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YSU student turns English assignment into reality

Joe Catullo Jr.
MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Jim Pitcairn plowed through three days of muck and mud in his backyard in May, while raindrops trickled off a rented track hoe.

He pumped fresh water through 550 feet of piping underneath the grass and dirt, and released juvenile prawn shrimp into the three ponds on June 2.

And, with that, the Pitcairn family inaugurated its shrimp farm, Pitcairn Prawns, which began as a class project.

In the spring semester of 2011, Dianne Pitcairn walked into Diane Gonda's English 1551 class as a nontraditional student. Gonda said Dianne Pitcairn was nervous because she had no computer skills, a key component of the class.

With a determined and enthusiastic mindset, Dianne Pitcairn focused on aquaculture and food production. By the semester's end, she got more than an A — she received a project.

"I'm standing here right now

getting chills down my spine, because isn't that the purpose of a teacher: to give students the skills they need and actually put those skills to use for a better society, for their own personal gain?" Gonda said. "Isn't that our job? And it happened in English 1551. In the past, there was no recognition of what these students were doing."

Dianne Pitcairn was a nursing student at Youngstown State University approximately 30 years ago, before marrying her husband. She became a stay-at-home mother and, most recently, a part-time bookkeeper at AA Samuels Sheet Metal Co., Inc. for five years. She has three years remaining in her nursing program.

"She's definitely a determined person," said her youngest daughter, Katherine Pitcairn. "When she gets her mind set on something, she does it, and she convinces everyone around her to support her. We couldn't have done it without all of her knowledge."

SHRIMP PAGE 2



Dianne Pitcairn (left) looks for shrimp in her cast net along with daughter Katherine (middle) and husband Jim (right). The Pitcairns have been in the shrimp business, called Pitcairn Prawns, since June. Photo by Joe Catullo Jr./The Jambar.

SGA looks to the year ahead



(From left to right) Elyse Gessler, Caroline Standohar, Justen Vrabel, Cory Okular, Travis Battiest and Catie Carney discuss SGA plans and goals for this year. Photo by Kevin Alquist/The Jambar.



Kevin Alquist
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The semester's first Student Government Association meeting, held in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center, began with encouraging words from former SGA President Mike McGiffin, who told current members to make the most of their years at Youngstown State University.

Afterward, recently elected President Cory Okular welcomed incoming SGA members to the organization and discussed SGA's plans for

the 2012-2013 school year. Three major focuses for the academic year include a first-year experience program, a change in bulk tuition rates and a four-year graduation guarantee.

"YSU is part of the 4 percent of universities in America that do not have a program to introduce incoming freshmen," Okular said.

He hopes to implement a one-hour seminar by next year that will help incoming freshmen make the transition to college life. The first-year experience program will take the tools of the current student orientation and implement them over the academic year to provide students with

SGA PAGE 2

YSU commits to nationwide additive manufacturing

Kacy Standohar
NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown was in the national spotlight last week as top Obama administration officials announced a \$70 million investment in a national manufacturing hub — a place where students and faculty will work alongside industry professionals to conduct research.

The National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute, a fully operating manufacturing facility, will be located on West Boardman Street as an extension of the Youngstown Business Incubator.

NAMII will be funded par-

tially by a \$30 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense. The remainder will come from more than 60 public and private organizations, nine of which are universities.

Youngstown State University, one of the nine, has committed a significant amount to the cause because Ron Cole, director of university communications, said it puts the university in good company.

"Having YSU at the same table and sitting next to and working with prestigious national research universities like Carnegie Mellon and Case Western Reserve speaks very positively about YSU's important role as an emerging urban research uni-

versity," Cole said.

After President Cynthia Anderson devoted most of her State of the University address to the budget cutbacks in fiscal year 2013, Martin Abraham, dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, said it is still a great investment because the benefits for students outweigh the cost.

Abraham said YSU has committed matching funds to this project, although a calculation of the specific amount is difficult to provide. He said the funds are based on the amount of opportunities, classes and

MANUFACTURING PAGE 2

Campus recycling efforts noticed

Grant funds new outdoor bins

Kacy Standohar
NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University's recycling program recently received a grant that will help support its award-winning services.

