

YSU Administrative Numbers Below Average

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It is no secret the cost of higher education around the country has grown rapidly, far exceeding the rate of inflation. Many critics of this sharp cost increase often point to one culprit: administrative bloat.

From 2009 to 2012, average tuition for public four-year colleges went from \$7,020 to \$8,655 — an increase of \$1,635.

Administrative bloat is a higher education trend that points to the disproportionate increase of administrative hiring in universities and colleges across America.

In an analysis of federal figures, the New England Center for Investigative Reporting and the American Institute for Research found that between 1987 and academic year 2011-12, universities and colleges of America have added 517,636 administrators and professional employees, an average of 87 for each working day.

In 2005, the national average was 68 students for every administrator.

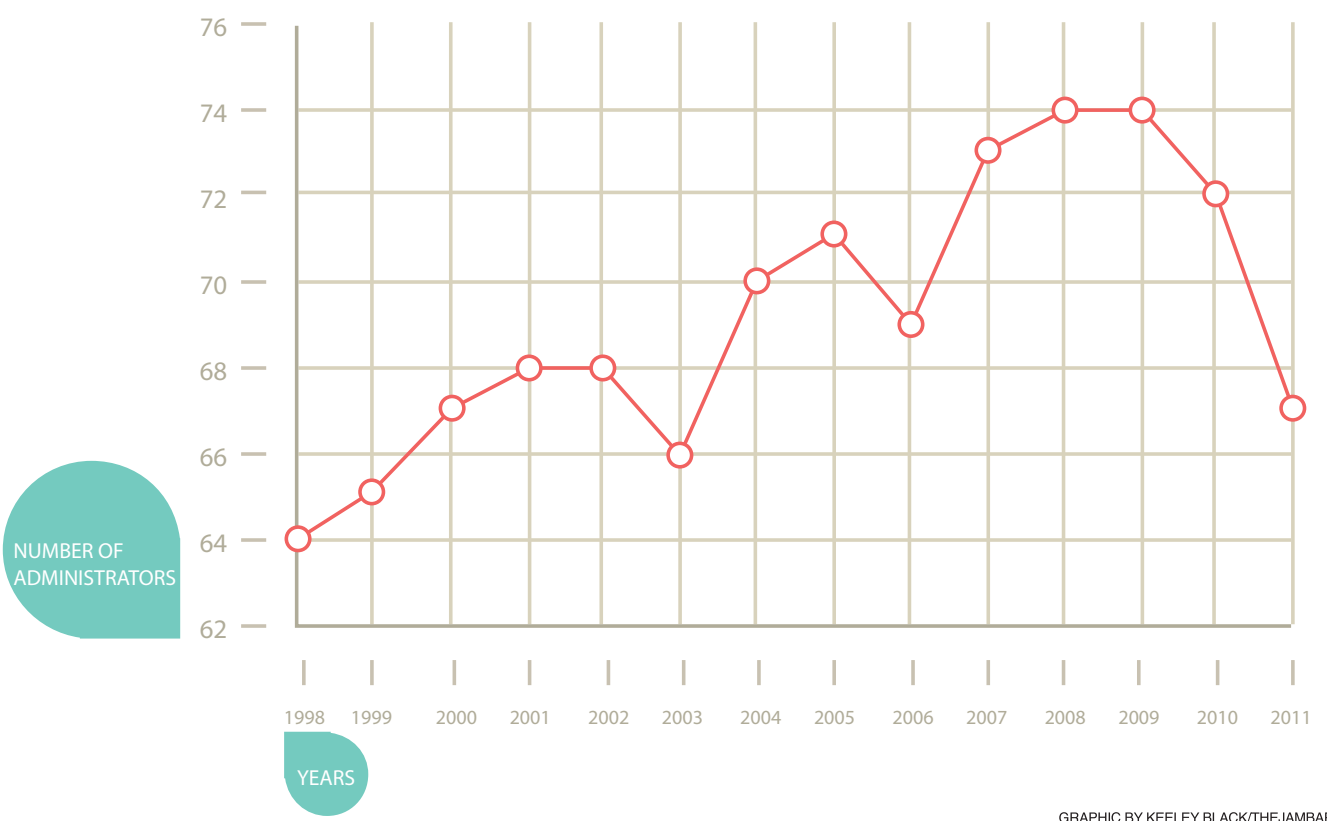
Keith Lepak, Youngstown State University professor of the political science department, detailed the role of these administrators.

“The administrators must run the institution. In other words, they have to see that the university is on proper financial footing; that the services of the university are organized well; that the future of the university as a viable operational proposition is met. It is not just a present thing; it is a future orientation,” Lepak said.

Stanley Guzell, a YSU professor of management, detailed the ideal methodology behind choosing the optimal number of administrators.

“There is something in management

FULL -TIME EXECUTIVE, ADMINISTRATIVE AND MANAGERIAL EMPLOYEES



GRAPHIC BY KEELEY BLACK/THE JAMBAR.

called span of control, and that really means: how many subordinates can some managers supervise adequately without losing control. Generally, you want to have as wide a span of control as possible. If you could happily supervise six people, you don't want only four reporting to you,” Guzell said.

Critics say that administrative numbers have far exceeded what is needed for university operations and control.

Jack Fahey, vice president of Student Affairs and an administrator himself, said this growth was due mostly to the increase in demand from government regulations as higher education

grew larger.

“Everything you read is ‘college costs are going up; college costs are going up.’ College costs don't need to go up by three times the level of inflation, as they have been going. What proliferates that is every time the federal government adds a new regulation,” Fahey said. “Most of our sister institutions look at that and say, ‘okay we have to add a person.’”

Lepak added that growth was also due to the pressure on universities, from various sources, to retain and graduate students.

