

THE JAMBAR

The student voice of
Youngstown State University
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LOCAL DJ TAKES BAR SCENE FOR A SPIN

THE SIDEBAR



Trial reset for former union president

Maldonado's trial reset after three pretrials

Chelsea Pflugh
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The criminal trial for the former Association of Classified Employees at Youngstown State University union president has been postponed.

Ivan Maldonado's trial for the charge of menacing was to be Wednesday morning at the Youngstown Municipal Court. YSU employee Mary Kay Helscel filed a police

report on March 11, saying she believed Maldonado would "cause either physical or emotional harm" to her. Maldonado was still the union's president during the time of the threat and the police report.

Maldonado was placed on administrative leave thereafter and was later fired by the university.

The former employee has had three pretrial dates for the case of menacing. The trial is now scheduled for December or January.



MALDONADO

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Dan Pompili
ASSIST. NEWS EDITOR

Crosswalk lines have been painted on Fifth Avenue following the completion of Armed Forces Boulevard, adjacent to the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

A brief field analysis, however, revealed that the newly restored safety feature has little impact on the crossing habits of students.

Only two out of 15 people who crossed Fifth Avenue stayed within the lines.

"I feel somewhat safer," said Tayana Pannell.

Pannell, a junior business major noted that the crosswalk signals were facing the wrong way and were not visible from either end of the path.

When they can be seen, Pannell said that the signal still does not allow adequate time to cross.

"I think it's a problem," Pannell said.

YSU hits record-high grant numbers

Dan Pompili
ASSIST. NEWS EDITOR

Youngstown State University set a school record in 2009 for externally awarded grants. Various members of faculty and staff acquired \$11.7 million in grants this year, a 72 percent increase from 2008.

In an Oct. 7 press release, Dr. Peter Kasvinsky, associate provost for research and dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research, credited faculty and staff for their efforts to obtain external funding for research and educational projects. Those competitive grants amount to \$9.45 million, or more than 80 percent of grants received.

The College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics obtained the bulk of the grants, achieving \$7 million, or 61 percent of YSU's external funding.

Chemistry professor Dr. Timothy Wagner was awarded YSU's single largest grant of \$2.1 million. The grant was awarded to fund the Center for Excellence in Advanced Materials Analysis through the Third Frontier initiative from the Ohio Department of Development.

Commenting on YSU's grant success, Wagner said, "I think it's a question of leverage coming from the success of previous grants."

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R&SS tutors receive recognition during National Tutor Appreciation Week

Alicia Pattillo
REPORTER

This week around the country, educational institutions will celebrate "National Tutor Appreciation Week."

The Reading and Study Skills Center at Youngstown State University is celebrating the week by acknowledging all of the tutors who work closely with students in reading and study skills courses.

Reading and study skills instructors have nominated 12 tutors to be rewarded for their efforts: Nada Alghazali, William Burney, Daniel DeChellis, Mike Gismondi, Justin Hosseininejad, Jessie Jones-Canter, David Johnson, Kristine Krcljic, Eugene Mach, Renee McGraw, Jill Monroe and Ben Orr.

In addition to gaining recognition from their superiors and peers, the top 12 will receive gift baskets, \$10 for

food plans and other miscellaneous prizes.

As part of being a R&SS Center intern, Tara Sydney engages in direct contact with the students, and she finds what she does to be beneficial to others.

"I love to work in academic support because it is necessary for retaining our students," Sydney said.

While Sydney said the R&SS Center offers skills students would need to be successful in any subject, she said it is the hard work of the tutors that gets the job done.

"You can tell they're passionate about what they do; you can see it when they're working. They give their all, and many times above and beyond," Sydney said.

Graduate assistant Ashley Walker said she is excited to help celebrate the tutors' accomplishments, hard work and dedication.

The Dana School of Music presents MUSIC AT NOON



Youngstown State University welcomed "new music" during Music At Noon. The event is the result of a partnership between the school and the museum.



