from any religious background find God.

"The church, for far too long, has been a place where we nurture, help grow and invest in to people up until high school graduation, and then sort of forget about them until they are adults," Woodward said. "This is not only sad but true for most churches."

In September, Woodward and a launch team started Project 614 as a daughter of Churchill United Methodist Church, located off Belmont Avenue.

The Protestant service is held once a month and has reached 72 people. Woodward said the organization is in the process of launching weekly services, which he expects will start in August.

"We're working out of that small group, and what we're really focusing on is inviting people," Woodward said. "People say it usually takes about a year to launch, but we're trying to get it done earlier."

David Gilbert, senior pastor of Churchill United Methodist Church, said he had some help finding the right person for the job.

"It wasn't our decision to pick Jar-

ed," Gilbert said. "God led him to us. We've been praying for him to come along for three years."

Zack Lord — associate pastor, launch team member and Project 614 attendee — worked with Churchill to find Woodward.

"I knew it would be different, that it wouldn't be my parents' church, that it was something I could take ownership of," Lord said. "The church is all about offering grace, never turning away people or preaching hate, just offering grace to anyone who comes in the door. It's different in the fact that it's directed for a certain age, and that's it."

Woodward described his services as a laid-back, come-as-you-are atmosphere. He refuses to be called "pastor" and commonly gets referred to by his first name.

A nontraditional Christian band plays rock and punk music, and most people wear jeans and T-shirts.

"Our goal is to not make it feel like a church because church has so many things that go along with it, and that's what we want to get away from," Woodward said.

The organization's website, <http://www.project614.org>, states, "We are not religious, but relational."

Woodward said the group is essentially relationship-oriented.

"We even meet at a Mexican restaurant after the service to get to know people," he said.

Woodward and his wife, who is heavily involved in the organization, are each 24 years old and use that to connect with the target demographic.

"We're the ages of these people, so we both understand how people feel," Woodward said. "We were in college, we know how stressful it is. It's not like I'm a 40-year-old that's disconnected trying to guide these 20-year-olds."

Gilbert, 59, said that in his generation, at least half of his peers grew up



Pastor Jared Woodward, his wife Deanna and son Levi work collectively to make Project 614 a success. Photo courtesy of project614.org.

in the church. With regards to the current generation, however, Gilbert said he would be surprised if 20 percent of people attend.

He said Woodward is reinventing the church to match the current generation.

"My feeling is that the church, the way it is, it's almost impossible to speak to people of a younger age," Gilbert said. "I think people are drawn to spirituality, they just don't see the benefit of the church as it is now."

Lord agrees.

"Jared has showed time and time again that his message can relate to anybody," he said. "We're a mission-minded church, so we do whatever to help people."

Among the lessons that Project 614

sets out to teach to area adolescents and young adults, some are more important than others.

"We really want to focus on grace. There's a lot of guilt that people have to deal with, and that's not what God wants for us," Woodward said. "We are not just another church; we are a relentless movement to show God's grace."

Lord said he thinks everyone will be affected by this new project.

"I think 614 is going to have a huge impact on not only adolescents but on anyone who walks in the door," he said.

Woodward said he feels that he is taking small steps to a much bigger objective.

"I'm not going to change anybody. God changes people," he said.

Digital music sales up 8 percent in 2011

L.A. Times
MCT

LOS ANGELES — Sales of music on CDs may be in free fall, but digital music revenue has been climbing steadily, jumping 8 percent last year, with help from strong performances by artists such as Bruno Mars, according to a report released Monday by the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry.

Digital music sales totaled \$5.2 billion in 2011, up from \$4.8 billion in 2010, according to the IFPI, a trade group that represents 1,400 music companies worldwide.

Although 32 percent of the music industry's global revenue came from digital sources, such as downloads and subscriptions to music services, some markets derived a far greater share from digital sales. In the U.S., digital music sales in 2011 surpassed sales of music in physical formats such as CDs, vinyl records and cassettes tapes, making up 52 percent of the industry's revenue. In South Korea, 53

percent of music revenue was from digital.