“I suspect that one of the things that

drives up numbers of administrators ... is simply the competition for students and the desire to retain students. For example, our institutions, in terms of the kind of administrative services provided to students, has grown simply because of the state concern for completing four year degrees, and you won't increase your number of people getting four year degrees unless you first of all increase the number of students and try to take care of them while they are here,” he said.

NUMBERS
PAGE 2

Dunn's SIU Contract: Devil's in the Details

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Youngstown State University President Randy Dunn sent a letter and vitae to R. William Funk & Associates, the search firm responsible for finding Southern Illinois University Carbondale's president, on Jan. 10 detailing his career experience and qualifications as a university president.

Dunn signed his contract with SIU just a little more than one month later — the same day he submitted his resignation to the YSU Board of Trustees — on Feb. 17.

The most notable part of his contract with SIU is a stipulation regarding Dunn leaving that university before the expiration of his contract.

If he decides to leave SIU before his contract ends, Dunn is required to provide 180 days advance written notice, the same amount of time as outlined in his contract with YSU. If Dunn terminates his contract within 42 months — or three and a half months into his four-year contract — of taking the job, he must pay the university \$250,000.

In a press conference announcing his resignation on Feb. 17, Dunn said that he had not applied to SIU “per se.” When The Jambar requested Dunn's application and contract with SIU, Rod Sievers, the SIU Freedom of Information Act Officer, also said that “there was no ‘application’ per

se,” but that he would provide materials submitted by Dunn.

In his letter to R. William Funk & Associates, Dunn said, “Though I am not actively seeking a different position [outside of YSU], out of respect for both you — and the institution which employed me longer than any other during my professional career — I am forwarding various materials ...”

He also noted that he had “strong roots in Illinois generally and southern Illinois specifically.”

In his references, only one person was from Ohio: Rebecca Watts, a member of the Ohio Board of Regents. All other references had addresses in Illinois, Kentucky and Tennessee.

Dunn signed his four-year contract with SIU on Feb. 17. He will earn \$430,000 per year, \$55,000 more than his contract with YSU, and — as stated in that contract — will receive “health insurance, sick leave, paid vacation and other benefits accorded to administrative and professional employees of the university that are authorized by law or policy.”

The SIU Board of Trustees will cover moving expenses for the Dunns up to \$13,000 and provide a car for professional use.

Unlike his contract with YSU, there are no provisions for housing, number of sick days, country club membership or number of vacation days.

A Change of Plans for Melnick Hall Renovations



PHOTO BY GRAIG GRAZIOSI/THE JAMBAR.

Plans to fully renovate Melnick Hall have been indefinitely put on hold, but WYSU will still move into the building.

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In a committee meeting held last Wednesday, board members agreed to put plans for a full renovation of Melnick Hall on hold indefinitely.

The journalism and telecommunications departments, The Jambar, The News Outlet, Rookery Radio and WYSU were expected to move into Melnick Hall this fall semester.

Due to a shortfall of funds, however, only basic structural repair work will be completed in Melnick, allowing just WYSU to move into the space.

“The money that was going to be used for [the Melnick renovation] was some capital money from the state and some bond funding, but even with those two sources of funding, there was a shortfall,” said Teri Riley, associate provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

As associate provost, Riley serves as the administrative liai-

son on the major projects committee, which deals with facilities issues. She said WYSU will move into Melnick Hall because they were capable of raising funds.

“Given the nature of WYSU — with their semiannual fundraising campaigns — their member supported donor base ... was more well established than the donor base for, you know, telecommunications or Rookery Radio,” Riley said. “The plan was to see if money could be raised. And there was money raised, but the only money that's been raised is money that's been designated to support WYSU. So, there was not additional money raised to support the other units.”

The board's decision to put renovation plans indefinitely on hold came as a surprise to members of the YSU Department of Communication.

“I think it was unexpected among the people involved with the project. Maybe it will give us time to refine our plans so that when and if the project becomes

active again, we would be able to collaborate for a facility that will even better support our students and programs,” said Fred Owens, a professor in the communication department.

Kenny Reyes, a library and media technical assistant and advisor to Rookery Radio, added that the board's decision was a disappointment.

“The only thing I have to say is darn,” Reyes said. “It would be nice to be a part of a new facility, but we'll continue to operate Rookery as we normally would.”

The committee's decision to hold renovation plans for Melnick Hall must be approved by the entire board; the next full board meeting is scheduled for March 12.

Riley concluded that it is still uncertain as to whether Melnick will ever be fully renovated to house YSU's communication-related programs.

“We'll have to wait and see how it all settles out to see what actually happens,” she said.

