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New website prompts visionaries



Dreaming Youngstown co-founders Dana Sperry and Natalya Pinchuk discuss plans for city revitalization with tour participants at a vacant lot on West Federal Street. Photo by Kevin Alquist/The Jambar.

Kevin Alquist
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

In the midst of city revitalization, Dreaming Youngstown: An Open Library of Possibilities is giving residents and enthusiasts a chance to dream big. The website gives residents a forum to make their ideas for development available.

A year after Dreaming Youngstown was introduced

during the Town Hall Project at the McDonough Museum of Art, the project is hosting bus tours that bring participants to locations around the city that have sparked inspiration for revitalization.

Dreaming Youngstown's maiden bus tour was Friday.

Natalya Pinchuk, co-founder of Dreaming Youngstown, called the tour a great learning experience.

"It's not an easy task to get

people to participate," Pinchuk said. "Eventually, there will be money available to do some of these things, so to keep the ideas coming and continue brainstorming is very important."

The ideas are collected on the group's website, <http://dreamingyoungstown.com>.

Dana Sperry, the website's creator and an assistant professor in the art department at Youngstown State University, said the aim of the project is not

to develop a plan, but rather to create a wide span of possibilities to build from.

The next two tours will take place on Sept. 29 and Oct. 20. Over the last year, ideas have been collected, and the action process is under way.

Each bus tour departs from the former State Theater location on West Federal Street.

Friday's bus tour stopped at locations like under the Market Street bridge, Smoky Hollow,

abandoned car dealerships on Wick Avenue, a series of vacant lots and abandoned buildings on North Garland and South avenues.

Sperry said Dreaming Youngstown has an "anything goes" attitude.

"We are open to ideas that brings people downtown, no matter how wacky, unrealistic or totally feasible," Sperry said.

VISIONARIES PAGE 3

Trustee decision late

Rachel Lundberg
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

After five months of waiting, Youngstown State University junior Melissa Wasser received the phone call she had been anxiously anticipating.

She received the position of YSU student trustee.

Since the end of Ryan Meditz's term on April 30, Joshua Prest, now in the second year of his student trustee term, had been the only voice representing students.

Prest endured a similar wait last fall as the semester began and the announcement still lagged. Prest entered the position on Sept. 20, 2011, and Wasser did so on Thursday.

He said the anticipation can be overwhelming.

"It was a little bit frustrating, waiting to hear who would get it," Prest said.

Gov. John Kasich announced student board of trustee members for Kent State University, Northeast Ohio Medical University, University of Akron, Bowling Green State University,



YSU's newest student trustee, Melissa Wasser, works at the Candy Counter in Kilcauley Center. Photo by Chris Cotelesse/The Jambar.

University of Toledo, Ohio University, Miami University and Cleveland State University.

Wasser and Eric Shehadi were the only two applicants for the position this year.

Wasser, a double major in political

science and philosophy, said she looks forward to representing students on the board of trustees as she steps into the two-year position.

"I feel like they always say there needs to be more transparency in government," Wasser said. "Maybe the

students don't feel comfortable going to a regular board of trustees member, but maybe they would feel more comfortable having two students on there."

Student members of the board of trustees take part in making major decisions for YSU, though they can only vote on committee decisions, not general assembly.

Though Prest, also a political science major, serves on the board now and has another year, Wasser expressed frustration at the under-representation since Meditz's term ended.

"It's kind of annoying," Wasser said. "I know that appointments do take a long time; they have to pass through a lot of channels. I completely understand it taking so long. But it was kind of weird to apply, turn it in and then they say, 'Oh, you're going to wait a few months before it happens.'"

Meanwhile, Kasich announced student trustees for eight other public universities in Ohio between April and August.

"We're kind of the last of the last," Wasser said.

The delay on the announcement cut

TRUSTEE PAGE 3

Student affairs proposes tuition advantage expansion

Kacy Standohar
NEWS EDITOR

Jack Fahey, vice president for student affairs, proposed slashing tuition rates for regional students to the board of trustees' Academic Quality and Student Success Committee on Thursday.

If approved, students from 13 additional counties would

see their tuition rates drop by roughly \$1,300 to match the Western Pennsylvania Advantage program rate.

Residents of Chautauqua, Forest, Clarion, Armstrong, Jefferson, Indiana, Greene and Fayette counties in Pennsylvania, and West Virginia's Hancock, Brooke, Ohio and Marshall counties would all qualify.

Currently, regional area students pay \$5,269.56 per semester, while Western Pennsylvania Advantage students pay \$3,961.08.

"Basically, we have much to offer the students of western PA because their region does not have a university like YSU," Fahey said.

Susan Davis, executive director of admissions, said state schools in Pennsylvania have increased their tuition, giving YSU another competitive advantage.

The plan would include a cost. The YSU Budget Office is

predicting a \$159,000 revenue decrease for next year. Currently, YSU brings in \$167,000 per year through a \$117.80 per hour surcharge from regional students. Under the proposal, this charge would be reduced to \$8.76 per hour, resulting in the loss of revenue.

However, if an additional 19 full-time students enroll, the

TUITION PAGE 3

Brain gain

James Toliver
REPORTER

In the decades since the decline of the American steel industry, northeast Ohio has lost many of its educated residents to more booming regions. However, recent evidence suggests that the tide is turning.

According to U.S. census data from 1995 to 2000, Ohio lost 18,409 highly educated residents. Almost 16 percent of the Cleveland-Akron metropolitan area left during that time.

The American Community Survey reported that from 2007 to 2009, 1,715 graduates with a bachelor's degree or higher moved into northeast Ohio. This is in contrast to the 1,742 graduates who left, leaving a deficit of only 27 degree holders.

