

THE JAMBAR

The student voice of
Youngstown State University
since 1931.



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THE SIDEBAR



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| | | |
|-----------|--|---------|
| Today | | 75° 58° |
| Friday | | 71° 54° |
| Saturday | | 72° 60° |
| Sunday | | 78° 54° |
| Monday | | 78° 55° |
| Tuesday | | 79° 54° |
| Wednesday | | 76° 59° |



Remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar.

ACE SET TO RECEIVE \$1.7 MILLION BONUS

Dan Pompili
ASSIST. NEWS EDITOR

In the second year of their contract, members of the Youngstown State University Association of Classified Employees will have received, as of Dec. 15, bonuses totaling approximately \$5,625 each and \$2,190,375 over two years.

Article 3:16 of the ACE contract provides an "enrollment incentive" which pays each member \$375 per 0.5 percent of full-time equivalent (FTE) growth. This year, the FTE growth is 6.35 percent, paid at 6 percent value

since 0.35 does not represent a full 0.5. The estimated total per employee is \$4,500.

ACE claims 351 full-time employees and 51 intermittent employees, totaling 388 members eligible for the bonus. The total estimated amount to be paid, \$4,500 for 388 employees, is \$1,746,000.

There is no difference in bonus payment among part-time or intermittent employees and full-time employees.

Neal McNally, director of Budget Planning and Resources, confirmed these estimates along with last year's official numbers.

In 2008, 397 ACE members were paid for a 1.5 percent FTE increase. Each

member received \$1,125 for a total of \$421,950. This year's payment represents a more than \$1.3 million differential, or 292 percent.

McNally said the numbers could change before December.

"There could be some attrition of employees," McNally said. "Some may leave and others may join." He said his current budget estimates are calculated for 400 employees.

McNally explained the fiscal budget is planned using an assumption of no enrollment increase. The budget is then

"We didn't like it...there was no clear incentive."

-Neal McNally
Director of Budget Planning

ACE page 3

PARKING PROBLEMS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LAMAR SALTER / THE JAMBAR

Football team gets new curfew

Caitlin Cook
REPORTER

As the current football campaign kicked off, Youngstown State University players were in the spotlight for more than just their athletics. Prior to the season opener, an undisclosed number of players were suspended due to team violations. Compelled to bounce back from a disappointing season last year, the team faces questions on and off the field.

Head coach Jon Heacock aims to direct his players to proper action for now and later in life. "I'm trying to teach them life lessons; I'm not teaching them to just survive YSU football," he said.

Along with the team's winners' manual and handbook, and YSU athletic department rules and regulations, a midnight curfew has been implemented. Heacock said the curfew aids players' decision-making process in hopes that they are home instead of out having to choose what right or wrong action to take.

Lt. Mark Adovasio, a 28-year veteran of the YSU police department, said they have a good working relationship with Heacock, in which members of the police force have spoken to players to introduce themselves and advise them on their conduct in certain situations.

Adovasio said, the football team is held to a higher standard. "It's like they get caught three times as the average person is caught once. They are no worse than the rest of the students," he said.

In regard to the suspensions, Heacock stated, "I'm disappointed in an action, not in a young person. My job is to help eliminate that action, not the person. That's not education; that's easy."

Helping guide the team in his second consecutive year as team captain is defensive end Mychal Savage. He gained larger perspective on the inner workers of Penguin football as he suffered a season ending injury in the first game of last year and watched from a coach's standpoint.

"All the little things make the biggest differences, from going to class on time, getting to meetings on time ... everything makes the big difference. Do all the little things right, and it will come together on the field," Savage said.

Savage said the suspensions have not affected team chemistry. The team will have a chance to come together on the field as the suspended rejoin the team in their home opener.

Students complain of potential "parking trap"

Josh Stipanovich
NEWS EDITOR

It's the third week of class, and students are already having trouble understanding where and where not to park on campus.

It was the second day of class when freshman Michael Baker parked on the fourth level of the M1 parking deck on Wick Avenue when he parked in one of the two available spaces reserved for Youngstown State University maintenance crew.

When he returned to the car, he was met with a \$100 fine for parking in a posted maintenance vehicle only space, which is labeled under a "major violation" according to the list of violations on <http://www.yzu.edu/parking/violations.shtml>.

"If [the fine] was \$20 or \$25, that would be un-

derstandable," Baker said. "We're college kids, and we don't have \$100 to throw away like that."

Director of Support Services Danny O'Connell said that the fine is \$100 because it's considered a major violation, and added that if students park there, it prevents any maintenance crew at YSU from getting work done throughout the day.

"There are major fines because that's what they're held for. We have to keep that area clear," O'Connell said. "The reality is if someone's parked there, nobody is doing business."

O'Connell said the signs and markings have been up for the past 15 years, and that he hasn't had this problem until this semester.

"I don't remember ever, prior to this, I have not had a second level appeal where somebody said it

wasn't properly identified including our handicapped spots," he said.

O'Connell said if there was a parking trap there, he would have it properly attended to ensure that students would not park there.

"I could assure everybody that it's not a trap. We have three people on a shift normally that can write tickets, and we write tickets ... I mean we write a lot of tickets, but if you have a parking permit, and I don't, and I'm not getting a ticket, it's not fair to you," he said. "You can't not write tickets."

O'Connell said all of the "no parking" signs on campus are at the standard height that they are supposed to be.

Senior education major Salvador Bolan was ticketed for the same offense

PARKING page 3



Crosswalk chaos

Juliana Hull
REPORTER

Although construction near Spring Street and Fifth Avenue, between Stambaugh Stadium and the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center, has ended, some Youngstown State University students have been left stranded crossing the street.