Penguin Fire Hydrants: A YSU Legacy

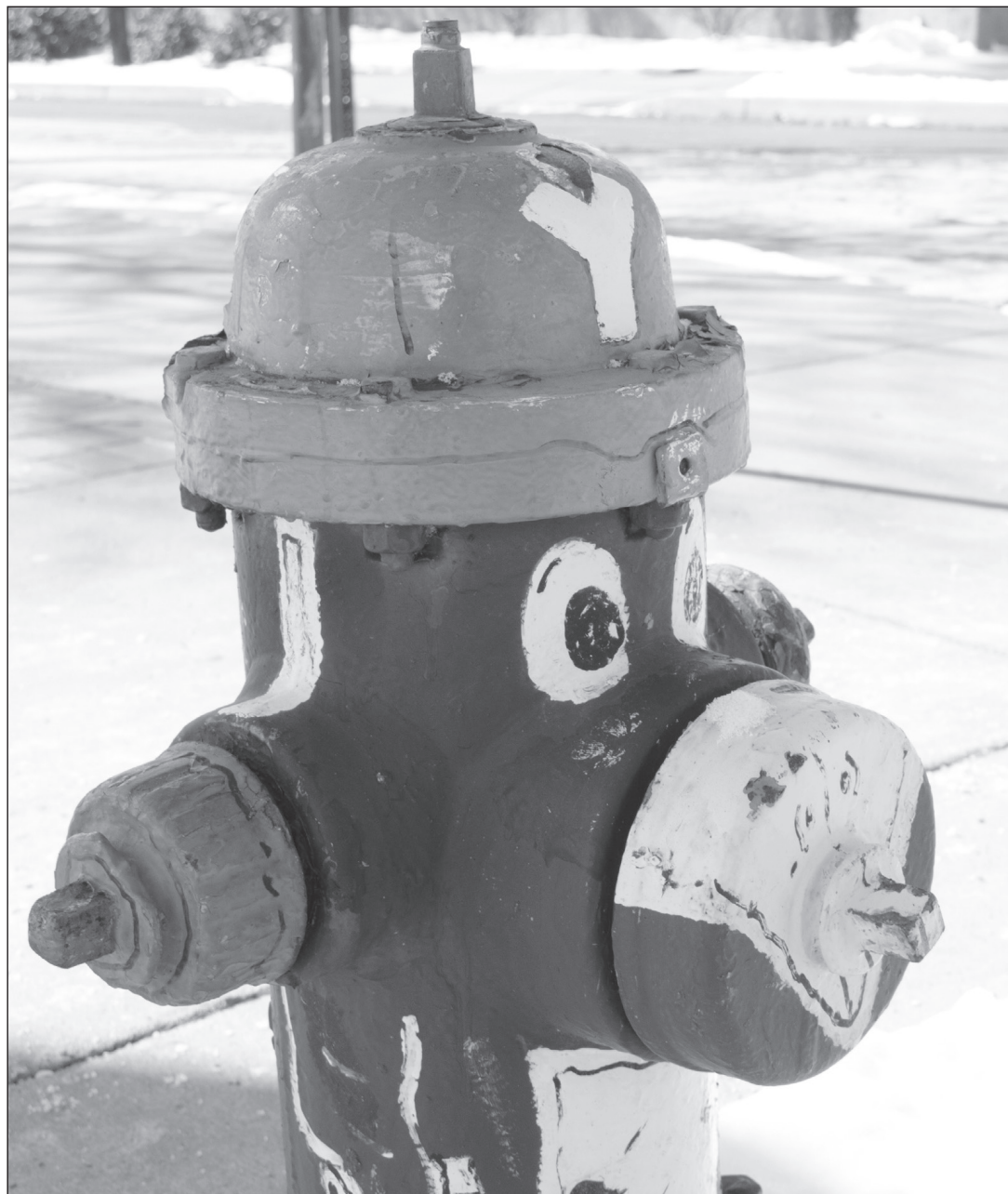


PHOTO BY GRAIG GRAZIOSI/THE JAMBAR

A Penguin fire hydrant in front of Inner Circle Pizza on Lincoln Avenue. Bob Barko Jr. painted just less than 100 hydrants during the summer of 1993.

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Students and faculty walk past them every day; fans stand next to them, waiting to cross the street to the Ice Castle before a football game; and prospective Penguins see them for the first time while on a college visit. The Pete the Penguin fire hydrants are a traditional landmark around campus, but how they came to be is a classic Youngstown story.

Twenty years ago, Leslie Cochran, president of Youngstown State University

at the time, asked professor Susan Russo if her art students would be interested in re-vamping the campus hydrants over the summer. Only one student raised his hand — Bob Barko Jr.

Barko said he had needed a summer job and thought it would be a great way to spend his break.

“Dr. Cochran had seen something similar out west in Colorado or something and came to Susan Russo and said it would be something he wanted to do here,” Barko said.

The project started the summer of 1993 and took Barko approximately a few months to paint just less than 100 hy-

drants. A few issues arose that the young artist didn’t expect. One of them was the strategic method firefighters use to differentiate one type of hydrant from another.

“If you look at regular fire hydrants, some tops are orange, some tops are yellow some tops are white — it means different water pressures. So we had to come up with what that meant around campus,” Barko said. “We ended up doing the same thing. If you look around, some Petes have white hats, some Petes have black hats, some have white.”

As the first batch of fire hydrants were complete, Barko started to get recognition for

his work from the campus and community. Barko said he remembers former Board of Trustee Scott Schulick, student body president at the time, complimented him for his work.

A special feature not many people would notice at first glance about the penguin hydrants is that all of them are unique in their own special way. It’s a plan Barko wanted to stick to with his original design.

“Every single one has a little something different. If you walk by the one next to the planetarium, he’s got a little telescope. The one by McDonough had a pallet and paint brush,” Barko said.

If you look closely, Barko also said that there are two Penny fire hydrants, one close to Buchner Hall.

The Penguins were a huge success, but after 10 years, Barko got a call from YSU to redo the hydrants. In 2002, they not only had him redo the existing hydrants, but to paint a new batch of hydrants that were considered new university property.

“In 2002, before I went away to journalism school for the military, in February, they asked me to come back and do a batch because they said the ones around campus core looked really shabby,” Barko said.

When Barko finished in 2002, he did a final head count and realized he had 114 painted penguins parading around campus. This parade let to the official Penguin Parade, a display of 31 fiberglass penguins that went on display all over Youngstown in 2004.

Barko’s influence on YSU has made him appreciate his education from the university. He gives much recognition to many mentors he met throughout his career.

“It’s funny because I think about Al Gallo, and a lot of folks that aren’t with us anymore but were such great mentors to me and taught me things about marketing and all of these different things that all rolled up and ended up being what it is today. I sit there, and I miss them and I’m so grateful for all of the great things

these people have taught me over the years,” he said.