After applying for a grant through Keep America Beautiful, Dan Kuzma, manager of the recycling program, received 72 new recycling bins for the university. They'll be used for special outdoor events and tailgating at YSU football games.

Without the grant, the bins might have cost YSU between \$3,600 and \$5,000, he said.

Since 2000, recycling has become a vital part of managing waste at the university, Kuzma said. As a result, recycling has helped recover more than 10 million pounds of recycling, reuse and compost.

YSU received national recognition in 2003 and 2004 from the U.S. EPA WasteWise Program.

The university was also the first in Ohio to compost food waste and adopt a "Dump and Run" reuse collection during move-out at the residence halls.

"All of this is extremely positive for YSU," Kuzma said. "All of the recycling program's success is due to the participation from students, faculty, staff and support from the Mahoning County Solid Waste District."

Partnered with the Coca-Cola Foundation, Keep America Beautiful was able to provide 44 grants to colleges and universities across the country.

YSU was the only school in Ohio to receive this grant in a competitive and comparative selection process.

"YSU had a fairly strong application, and part of the criteria was an established program that demonstrated how bins would be put to good use," said Alec Cooley, direc-

tor of recycling programs at Keep America Beautiful. "At the end of the day, we wanted to give the grant to the university that we felt would have the greatest impact on recycling."

Recycling has always been important to Kuzma, who became involved with the program in 2002 as a student employee.

He said recycling not only has environmental benefits, but it also supports the local and state economies through industries that collect, sort and recycle waste resources into new products for consumers.

"The fact that I can easily recycle a piece of paper locally and obtain the end product by purchasing a paper product with post-consumer, recycled-content material demonstrates the tangible results of recycling without too much effort on my part," Kuzma said.

Danny DiRienzo, a YSU recycling program employee since January, said choosing to recycle is an easy decision. He added that he hopes students will take advantage of services that the program provides.

"YSU is a pretty busy place during the day. As students, we're constantly holding on to recyclables such as old papers and empty bottles," DiRienzo said.

Tyler Snodgrass, another YSU recycling program employee, said more bins will give the university more useful opportunities.

"It's kind of like the more, the merrier," Snodgrass said. "The more bins available to students and faculty means more recyclable materials will avoid being thrown in the trash and increasing landfills."

Junior Ryan Racketta said recycling is not something he thinks about often — but it's something that is important.

"If the bins were by the trash cans, I'd make sure to throw it in the recycling bin," Racketta said.

MANUFACTURING PAGE 1

involvement YSU receives from the NAMII program.

"We don't pay anything if we don't get anything," Abraham said. "Everybody is always looking for where we're spending money unwisely."

Darrell Wallace, director of Additive Manufacturing and Workforce Initiatives, will be the main investigator for the project. Wallace is also a YSU assistant professor of mechanical and industrial engineering.

Wallace explained that additive manufacturing involves specific technologies emerging with rapid prototyping and mainstream production volume. It is often used in aerospace, defense and biomedical industries.

"It's about transitioning technologies into mainstream commercialized applications," Wallace said. "Additive manufacturing starts with a pile of material, typically melted, and is built up into other shapes. It's about putting the material they need where they need it."

Wallace said this method is cost effective to make parts at very low volumes, leaving little to no material waste.

He said the job opportunities focus on education training and workforce development outreach, including undergraduate studies, K-12 studies, graduate research, and higher-level research and development employees.

"We'll be training companies

and positions from floor level operators to the product designer," Wallace said. "The defining factor isn't where in the food chain you are."

Wallace said the minimum amount of education required for a job created by NAMII would be an advanced certification.

NAMII will serve as a pilot institute for the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation. Wallace and other advocates have high hopes NAMII will be modeled after in the future.

Officials project 7,200 regional jobs created in the upcoming year, but the National Center for Defense Manufacturing and Machining estimates that next year, not much more than 20 jobs will be created as a result of NAMII.

But Abraham and Wallace said they believe NAMII will contribute to boosts in revenue and university prestige.

Abraham said about 60 executives and industrial partners will soon get to know YSU students' capabilities.

"As a result, we expect to be able to place our students in internships and co-ops at these companies, and for permanent employment," he said. "Our relationships with the partner universities will lead to opportunities for our students to enroll in graduate schools there, and for their undergraduate students to come to YSU for graduate school."