For Youngstown, the news is even better.

"The most recent data that I have indicates that the loss of college graduates in Youngstown is zero," said Shawn Brown, associate director of the Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education.

The NOCHE, a group that focuses on raising the number of people with undergraduate and graduate degrees, reported dramatic increases in educa-

tional attainment in northeast Ohio.

Brown said northeast Ohio is now drawing more educated residents than it is losing.

"And we must, because the jobs of today and the future require college education," Brown said.

Estimates reveal that about 60 percent of all jobs in Ohio will require college education by 2018.

In preparation for these requirements, the Eastern Ohio P-16 Partnership for Education was founded in 2009.

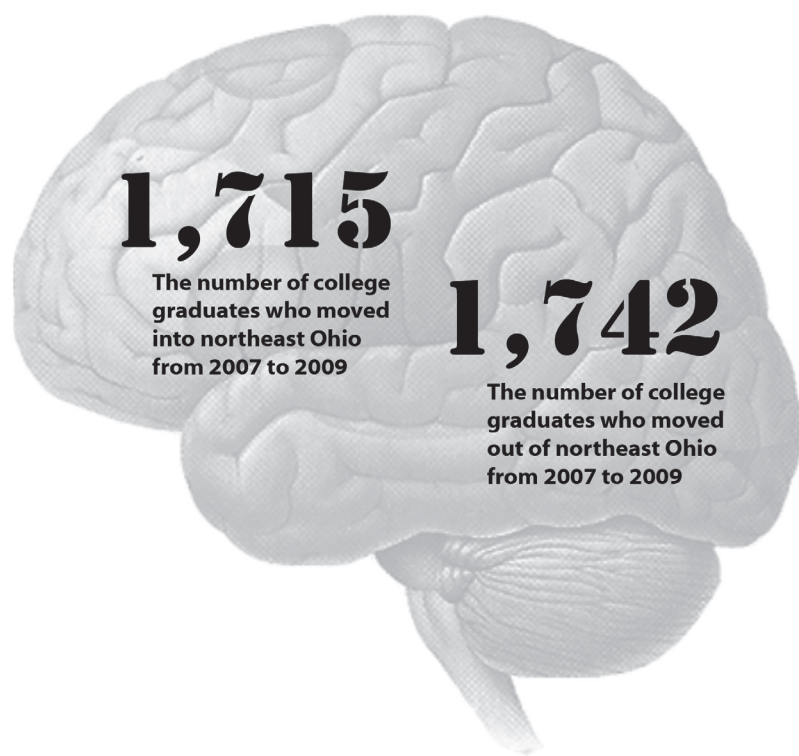
This organization is a collaboration of local education and community elites, including Youngstown State University President Cynthia Anderson.

It aims to prepare students from preschool through undergraduate education for the region's new economy and the demands it will have. Some of these strategies include guidance and preparation for standardized testing and best practices work with local schools and teachers.

Stephanie Shaw, executive director of P-16, said since job markets are always evolving, so must educational institutions.

Shaw said a lot of opportunities exist in science and teaching. She highlighted the shift away from heavy manufacturing and toward the region's burgeoning technology sector.

"We're at a pivotal point. Manufacturing isn't the same as when some of



GRAPHIC BY KEELY BLACK/THE JAMBAR

the graduates' parents and grandparents started. These are highly skilled jobs that require skilled workers," Shaw said.

YSU is meeting this high technology demand through the YSU College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. From 2005 to 2012, the college increased the number of award-

ed degrees from 294 to 332.

"Certainly, it bespeaks the quality of education the university offers. Companies used to locate where there were natural resources," said Michael Hripko, director of STEM research and technology-based economic development. "Now, they're located where there are intellectual resources."

Across the pond

Lee Murray
REPORTER

A newly approved undergraduate history certificate designed around foreign study experiences may see more students leave the comforts of home for a semester in another country.

Last week, the Academic Program Committee, the body that oversees the development of new academic programs across the university, approved the new undergraduate certificate in comparative international studies.

Students seeking the certificate will take two courses at Youngstown State University and then take similar courses at an overseas university. Brian Bonhomme, an assistant professor of history who drew up the initial proposal for the certificate, said the courses would have to be similar, but different enough to give students a multifac-

eted perspective.

"It allows [students] to take some history courses here at YSU and some other history courses somewhere outside of the U.S.," Bonhomme said. "[Students will] draw meaningful comparisons between the way history is taught here and the way it's taught or represented somewhere else."

The course was designed with England's University of Winchester in mind. YSU and Winchester have worked together for more than six years through their study abroad programs. This certificate will provide students with a more focused study option.

The certificate is not confined to Winchester, however, and Bonhomme said that other options such as France and Saudi Arabia could be available in the future.

"[This certificate] will encourage and reward them for studying abroad and to get them to think about the ways

in which things are seen from different perspectives in other places," Bonhomme said. "It's not something that will be specific to Winchester, but we've developed the course in the context of Winchester."

Alasdair Spark, director of internationalization at the University of Winchester, said that international study can be challenging because of the differences in teaching and grading policies.

"Sometimes an assessment will come down to just one piece of work, so you do put all your eggs in one basket," Spark said. "I can see how that could be quite scary for an American student who is used to making up their overall grade [over the course of a semester]."

It has not been an easy process for Bonhomme to get the certificate approved. He said it has taken nearly two years from inception to approval. He cites red tape and a lengthy paper trail as the main obstacles.

"It's taken forever to go through the bureaucracy here. I've been amazed at how difficult it is, how many hoops there are to go through to get something like this," Bonhomme said.

Adam Earnhardt, chair of the Academic Program Committee, said the process was slowed by the volume of submissions from all academic departments.