Barko has had much success selling his artwork over the years through his own business, Steeltown Studios. He hyper-focuses on Youngstown landmarks in a fine art, graphic design style. He has done prints of Isley’s, Stambaugh Auditorium, the Youngstown skyline and Idora Park.

“This is my enjoyment; this is what I like to do on my spare time. I work out on the air base full time and every once in a while I get to take leave and do a [art] show, or go paint fire hydrants for a couple hours, that’s my relaxation,” Barko said.

His Youngstown pride beams as he speaks about his favorite places around town, says hello to familiar faces as he hangs out downtown, and creates artwork using his favorite city as his muse. Barko plans on participating in YSU’s “Summer Festival of the Arts” and many others this summer.

“There’s nowhere else like Youngstown, or YSU. It’s the best place in the world by far. My travels with the air force have brought me all over the world, but it is always so great to come home and that kind of spirit, just that little thing to show who we are and what we are about just shows it right there,” he said.

The 20th anniversary of the fire hydrant project has passed, and Barko is ready to get out on the streets to re-do the chipped Pete’s.

“I was talking to Dr. Dunn over the holidays, and he said, ‘lets do it. Just send [the proposal] to my office,’” Barko said.

YSU’s Student Government Association is planning on taking the project on as its volunteer work for this year. A merge of YSU generations could potentially come together to get the penguin hydrants looking their best.

“It’s pretty cool to think about: 20 years later we are talking about and thinking about doing them again,” Barko said. “They are just such a great part of the school history.”

NUMBERS PAGE 1

YSU, per the available numbers from 1998 to 2011, has experienced limited administrative, executive and managerial, EA, employee growth. EA includes employees in charge of managing the university’s functions and is made up of administrator positions such as deans, presidents, and department heads.

YSU totaled 64 full-time EA employees in 1998 — one EA employee for every 196 students — and 67 in 2011 — one EA employee for every 217 students. The category reached its peak with 74 employees in 2008 — one EA employee for every 185 students.

In 2011, the Ohio four-year universities main and regional campuses total full-time EA employees stood at 4,316, or 79 students for every EA employee.

Kent State University 95 students for every full-time EA employee; University of Akron had 329 students for every full-time EA employee; and Ohio University had 202 students for every full-time EA employee.

Fahey said YSU emphasizes a lean administration. “Every time we had to add a person, it has always been our philosophy that if that piece of work requires a new office or a new person, then we need to find something that is no longer of importance and take away from that,” Fahey said. “When we hired Gary Swegan, our new associate Vice President, we didn’t just wake up one morning and say ‘you know, we need money for this guy.’ That was part of a long term prioritization of resources in student affairs.”

John Russo, retired Department of Management professor and former Faculty Union President and chief faculty negotiator, said the university still fell victim to a sharp growth in administrative staff in the 80s and 90s, hurting the faculty.

“We did a lot of looking at what was happening at the university as it was downsizing, because the number of faculty at that time was much larger in the early 90s, and what we were finding, as the university downsized, the number of administrators grew dramatically,” Russo said. “More and more resources of the university were going toward administration, and less and less was going toward direct involvement with students and teachers.”

Russo also warned against being overly optimistic about YSU slim administrative numbers relative to other universities in the nation and Ohio.

“That was an argument we have heard before,” Russo said. “Indeed, we may be even with or less than other state institutions, but those other state institutions have also seen dramatic increases in administration.”

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NEWS BRIEFS

Veterans Career Assistance Program

On Thursday, the Military Veterans Resource Center will host its Veterans Career Assistance Program at the Trumbull County Commissioner's Office. The program will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will focus on personalized workshops that cover job search skills, such as making resumes and writing cover letters.

The program will also have guest speakers and mock interviews. For more information, call Greg Wedin at 330-272-0599 or Phyllis Collier at 330-752-7722.

GRE Review Courses

Youngstown State University will be holding GRE review courses at Williamson Hall in March and April. Two courses will be reviewed: the Verbal course and the Quantitative course. Each course will be divided into four sessions, totaling 16 hours of instruction.

The reviews will take place in Room 2222 of Williamson Hall. The Verbal course sessions are Saturdays, March 29, April 5, April 12 and April 19, from 1 to 5 p.m. The Quantitative course sessions are the same Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon.

The courses cost \$160 individually and \$270 for both. For more information, call Monique Bradford at 330-941-3069.

March 20 Skeggs Lecture: Michio Kaku

Michio Kaku, physicist and best-selling author, will present "Explorations in Science" as part of Youngstown State University's Skeggs Lecture Series. Admission to the lecture is free, but tickets are mandatory. Tickets will be available beginning March 4, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Information and PC Lab in Kilcawley Center. The lecture will be held at the Stambaugh Auditorium on Thursday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m.

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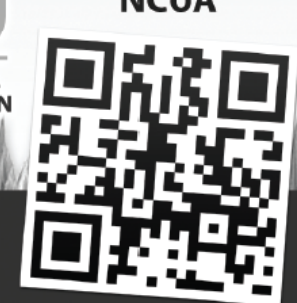
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Seventh Annual Bridge Building Competition Held on Campus

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More than 100 area high school students could be seen in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center on Friday. They put their engineering and critical-thinking skills to the test for the Seventh Annual Mahoning Valley Miniature Bridge Building Contest.

The contest was organized by Youngstown State University's Civil and Environmental Engineering Department, along with the Mahoning and Trumbull County Engineering Offices and MS Consultants, Inc.

Students from 16 local high schools were divided into 31 teams, with all but one school having two teams: a Team A and a Team B. Each team competed by building a miniature bridge out of balsa wood. The bridge was then tested for a variety of factors, including how much weight the bridge could handle, how lightweight the bridge was and how efficiently it was made.