CROSSWALK page 3

PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIANA HULL / THE JAMBAR

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News Briefs

Dana sets Music at Noon schedule

The Dana School of Music has released their Music at Noon schedule. Performances will be held at the Butler Institute of American Art at 12:15 p.m. on Sept. 16, 23 and 30. The performances will be soprano Corinne Morini, Jazz Combos and Choral Music, respectively. The concerts are free and open to the public.

Swim Team holds lessons

The YSU swimming and diving team is holding swimming lessons in October for children of the YSU community as a fundraiser. The lessons will be hosted in the Natatorium in Beeghly Center on Wednesdays starting Oct. 4, and registration deadline is Sept. 25. The cost per child is \$50.

F&PA dean makes performance debut

Fine and Performing Arts Dean Brian DePoy will make his performance debut with Dana trumpet professor Chris Kummel on Sept. 13 at 4 p.m. at the Ford Family Recital Hall in the DeYor Performing Arts Center downtown. DePoy has music degrees from Indiana University, the University of Meico and a doctorate from Florida State University.

Several activities set for home opener

The first YSU home football game will be celebrated with Kid's Tailgate Fun Days, fireworks, clowns, face painting, Pete and Penny and free ticket giveaways in the M7 parking lot three hours prior to kickoff Sept. 12. Fans can log on to YSUsports.com for game-day promotions and individual game information.

Students agree coffee helps to clear the morning fog

Alicia Pattillo
REPORTER

For some, coffee is an essential tool that gets working people and students through their day. On the campus grounds at Youngstown State University, there are a variety of coffees to choose from.

Some students though, say they like some coffee choices more than others.

Sophomore Jasmine Jackson said she needs coffee in the morning as much as she needs sleep at night.

"I only buy coffee from the YSU convenient store, right next door to the bookstore. They have the best coffee. I don't drink Peaberrys coffee or the Bagel Stop's coffee. I don't like the taste very much," Jackson said.

While there are many varieties to choose from for a coffee fix, students seem to gravitate to what's the cheapest.

Freshman Lily Frico said she's been drinking coffee since she was a sophomore in high school because no matter how long she slept, she was just not a morning person.

Now that Frico is living on her own, she said she pays attention to what she spends on coffee.

"Since I have no job, and my parents send me money every two weeks I have a balance, but I cannot live without my coffee, so I've been buying my coffee from Jazzman's. I

think they are affordable for a small cup of joe," Frico said.

Freshman Andre Reid said there are two things he considers important: school and coffee.

"I love coffee. I absolutely hate the morning and no energy drink can get me up the way coffee does," Reid said.

"I buy coffee anywhere on campus. The prices are not too bad and they taste the same to me," he added.

As many students as there are buying coffee on campus, there are just as many buying them off-campus.

Senior Matt Kirk said the prices on campus are too high for his pockets.

"I am a college student, for goodness sake. I can't afford

to pay three dollars and more for a cup of coffee at Peaberrys. That's way too much," he said. "Since I have to have coffee before classes, I usually stop at a gas station around my house or I tend to make it myself at home."

Like Kirk, students more and more make their coffee at home instead of breaking their pockets. Junior Tay Bercero said she has a serious problem when it comes to coffee. Bercero, who enjoys Jazzman's Cafe on campus, said though she would love to buy coffee there every day, she can't afford it.

"I can drink about three cups a day, but I make all my coffee at home so I save money," she said.

More vegetarians on campus than meets the eye

Chelsea Miller
SPORTS REPORTER

At Youngstown State University, it seems vegetarians are hard to come by. The lunch lines are packed daily with students crowding to eat freshly-made chicken sandwiches and hamburgers from the grill. But in reality, if one looks close enough, he or she can actually find quite a few vegetarians on campus, even those who are not typically considered "vegetarians."

There are three subcategories of vegetarians that are most recognized. Lacto-ovo vegetarians eat dairy foods and eggs, but no red meat, fish or poultry; lacto-vegetarians eat dairy foods, but no eggs, meat, fish or poultry; and vegans, who eat no animal foods of any kind. However, there are a couple other subcategories of vegetarians, such as pescetarians, who include fish in their diets, and pollotarians, who eat poultry.

Cheryl Cale, a senior at

YSU and middle childhood education major, decided to become a vegetarian about four years ago after reading the book "Skinny Bitch," a guide to healthy eating that was a New York Times best seller. She is now a practicing vegan.

"People who are uneducated on the matter think that I do not get enough protein or nutrients, when I probably get more than they do eating meat or dairy," Cale said. "A lot of imitation products such as Tofurky, Vegenaize, Smart Dogs, Smart Bacon and Boca Burgers have more protein than the meat versions."

Cale also said moving from Columbus to a small city like Youngstown was tough because there is not as large of a demand for vegetarian products.

"I realize how much more difficult it is in Youngstown to fulfill my eating habits than when I go home. There are so many more choices of restaurants, as well as items at the grocery store [in Columbus]," Cale said.

This may be a thought shared by many vegetarians in the area, although YSU Dining Services provides an array of vegetarian/vegan dining options. Dan Kuzma, director of recycling at YSU, said the selection has improved greatly since he started at YSU in 2000.

"YSU Dining Services has made several changes over the past few years. The direction that they're heading has been positive," Kuzma said.

Kuzma became a vegan after seeing the animal suffering that happens at most factory farms. He said the hardest part of being a vegan is convincing others to see that the way food is produced today is inhumane. To help spread his message, Kuzma created Veg Mahoning, a Web site for those in the area who are interested in becoming vegetarians, or just reducing their meat consumption.