PHOTOS BY KELLI PHILLIPS / THE JAMBAR

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Saturday 51° 37°

Sunday 55° 41°

Monday 50° 40°

Tuesday 53° 37°

Wednesday 55° 39°



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JAMBAR STAFF	
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Chelsea Pflugh	330-941-1991
MANAGING EDITOR: Adam Rogers	330-941-1989
NEWS EDITOR: Josh Stipanovich	330-941-1989
COPY EDITOR: Emmalee C. Torisk	330-941-3758
A&E EDITOR: Lamar Salter	330-941-1913
SPORTS EDITOR: Keith Langford Jr.	330-941-1913
DESIGN EDITOR: Brian Cetina	330-941-1807
DESIGN EDITOR: Nick Young	330-941-1807
WEB EDITOR: Kelli Phillips	330-941-1913
ASSIST. NEWS EDITOR: Dan Pompili	330-941-1913
ASSIST. COPY EDITOR: Aaron Workman	330-941-1913
ASSIST. WEB EDITOR: Adam Planty	330-941-1913
ASSIST. DESIGN EDITOR: Sam Marhulik	330-941-1807
A&E REPORTER: Gary Angelo	330-941-1913
COLUMNIST: Melissa Mary Smith	330-941-1913
SPORTS REPORTER: Chelsea Miller	330-941-1913
REPORTER: Alicia Pattillo	330-941-1913
REPORTER: Juliana Hull	330-941-1913
SALES MANAGER: Jennifer Cvengros	330-941-1990
RECEPTIONIST: Teresa Soos	330-941-3095
BUSINESS MANAGER: Olga Ziobert	330-941-3094
ADVISER: Mary Beth Earnhardt	330-941-3095
CONTACT THE JAMBAR	
E-MAIL	editor@thejambar.com
FAX	330-941-2322

News Briefs

Jewish Film Festival begins Oct. 18

The Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies at YSU will be presenting the 2009 Youngstown Area Jewish Film Festival from Oct. 18 through Oct. 28. The films will be shown at USA Cinema in Niles on all days, with the exception of a double feature of "In Search of the Bene Israel" and "Blessed is the Match" at the Butler Institute of American Art on Oct. 25 beginning at 1 p.m.

Fall Choral Concert scheduled for Monday

The Dana School of Music will hold its Fall Choral Concert at 8 p.m. Monday in the Ford Family Recital Hall. Under the direction of long-time director Hae-Jong Lee, this year's theme will be "Songs of Love" and will include "Five Hebrew Love Songs" by Eric Whitacre and Billy Joel's "And So It Goes." Admission

YSU makes October "Your Right to Know Month"

Julianna Hull
REPORTER

October is "Your Right to Know Month" at Youngstown State University, which means the YSU Police Department provides students and faculty with information about crime statistics, crime prevention, campus security and reported crimes on campus, among other information. According to the Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990, YSU has to provide an "annual report to university students and employees with information on campus crime statistics and security measures."

"This is a publication that every state college has to put out," said Lt. Mark Adovasio of the YSU Police Department. "I think it's important and has been ongoing for more than a few years."

Adovasio said it's important for students to know what crimes are committed on campus and where.

"If a family decides to send their son or daughter to YSU, they can have the disclosure from 'Your Right To Know,'" Adovasio said.

According to on-campus crime statistics provided by the YSU Police Department, theft, simple assault, criminal damage and criminal mischief statistics have gone down

since 2004.

YSU President David Sweet said YSU's safety record is "exemplary."

"Annually, our incidence of crime ranks among the lowest of Ohio's state universities. We continue to take aggressive action to address the safety concerns of our urban campus," he said.

Vice President for Student Affairs, Dr. Cynthia Anderson, said in her online statement to students, "The staff of Youngstown State University Police Department serves not only as protectors of the safety and rights of the students of YSU, but also as educators. They are committed to providing the best campus protection

and safety as possible on a 24-hour-a-day-basis and offer students crime prevention education for use on campus as well as in their home communities."

Along with crime prevention and statistics, this website provides information on athletic salaries, teacher preparation ratings, drug and alcohol regulations, YSU graduation rates and disciplinary procedures. All of this is also available to prospective students and employees. To access it, go to the YSU home page and click on the YSU Police Department Web site under the "YSU's Right To Know" brochure.