SGA PAGE 1

the support needed to ensure success.

Okular is also looking to change bulk tuition rates back to a limit of 18 credit hours. This would be an increase from the current range of 12 to 16 credits, which was implemented by David C. Sweet during his tenure as YSU president.

"It would encourage students to take more classes and create a quicker path to graduation," Okular said.

Okular also wants to see a four-year graduation guarantee that would force YSU to better map out students' schedules and guarantee that they graduate in four years.

On Saturday, SGA will become part of YSU Student Activities and work with Carrie Anderson, coordinator of programs and marketing.

"We wanted to keep everything that dealt with campus involvement and student activities together as one campus group," Okular said.

The YSU Office of Student Life will move to Jones Hall.

Justen Vrabel, executive vice president of SGA, also spoke at the meeting, introducing his plan for a YSU sports and activities fan club he calls Yo Show.

"The Yo Show is a way for students to show support and give them a reason to come down to campus other than going to class," Vrabel said.

Yo Show will support YSU football by taking a bus full of students to Heinz Field for Saturday's game against the Pittsburgh Panthers.

Catie Carney, vice president for financial affairs, said tickets for the bus trip are \$15.

"The fee will include transportation to and from the game, a T-shirt and food at the game," Carney said.

Carney added that a committee meeting has not yet taken place, so the details of this year's budget have not been finalized.

SHRIMP PAGE 1

Dianne Pitcairn's middle daughter, Lisa Pitcairn, also said her mother is determined.

"I told her she was crazy, but it seems to be working out for them so far," Lisa Pitcairn said.

Dianne Pitcairn, born and raised in Canfield, said she loved seafood growing up and would fish on family vacations.

"I traveled extensively with my family on the Eastern Seaboard," she said. "In Maine, we dug clams. I remember catching flounder off the coast of Virginia and catching blue crab there, and in Florida gathering oyster. I just have a love for seafood and sea life."

Dianne Pitcairn was careful with where the shrimp came from and what type of shrimp she would get. She bought 5,500 shrimp for 8 cents each from Bob Calala, president of the Ohio Aquaculture Association, at Calala's Water Haven Inc. in London, Ohio.

The species of the shrimp is called macrobrachium rosenbergii, also known as freshwater Malaysian prawns. These shrimp originated from

Hawaii and then moved into other states.

Because of cooler temperatures in Ohio as opposed to the South, the shrimp do not mature sexually. Instead, they convert the energy into mass, making the shrimp larger over the short period of time they can live in Ohio.

Calala also visited the Pitcairn home on Aug. 17, helping the Pitcairns with the progress of their shrimp. Each shrimp began as 1 centimeter long; as of Saturday, they're each an average of 4 inches long.

Attempting to keep the shrimp and ponds free from pesticides and antibiotics, Dianne Pitcairn chose Enviroflight LLC as her food supply. Pitcairn Prawns is one of seven shrimp farms in the country to use the new product.

Dianne Pitcairn feeds her shrimp with a pelletized product made from corn distillers; it is fishmeal free. It is also made from black fly larva, which change the product into an amino acid profile that the shrimp can digest.

"We feed the shrimp every

evening, and it's based on how much the shrimp weigh," Dianne Pitcairn said. "About 10 percent of their body weight is what they need to eat every day. We broadcast the feed over the entire surface of the pond."

While the shrimp enjoy time swimming in the ponds, the Pitcairns will harvest them on Sept. 21 and sell them at a stand outside their home. Jim Pitcairn said he will drain the water into the fish pond and catch the fish using a catch net. Jim Pitcairn said he will be, "in a way," somewhat happy when he harvests.

"That means the work is ending," Jim Pitcairn said with a laugh. "We'll pump all the water out and harvest the shrimp, and then they'll just set until next spring."

While their first season as shrimp farmers comes to a close, the Pitcairns have learned more than just tossing food into a pond.

"It is my social responsibility to raise them in an environmentally responsible way," Dianne Pitcairn said. "This is the world we live in. We need to keep it clean."