Bruno Mars, whose "Just The Way You Are" won him the Best Male Pop Vocal Performance at last year's Grammy Awards, snagged three of the top 10 best-selling digital singles last year.

As the volume of purchased downloaded music continued to sizzle, growing 17 percent to 3.6 billion singles and albums last year, the subscription music business took off.

The number of paying subscribers to music services rocketed 65 percent to 13.4 million in 2011 from 8.2 million in 2010, the IFPI said. In Sweden, where the music streaming service Spotify is based, subscription revenue accounted for 84 percent of digital music revenue in the first 10 months of 2011.

SAP PAGE 1

financial aid only to those students who were extremely out of compliance, accumulating several dropped classes and continually not meeting GPA requirements.

"Once a year, we run these SAP rules by the student population, and any student who is out of compliance with any of these three components is cited. The student has to appeal. A committee looks at the appeal and decides whether to approve the student further or deny them based on how bad they're doing," Stanger said.

Appeals could be waved before the new federal regulation. Now, the federal government mandates the loss of financial aid.

"We could make a decision on a student's appeal that was based on the student's needs and the needs of the university," Fahey

told The Jambar in August, prior to the federal regulation change. "Now we're in a situation where the federal government says, 'Once you're on federal aid probation, here are your guidelines. You better get this completion or get this GPA or you're done.'"

Students denied aid can continue attending YSU, but they must foot the bill themselves until academic progress is made.

"Unfortunately, if you've only passed four out of 20 credit hours, it could take a couple semesters to get your completion rate age back up," Stanger said.

As a solution to the new government requirements for federal aid, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships puts students who are not meeting the requirements on a personalized academic plan. Part of the plan requires

the student to sign a contract that states that the student signing understands "that if I do not achieve the grade point average and completion percentage listed above, my federal aid will be denied."

Stanger said this was the first year the office put students on academic plans, and the denial rates were lower than years past.

"There are students whose academic record isn't up to par for some semesters, and it's clear they are not on track to obtaining a degree. Those are the students that the feds do not want to be dispersing aid to, and that's why we deny them," Stanger said.

Fahey said the "tough love" policy has made students more aware of knowing that "this is the work I need to do; I need to be careful so that I can get help that I need."



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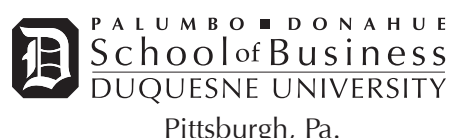
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Saturday, January 28, 2012
Room 505, Rockwell Hall

9:30 a.m. Registration/continental breakfast
10 a.m.—noon Program information — meet students and faculty



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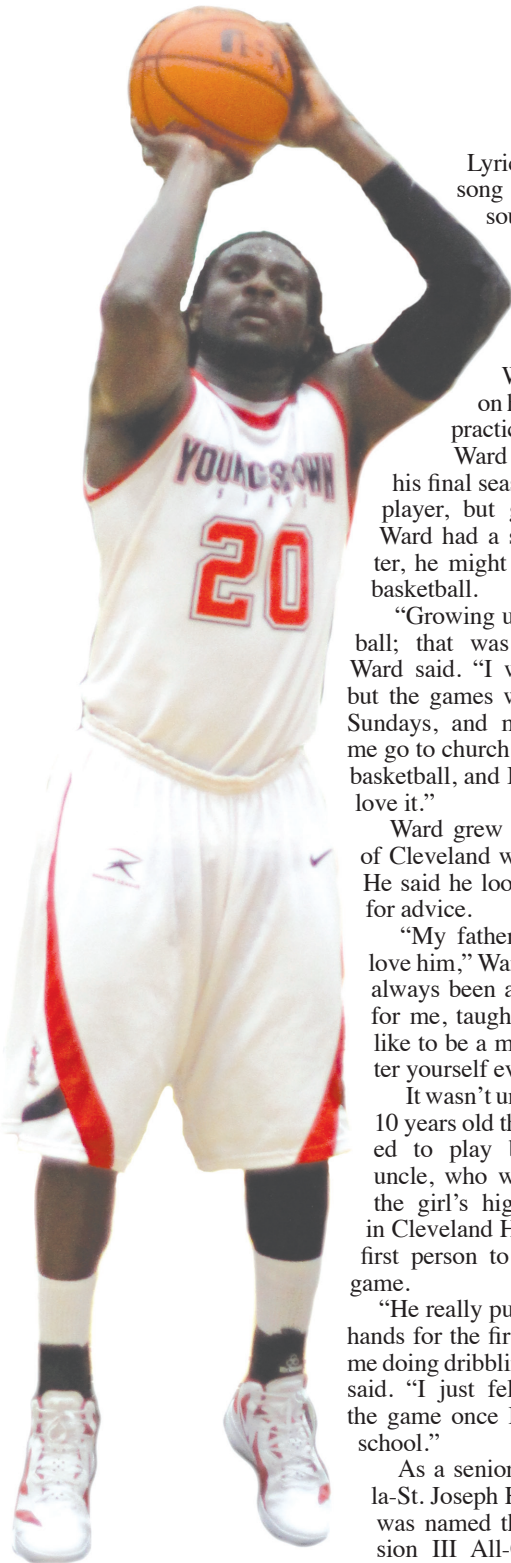
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Nick Mancini
SPORTS REPORTER