"With the changes in the general education requirements, many programs saw it as an opportunity to change their existing curriculum," Earnhardt said. "Because of that, we got over 80 program changes, which is really unusual. Usually, we may get 20 in a year."

There were financial aid issues related to the program, which were rectified following further discussion with the history department. The department confirmed that the certificate was part of the history major and would therefore still qualify stu-

dents for financial aid.

"The challenge with offering a new certificate is that it has to lead to gainful employment," Earnhardt said. "That's only true if you're trying to get financial aid to pay for it. The history department came back and said that this was part of the degree program."

International study programs have been popular options at YSU, and they remain popular despite a slight dip in the number of students studying abroad this semester. There are five students abroad this semester, down from 15 last year.

Spark is an advocate of international study and the character-building opportunity the experience offers.

"I think the whole experience should be challenging because if it wasn't challenging, it wouldn't be worth doing," Spark said. "And often, that challenge begins with getting a visa and negotiating airports."

'The Naked Truth' about Safer Sex Week

Taylor Phillips
REPORTER

This week is Safer Sex Week, sponsored by the Youngstown State University Office of Housing and Residence Life.

Sophomore Timar Majors weighed in on the seriousness of Safer Sex Week. He said some students view it as a laughing matter, though it's anything but.

"People laugh a little bit at the fact it's safe sex week, but it really isn't something to laugh about," Majors said. "Some people do; some people don't. It's about 50-50."

Majors also said Safer Sex Week can be a contest for some guys.

"Honestly, a lot of the guys go to the events for the different color condoms, but we don't ever use them," he said. "It's kind of like we collect them."

Whatever the reason students have for participating, Breanne Romeo, residential education graduate assistant, said she hopes they'll learn something useful. All questions are kept confidential to make students feel comfortable about asking them.

"Our goal is to reach out to as many students as possible. Last year, we had a turnout of about 1,000 throughout the week," she said.

Even those who take Safer Sex Week lightly can take advantage of valuable resources. For instance, the HIV Clinic will provide HIV testing at the YSU Student Health Clinic from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday.

"We've done the STI tests for as long as I've been here," said Jacob Stanley, event coordinator for Safer Sex Week.

Freshman Jenette Morell said getting tested is an important part of sexual health.

"Getting tested on campus is way

less taboo and embarrassing than having to pick up medication to treat an STD you have," Morell said.

In addition, a "passion party" planned for 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Multi-Purpose Room of Cafaro House will feature information about condoms and passion products, along with healthy relationship advice. Consult the "sexpert" from Planned Parenthood from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday in Christman Dining Commons, or join in on a sexuality acceptance discussion in the Presidents' Suite of Kilcawley Center from 1 to 3 p.m. on Thursday.

"The programs are supposed to be fun and educational," Romeo said. "We plan them all to be effective and educational."

The Office of Housing and Residence Life will also give out prizes and gift baskets.

"We will be giving out two health

care body care baskets for one female and one male," Stanley said. "We will determine who gets them by keeping track of the students who come to the events."

The theme of this year's events is "The Naked Truth," compared to last year's "Jersey Shore"-inspired "Smush Week."

"This year's theme is a little less playful than last years'. We tried to make it a little more serious," Romeo said.

A self-defense class for women will be held Tuesday from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center. Participants will learn basic self-defense techniques and useful emergency tips.

"We have some great information out there, and you can never be too careful," Stanley said.

For a full listing of events, visit <http://housing.yzu.edu/indeximages/safersex2012flyer.pdf>.

POLICE BRIEFS

Altercation breaks out in Lyden

A YSU police officer was called to Lyden House at 3:50 a.m. on Friday after reports of an altercation involving a male and female on the fourth floor. The RA on duty said she saw the two students arguing in the lobby area. When the male slid a pack of cookies toward the female, she took offense and threw the cookies back at the male. After the female ran toward the male and the male grabbed her to keep her from attacking, the RA yelled for them to stop. The male complied, but the female kept striking the male. Officers removed the female and sent her to Cafaro House for the night.

Student assaulted in Lyden

A student came to the front desk of Lyden House on Friday and reported that he had been assaulted in the fourth floor lounge area. The student stated that nine men from the third floor came to the fourth floor, started an argument with him and struck him in the back of his neck. The student added that he was pulled away by his friends. The RA on call then dialed 911, and a YSU police officer later arrived on the scene.

NEWS BRIEFS

Events mark steel anniversaries

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Little Steel Strike and the 35th anniversary of Black Monday, the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor will host an exhibit and symposium this week. A new exhibit — “Labor and New Deal Art” — will open the museum at 5 p.m. Thursday. Staughton Lynd, an attorney and activist, will give a keynote address titled “The Little Steel Strike and the Steel Mill Shutdowns” at 6 p.m. The exhibit will feature artwork produced during the New Deal. At 9 a.m. Friday, the “Crucibles of Change: New Perspectives on Labor During the Great Depression and World War II” symposium will be held. The plenary speaker is Brigid O’Farrell, author of “She Was One of Us: Eleanor Roosevelt and the American Worker,” and the luncheon speaker is Henry Adams, professor of art history at Case Western Reserve University. The exhibit opening and symposium are free and open to the public. There is a \$15 charge for lunch at the symposium. The Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor is located at 151 W. Wood St. For more information, contact Donna M. DeBlasio, YSU history professor, at 330-941-3158.