What do you think of Letterman cheating on his wife with interns?



"I think its expected with people in his position."
Anthony Muscatello



"I think it's gross."
Chelsey Fiest



"I don't think he was cheating."
John Lazar

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Dog Days help students adapt to college life

Susan Snyder
MCT

SELINGROVE, Pa. — About 5 in the afternoon, they started to gather on this central Pennsylvania college campus: The shih tzu brothers Boomer and Otis; Maggie, a lumbering chocolate lab; Cole and Chase, the David and Goliath of the bunch, of course named after Philadelphia Phillies; and the talented Bunsen, the boxer mix who has his own blog and can eat treats he flips off his nose.

Then it was time to send in the homesick freshmen.

"You're cute! You look like my dog," said Kayla Springer, 18, a biology major who was fussing over Chase, a border collie/German shepherd.

Thus began one of the "Dog Days," as they're formally called at Susquehanna University, along the banks of the Susquehanna River. Professors and other staffers brought their dogs to school for an hour of social interaction with students, especially freshmen, on Tuesdays during September.

The events, held in a grassy area outside the dining hall, are designed to help students overcome their homesickness — particularly the piece most painful for some: absence of the family pet.

Students can't pick up their phones and call Sparky.

Or text him.

Or e-mail him.

"The fact is that students miss their pets, sometimes

more than they miss their families," said Anna Beth Payne, associate dean of student life and director of the school's counseling center.

"You, as parents, didn't sleep with them in the bed every night before they came away to college. The dog did," added Nikki Tobias, another staffer and owner of Chase and Cole, a Yorkshire terrier who wore an infant-size Chase Utley T-shirt (a Cole Hamels shirt wasn't available in his size).

Jackie Newell, 19, a freshman communications and Spanish major from Maine, said she misses Babe, her mutt.

"It's a close tie between the dog and my mom," she said with a smile.

Nine dogs showed up on this Tuesday, a typical turnout. Dozens of students stopped to play with them on their way into and out of dinner.

Bunsen, whose blog bunsenbark.blogspot.com features his exploits with ex-girlfriends, drew a crowd when his owner, journalism professor Judy Morris, placed a treat on his snout. She cautioned: "Wait. Wait. Wait." Then she pulled her hand away as Bunsen popped the treat into the air and caught it in his mouth.

But no one dog could steal the show for long.

An excited Gabbie Robbins, 18, a freshman English major from Bergen County, N.J., ran up to her friend: "He kisses," she said, pointing to

Cole.

Dog Days have been held on the nearly 2,100-student, 306-acre campus for five years. They were started by former counseling director Kathy Bradley, now executive director of health and counseling at Gettysburg College. Bradley has started Dog Days at Gettysburg, too, holding it during the first two weeks of school. And a few times a semester, Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pa., which heard about Susquehanna's program, brings trained therapy dogs some owned by staff members to campus to visit with students.

Susquehanna doesn't use professionally trained dogs. But all owners sign a paper stating that their dogs are up to date on shots and of good disposition, Payne said.

"Technically speaking, ours aren't therapy dogs. We use (them) to facilitate social interaction," Payne explained.

Professors, who sometimes can seem intimidating to first-year students, especially like the opportunity for the informal gatherings.

"This gives them a chance to see me as just a regular person with an old grumpy dog, whom I love dearly, that they can come love and pet, and they don't need to be afraid of me," said biology professor and pre-med adviser Jan Reichard-Brown.

Her dog, Mickey, was a founding member of Dog Days and was featured this year on a

postcard handed to freshmen that advertised the event as a part of orientation.

Springer and Newell spotted Reichard-Brown, Springer's professor for an introductory freshman course, and stopped by to visit her and Mickey.

"Cute puppy," Springer told Reichard-Brown, bending down to pet the dog.

"How's your semester going?" Reichard-Brown asked.

"Good."

"Did you figure out how to do your thing on Blackboard?"

"I did," Springer said. "I'm a pro now."

"Good job," Reichard-Brown congratulated her.

While the event is meant to create a welcoming environment and prevent problems, Payne said, conversations have occurred at past events between staff and students who were struggling that led them to go to the counseling center for help.