Lyrics to a Tupac song drown out the sounds of Beeghly Center when Youngstown State University senior guard Ashen Ward zones in on his target during practice: the hoop.

Ward is playing in his final season as a college player, but growing up, if Ward had a say in the matter, he might not be playing basketball.

"Growing up, I loved football; that was my passion," Ward said. "I wanted to play, but the games were always on Sundays, and my mom made me go to church, so I settled for basketball, and I have grown to love it."

Ward grew up in the heart of Cleveland with his parents. He said he looks to his father for advice.

"My father is my hero. I love him," Ward said. "He has always been a great example for me, taught me what it is like to be a man, how to better yourself every day."

It wasn't until Ward turned 10 years old that he first started to play basketball. His uncle, who was a coach for the girl's high school team in Cleveland Heights, was the first person to show him the game.

"He really put the ball in my hands for the first time and had me doing dribbling drills," Ward said. "I just fell in love with the game once I got to middle school."

As a senior at Villa Angela-St. Joseph High School, he was named third-team Division III All-Ohio and Mc-

Donald's All-American.

In his junior season, he was named the Division III Ohio Player of the Year and first-team All-Ohio selection while averaging 14.7 points and six rebounds per game.

"I loved being the young pup on the team," Ward said. "My sophomore year playing varsity, I got to look up to guys like David Lighty, Jimmy McCloud, Darryl Rushton, and I got to see how much they love the game and kind of joining them on the court was a great experience."

After high school, Ward received numerous offers from different universities, but ultimately decided YSU was the best fit.

"I loved that they were open to me," Ward said. "At that point, I thought that I really wanted to come to Youngstown. It was close to home."

YSU head coach Jerry Slocum said Ward is everything he looks for in a player.

"He encompasses what's great about college basketball," Slocum said. "He's a great student, a great student-athlete in terms of caring about the program. But the thing that's been so great for us is the leadership he has given us."

Ward improves his game by watching professional players go to work. Being the die-hard Cleveland fan he is, Ward watched and idolized former Cavalier star LeBron James.

Since James took his talents to South Beach with the Miami Heat, Ward now looks elsewhere.

"I had to divorce [James] like the rest of the world," Ward said. "Kobe [Bryant] has always been a role model of mine. His work ethic, when you see a guy that works harder than every-

one, and it shows on the floor, you can't help but love that."

Going into his senior season, Ward transformed himself into a leader on and off the court.

"I believe what I do, and the example I set, helps them become leaders themselves," Ward said. "That's the best thing I can do for when I am gone. To see [sophomore guard] Kendrick Perry yelling at guys the way I do, it is a good feeling."

Perry said Ward has taken him under his wing since he arrived at YSU.

"As a freshman, everything is new to you," Perry said. "He told me about how the work ethic has to increase. You just have to be hungry."

Slocum said he couldn't ask for a better leader.