YSU engineering grad to speak at alumni lecture

Peyman Givi, the James T. MacLeod Professor of Mechanical Engineering and a professor of petroleum engineering at the University of Pittsburgh, will be featured in the YSU Alumni Lecture on Thursday. “X-Planes and Hypersonic Transport” will take place in Room 2400 of Moser Hall. Givi, a YSU alumnus, has done more than 26 years of research for NASA’s space shuttle program along with research for the U.S. Air Force. The lecture is \$5 for members of the YSU Alumni Society and \$7 for non-members. For more information and reservations, email habelgin@ysu.edu, call 330-941-1591 or visit <http://www.ysu.edu/alumni>.

VISIONARIES PAGE 1

At an abandoned house on Willis Avenue, off Market Street, Sperry suggested that the community use abandoned houses to teach citizens skills in home maintenance while fixing the run-down houses.

“For example, I have plumbing work to do on my own house, but I don’t know how,” Sperry said. “People can go to these houses and learn the plumbing skills they need while fixing up the house as well.”

Another focus of the bus tour was the area under the Market Street bridge. A range of ideas was submitted for the area, such as lighting up the bridge with colored lights at night and installing a park under the bridge.

Smoky Hollow is another area that propelled discussion amongst participants. Tour-goers agreed that the area needed more interaction between the city and the university in order for improvement to be seen. Ideas for Smoky Hollow included fields for pickup sports and an area that would act as a public forum.

Just north of YSU on Wick Avenue are vacant lots and abandoned car dealerships. One idea for the area that sparked excitement from Pinchuk is a community compost area and tool shed. The tools would be donated by members of the community and used for area residents’ organic gardens.

“There is a lot of potential in a place like Youngstown that has so much empty space and vacant lots,” Pinchuk said.

Joe Paloski, a former YSU student who was on Friday’s tour, said he learned about the tour through Facebook and wanted to see what Dreaming Youngstown is all about.

“I’m interested in revitalization of the city and was interested in what their plans are,” Paloski said.

Bren Munroe, a coordinator of Dreaming Youngstown, was happy to see participation right off the bat for the group.

“Some people have a fear of their ideas not being taken seriously; with Dreaming Youngstown, they don’t need to worry about that,” Munroe said.

TRUSTEE PAGE 1

into Wasser’s term as student trustee. Her term will still end April 30, 2014.

The wait isn’t the only thing that disappointed Wasser. The lack of interest in and competition for the position dismayed her as well.

“I think it’s kind of sad that out of, what, 15,000, now 14,000 students, two applied,” Wasser said. “I don’t know if people are just apathetic and they just don’t want to be involved, or maybe they feel like their voice doesn’t matter.”

Whatever the answer, Wasser looks forward to the next two years as a voice for YSU students. She feels her diversity of activities and involvement will give her a comprehensive view of what students want.

Wasser attended her first meeting as a student trustee on Tuesday, when the board discussed finance.

TUITION PAGE 3

deficit would be offset.

“We hope to be able to recruit enough new students that the additional income pays for the discount we give them,” Fahey said.

Davis and the office of admissions hope to achieve this goal by the second year of the program.

Davis said the expressed interest has benefited students already, especially in Washington and Westmoreland counties.

“We offer a wide variety of academic programs that are attractive to those students,” Fahey said. “As we continue to develop the tech belt, the Pennsylvania and Ohio border will continue to blur.”

The board will vote to approve this resolution on Sept. 28.

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Art major starts henna tattooing business



Art major Lauren Smith applies a henna design on longtime friend and frequent customer, Kodi Diglaw. Smith is applying a flower-esque design that she created herself. Photo by Kevin Alquist/The Jambar.

Marissa McIntyre
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Youngstown State University senior Lauren Smith began doing henna tattoos for her friends and family two years ago after a trip to Florida, where she saw it being done at a shop.

She said her interest in henna tattooing took off because of her interest in the culture.

"I like original and traditional henna designs," Smith said.

Henna is an impermanent substance that stains the skin. It derives from a shrub native to the tropical areas of Africa and other tropical climates. The plant is crushed into a powder, which is mixed with a liquid to make the dye.

Victor Wan-Tatah, director of Africana studies at YSU, said tattooing is used in many cultures, including the modern generation, to reflect messages and ideas about the environment.

"It's a way to let people know who they are, and it's a continuation of what human beings have done since the beginning of human beings," Wan-Tatah said.

He said the practice of tattooing goes back to cavemen, when they would draw designs on cave walls to let others know the cave was occupied and who lived there. It's much like how tattooing is used to show a piece of a person's religion, or a symbol that represents the person.

"It's a way of communicating and saying, 'Hello; this is who I am,'" Wan-Tatah said.

This is one aspect that makes YSU senior Kodi Diglaw a frequent customer of Smith's.

"They are a great conversation starter," Diglaw said.

The most recent henna tattoo she received from Smith was a flower design; parts of the design represent luck.

Wan-Tatah said the art and symbols will more than likely maintain their appeal.

"Human beings without sophistication or technology have been measured with creativity, which continues to appeal to today's human," Wan-Tatah said.

Smith said it took her about a month to learn how to do henna, and it came naturally to her as an art major.

"It's really cool, and I really like

doing it," Smith said. "I like the way it looks, I like the style and I like the design of it pretty much."

The process of creating a henna design is much like doing permanent tattoos in that there are different gauges and bottle sizes.

Smith said you can apply the design with a bottle or a cone. The cone is like applying designs to a cake. Smith prefers the bottles.

On top of doing the designs, she also mixes her own henna. She mixes the powder with juice and sugar and refrigerates it for two days.

"It comes out almost like a muddy substance at first," Smith said. "I found out the longer you leave it sit to dry, the longer the tattoo will last. Also, if you use lemon juice, it lasts longer as well."

A similar muddy substance is used in many Africana cultures to convey tribe membership, religious beliefs and spirit animals.

She said the tattoos can last from 10 to 14 days.