"This event was to promote awareness of civil engineering as a career choice," Anwarul Islam, YSU associate professor of civil engineering, said. "We have actually seen that some students have been recruited, especially in the civil en-

gineering department."

Islam explained that the event went over very well with several students already being approached following the competition. He said that out of the 16 schools, Lowellville was the event's biggest winner.

"They've won five out of the last seven competitions. They took first place for the day. Jackson-Milton high school came in second and Springfield was third," he said.

MS Consultants played a large role in the competition. According to Brian Hughes, one of the company's employees who was judging the competition, they have helped organize and promote the event since its conception in 2008.

He said that these students had weeks of preparation leading up to the event, to test practice bridges and make improvements before the big day. He also said the bridges were inspected in a number of categories.

"These students were competing for the Most Efficient Bridge Award. There was an Aesthetics Award, and some others. The kids were each given three hours to complete a balsa wood structure. Each team was given the same amount of materials to build them," Hughes said.

Hughes said after the first round of aesthetics testing, the students' bridges were then fully inspected and put to the ultimate test.

"Each bridge was evaluated to make sure it met all the structural specifications. It was then weighed, and then if there were any deductions needed based on rule violations those were made. And then the bridges were taken to the load table where they were ultimately tested until they failed," Hughes said.

Brookfield student R.J. Leon indicated that weeks of intense preparation lead up to the final competition.

"We spent a few weeks making bridges in class and in our free time. Our physics class had a competition and the top two groups got to come," Leon said. "We then began to practice on our own. Today we had to execute this by ourselves without our teacher's help."

Leon said that although they did not win any awards, they had a great experience and reached their goal.

"We made the top ten, we reached our goal of that," he said. "It was a good learning experience and we took a lot away from this."

Islam said that he feels the competition is great for both the university and the students and is happy that students can benefit from it in such a big way.

"I think this is a great event for YSU to recruit these students in engineering," he said. "Each year we see more and more bright new talent come through these doors. It's great to have this opportunity."

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The Picture of Dorian Books

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With its green and purple neon sign and old brick, Dorian Books on Elm Street does not appear to be anything out of the ordinary. But such as with the store's namesake, looks can be very deceiving.

When you step inside the bookstore, you'll see that the inside is actually much bigger than the outside. The two stores — Dorian's and Full Circle Florist — are not separated.

On the right side of business is owner and manager Jack Peterson's business partner Rodd Coonce, who moved his flower business from Hubbard to it's Youngstown location in 2008. Peterson clarified that there used to be walls separating the two.

"When Rodd moved in, we decided to take them out. Let me tell you, it was so fun knocking out those walls," Peterson said. "We'd get up on ladders, with 10 or 15-pound sledgehammers, and just go at it and it was really therapeutic, when you watched the debris explode out of the other side of the wall, it was a lot of fun."

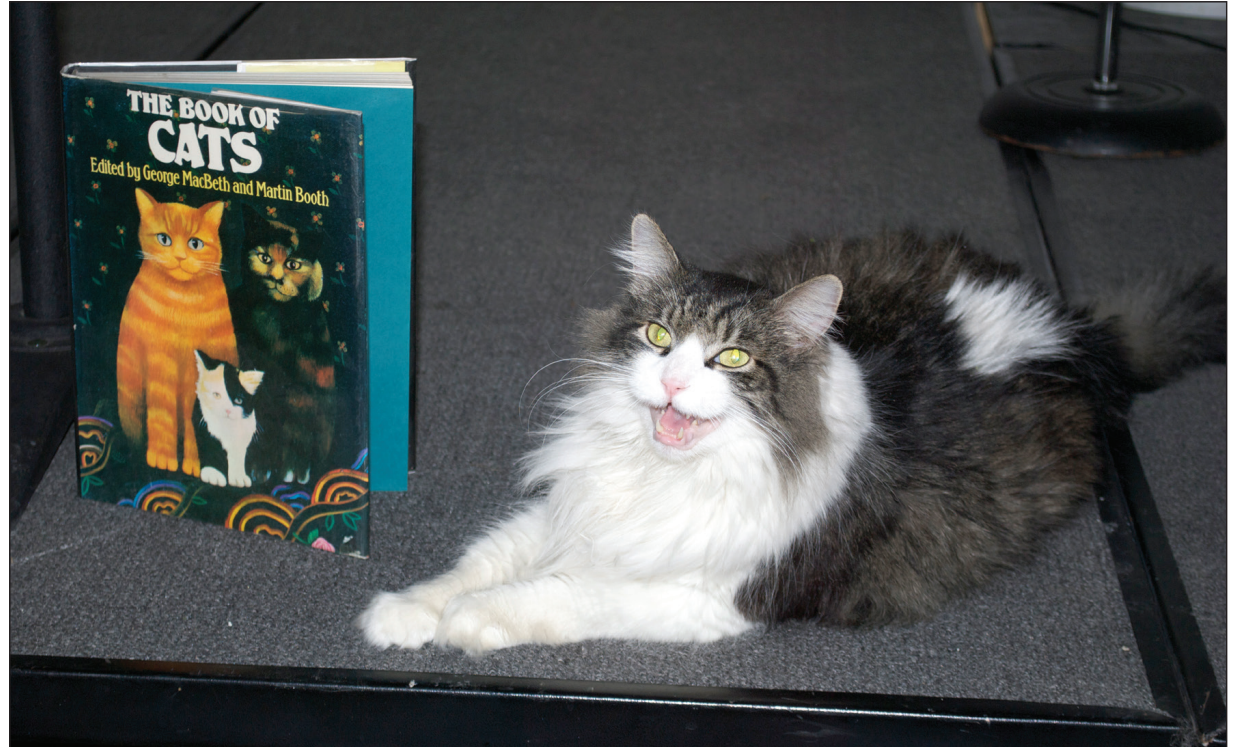
Dorian's is no stranger to having a good time. Peterson and Rodd host monthly live music events in the space between their two businesses. For a \$20 cover charge, patrons can enjoy a seated meal or party on the dance floor.