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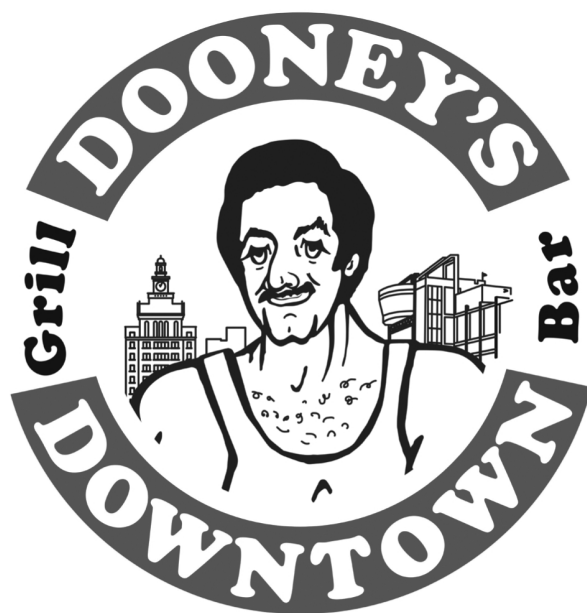
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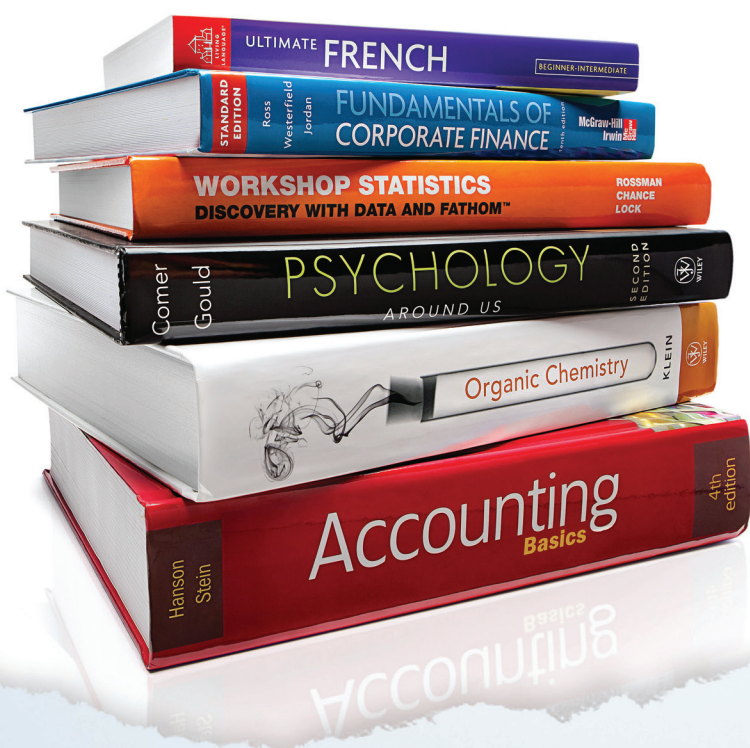
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Five Wick mansions remain **PECK HOUSE LEVELED**

Rachel Lundberg
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

A pile of red bricks bakes in the sun on Wick Avenue next to Pollock House. In its place once stood the 125-year-old Peck House.

Prior to Peck House's demolition on Aug. 16, a committee consisting of community members and Youngstown State University employees met to find a practical use for the 7,660-square-foot home.

Possibilities included the new location for the YSU Office of Veterans Affairs or the English Language Institute. However, in order to do so, YSU would first have to invest at least \$1.5 million in renovations.

John Hyden, executive director of facilities, said it was not an effective use of the university's money to renovate.

"It was a house. We're a university. People will take issues, but houses are not for universities," Hyden said. "While we value historic structures around campus, those structures have to compete with the same dollars that fix the roofs."

YSU gained possession of Peck House in the mid-1990s.

Some in the community, like organizer Phil Kidd, are disappointed with the building's fate. Defend Youngstown, Kidd's movement that focuses on promoting grassroots activism and pride in the community, held demonstrations to save the decaying building.

Kidd, who was involved



All that remains of the Peck House on Wick Avenue is this pile of rubble. In the background is the Pollock House. Photo by Rachel Lundberg/The Jambar.

with the committee to find another use for Peck House, said he laments the final decision to demolish.

"I just think that it's a shame. Because once it goes to the landfill, it's gone forever," Kidd said. "We never get that piece of our history back in our community, and this is a city that's had to do a lot of demolition."