Diglaw prefers henna tattoos because she gets the art and conversation started without the commitment.

"They aren't permanent like real tattoos, but they still last a couple weeks,

so I like that," Diglaw said.

Diglaw said she thinks it's great that her longtime friend is using her skills to make a business and will continue going to her for henna designs.

Smith likes that she has been able to use all angles of being an art major to incorporate into her business. She uses her graphic design skills to make business cards and her drawing skills to make designs.

When she first started, she stuck to simple designs and now adds more detail.

"The biggest tattoo I've done was a half-sleeve for a girl going to Bonnaroo," Smith said.

She hopes to do more parties and festivals in the future.

The kits she purchases cost her \$50. Depending on the size of the tattoo, she charges between \$10 and \$15.

Is henna a cheat for a real tattoo?

#YSUSpeak



The president's residence



The YSU Board of Trustees took a tour through the newly remodeled Porter and Mary Pollock House on Thursday. The project cost \$4.47 million. Photo by Kacy Standohar/The Jambar.

Kacy Standohar
NEWS EDITOR

After two years of construction, the Porter and Mary Pollock House is ready to serve as a home for Youngstown State University President Cynthia Anderson and university presidents to come.

The once-dilapidated building on Wick Avenue was a \$4.47 million project funded by private donations and proceeds as part of the YSU master plan.

Right now, the project is about \$3,000 under budget.

Shannon Tirone, executive associate to the president, said

board member Scott Schulick made sure that not a dollar more was spent than needed to be.

"We're pretty proud that we were able to stay within that," Tirone said. "We were given a fixed number, and we stuck with it."

Tirone showed Pollock House to the YSU Board of Trustees on Thursday.

The project included new windows, roof, exterior siding, walls, flooring and painting. The elevator has also been restored.

"We wanted to restore and keep the history behind the building," Tirone said.

The Pollock family gave

the house to YSU when Mary Wick Pollock died in 1949.

Originally built by her father, Paul Wick, in 1893, the house was then used for YSU classrooms and offices.

Board member Harry Meshel said he remembers teaching classes in the building.

"Originally, it was a facility for the university to use anyway it could. ... I taught classes in a couple of these rooms," Meshel said. "It was used for a variety of functions, but then later it was converted to a dining room and a barroom and, like, a hotel."

A private developer built an additional 64 rooms onto

the back of the house and it opened as the Wick Pollock Inn in 1986. However, the inn closed 12 years later, and the structure hasn't been used until now.

"The hotel looked like it was going to function really well, but it didn't last ... as long as it should have," Meshel said. "I think it's a tremendous improvement from what it was like, particularly because it's going to be serving a different purpose."

Although Anderson has a home in Liberty, Ron Cole, director of university communications, said her contract states that the Pollock House will serve as her primary residence.

"Until the late '80s, the university provided a residence for the president," Cole said. "From the '90s to 2010, the university provided a housing allowance. Dr. Anderson did not receive a housing allowance when she took office because of the plans to remodel the Pollock House."

After some deconstruction in the summer of 2010, Faniro Architects began supervision and renovation of the building in September 2011.

"We knew that the end date was going to be somewhat flexible," Tirone said. "We did run into concerns and some problems that you don't know until you start tearing down some walls and such."

Tirone said it was important to separate wants from

needs.

"As much as we wanted to keep the integrity of the older windows, unfortunately, it was so much cheaper to replace them than it was to refurbish them," she said.

Other renovations included an attempt to replicate the original slate roof. Tirone said a slate roof was too expensive.

"We wanted to bring that back, but we couldn't. ... From the street, it looks like it's still a slate roof, but it's actually not," she said. "A lot of research went behind those decisions to make sure that the quality of the product that we were going to get was ... going to last many years for presidents to come."

Tirone said the planning and reconstruction involved a lot of compromise.

"We had to tweak what we wanted and what we were going to get at the end," she said. "Some things we thought we had to have, and we realized we could live without them to make sure that this project stayed on budget."

Tirone said the house and its refurbished gardens will host community gatherings, along with dinners for trustees and donors.

"The one thing we wanted to do was to be able to hold to its integrity. We didn't want to try to turn it or to retrofit it into a modern building," Tirone said.

"They don't build houses like this anymore," Anderson said.

Holy tits, Muhammad!

By now you've probably heard about, or even seen, the Duchess of Cambridge's bare chest.

If you haven't, here's a quick rundown. Kate and William were sunbathing at a private chateau in France. She was topless. From afar, an unknown photographer snapped a picture now seen by millions of eyes around the world. The Royal Family is livid.

Meanwhile, in the Middle East, riots continue. Incited partially by an anti-Muslim film, the angry mobs have already claimed the life of one U.S. ambassador and threatened the security of countless others.

With Monday being the 225th anniversary of the Constitution's ratification, we feel compelled to sympathize with the nefarious duo portrayed as villains by most of the world.

Our rights in America aren't absolute. Fortunately, the Constitution often serves as a necessary safeguard for reasonable behavior.

Sam Bacile's film "Innocence of Muslims" was shoddy work that pales in comparison to some episodes of "Jack Up The Rev," but his crime against taste does not deserve such a violent reaction.

The publication that published the topless photos of royalty now faces both a civil suit and criminal charges. France's privacy laws differ from ours, especially in regards to secret, public photographs.

Whatever the ethics behind nude photos and blasphemous films, the right to disseminate information should be held more sacred than the royal family or a false god.