"I started doing 'Music at Madison' in 2003 as a way to make some more money. It was before I bought the building and it was a way of making ends meet. But it turned out to be a hit. We actually just had our 11th anniversary last month," Peterson explained.

The events start at 8 p.m. and reservations are required. Alcoholic beverages are permitted for those 21-years-old and older, although it is BYOB.

Coonce joked that event-goers seem to be more than OK with the alcohol policy.

"I usually suggest that people bring a good bottle of wine. Then again, I may just be secretly hoping they bring good wine and forget it here," he said. "Sometimes we'll have really elderly couples come to see the



Ernie, the bookstore cat, hamming it up onstage next to a copy of "The Book of Cats."

performances, bringing two bottles of wine with them. By the time they leave, those bottles are empty. It's pretty impressive."

As for the name, when asked where "Dorian" came from, Peterson presented a worn copy of "The Picture of Dorian Gray" that he claimed was roughly 80-years-old.

"This is the only novel ever published by Oscar Wilde, and that's where I got the name from," Peterson said. "'The Picture of Dorian Gray' was about a young man who made a wish. He wished that the picture of him would age, but that he would stay young forever. And that's exactly what happened."

Peterson's reverence of classic authors is not only

reflected in the store's name, but in one of the two cats who roam the building and greet customers. Weighing in at nearly 30 pounds, the Maine Coon Ernie — named after none other than Ernest Hemingway — has become quite the attraction since he had his picture published in the Vindicator, on WFMJ and even on the cover of The Business Journal.

This month's "Music at Madison" will feature live performances of songs from Elton John. If you are in a mood for some dining and music, or if you just wish to browse through books, don't forget to say "hello" to the cats — Baby and the infamous Ernie — on your trip to Dorian Books.



PHOTO BY AMANDA TONOLI/THE JAMBAR.

University Theater at Youngstown State University presents "Twelfth Night in 2014," a modern spin on the classic Shakespeare play that places the story on an island. There will be showings on March 7 and 8 at 7:30 p.m. and March 3 and 9 at 2 p.m. in Bliss Hall's Spotlight Theater.

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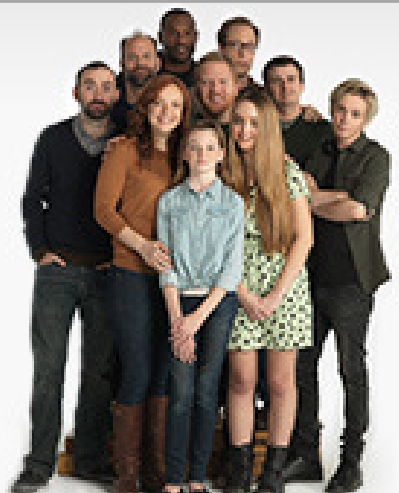
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EDITORIAL

Clarity is the Best Policy

There will be a Board of Trustees meeting on Wednesday to discuss the possibility of Provost Ikram Khawaja becoming interim president and dismissing Randy Dunn before the end of his 180-day resignation period. Since he announced his resignation two weeks ago, we have felt that the sooner Dunn is gone, the better. The sooner that he leaves for Illinois, the sooner Youngstown State University can move on.

It is absolutely crucial that the process of picking a successor beyond Khawaja's time as interim president is clear and free from bias.

The process of selecting a president at Southern Illinois University Carbondale was closed, with no one knowing who was being interviewed, discussed or considered. Some took issue with that style, saying that there was no way to compare who was selected with who applied and, therefore, no way to tell if the new president was really the best choice beyond the word of the Board.

Luckily, we didn't have that issue last year when Dunn was selected. We knew who the eight finalists were. They came in and talked to faculty and students and

shared their plans for the university. That openness needs to be here this time around as well. At a point where the school community is having a hard time trusting the powers that be, one of the best ways back to full trust is to be fully open about everything from here on out.

The biggest concern that we have is that there may be a bias, whether it is intentional or not. Jim Tressel's name has been thrown around as a possible candidate, with Sudershan Garg, the chairman of the Board, saying that he hopes Tressel applies.

Just from saying that he hopes one person applies, people jumped to the conclusion that Tressel was the front-runner for the Board. Even if he is the leading candidate, all other candidates must be evaluated equally to ensure that the best president is chosen.

Garg has said that the finalists from last year would be considered should they apply. We hope that they, along with anyone else that applies — and they actually have to apply, there will be no "per se" applications — will be announced, evaluated and chosen along the same standards.

LETTERS — TO THE — EDITOR

"Do we want a football coach as president of our university?"

This is a question I have heard from several faculty and students at YSU. The answer is "no, we don't want a football coach as president; nor do we want a physicist, poet, sculptor or economist — or philosopher, for that matter." We are not looking for some generic category for president, but for the specific person who can do the best job as president of our university, whatever that person's particular background. The specific individual who, at this specific time, is best qualified to lead Youngstown State University happens to be a very successful former football coach. The reasons have to do with both the nature of the job as president and the challenges YSU is currently facing.