YSU nutritionist Chrystyna Zellers said while there are many advantages to going vegetarian, such as a lower risk of heart disease, there is also a

real commitment involved if one is going to eat properly.

"Vegetarians must pay attention to certain nutrients like B-12, and calcium if not drinking milk ... some vegetarians eat a lot of grains, but will eat no vegetables."

Zellers said it is difficult to determine which kind of vegetarian lifestyle is the healthiest; she said it depends upon whether or not the person has a balanced diet and supplements the nutrients he or she is not getting from meat.

Most students on campus, however, Zellers said, are semi-vegetarians, eating meat only on occasion, or eating just fish and chicken. Being a vegetarian in Youngstown will be a challenge, though, Zellers said.

"[In Youngstown], there's not enough demand for vegetarian food products, and there's an effort to keep food costs down here," Zellers said. "If students at YSU are unhappy with the food choices here, they will really have to be proactive to change them."

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Free admission. Tickets (limit 4) available first-come, first-served beginning today at 8 a.m., Information Desk in YSU's Kilcawley Center. Contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity (EOD) at 330-941-3370.

SPECIAL FEATURE: MEET THE CAST, at 4 p.m., Main Branch Library, 305 Wick Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio.

Key Sponsors: YSU Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity and YSU Department of Theater and Dance

Co-sponsors: YSU's Office of Student Diversity Programs; Center for International Studies and Programs; Public Library of Youngstown and Mahoning County; Partners for Workplace Diversity; Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Planning Committee; WYSU-FM; YWCA Youngstown; and Jefferson Community College.

About Flow Theater for a New Era

From Columbus, Ohio, the theatrical group, which specializes in a unique form of Choreotheater, just returned from a performance at the 2009 National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Parking: We encourage all patrons to use the Wick Avenue Parking Deck, M-1, across from the Butler Institute of American Art and Maag Library. Guests are encouraged to park on the third level. There is a nominal fee.

Accommodations: YSU seeks to accommodate all people with disabilities. If accommodations are required for this event, please call (330) 941-7448 or TDD (330) 941-1564.

Youngstown
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This program is part of YSU's Community Diversity Program Series.



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Office of Veterans' affairs offers classes

Andrew Whitmer
REPORTER

As a means of transitional assistance, the recently formed Office of Veterans Affairs is working to make life easier for veterans at Youngstown State University.

Under the direction of coordinator Jim Olive, the department has implemented a number of programs to provide optimal transitional service.

"It's all about serving the veterans," Olive said. "This is a place where they can come and get a better sense of what to do and what to decide."

Increased communication between the admissions office and the VA department not only points the veteran in the right direction, but also waives the \$30 application fee. Once in contact with Olive, the veteran's college experience is broken down by the numbers.

"We try to find what best suits them," Olive said. "We talk about financing and then we get into curriculum. This is where they can come and investigate these things and get their feet wet on campus until they feel comfortable doing it on their own."

Part of their curriculum choice now includes veterans-

CROSSWALK page 1

On April 13, construction began and was estimated to last 130 days. Construction was nearly complete when the fall semester started. Between planting new flowers and putting in new grass, painting new lines for the crosswalk on Fifth Avenue has yet to be completed.

Additionally, students have to stand in the middle of the street while crossing, causing the walk signs not to be visible from every angle.

YSU Student Government President Zach Brown has observed the problem.

"I noticed driving by one day that the lines didn't match

up. I assume they are going to fix that," Brown said.

Brown said "there is still some time" to fix the problem because the dedication ceremony has not yet occurred. Brown voiced his concern about the intersection and called Dr. Cynthia Anderson, vice president of Student Affairs. Anderson could not be reached for a comment.

During the spring semester, the Jambar investigated the Fifth Avenue crosswalk. The walk signs were timed using a Timex Chronograph stopwatch; the walk sign is shown for 5.56 seconds, while it takes 15.1 seconds to cross

the street at a brisk pace.

Some YSU students said they find that intersection dangerous, including senior professional writing and editing student Jeremy Hernandez.

"They are going to run into a big problem when somebody gets hit," Hernandez said. "It's their fault; that's YSU's responsibility."

Junior English major Jared Bennett, a recent transfer student from Cincinnati, said he is not surprised about the crosswalk.

"It's typical of this area," Bennett said. "They never put up crosswalks."

PARKING page 1

as Baker, and filled out the appeals form online to have his ticket revoked. He was granted a second level appeal, and later his ticket was withdrawn.

Bolan said his concerns are for freshman because he knows that students who have been going to school here know where and where not to park on campus. He added that he knows students were parking in those spaces the entire first week of class.

Bolan argued that the height of the signs is out of road users view, and according to Baker, the "road user" is the operator of the vehicle, adding that they [parking services] are not following state code.

"There's no [state] regulations that we're not abiding by. All of our signs are compliant," O'Connell said.

O'Connell said he thinks if the signs were at a lower level, they would be more difficult for students to see.

"There's no rationale for [the signs to be lower]," O'Connell said. "[The sign] not going to be below [the pillar] because it has to be above car level because when you're coming down the hill here, if that sign is down here the other [parked] car is going to block it," he added.

He said if the signs are at the height they're currently at, there will be less confusion for students.

"There's absolutely no way I could say, 'I can't see that maintenance vehicle sign' even with that car there," O'Connell said.

Since the recent parking issues in the M1 parking deck on Wick Avenue, O'Connell said he is having one of his employees make changes on the signs posted on the fourth level so students no longer have any confusion, but the location of the signs will not change.