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

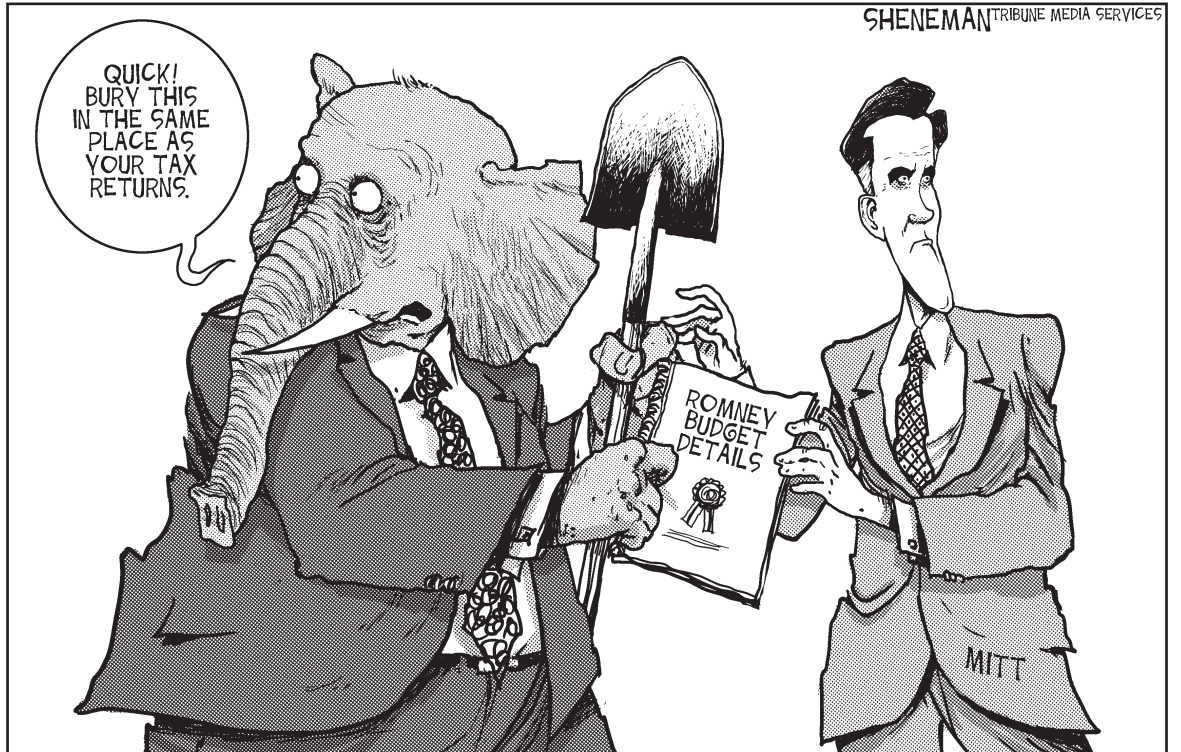
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The editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, the managing editor and the senior copy editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and do not reflect the opinions of any individual staff member. The Jambar's business manager and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

This letter is directed to Mahoning and Trumbull County drivers.

I guess nobody ever told you this, but I think it's now time you learn it: Neither you nor your vehicle are special.

I'm talking, more than anything, about parking.

See, the white — or yellow — lines are painted on the asphalt for a reason: to ensure that everyone has equal space and opportunity to park their vehicle.

Here's how you park: When you pull in, you do so carefully and you make a good-faith effort to ensure that you leave equal space on either side of your car between the wheels and the parking lines.

The lines are there so that just about any passenger vehicle can fit comfortably inside the space and leave room in the one or two spaces next to it so the next person can comfortably park or, say, open their door to get in or out of their vehicle without damaging their vehicle or yours.

I have often gotten out, stepped back and looked, if I was at all unsure. In, fact, I've often gotten back into my car and straightened it out if I somehow parked haphazardly. It took a horribly long time to correct the mistake and let me tell you, the pain of the experience traumatized me for months thereafter.

I hope you recognize sarcasm, and if not, that last sentence was a good example of it.

Back to parking.

When you pull your car in diagonally with your wheel over the line, or you pull completely over top of the line, or you pompously back in over the line so that you have two spaces, what you are saying is that you and your car are special, and therefore you have more rights than other drivers.

You are wrong.

You have precisely the right to one space and one space only. No more or less than the jalopy next to you. Your behavior is nothing short of ignorant and arrogant.

But I'll give the benefit of the doubt. It doesn't have to be arrogance.

If it is not arrogance, it is carelessness, and if not carelessness, it must surely then be incompetence.

See, parking is part of driving. If you cannot handle parking, then you cannot handle driving. If you are careless at parking, it means you are careless at driving and, therefore, you are a danger and don't belong on the road. If you are arrogant about parking, it means you're probably an aggressive driver and, again, dangerous and don't belong on the road.

Your car or SUV is just too big, you say? Well, guess what, sunshine? If you can't handle properly parking a vehicle that big, it means you're not competent to drive it. Are you starting to catch on? If you just can't handle parking, guess what? You can't handle driving. So give up the keys.

Now, I know some of you BMW, Mercedes, Lexus and ob-

noxiously-large-luxury-pickup-truck drivers engage in this selfish and ignorant act because you don't trust the rest of us to not ding your precious car with our door. But let me riddle you this: Have you not considered that when you do this, you royally "irritate" (EUPHEMISM ALERT!) other drivers and you actually put your vehicle at greater risk of damage? I promise you, friends, it is only a matter of time before someone pulls a Carrie Underwood on your Beamer in the interest of impressing upon you how not special you and your car really are.

We're all in a hurry. We're all busy. We're all trying to get where we're going and do what we're doing as efficiently as possible in this no-time-to-waste world we live in. A little bit of courtesy for your neighbor goes a long way toward making everything better for everyone. I know it's cliché, but it's true.