Though the structure itself was demolished, much of the woodwork, windows, staircases and doors were removed and repurposed by outside vendors for other structures.

Sharon Letson, execu-

tive director of Youngstown CityScape, also served on the committee to find a use for Peck House. She said she was disappointed to see the house demolished so soon after the vote.

"I never saw them level a building so fast in all my life," Letson said.

Hyden said university administrators wanted to demolish the building before classes started, primarily to minimize disruption of parking and traffic on Wick Avenue. He said the administration has ideas for the use of the property, but cannot disclose them at this time.

"I don't fault this current

administration by any means," Kidd said. "This isn't placing blame on one particular administration or person or anything like that. That's not what this is about. This has more to do with a colossal dropping of the ball by the university over a period of time."

Peck House was one of six historic mansions remaining on Wick Avenue.

The house was built for Dr. George and Emeline Peck in 1887. The last family to live in the house moved out in the 1950s; since then, the structure has, at various times, sat vacant or been used as office space.

Building pride with every step

Marissa McIntyre
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

While rehearsing the pre-game drill, the Youngstown State University Marching Pride forms a "Y" on the Stambaugh Stadium field.

Students check their drill sheets and music as their muscle memory takes over, and they glide across the field while playing the YSU fight song.

The season's preparation began with recruiting during spring semester, followed by choosing music, writing drills and, finally, band camp.

Camp began a week before classes, starting as early as 9 a.m. and going until dusk.

Band camp is where the Marching Pride learns how to play as one band and one sound.

"The Marching Pride is like a battle cry," said Bryan Darko, YSU senior. "When I'm here, I'm representing not only myself, but the university as a whole."

This is Darko's sixth year as a member of the YSU Marching Pride, and third year as a member of the Pride's leadership team in the saxophone section.

Exactly 130 students are participating this year. Brandt Payne, director of the Marching Pride, said all members are dedicated to the band. He said most of the students work full time on top of a full class schedule.

Payne said most college marching bands have a financial incentive, but students at YSU return each year in devotion to the Marching Pride.

"A lot of it comes from love of the activity. They really love what they do," he said. "The students that you see out here really make a big sacrifice."

During the band's regular rehearsal, Payne said he strives to bring out the best in his students. He knows their potential and won't settle for average.

As head of the pack, Payne must take the good with the bad, as well as the hard work with the fun. He said it's been worth it so far.

"When I drive home at night, I still can't believe I get to do what I do," Payne said.

He said he enjoys working with students and watching them grow into tomorrow's leaders.

Sara Loney, a junior majoring in music education, stepped up this year as a drum major.

The drum majors assist Payne by helping students learn the music. They lead drills and conduct during performances.

Loney said the position is nerve-racking because all eyes are on her.

"If I make a mistake and the entire band is following me, which I hope they are, the whole thing just falls apart," Loney said.

She said the nerves are worth the feeling of conducting the YSU fight song and having the entire band performing in front of her.

"It's the fight song. It's fun, and we sing it sometimes, so I'm up there conducting while thinking of the words," Loney said. "I love YSU. I'm from this area, and it's enjoyable to conduct it and promote YSU in that type of way."

Loney said she has a general love of music that drives her to lead the band, but she marches because she loves YSU.

"This is not just a music major thing; this is a YSU thing," Darko said.

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Revival?