ACE page 1

modified and resubmitted to the Board of Trustees in December, using the new figures, which indicate enrollment changes. The modified budget provides increased revenue for the general fund, out of which the bonuses are paid.

According to the Office of Institutional Research, the FTE is determined by the total amount of student credit hours registered for the semester divided by 15, the official definition of a full-time registration for one student.

The FTE, for the past five years, has represented roughly 80 percent of the actual student enrollment. This is because not all students register for a full-time schedule. For 2007-2008, the FTE increased 1.45 percent from 10,796 to 10,953. That number increased 6.35 percent this year to 11,649.

Official enrollment numbers are different. "Headcount" increased from 13,497 in 2007 to 13,712 in 2008, and from there to 14,682 in 2009. Those figures are calculated, along with the FTE, after the 14th class day of the fall semester each year.

According to Wednesday's Vindicator article, the bonus was written into the ACE contract during the most recent negotiations in recognition of the group's role in student recruitment.

"Basically, ACE employees go about it by doing their jobs," said Brian Brennan, ACE president. "They go above and beyond to serve the students, and that keeps them coming back."

However, not all YSU administrators place the same emphasis on ACE's role in recruitment.

"We were aware of the incentive," McNally said. "There had been one before and we didn't like it, since there was no clear incentive."

McNally said the bonus was not being paid to anyone who directly affected enrollment.

ACE is the only union at YSU with such a bonus in its contract. Neither Ohio Education Association (OEA), Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) nor the Association of Professional and Administrative Staff (APAS) have any such provision, as was confirmed by the presidents of those unions and by McNally.

Dr. Stanley Guzell, president of the OEA, said an enrollment bonus was mentioned during the 2004-2005 contract negotiations by then-Vice President of Finance John Habat, but that the union turned it down since they "perceiv[ed] no control over [enrollment or recruiting]."

Guzell attributed some responsibility to ACE, saying they have some people involved in enrollment, but did not say how many or mention any names.

While Vice President of Finance Eugene Grilli could not be reached for comment, Manager of News and Information Services Ron Cole, spoke on behalf of the university.

"I can say that as a result of the enrollment increase, there have been some additional costs," Cole said. He cited additional adjunct faculty being hired to handle the class loads, as well as the ACE bonuses.

"We should not lose sight of the fact that the increased enrollment is a very positive thing for the university and the community," Cole said. "We should all be recognizing and celebrating that success."

Cole also said Dr. Sweet and all of the administration believe that everyone has a part in increasing enrollment. He said the increase has been a priority since 2000. The increase since then, Cole said, is roughly 25 percent.

"Everyone is to be thanked and congratulated and should feel very good about that," he said.

YWCA of Youngstown



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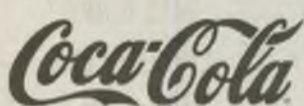
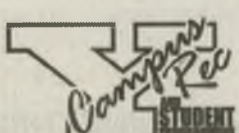
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VETERANS, page 2

only classes, a program developed by Dr. John Shupp from Cleveland State University, who pitched the idea to Olive.

"His premise was based on World War II," Olive said. "When that generation came home with the GI Bill, they swelled the enrollment numbers. There were a lot of other vets in the room and they were comfortable because of that. They can sit in a class-

room with people who have had similar experiences, who are goal- and mission-oriented. Some veterans don't need that; they feel comfortable as it is."

In fall 2009, classes in sociology, communications, psychology and math were offered. In spring 2010, English classes will also be available. All of the classes are instructed by prior service faculty.

Freshman Joseph Weimer of Youngstown is one of the

students taking advantage of the new program, and said he has thus far enjoyed the classroom environment.

"The people here are like me," Weimer said. "I like being here early, and so is everybody else, as opposed to other classes where people show up 20 to 30 minutes late. Everybody's more on point, on objective and dedicated to getting things done."

Sophomore David Pollio from New Castle is a Navy

veteran who has also enjoyed the experience.

"It's nice that they're willing to work with us," Pollio said. "It's not that they don't care at other places, but YSU is putting its hand out and offering help. It's really a great sense of comfort."

There are 306 campus veterans drawing VA benefits, while 115 others use other military benefits. Some are able to tap into both. With the number of campus veterans

growing and the new Post-9/11 GI Bill having gone into effect on Aug. 1, the need for a VA office was vital.

"There's a lot of need for information," Olive said. "A lot of veterans don't know exactly what they're eligible for, and we have to be ready to answer their questions."

The Office of Veterans Affairs is located on the third floor of Tod Hall, in room 310A.

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ABOUT THE JAMBAR

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 summer sessions. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.

OUR SIDE EDITORIAL

Where's the money tree?

RELATED STORY

ACE, page 1

THE JAMBAR EDITORIAL BOARD

Despite the proclaimed tuition freeze, Youngstown State University students paid over 3 percent more to be a Penguin this semester.

This allegedly was to compensate for YSU's declining revenues, in spite of a 7.1 percent enrollment increase that should have done just that.

State subsidies are scant already, and set for further reduction next year.

While the enrollment increase does warrant celebration, is it providing enough revenue to justify \$1.7 million in enrollment-incentive bonuses for a select group of employees?

This is concerning especially when nobody asked could provide a concrete answer about how ACE directly affects student recruitment.

While members of ACE undoubtedly perform their jobs with great aplomb and certainly deserve our respect for doing so, they are no more deserving than any other employees, administrators or unions, none of whom are receiving \$1.7 million just because 970 more people are wearing red and black.