So don't be a jerk. Park it properly, and fairly and squarely. I assure you it's not just your neighbor you're looking out for. Karma has a way of finding us all, in time, regardless of what car we drive.

If you want goodwill for your Lexus, show a little goodwill for the compact and jalopy drivers of the world.

The parking spaces are for us too.

Dan Pompili
Youngstown

College graduation made easier?



David Roberts
COLUMNIST

They say going to college is a way to make a person well rounded, and what other time in life do we have to take a plethora of courses in different fields that might interest us?

College is a perfect backdrop for academic experimentation. Universities across the country have sought ways, whether their students appreciate this or not, to give these students the academic variety that they feel will serve students best.

General education requirements are established to do just that, although for the average college student, these are just viewed as an obstacle in their way of graduating. During the spring of 2011, it was voted to change the general education requirements for Youngstown State University. What emerged from this were slightly slimmed down and reorganized requirements for graduation.

At first glance, it appeared as if this was an action on part of the General Education Committee to make graduation easier for college students by eliminating two courses from the requirements, which could be the difference in someone's semester of graduation. For me, I was able to graduate using the traditional model

and had little problem achieving the goal in the allotted four years time, although I will add that I took two summer classes.

The new agreement was reached under debatable terms among members of the committee.

Tod Porter, chair of the committee, said, "The gen eds are one of those things the entire university shares, so you know everybody makes compromises getting a package everybody can live with."

With that in mind, it did occur that an alteration of such magnitude could affect so many departments on campus. I'm sure not every department was thrilled, but as Porter said, concessions are made by few for a common agreement.

At first glance, the reorganization of the domains leaves a point to be made. It seems that courses out of the YSU College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences were given the short end of the straw when they were combined into domains. The obvious repercussions are fewer students taking courses, such as the basic history courses, which, as I have come to find out, is not the most valued field in academics.

As a graduate of the history program, I take offense to this. As the cliché goes, "History repeats itself." This very much is a true statement. However, I digress; the sole purpose of this ar-

ticle is not to sit on my soapbox for our society's lack of appreciation to history. It is, however, to analyze the new general education requirements.

My first impressions of the changes were that they were supposed to make graduating from YSU a simpler task. After further discussion with Porter, I gained a better understanding of just what kind of benefits these changes have. I discussed my undergraduate situation of how I was able to graduate in the traditional four years as a history major. That is when Porter pointed out the difference.

"Sizes of gen eds was almost a non-issue for a lot of the CLASS departments because they have so much flexibility," Porter said. "It makes a much bigger factor in professional programs where the curriculum is so tight."

After looking at several of the professional programs at YSU, I realized that many of them have requirements of more than 130 credits to graduate. Having room for maybe two or three electives was a shocking revelation. It really changed my perspective on the whole situation. I can wholeheartedly say I understand these changes to the curriculum because, Lord knows after taking that many classes, you are not going to miss that much more with two fewer classes — except maybe an extra semester until graduation.

Ice in her veins

YSU student qualifies for national competition

Steve Wilaj
SPORTS EDITOR

Ariana Zebrasky began figure skating as a way to stay occupied while her brother played hockey.

"I got into skating when I was about 4," she said. "My brother used to play hockey, so my parents made me try ice skating to keep me busy while he had practice."

Now, at 19 years old, figure skating plays a slightly larger role in her life.

On Wednesday, Ariana Zebrasky, a chemical engineering major at Youngstown State University, will travel to Colorado Springs, Colo., to compete in the figure skating nationals. She will contend for the Senior Ladies Free Dance title at the tournament, which will run through Sunday.

But the best part, she said, is that she will be joined by her coach and brother, Thomas Zebrasky.

"It makes me so happy that I am going to Colorado, not only with him by my side as my brother, but also my coach," she said. "I am just glad that he will be there with me to share this awesome experience."

Thomas Zebrasky agreed that the brother-sister connection makes the journey even more special.

"It's not like it's just any other student," he said. "We work at the gym. We work off-nights. We work at home. We watch video together. Competition to competition, I critique her on her videos. ... It's hard to explain, but it's just the fun of working with my sister."



YSU student Ariana Zebrasky skates during a recent tournament. Zebrasky will compete in the national competition on Wednesday. Photo courtesy of Ariana Zebrasky.

The Zebraskys are not unfamiliar with the big stage. Thomas Zebrasky qualified for the national ice dance tournament in 2009.

"To see my sister qualify and kind of follow in my footsteps," he said, "it's just a great achievement for her."

Although the Zebraskys make the task look easy, the achievement is quite rare. Out of more than 8 million registered figure skaters, less than 240 in all four regions of the U.S. make the cut to compete at nationals. Even more

impressive, Ariana Zebrasky placed first out of the top six qualifiers from the Midwest region.

"It is such a great feeling to not only be selected, but to go to nationals as first in your section," she said.

Ariana Zebrasky clinched her national spot at the final Midwest regional competition in Indianapolis earlier this month. At first, her accomplishment was one that "she could not believe."

"It took some time until it really hit me that I was actu-

ally going," she said. "I don't really know what to expect in Colorado, but knowing that I am first for my section makes me pretty excited and ready to go."

Having competed nationally before, Thomas Zebrasky said he will give his sister some tips.

"What I've learned through my experience is that it all builds," he said. "Things get harder; you learn more. I think I try to take all the things over the years that I learned and teach her to try to take it step by step like I did."

Ariana Zebrasky, a resident of Poland, will represent the Youngstown Phantoms Figure Skating Club from the Ice Zone in Boardman. The club, she said, is "like a family" to her, since she has put endless hours into her sport.

"I got to the point I am in by training every day and just putting everything I got into this sport," she said.