YSU is an excellent university with wonderful students and some remarkably good teachers and scholars and researchers — and poets and composers and artists, as well. But YSU is facing some tough challenges. Like many states, Ohio has made a long series of severe cuts in its financial support of higher education. Years ago, the state provided about 75 percent of university funding, with some 25 percent coming from tuition; over the years those percentages have reversed, with the state providing only 25 percent of our operating costs, and student tuition paying some 75 percent. Like most state universities, YSU is tuition-supported, much more than state-supported. At the same time, the number of people in our larger region who are of college age is steadily declining; and demographic data indicate that this decline will continue for more than a decade. Enrollment is dropping at YSU, as it is dropping at most colleges and universities in the region. When steady reduction in enrollment — and thus steady decline in our tuition income — is coupled with continuing attrition of state support, the problems facing the university are obvious.

The first task of an incoming president will be increasing donations to the university: donations that must come from the loyal supporters of the university in our region, from our loyal alumni who recognize the benefits they have received from their YSU education, and from generous benefactors across the nation who recognize and appreciate the importance of higher education and particularly the importance of higher education in regions struggling with economic recovery.

There is no one who can be more effective at that job than Jim Tressel. His popularity with area business and community leaders is clear, and their strong and vocal support for him as our next president means that they will not only be willing to support his efforts to find the essential funds to sustain the university, but because they have made a powerful public commitment to his leadership they have a special interest and commitment to making his fund-raising efforts successful. Furthermore, there is no one more popular among YSU alumni than Jim Tressel, and no other president could be as successful in stirring our alumni to continue and increase their loyal support. Finally, Jim Tressel is uniquely capable of reaching out to potential new YSU supporters not only in our area, but across the state and the nation. He is known, admired and respected by many people across the country, including people who have been generous supporters of a wide range of worthy causes and who are likely to respond positive-

ly to a personal appeal from Jim.

In addition to fund-raising and strengthening relations with alumni, the other great task of the president of a state university is working closely with local political leaders and particularly local legislative leaders, and lobbying members of the legislative and executive branches for policies beneficial to this state-supported and state-regulated university. Tressel's popularity with our local state delegation is clear; and there is no one we could send to Columbus who would have better access to legislators and be more effective as a university spokesperson than Jim Tressel.

Some faculty are concerned that Jim Tressel will not provide inspiring academic leadership, that he is not a scholar and that he does not have a Ph.D. All of that is true. All of that is irrelevant. If this were a question of hiring a professor to teach sociology, or finance, or geology, that would be a legitimate concern. But the job of university president requires a different set of skills than the skills essential for success as a teacher and scholar and researcher. Furthermore, there are significant advantages to having a president who recognizes that he or she is not a scholar. When the Oracle at Delphi stated that Socrates was the wisest man in the world, Socrates was amazed and skeptical: Socrates knew the vast extent of his own ignorance. But finally, Socrates realized that perhaps he was indeed the wisest, since he did know that he did not know, in contrast to most people who fail to recognize the vast range of subjects of which they are ignorant. For all of us — but perhaps particularly for university scholars who concentrate their study and research on a specific area of inquiry — there is much more that we do not know than we do know. Unfortunately, university presidents — elevated to their high standing — sometimes forget that, and they become convinced that they have the wisdom to meddle in issues that are better left to the expertise of the faculty. For all his accomplishments, Jim Tressel is a modest man, and he clearly recognizes that there is much that he does not know; thus, he will devote his substantial skills to providing the resources and the support that the various colleges and departments need in order to teach their students well and continue their research, but he will not attempt to micro-manage the university, and that is a rare and wonderful trait in a university president.

YSU does require an inspiring academic vision, but that vision cannot be provided by the university president, whose work lies elsewhere. Providing the leadership and securing the resources to make YSU a great university is the job of its president; developing a clear vision of the instructional and research and service goals of the university is the job of the provost, and the deans and ultimately, the faculty who combine a rich variety and wide range of specialized knowledge into a distinctive institutional personality. The overall enterprise is a demanding one, made more difficult in these difficult times. Jim Tressel would be a valuable part of that enterprise.

Bruce N. Waller
Philosophy and Religious Studies

Vending machine prices! Hmmmmm. I'm surprised to find not many students openly complain about the excessive charge placed on items in all the vending machines throughout the campus. I am also amazed to hear the lack of open talk within the student government about it, as well.

If YSU is truly aware of the average and current student income levels and that a high number of Youngstown residents live in poverty, then how can the school explain why only YSU vend-

ing machines are substantially higher than other sporting arenas, the mall or even anywhere else in the area? The truth is that currently YSU students pay much higher prices for vending machine purchases than at any other location in the area! Why can't the student government take over management of YSU vending machines and the profit go back to the students?

Roy Johnson
Youngstown



ROOKERY NEWS: MWF 10 AM | 11 AM
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Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the first summer session. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. The first copy of The Jambar is free. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.

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One for the Thumb

YSU women win first indoor title since 2008

JOE CATULLO JR.

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Before the Horizon League Championships began on Saturday at the Watson and Tressel Training Site, coach Brian Gorby showed his Youngstown State University women's track and field team a shirt he's had since 1997.

On the shirt read "Mid Con's best just got better," referring to when YSU last won the Triple Crown — titles for cross country and indoor and outdoor track and field — as a member of the Mid-Continent Conference.

The men won that prestigious accomplishment during the 1997 season. This season's women's team is not far behind after winning the indoor championship on Sunday, Gorby's 20th title. The Penguins won the cross-country title earlier this season.

"That just separates you from being just a good conference team when you can dominate all three seasons," Gorby said. "That shows you've got a complete program and a complete group of kids."

In a nutshell, everything possible had to go wrong for YSU not to win, and nothing did. The Penguins won by 80 points, the highest margin of victory in program history, with 171 overall. The University of Detroit Mercy finished second with 91 points.