This article of their contract, negotiated by a man who took YSU for a ride with his own shady salary increase, is a slap in the face to students who were forced to pay for the administration's fiscal shortcomings. It is a black eye to the faculty who bear the workload for no salary increase, and to those who worked much harder to increase tuition but see no financial "thank-you" card.

Unions have long been part of American labor. They can ensure fairness when well organized. Administrators, though, have a responsibility to ensure fairness for the entire community, not just the groups with a few smooth talkers.

OUR SIDE POLICY

The editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor and news editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and draw on the opinions of the entire writing staff. 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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The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. E-mail submissions are welcome at editor@thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification and the writer's city of residence for printing. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries that are libelous or that don't defend opinion with facts from reliable sources. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitting writer based on these requirements.

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EDMAN The Jambar-Ledger



The views of this syndicated artist do not necessarily agree with those of The Jambar.

Petting Zoo



Just one of the guys

Melissa Mary Smith
COLUMNIST

For those of you whom are female readers of my column, I'd like to get something off of my chest: I've always been 'just one of the guys.'

No, I don't dress up like

a dude and lead a double-life like Joyce Hyser did in the movie of the same name.

I like beer and violent action movies. I cuss, can do a degree of auto work and am macho in my own sort of way. All of these behaviors are sometimes associated with men.

You might find it difficult believing that behind all of this, I still have feminist ideals and am incredibly untraditional.

I've always had positive female influences in my life; my mother is my hero, and my best friend in the world, Diane, is in fact a woman.

I wear makeup, appreciate shopping and have a sort of maternal kinship with animals. And despite this, I've always related to men more than women.

I contribute this to my older brother, Matt.

If you have older siblings, it's almost second nature to look up to them and imitate their behaviors and interests:

Growing up, Matt's hero was Arnold Schwarzenegger. My hero was also Arnold

Schwarzenegger.

He watched "The A-Team" and so did I.

He liked Metallica and, well, you know the rest.

I mesh better with guys because of having an older brother.

You can call me whatever you want: female chauvinist. I am who I am and don't try to hide it.

Who I am, though, hasn't always brought me much success with men. I'm usually seen as more of a buddy to guys and apparently, that's the last thing they want in a woman.

Some men desire a trophy girlfriend: textbook attractive, sensitive, soft spoken and agreeable.

I wear band shirts and Milhouse prescription glasses, am loud, stubborn, argumentative and very little offends me.

We all come to a point in our lives where we settle in our ways and it becomes difficult to change.

Why should I change, though? Being a guy is so much cooler.

Send letters to:
thejambar@gmail.com

got an opinion?

Teachable Moment

McClatchy-Tribune News Service
MIAMI HERALD

If there was a "political agenda" in President Barack Obama's speech to the nation's students Tuesday it was the most conservative of messages: Take personal responsibility for your future.

That was the gist of Obama's message, yet some Republican leaders — led by Florida GOP chief Jim Greer — mounted a campaign of hyperventilating hyperbole last week as if the president was about to indoctrinate America's children into rising up against motherhood, apple pie and the flag.

No, Obama did not pull a Communist Cuba-style, "We will be like Che!" moment. He did not call for a five-year "volunteer" plan to force students to harvest the fields in the summer for a socialist

government scheme. He did not command students to buck their parents or their teachers and follow him blindly.

The president's speech, televised live on C-SPAN Tuesday morning, carried a universal message that any good parent would be proud to proclaim: Hard work delivers. "Whatever you resolve to do, I want you to commit to it," he told students. "The truth is, being successful is hard. You won't love every subject that you study. You won't click with every teacher you have."

In other words, he spoke like any caring father would to his own kids. He spoke from the heart.

Unfortunately, many students didn't get to hear the president's call for personal responsibility. Some school districts, like Indian River County, Fla., pulled the plug on televising the event to stu-

Others, like Broward (Fla.) Schools Superintendent Jim Notter called it last week for what it would be: "a quality teachable moment" and televised the speech live to students on Tuesday.

In Miami-Dade, election-year politics turned predictably ugly during a workshop last week when Obama's speech came up. Some School Board members who are running for reelection were seriously considering banning the speech outright. Superintendent Alberto Carvalho followed the long-standing board rule of "parental choice" on subjects that are not mandatory core topics so that the speech was an option for teachers and students alike. According to attendance figures Tuesday, it was school business as usual.

So why all the fuss? In South Florida, where hundreds of thousands have fled Communist Cuba and

strongmen in other Caribbean and Latin American nations that have turned to indoctrination in the classroom, it's understandable that some people might have qualms, but their elected officials should have known better. And the U.S. Department of Education's recommended assignments, which initially included having students write an essay on how they might help the president achieve his goals, certainly was manipulated by Mr. Obama's political enemies to make it seem like a nefarious turn.

In the end, though, even Greer acknowledged that the president's speech was solid, and other conservatives, like Newt Gingrich, also stood up to the agitators.

This was a teachable moment for the GOP, alright. Kids got to see adults worked up for no good reason.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

SEND US AN E-MAIL

THEJAMBAR@GMAIL.COM



Theater takes audience for a 'Drive'

Lamar Salter
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Following the echoes of audience applause and encores still resonating in the Spotlight Arena, Youngstown State University's theater program looks to create more memorable moments with their first production of the fall semester as they present the 1997 Pulitzer Prize-winning play, "How I learned to Drive."

The play, a story about the life of a Maryland girl and the strained relationship with her uncle that included pedophilia and molestation, was created by famous playwright Paula Vogel and achieved critical acclaim.