Though she admits figure skating is time-consuming, Ariana Zebrasky added it is something she will always be involved with.

"After nationals, I am still going to compete and hopefully qualify again next year," she said. "But once I cannot compete anymore, I am going to coach and continue with the sport."

It has been 15 years since Ariana Zebrasky was forced into figure skating during her brother's hockey practice, and Thomas Zebrasky said he just wants his sister to enjoy the moment.

"She's working hard for herself, and it's just a great achievement for her, regardless of whether she comes home with a U.S. title," he said.

SPORTS BRIEFS

First sweep of season for volleyball

The YSU volleyball team fell to the Morehead State University Eagles on Friday, losing 27-25, 25-9 and 25-19. The Eagles swept the Penguins in their first match at the Spartan Spiketacular, held at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Morehead led most of the first set with 12 kills and five blocks. YSU sophomore Shannon Watson tied the set, but the Eagles took the set, 27-25. In the second set, Morehead scored 13 of the first 14 points, and the Eagles won the set, 25-9. The Penguins fought through the third set, with a kill from junior Jackie Carlisle, but a 5-0 run gave the Eagles a decent lead. Ultimately, the Penguins lost the set, 25-19. This was the first sweep of the season for the team.

Football boasts 3-0 record

YSU football held off the University at Albany Great Danes on Saturday with a 31-24 victory. Six touchdowns were made in the first half of the game — three for YSU and three for Albany. Senior Jamaine Cook scored three touchdowns and rushed for 161 yards in the second half, and junior Kurt Hess threw for 183 yards to become the fifth YSU quarterback to throw for more than 5,000 yards in a college career. The biggest play came in the fourth quarter; YSU led, 24-21, and forced the Great Danes to punt. Linebacker Ali Cheaib broke the line and was able to block the punt with 5:28 left in the game. The game brought YSU's record to 3-0 — for the first time since 2005.

Despite Sade's first career goal, soccer loses to Northern Kentucky

The YSU soccer team fell to Northern Kentucky University on Sunday afternoon, 2-1. This was the third straight loss for the YSU soccer team, leaving the Penguins 4-3 this season. Freshman Shay Sade scored her first career goal, but the Penguins were unable to beat the Norse, who took the lead only 11 minutes into the match. Sade's goal tied the score in the 23rd minute of the game, but it was the only goal for the Penguins.

Bearded and dangerous

YSU offensive line strives through experience

Steve Wilaj
SPORTS EDITOR

Senior right tackle D.J. Main listed some of the changes he's experienced since starting at Youngstown State University in 2008.

"The locker room wasn't finished," he said. "The weight room was different. Our film study room was totally different."

And the hair is longer? "Yeah," Main said, laughing. "[Andrew Radakovich's] beard's longer, too."

While the YSU offensive linemen play the ugliest, dirtiest and nastiest positions on the football field, they look the part as well.

Main sports long blond hair that runs partially down his back, along with a thin, scruffy beard.

Meanwhile, Radakovich, left tackle, and Mark Pratt, center, don't have thick, bushy and overgrown brown beards with shaved heads.

"I'm going to go with myself [for best beard on the team]," Radakovich said. "But I'm sure if you ask Pratt, he's going to have a big argument for that. ... He said I'm copying his style. I said, 'No, I'm just doing it better.'"

Whatever the case, the Penguins' offensive line has been together long enough for a little friendly competition and joking. A starting unit consisting of four seniors — Main, Radakovich, Pratt and Lamar Mady — and a



Jamaine Cook (35) runs through a hole created by Chris Elkins (66) and the rest of the YSU offensive line. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

junior, Chris Elkins, has started the past 13 of 14 games together.

"They can be very special," said head football coach Eric Wolford. "We're not going to let up until they are a very special unit."

Recently, the numbers the linemen have produced have been special. In the last 14 games, the offensive line has allowed only 10 sacks. They allowed their first sack of the 2012 season on Saturday against the University at Albany.

"From day one to where we are now, it's a compliment to those guys. They've worked hard. They've started to invest

more than they ever have in their life," Wolford said. "I think in the past, maybe they just played offensive line on Saturday and were everyday guys the rest of the week. Now, I see a different attention to detail on their part."

Wolford added that a big reason for their success is because they're big. The group ranges in height from 6 feet 3 inches to 6 feet 6 inches and weight from 290 pounds to 320 pounds.

"Physically, we've changed," Wolford said. "That's a compliment to [strength coach] Mike Cochran and [offensive line] coach Carmen Bricillo."

Though the linemen don't

receive much of the glory, their improvements have been key to the Penguins' 3-0 start.

"[The biggest improvements] have been our intensity and our depth," Main said. "Our second string has made great improvements."

Radakovich credits the progress to maturity.

"We've got a veteran group. Coach Bricillo just says something, and we automatically recognize it," Radakovich said. "We've all become students of the game of football. We'll pick up stuff that he may not see. He'll say one word, and we'll know what he's talking about."

FOOTBALL RANKINGS

- 1 North Dakota State*
- 2 Montana State
- 3 Sam Houston State
- 4 Youngstown State
- 5 Old Dominion
- 6 Wolford
- 7 James Madison
- 8 Northern Iowa*
- 9 Eastern Washington
- 10 Georgia Southern
- 11 Montana
- 12 Delaware
- 13 Lehigh
- 14 The Citadel
- 15 Illinois State*
- 16 Towson
- 17 McNeese State
- 18 Appalachian State
- 19 New Hampshire
- 20 Stony Brook
- 21 Central Arkansas
- 22 Maine
- 23 Eastern Kentucky
- 24 Harvard
- 25 Indiana State*

*Upcoming YSU opponents