"He is the voice of practice every day," Ward said. "He has been a great leader, probably one of the best I have had since I have been here."

Perry agreed with Slocum's thoughts on Ward's leadership.

"I can definitely see that," Perry said. "Every day he is vocal. He is pushing guys to their full potential to make them better. You need someone like that to just stay on you to make sure you aren't taking days off."

During this season, Ward has gone through periods of highs and lows.

Ward shot 1-16 with four points during a three-game stretch in December. In a road game at the University of Akron, he played a season-low 16 minutes and scored zero points. He said it was a tough period in his career.

"At that time, I was really looking at myself and saying, 'What do I want out of my senior year?'" Ward said. "I had to talk to people close to me.

Talked to my mom, she always encourages me. I think I might have put a little too much pressure on myself."

Ward took the advice and began playing to his potential. He has scored double figures in seven straight games and was named Horizon League Co-Player of the Week on Jan. 9.

In the Penguins' win at Cleveland State University on Dec. 31, Ward scored 15 points and hit three 3-pointers. He said it was one of the best moments of his YSU career.

"Going in there, not many people believed we could beat them, but we knew we could, and that was a total team effort that we showed," Ward said. "I even made some big shots down the stretch, which was nice in front of my friends and family."

On the season, Ward is averaging 11.2 points, 4.5 rebounds and 2.4 assists per game. He ranks 14th in the conference in scoring and 12th in 3-pointer percentage at 38.

Slocum said the team wouldn't be where it is without Ward.

"In my heart, that guy is our most valuable player," Slocum said. "He's got heart; he leads us. He has had a great senior year."

As a special education major, Ward would love to become a teacher and help kids if he does not continue playing basketball. He said being around kids and helping them is a passion he holds.

Yet, there is another option that brought a smile to Ward's face: joining the YSU coaching staff.

"That would be nice. I wouldn't mind it at all," Ward said. "Put me on that staff over here would be pretty cool."

Former Buckeyes believe in Meyer

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

In the midst of controversies and investigations, the Ohio State University football team finished 6-7 this past season under interim head coach Luke Fickell.

Before signing autographs at the Eastwood Mall's Everything Buckeyes on Saturday, former OSU head coach John Cooper and four former Buckeyes shared their thoughts on the team's first losing season since 1988.

"I thought we should've won more games than we did," Cooper said. "For the most part, we didn't have our team. Our team was fragmented."

The NCAA penalized eight OSU players after discovering they had received more than \$14,000 in cash and special treatment at a tattoo parlor in Columbus.

Players included OSU running back Dan Heron and former OSU quarterback Terrelle Pryor. Each player was suspended indefinitely for at least five games. Wide receiver DeVier Posey was suspended for the first 10 games of the 2011-2012 season.

In April 2010, a Columbus lawyer tipped off Jim Tressel, then head football coach at OSU and former head football coach at Youngstown State University, about the violations.

On March 8, Tressel confirmed that he was aware of the violations — but did not notify OSU officials. Failure to disclose possible violations is against NCAA conduct.

Tressel was slated to sit out the first six games of 2011, but instead resigned on May 30.

"Jim Tressel was a great football coach and did a great job at Ohio State," Cooper said. "[He] managed the game probably better than anybody. It's unfortunate that it ended like it did. He made a mistake, and he paid the price for it."

Tressel began coaching at OSU after Cooper left in 2001. He compiled a 106-22 record, including a win in the 2002 BCS National Championship. The Buckeyes finished 14-0.

Tressel finished 135-57-2 in 15 seasons at YSU and also served as YSU's executive director of intercollegiate athletics for six years. He won national championships in 1993, 1994 and 1997.

The Buckeyes are banned from bowl play and a shot for the Big Ten title in the 2012-2013 season. They've also been stripped of at least four football scholarships over the next three seasons.

Plus, an additional year of probation was added to the original two-year probation.

The Buckeyes are trying to move forward under new head coach Urban Meyer, who was awarded the position on Nov. 28.