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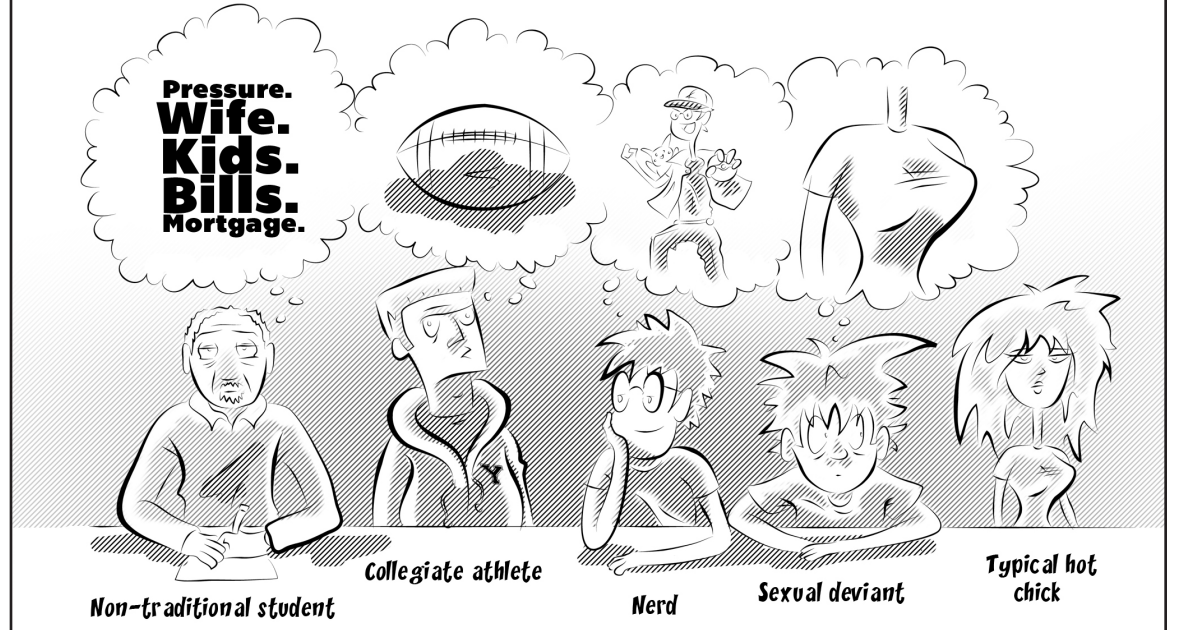
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8/28/12

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Voter ID laws



David Roberts
COLUMNIST

As many of you probably know, thanks to those wonderful TV and radio campaign commercials, a presidential election is coming up in November. With major elections, we often hear what the different parties are doing to boost their odds of victory.

This time around, the hot topic is voter ID laws, which has been a fiercely contested debate in the past few years. On one side of the argument stand the Republicans, who claim that it prevents voter fraud from taking place, which, according to many of their officials, has run rampant in recent years. Meanwhile, the Democrats counter that argument, saying this is a ploy to alienate voters who would normally vote blue.

Since 2010, 11 states have passed laws requiring voters to present some kind of identification when they vote. This brings the number of states with identification laws in effect up to more than 30.

Ohio has, for at least as long as I have been voting, required voters to present identification when they show up at the polls. According to the secretary of state's website, a voter can present any document that provides proof of his or her identity, such as pay stubs and even utility

bills.

Of those states that mandate some form of identification, 10 require these to be photo IDs, which is the form that has been met with the biggest resistance. The argument stands that these forms of identification are not easily accessible for some members of the public to acquire, which essentially prevents them from exercising their right to vote.

Now, in the example of the state of Pennsylvania, they have pledged more than \$5 million to help assist all eligible voters to get access to a photo ID.

The argument is whether to charge the public to acquire these IDs. This, essentially, would make it a poll tax, which is strictly prohibited by our nation's Constitution. Eric Chianese, a recent YSU political science graduate, virtually reaffirmed the problematic situation.

"Presenting a photo ID isn't such a problem as long as all voters have equal access to government-issued IDs. Unfortunately, that is clearly not the case," Chianese said. "People live in rural areas away from DMVs. Some of them do not have cars. The IDs have to be free, too. Otherwise, the charge amounts to a poll tax."

Now, when I think of voter fraud, I cannot help but call to mind the Chris Farley movie "Black Sheep," during which he discovers that the incumbent running against his brother for the governor of Washington has been registering dead voters for

her cause.

Now, even though something as outrageous as this has never been found to occur in an American election, it does present a valid point when dealing with election fraud: If there is any fraud to be found in an election, it will be on the hands of the candidates, not the voters. There has been little to no evidence found of voter fraud in American elections in recent years.

Meanwhile, there has been past proof of candidates finding inventive ways to come up with more votes in their favor. Political candidates are always looking for that edge they need to seal a victory. Sometimes the moral gray area may be crossed. Need I remind you of the lovely scandal known as Watergate that led to President Richard Nixon's resignation?