Theater student Jennifer Tomerlin will be making her directorial debut.

"This play focuses on family influence and how Little Bit views sex as a duty rather than a display of affection and love," Tomerlin said.

The cast will include several different personalities who provide both

comedic relief and emotional weight to the production.

Katy Mestichelli, who plays main character "Lil Bit," talked about the unique impact of the story.

"I love how complicated it is," Mestichelli said. "You really notice a lot of different things in the play."

Student Ryan Bissett, who plays "Uncle Beck," said he really didn't like the story at first, but the script grew on him as he continued.

"It was weird at first, but I really started to notice a lot of underlying concept matter the more I read it," Bissett said.

As far as the more controversial scenes between the two main characters, Bissett said while it was somewhat awkward, everyone had a good attitude about it.

"You just have to stay in the mindset," Bissett said.

Curtains open tonight at the Spotlight Arena at 7:30 p.m.

Additional reporting by David Boyer.



PHOTOS BY ADAM ROGERS / THE JAMBAR

EDITORS NOTE:

Jennifer Tomerlin is a reporter for the Jambar. Her comments in this story were imperative as she is the director of the production.

Royal Oaks hosts second-annual Pabsolutely Festival

Nicholas Kloss
REPORTER

The Royal Oaks is about to tap into its second-annual Pabsolutely Festival Saturday.

The outdoor, all-day event starts at noon and features Youngstown musical acts Gil Mantera's Party Dream, Re-breather, B.J. O'Malley, Turbo Lovers, Rocket Radio and The Cheats, among others.

All proceeds from the event go to the Purple Cat, an organization that provides assisted living for adults with physical and mental disabilities.

"We're expecting double

the attendance this year," said festival organizer Joe Stilson, who estimates last year's festival brought approximately 500 music and Pabst lovers to the Oaks.

Stilson explained the objective behind the festival from its inception was to expose those attending and participating to music and local businesses they may not be familiar with, while helping spread the word about the Purple Cat.

Vendors at Pabsolutely will include Indie Wax, Small Planet Comics, Clothing by Sam and Artistic Demographics, who will raffle a \$250 tattoo and \$60 piercing gift

certificate good at their Boardman location.

"We're trying to keep it a little more edgy, but with the Purple Cat in mind," Stilson said.

A dunking booth with the Youngstown Roller Derby girls, T-shirt's for \$5 donated by the Pabst brewing company and designed by B.J. Lisko of Turbo Lovers, and \$1 from all Pabst drafts sold outside going directly to the Purple Cat.

"It's [Royal Oaks] my favorite place to be when I'm home besides actually being at my house," said Ultimate Donny of Gil Mantera's Party

Dream. "I'm really looking forward to it."

Party Dream, a Youngstown-based electronic act that has managed to create a national cult following over the past decade through extensive touring with acts such as Art Brut, Gwar, and The Rapature, is scheduled to play after sundown.

"I love playing in Youngstown," Donny said. "I get nervous that I get nervous about playing here."

Stilson came up with the idea for having the Pabsolutely Festival with co-organizer Mark Caluaruso after meeting Jimmy Suttman, who operates

the Purple Cat.

"Jimmy's the kind of guy that would give the shirt off his back," Stilson said. "We'd do anything to help Jimmy."

Inspired by Suttman and influenced by the Emissions of the Monolith Festival previously held at the former Nyabinghi on Steel Street, Stilson and Caluaruso presented the idea to Royal Oaks owner John Kennedy last year.

"The bigger it can get and the longer it goes on, the more it can benefit everyone involved from the bands, the businesses, the Royal Oaks and of course the Purple Cat," Stilson said.

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE?



Dustin Jones instructs his class on the fine points of ballroom dancing in the north lobby of the Beeghly Center.

PHOTOS BY NICK YOUNG / THE JAMBAR

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Butler Art Museum to show its work at 'Face Value'

Rick Pollo
REPORTER

The Butler Institute of American Art is kicking off another fall season packed with awe-inspiring exhibitions, featuring some of today's most unique and cutting-edge artists. A number of renowned contemporary artists will be featured through the end of the fall semester; most notable are Milwaukee-based artist Marc Sijan and returning favorite Dennis Marisco.

Marisco's exhibition "Face Value" was first featured this past spring, and will reopen from Sept. 20 through Dec. 27 at the Beecher Center, Flad Gallery East. It will feature some of his progressive work.

Known for his honorable photo essays, the Pittsburgh photographer and two-time Lowell Thomas Award winner has had many pieces published since beginning his career in 1984. He has been commissioned by Travel Holiday, Travel + Leisure, National Geographic Traveler and the New York Times Sophisticated Traveler. He was also chosen to create 16 ads for Absolut Vodka.

Marisco delved into Dionysus Press in 2001, and began

publishing photo essays of people in places that showcased a strong social context. In 2005, his "Passion and Politics" piece was featured as part of the "Messages and Communications" exhibit in the Mattress Factory Art Museum in Pittsburgh.

Another returning favorite is the realistic sculptures of Marc Sijan. Sijan's works are regarded as extremely realistic, and include details such as pores, tiny hairs on the skin, veins, blemishes and even bald spots. According to the Butler's roster, his works are known to be "sensuous and graceful." This exhibition can be viewed from Oct. 1 through Nov. 29.

Other notable exhibitions to be featured this fall are the quilt works of Nancy Crow and Anna Williams in the Butler's Trumbull branch from Oct. 26 through Jan. 10. The Shadow and Steel exhibition, featuring the works of Larry Kagan, will be open from Sept. 20 through Dec. 27 at the Beecher Center.