"One thing Ohio State did was give him the resources to hire pretty much who he wanted to hire, and it looks like he's done that," Cooper said. "They're going to work hard, they're going to recruit aggressively and they're going to win."

Cooper, currently a consultant for the Cincinnati Bengals, coached the Buckeyes from 1988 to 2000 and compiled a 111-43 record.

After Meyer took the helm, he decided to keep Fickell as a defensive specialist.

"Once [Fickell] stopped playing, he just went right into coaching," said former defensive end Matt Finkes. "That is what he was meant to do for a long time."

Finkes is Fickell's former OSU roommate. He works with his father at Finkes Building Co. in Piqua, Ohio.

Meyer has a career 104-23 head coaching record. He coached at Bowling Green State University, the University of Utah and the University of Florida.

In his 104 victories, Meyer is 4-0 in BCS games, and he won two national championships in Florida.

Andy Katzenmoyer, former linebacker and current owner of Katzenmoyer Performance in Westerville, Ohio, said Meyer is faced with tremendous pressure.

"Last couple of years have been hard for Ohio State," Katzenmoyer said. "I'm hoping that we can put all of that stuff to bed and be done with it."

David Boston, former wide receiver and current trainer at the Institute of Human Performance in Boca Raton, Fla., said the situation is tough for everybody.

"All are happy that we have a coach in here that won championships in Florida," Boston said. "Everybody knows he's a great coach. He's well documented. We know he's going to win."

Joe Germaine, former quarterback and 1997 Rose Bowl MVP, said the future looks bright for OSU.

"Somebody like Urban Meyer coming in is going to be a great addition," Germaine said. "He's already made some positive impact with recruiting."

Germaine is head football coach at Queen Creek High School in Arizona.

Brown, Penguins look to erase losing skid

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

The Youngstown State University women's basketball team returned home on Sunday after dropping two straight games in Wisconsin.

Head coach Bob Boldon said in Monday's press conference that the Penguins simply did not score enough points or play good defense.

"The trip to Wisconsin is always a difficult one to make," Boldon said. "I think those are two bears we've got to continue to fight through. For the first time on that trip, the bench wasn't as good as they've been for us leading up to the trip."

The Penguins (8-10, 2-5) fell to the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay on Thursday, 75-50, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Saturday, 76-68.

The Penguins are winless overall against the Panthers in their career, while they played the Phoenix during a then 35 regular season game-winning streak.

Junior forward Brandi Brown said in the press conference that the team hit mental lapses.

"We haven't come in with the right mentality," Brown said. "We're just making sure we're keeping up with the hard work and fixing the problems that we know we can fix that will help us win games."

Brown added that physical fatigue comes along with mental fatigue.

"They kind of go hand in hand sometimes, but I think that at this point everyone's facing physical fatigue, so it's something everybody's battling," Brown said. "We got to fight through those mental fatigues."

Boldon said turnovers killed, but are fixable. The Penguins committed 38 turnovers during

the two games, including 28 on Thursday.

"The turnovers are a simple answer, and that's definitely something we need to improve on," Boldon said. "That's something very tangible that you can measure."

Boldon added that ill-advised passes caused most of the turnovers.

"We do passing drills every day, believe it or not," he said. "I think it's got to improve by the amount of pressure and the level of competition we have in practice."

Boldon and Brown also hinted on the defensive struggles, stating that 151 points allowed in two games are too many.

"The biggest improvement I think is our defense just not letting one breakdown lead to many breakdowns right after," Brown said. "It's recognizing what's wrong or recognizing how to fix those things and fixing them right away."

Brown compiled 35 points and 18 rebounds during the two-game stretch.

One aspect Boldon said he likes is Brown's development in understanding the team's struggles.

"As much as she's developed as a basketball player and from a physical standpoint, mentally Brandi's made great strides and understanding of what we do well, continuing on what we need to do better and holding her teammates accountable for that stuff," Boldon said.

The Penguins look to end their current four-game losing streak and improve their 2-5 home record on Thursday against the University of Detroit Mercy.

The Penguins also play host to Wright State University on Saturday in the first game of a doubleheader. The men's program hosts Cleveland State University in the nightcap.