So, in essence, I do not necessarily disagree with the institution of voter IDs, but they must be handled in the right way so that no American is left feeling excluded from the polls. Now, the idea of placing these voter identification laws in place to prevent voter fraud is an argument that has no real substance.

The mandate of requiring voter identification isn't a preposterous idea, but in order to make such a law morally viable, the states must make every effort to provide these to any eligible voter at no cost in order to avoid excluding Americans.

Party on: Princeton Review lists best (and worst) party schools

Los Angeles Times
(MCT)

West Virginia University claimed a national title that will guarantee students dubious bragging rights for 2013: top party school.

The Morgantown, W. Va., university has been among the nation's top 20 party schools 12 times since the Princeton Review began the rankings 21 years ago. It has been champion three of those years, but not since 2007.

The University of Iowa secured second place, and last year's champion, Ohio University, slid to third.

WVU also clinched awards in two categories that some might argue are related: first in "Lots of Beer," and third in "Students Study the Least" (despite having the 15th-best campus library).

On the other side of the bar, Utah's Brigham Young University extended its streak to the 15th year as reigning champion of the "Stone Cold Sober"

schools. BYU also got first place in the "Got Milk?" and "Scotch and Soda, Hold the Scotch" categories.

The rankings are part of the Princeton Review's 2013 edition of "The Best 377 Colleges," a book that contains 62 lists on all aspects of college life, including academics, administration and the social climate on campus. The company gave 80-question surveys to 122,000 students. "The Best 377 Colleges" goes on sale Tuesday.

During move-in weekend, WVU police issued dozens of citations for underage drinking, according to the campus police website. Incidents included a young woman passed out in an elevator and multiple arrests outside campus buildings.

Victory can be a lot to drink in. "If you look at the schools on this list, they are mostly large, public universities with strong academic and research profiles, as well as highly successful athletic programs," spokeswoman Becky Lofstead told the Associated Press. "But in the big picture, clearly this list has no real credibility."

Rounding out the top 10 party schools of 2013 were, in order: the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Georgia, the University of Florida, UC-Santa Barbara, Florida State University, Miami University and Syracuse University.

After BYU, the stone-cold sober schools were Wheaton College, the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Grove City College, West Point, CUNY-Brooklyn College, Wesleyan College, Wellesley College and Calvin College.

Other social-life champions crowned include the University of Colorado-Boulder ("Reefer Madness"), Reed College ("Birkenstock-Wearing, Tree-Hugging, Clove-Smoking Vegetarians") and Providence College ("Lots of Hard Liquor").

The other categories included "Students Pack the Stadiums," "Class Discussion Encouraged" and "Least Beautiful Campus."

The winner of that last dubious honor? Case Western Reserve University.

Need Advice?

We've extended the deadline for Counselor's Corner to give more students a chance to submit. Please go to thejambar.com and follow the the Counselor's Corner link on the home page.



Penguins show resiliency, start season 2-0 for first time since 1999

Cory Bartek
SPORTS REPORTER

The Youngstown State University women's soccer team hopes that starting the season with a 2-0 record for the first time since 1999 is a sign of future success for the rest of the year.

With a 3-2 victory over Robert Morris University on Friday and a 1-0 victory over Duquesne University on Aug. 19, the Penguins said they are feeling good about themselves.

"It's just the start of our season, so the big conference games are still yet to come, but they are two W's against our biggest non-conference rivals," soccer coach Will Lemke said.

Lemke said he hopes the team can take the energy from the victories to clean some things up.

"We're still a little bit sloppy," Lemke said. "We need to stay focused and be consistent."

Lemke said that execution of the offense and defense is the biggest area of improvement, but also credits his team for offseason work and conditioning.

"The girls have come into this season in shape. They did their own camp before our camp," Lemke said.

With 31 players on the 2012 squad, it is the biggest roster the YSU soccer program has ever had.

"We are infinitely deeper and more athletic, which

allows us to substitute a lot and give ourselves different looks," Lemke said.

Sophomore Chelsey Haney also said she believes that having a large roster will prove to be beneficial.

"Having a big team enables us to have more practice time with each other, which makes it easier for us to play together during the game," Haney said.

Lemke, who is now in his fourth year as head coach of the YSU soccer program, said this team is completely different from any other he has had at YSU.