"Meet the Artist" sessions will also take place, with Kagan appearing Sunday, Sept. 20 from 1 to 3 p.m., and Marisco on Saturday, Sept. 27 from 1 to 3 p.m. Crow and Williams will be present Saturday, Oct. 24 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Tie-dyed and satisfied in a "Greener World"

Gary Angelo
FEATURES REPORTER

Get ready to go green at Youngstown's Wick Park on Saturday with the Grey to Green festival. The festival will feature entertainment, health food vendors, artists, a historic tour of Wick Park and much more.

Opening the event at 10:30 a.m. will be a presentation from Mayor Jay Williams and U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan, who will speak about global environmental issues.

Readers from Etruscan Press will also be a part of the festivities, along with musical entertainment from the Youngstown State University Gospel Choir and performances from local bands McKelvy Raygun, Sam Goodwill and Brady's Leap.

Fair-trade vendors will also be present, selling herbal teas and other products. Soap, hand-crafted jewelry and tie-dye clothing will be available to purchase.

In addition to the festivities, the Northside Farmers Market will present classes on cooking healthy meals made from local produce. These classes will be taught by hobby cooks, local dietitians and chefs. Will Allen, founder of the non-profit program Growing Power, will be the guest speaker at 11 a.m. A beer garden and a farmers market will be held inside the courtyard of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown.

Debra Weaver, president of Treez Please, a Youngstown-based reforestation organization, talked about the Grey to Green Festival's roots.

"The Grey to Green Festival was the brainchild of the Youngstown 2010 plan, where there was a 'greening' initiative included throughout the plan," Weaver said.

Weaver said the idea behind the festival was to activate a green initiative plan for Youngstown, in order to steer the Mahoning Valley in a more sustainable direction. Weaver and officials wanted to actively bring their message of sustainability to residents, so they started the Grey to Green

Festival last September.

"The phrase 'grey to green' was mentioned in the 2010 initiative," Weaver said. "We are tying 'grey to green' with the concept and question, 'What do you do to a city that's shrinking?'"

Weaver emphasized the fact that Youngstown will prosper if its citizens embrace green technologies and sustainability.

Susie Biersdorfer, Grey to Green chairman and part-time online geology instructor at YSU, is confident this year's event will convince people to take the green movement more seriously. Biersdorfer and other supporters worked on a coalition team with Youngstown Cityscape, the Mahoning Country Green Team and Youngstown Litter Control to develop a plan.

"Citizens and the city of Youngstown came together with the Wick Park Revitalization plan to make this happen," Biersdorfer said.

Biersdorfer is working to get volunteers involved in Grey to Green, and said it is a major community builder.

"We have to be on similar paths and take a conservative approach to our earth's resources," Biersdorfer said.

Director of Grow Youngstown Elsa Higby said the Grey to Green Festival is an excellent vehicle for promoting sustainable food systems.

"Will Allen will highlight the importance of urban food security and the importance of growing natural foods close to home, instead of importing naturally grown foods," Higby said. "For Grey to Green, we are getting local chefs involved, from food venues such as the Blue Iris Cafe and Ely's To Go."

These are just a few of the many food vendors that will be a component of the festival; they will cook food from produce supplied by local farmers. At 12:30 p.m., Grow Youngstown will show the documentary "PolyCultures: Food Where We Live," which is about urban farmers in Ohio.



Former YSU standout Marcus Mason makes the final cut for the Washington Redskins. Mason led the Penguins to a semifinal game, one game short of the national championship game back in 2006.



9/11 Volleyball at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
9/11 Soccer at Ohio State, 7:30 p.m.
9/12 Football vs. Austin Peay, 4 p.m.

PENGUINS LOOK TO REBOUND AT HOME

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

The Youngstown State University football team must regroup quickly from their 38-3 loss to the University of Pittsburgh, as they are set to entertain the Austin Peay State University Governors Saturday. The Governors picked up a home victory against Newberry College 34-23 in their first showing of the season.

Key players the Penguins will have to contend with on Saturday are two running backs splitting time in the backfield. Junior Terrence Holt and sophomore Ryan White rushed for a combined 362 yards in their game against opponent Newberry. Even though Penguins are a Football Championship School, 362 yards is a lot and the Penguins will have to contend with the two-headed running attack.

One Penguin who's up for the challenge of stopping the Governors' running game is strong safety Sir Demarco Bledsoe. Bledsoe had an impressive game in his debut as a Penguin. The Texas Christian University transfer had nine tackles (eight

solo) and a pass breakup in the Pitt game.

Bledsoe thinks the Penguins will do just fine against the Governors.

"[We have to] just stay in the film room and know what they going to do when they come out," Bledsoe said about the upcoming game. "We've go to hit them in the mouth and run through them," he added.

Even though the Penguins lost to the Panthers, a silver lining in the loss was their ability to move the ball despite only scoring three points. The Penguins picked up 13 first downs, only six behind Pitt's 19. The Penguins also won the time of possession battle, a key stat usually establishing a team's dominance over the other team. In a normal game it usually means a win, but that was not the case against the Panthers as they scored quickly and often on the Penguins.

Senior quarterback Brandon Summers had a long day. He was sacked six times and threw two interceptions. The Penguins will not face a defense like the Panthers the rest of the season though. The rest of the Penguins opponents are FCS teams, not larger schools like Pitt.

Summers moved around in the pocket and got rid of the ball when he could. Without his mobility



Junior Dominique Barnes caught two passes for 27 yards in the opening game against the Pittsburgh Panthers.