After the event concluded on Sunday, the Penguins ripped a white box wide open and wore the championship T-Shirts and hats. When asked what wearing them felt like, Ciara Jarrett broke into a dance.

"We've set this up for almost three or four years," Gorby said. "We've said that this would be our biggest year with our seniors. When we built this building, we figured this would be the year. All five phases are working with sprints, jumps, throws, distance and the vault."

Defending her title for the fourth consecutive year, Jarrett set the tone by winning the 200-meter dash with a time of 24.61 seconds. It marked her second title of the 2014 Horizon League Championships.

"Winning the 200 feels real good because my family and I, especially my dad, wanted me to be the first to win the 200 indoor four years in a row," Jarrett said.

Samantha Hamilton secured her first indoor title. She won the 5,000-meter run with a time of 17:08 even when she wasn't 100 percent.

"I was looking for [three wins] this weekend, but I just have some things that have been lingering for a



Members of the YSU women's track and field team hold up the Championship trophy after winning the Horizon League Championship meet on Sunday at the WATTS.

while," she said. "I don't think I'm 100 percent back yet. It definitely proved that this weekend, but the team championship is really awesome, especially coming off of cross country."

Mackenzie Sturtz won the high jump with a leap of 1.69 meters. It also marked YSU's seventh consecutive high jump title. Jennifer Neider won the women's shot put with a toss of 14 meters. It is her second consecutive title in the conference championships and marked YSU's fourth straight.

Any Penguin did not have to win a title to make a huge impact. Alexis Cooper finished sixth in the 800-meter run with a time of 2:16.31, marking her fastest time this year.

"She's been struggling with that 800 a little bit by just running that same time," Hamilton said. "It's very consistent, but she could never pop over that 2:17, 2:18 mark. For her to run 2:16 back to back was a big deal."

The Penguins that earned Horizon League Performance Awards were McKinsie Klim (Track Freshman of the Year), Nicole Waibel (Field Freshman of the Year) and Gorby (Women's Coach of the Year).

"We had a lot of newcomers, so for the newcomers to step it up and help out the older crowd win the conference is just a blessing," Jarrett said.

With other events in-between, the conference outdoor championships will run from May 2-4 as the Penguins strive for that Triple Crown.

"After today winning by as many as we did, I think that as long as everybody stays healthy and gets healthy, it shouldn't be a problem for us," Hamilton said.

If YSU wins its 21st title and no room left on his toes or hands, a pierced earring might be a possibility for Gorby.

"We've got all ten toes and all the fingers," Gorby said. "This one was for the thumb. It never gets old."

On the Horizon

YSU men finish second at championship meet

YSU junior Eric Rupe holds his hands out as he crosses the finish line of the 3,000-meter run at the Horizon League championship meet held at the WATTS on Sunday.

JOE CATULLO JR.

joecatullo@yahoo.com

Shortly after crossing the finish line in the 3,000-meter run, Eric Rupe laid on the Watson and Tressel Training Site track, finally able to catch his breathe.

He even took a cup of water and splashed it on his face, all in one motion. Rupe competed in two other events during the Horizon League Championships, including the one-mile run an hour and a half prior.

The pain never felt better.

"That one hurt a little more than what I would have liked it to, but it was worth it," Rupe said. "I was hurting at the end for sure. For distance runners, running one event is hard enough, running two is crazy and running three is almost unheard of.

In that last 100 [meters], I was blacking out. It hurt, but it feels good now."

Rupe won the 3,000-meter run with a time of 8:32.49. He also won the 5,000-meter run on Saturday, making him the third male athlete to win both events at the same conference meet in 33 years. He took some hardware home as well with the Individual Scoring Award.

Even with Rupe's accomplishments, the Youngstown State University men's track and field team fell short to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The Panthers won the title with 158 points while YSU scored 143.

"On paper, we were 30 down going into this meet," coach Brian Gorby said. "With two events go, we were up 15-20 points. It was pretty much bittersweet. This is the closest we've ever

been. Next year is going to be our year."

The biggest factor was Marcellus Embry in the 200-meter dash. He did not finish the race while four Panthers placed. The Penguins were leading overall at this point.

"He pulled his hamstring on the curve," Gorby said. "Instead of us getting 10 [points] and them getting maybe four, they pretty much got 10, and we got nothing. It was a 15-point swing."

"It was just a pulled hamstring. Otherwise, we'd be sitting talking about a championship right now. That's nothing against Marcellus. It is what it is. It's not just that situation. We've got to be better everywhere else."

Saturday and Sunday marked the Penguins' second runner-up finish this season. They also

placed second at the cross-country championships. Overall, YSU out-performed itself.

Bobby Grace played a significant role. He won the shot put, throwing 19.13 meters and breaking the conference record of 17.62 meters set in 2012. Grace also won Athlete of the Year and Most Outstanding Performer.

"That's what I was projected to do, so it feels good to do that," Grace said. "Getting the record was just icing on the cake. It was a good building meet for Nationals in a couple of weeks."

The third Penguin to win an award was William Royal as Field Freshman of the Year. He won the long jump on Saturday and finished fourth in the triple jump with a leap of 13.92 meters, marking his farthest jump of the year by .20 meters.

"You'd really like to take the

opportunity when it's given to you," Rupe said. "I felt like we had an opportunity today and let it slip away a little bit, but you never know what's going to happen outdoor."

The Penguins have two months to prepare for the season's last Horizon League Championships, which will occur from May 2-4.

"The thing is that the girls, going in, were the favorite by a ton," Rupe said. "For us, we had to scratch and claw the entire way. Sometimes, when you're in that underdog role, if you could come out on top, it would feel unbelievable because we came in second in cross-country and second today [Sunday]."

"It's coming for sure. We just have to be patient. When it does come, it's going to feel really good."