"We are a very youthful team that has to learn to compete at this level, but we have a solid base," Lemke said.

Haney, who has known Lemke for all four years, credits his coaching style for the team's improvement.

"He's hard on us because he wants us to succeed and strive for perfection," Haney said.

When asked to describe her team with one word, Haney replied, "Determined ... as in to make it to the playoffs."

Junior goalkeeper Ali Viola also has big expectations for this season. She hopes the team can be competitive in conference play and make a run in the conference tournament.

"This is the best team I've been on since I've been here," Viola said.

Aware of the team that's around her, Viola also expects this to be her most successful season yet.

"I expect to see improvement in myself, stay healthy and get more shutouts than last



Heather Coonfare fights for the ball during a game against Robert Morris University last season. Photo courtesy of YSU Sports Information.

season," Viola said.

Viola is on track to do just that, as she already recorded a shutout in the first game of the season against Duquesne. Lemke said Viola needs to maintain her focus, put games together and work on being more consistent.

"She can leave here as just

another goalkeeper or she can leave here as the top goalkeeper in school history and go out on the top of the conference," Lemke said.

While Lemke is cautious not to get overexcited about the successful start to the season, he encourages fans to check out his team.

"We are young but energetic," he said. "The more people that come, the better, [because] the players feed off of it."

The Penguins play their home opener Tuesday, as they host the University at Buffalo at 3 p.m. at Stambaugh Stadium.

New leadership re-energizes YSU defense

Steve Wilaj
SPORTS EDITOR

On the football field, first-year Youngstown State University defensive coordinator Joe Tresey is loud, aggressive, mean and explicit.

For these reasons, Tresey was hired during the offseason to rework the YSU defense, which has performed poorly in past years.

"[Tresey]'s a great coach, and we love being around him," said senior defensive tackle Aronde Stanton. "As you see in the scrimmages and in the game plan, us players have responded well to him."

Spirits are high within the Penguin defensive unit, which has played better in the spring and summer scrimmages. Tresey said he likes what he sees.

"We feel like we've gotten better," Tresey said. "We still have a lot to work on, like our tempo, urgency and fundamentals. But we've worked very hard in camp."

Head football coach Eric Wolford is satisfied with the defense's progress as well.

"We're playing much better," he said. "We're a lot more accountable, playing hard and doing things right. I feel like we made significant progress over the summer."

With the addition of Tresey, the Penguins installed an entirely new defensive system.

After a 2011 season in which YSU allowed more than 20 points in nine games, they hope the new scheme will help lower those numbers.

"There were games where the defensive line could



Julius Childs breaks up a pass intended for Christian Bryan during a recent football practice at Stambaugh Stadium. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

have done more. There were games where the linebackers could have done more, and the secondary," said Stanton, a defensive captain. "I can't just put it on one area. As a whole defense, we have to step up and make plays together."

Stanton will anchor the Penguin defensive line, which Tresey said is "much improved."

"Everybody's gotten better every day," Tresey said of his linemen. "But we still have a ways to go."

Fellow defensive captain Dom Rich will lead the linebackers.

Travis Williams, the team

leader in tackles from 2011, was recently replaced on the first team by Dubem Nwadiogbu.

Tresey wants to show his players that no starting jobs are safe.

"We really don't have a set depth chart now," Tresey said. "We really don't want to go into the first game and say, 'You're a one, and you're a backup.' We just want 22 guys that can play, so whoever is in, there's no drop-off."

At defensive back, the Penguins have plenty of options to choose from. But, so far, Tresey mentioned Jamarious Boatwright and Donald

D'Alesio as standouts. "They're both doing a really fine job," he said.

The Penguins feel they carry more depth at each defensive position — a major difference from last year. Stanton said this should help the unit's consistency.

"When the secondary is having a bad day, the defensive line can make up for that and create more pressure," he said. "It's just about working together as a team defense, and that's what we need to lean on."

Even with all of the optimism among the players, the YSU defense has its doubt-

ers. Although critics are enamored with the offense, many feel the defense is still too weak and inexperienced.

"That's just noise around us, and we really don't pay attention to that," Stanton said. "If anything, we'll use that as motivation to show people that we can be a championship defense, and we will be this year."

How will the defense perform this season?



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