PHOTO BY NICK YOUNG/THE JAMBAR

and elusiveness, the six-sack total could have been greater. Summers should bounce back nicely as the Penguins play at home.

Head coach Jon Heacock is excited about the first home game. "Playing at YSU is the best ... it's our first home game... it's a great opportunity for us to get better and there is no place like home," Heacock said in his weekly press conference.

The Penguins will look to pick up their first win of the season at the Ice Castle against the Governors on Saturday.



"COACH K" READY FOR ROUND TWO

Rob Harris
REPORTER

There are a number of things that help create a successful football team. An offensive line needs to be able to communicate when picking up the blitz, have continuity when things don't go as planned and be comfortable enough to let each other know when someone has screwed up. You could pick any unit on a football team and the "three c's" would be needed for success. The same is true for the coaching staff.

Mike Kolakowski, current assistant coach and former defensive coordinator for Youngstown State University understands that and has returned to YSU to aid with all three. Kolakowski previously coached at YSU from 2004-2006.

He returns this season after spending the previous two at Mid-American Conference and Football Bowl Subdivision school, Central Michigan University.

Kolakowski said the return to the YSU was not a hard choice for him because of his knowledge and appreciation for the rest of the coaching staff.

"I felt good about everything here, about what Coach Heacock stands for, and I really like the rest of the staff that is here. As you find out in college football, it's who you're with." Kolakowski said. "I love coming to work now, I really respect Coach. He called and asked me [to come back] and I said, ya, let's roll."

Kolakowski comes back as the

secondary coach for the Penguins and as of now there are no plans for him to return to his former role as defensive coordinator. Head coach Jon Heacock has taken over that position and will be calling the plays for the Penguin defense this year.

Kolakowski said he left Central Michigan because "there were some philosophical differences" between himself and the Chippewa's coaching staff.

Coach K, as his players call him, commented on some of the differences and similarities between the Mid-American Conference and Missouri Valley Conference.

"You have 85 full scholarships in the MAC and 63 here. That's probably the biggest thing, there are more guys, but you probably have six or seven guys here who could go up there [to the MAC] and be legitimate players," Kolakowski said.

According to "Coach K" one way the MVC is similar is the nature of the league. "I think it's just like the MAC. On any given Saturday, anybody can beat anybody. Nobody is going to roll through it. It's too deep."

In the two years since his departure, the YSU program made some changes that didn't go unnoticed. "I think the first thing is when you walk into the facilities here, they are tremendous. I also think the coaching staff and Coach Heacock have upgraded the re-



COACH K

cruiting...the players have gotten better. But other than that it's how it was. Mr. Strollo [Athletic Director] is committed to football."

Another thing that hasn't changed, and something Kolakowski said he hopes never will, are the expectations. "When I left here we went to the semi-finals, and that's where we belong. That's the tradition, that's what people expect here

at Youngstown. You've got to make a run of it, and that's fine. You wouldn't want it any other way."

In the pre-season media poll YSU was picked to finish sixth in the MVC. The last time YSU was picked to finish sixth in the pre-season was 2005, when they finished in a tie for first and just missed the playoffs. In response to that fact Kolakowski had this to say, "I think these guys are very hungry. People don't give us any credit, they've [the players] got a chip on their shoulder. We can play with anybody, we can win this conference, and we can make some noise in the playoffs."

After starting the season with a 38-3 loss to the University of Pittsburgh, YSU will play their home opener at Stambaugh Stadium at 4 p.m. Saturday against Austin Peay State University hoping to even up their record.

Triathlon club preps for upcoming season

Chelsea Miller
SPORTS REPORTER

If the members of the Triathlon Club know one thing, it's the value of hard work. For training, members meet together once a week to run, bike or swim to prepare for the season ahead. Participants may go at their own pace, or come as often as they want, but several have already made great strides. In fact, one club member already has 14 Iron Mans under his belt.

The club is fairly new, being established last year by Dr. Frank Bosso. Bosso, whose son has participated in several Iron Mans, hopes to increase membership this year after a slow start.

"Anyone can join, no experience is necessary," he said. "What we want to do is start competing in a large college circuit. Colleges like Miami of Ohio and Ohio State have strong Triathlon Clubs. We want to compete at state level."

The athletes involved in the club can participate in variety of triathlons, the shortest being a Super Sprint, with a .25 mile swim, 6.2 mile bike ride, and a 1.5 mile run; and the longest, the Iron, is a 2.4 mile swim, 112 mile bike ride, and 26.2 mile run.

To prepare for these events, the club members run together, take spinning classes at the Andrews Recreation and Wellness Center, or swim laps in Beeghly Center's pool.

"We're trying to get stronger swimmers this year," Bosso said. "We do a lot of running, but we didn't get to do so much biking last year [due to weather]."

In order to help the athletes, Bosso also brings in speakers to share their advice. In February, it was Corky Pike, an Exercise Science major from Ohio, who completed 10 Iron Man Triathlons as well as several other distance races. Pike, of the Steel Valley Triathlon Club, provided students with useful tips for their training.

Club president Kristina Tomlan says of the speaker, "She definitely inspired all of us that were there. She thinks our club is great and would love to help us out." Tomlan, a third-year physical therapy student, joined the Triathlon club because of her background in running. She participated in track in high school and also ran two marathons in the past. She is now club president and is planning on trying a triathlon this year. "The club has a really laid-back feel," she said. "[Club members] put on the portal website when they're running, and if someone wants to join them, they can. It really accommodates everyone."

Tomlan believes this is a great opportunity for athletes. "We're not up and going 100 percent yet, but we would really like to get people involved."