About a third of the student body visits the center for at least one counseling session during the four years at Susquehanna, she said. Annually, the center sees about 11 percent of the students.

But for most students, the barking, tail-wagging soiree is more of a comfy slipper than a crisis-avert.

"It reminds me of home," said Sarah Gzemski, a freshman from Mountain Top who stopped to pet Payne's dog, Finley a Halloween-scarf clad bichon frise.



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Twitter's becoming an important tool for job seekers and employers

Patrick May
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

As the Internet's microblogging superhero Twitter continues to balloon with 40 million users worldwide and countless apps like Twhirl and TweetDeck, the Twittersphere has been overrun lately with refugees from the real world's recession:

Twosands and twosands of job seekers.

"Twitter's going to become more and more valuable as a job-hunting tool because you can build up a job-search network in an afternoon and effectively create a whole self-presentation in the Twittersphere," says Rodney Rumford, author of "Twitter as a Business Tool."

"And anywhere there's a place for lots of people to network and talk and share interests, the opportunities will follow."

Accessible by computer or cell phones, Twitter can be used to post a job, poke around for one, bone up on a potential boss, or simply keep your friends updated on your job hunt. It's free and it's fast. And while social networking sites such as Facebook and LinkedIn focus on connecting you with people you know, Twitter makes it easier to broadcast messages widely and to form groups of common interest. By "following" others and having

them follow you, the conversations quickly multiply.

"Twitter's a fabulous tool to help people expand what I call their 'loose network,'" says Miriam Salpeter, a job-search coach who writes about the service on her Keppie Careers site. "These are the people you're not really close to, but it's actually the network responsible for most jobs found."

It's difficult to know how many people are actually finding work this way. But it's obvious from interviews with job-seekers, employers, coaches and entrepreneurs that the Twitter phenomenon is fundamentally changing the way people search for jobs — and job candidates — in this brutal recession.

"A lot of companies aren't advertising jobs in traditional ways," says Jason Rivera, a graphic artist who teamed up with other San Francisco Twitterers "to lead the pink slip-party movement" for the networking masses. Rivera says Twitter allows companies to target easily recruitment ads and "follow" potential candidates online, while giving job hunters a backdoor peek at companies where they may be interested in applying.

"It's a great way to get up-to-the-minute information about a company and its latest products," Rivera says, "as well as give you a shot at actually talking to a hiring man-

ager on Twitter, as opposed to having your e-mailed resume end up the 500th in his in-box. At the same time, Twitter gives managers faster, more efficient ways to get through the clutter, and that saves them money."

Paul Mabray knows that firsthand. As chief strategy officer for Napa, Calif.-based VinTank, a wine industry think tank, he used Twitter to spot and then practically stalk 23-year-old job candidate and gifted Twitterer Ashley Bellview.

"We got to learn about her persona, her work ethic and her thought process by the information she'd link to in her tweets and by how she communicated with other people on Twitter," Mabray says. "The gestalt of the whole thing was her ability to engage with the audience, and to create meaningful content within a short construct of 140 characters."

As one of Vintank's seven employees, says Mabray, Bellview now is "leveraging Twitter for our brand."

As employment rates across the country continue to scrape the ceiling, the diversity and sheer number of Twitter users and applications available to help navigate the blur of tweets is mind-boggling. Entrepreneurs behind applications such as twitterjobcast, created by laid-off Web designer David Pew, are tweaking Twitter to bust through the clutter.

Yet the "clutter" that so

DOS AND DON'TS WHEN JOB-HUNTING ON TWITTER

1. **DO** follow potential employers to learn more about their products and service.
2. **DON'T** get sucked in; get the information you're looking for, then get out.
3. **DO** use multiple Twitter profiles — a personal one, for instance, as well as those created specifically to follow certain employers.
4. **DON'T** use a silly or cartoonish icon on your profile — it could turn off a potential employer.
5. **DO** use directories like Twellow or Mr. Tweet to help you locate other professionals and trendsetters in your field.

many Twitter app writers are claiming to be clearing up also happens to be one of Twitter's biggest weaknesses, say frustrated users.

Brett Ashton, a San Jose father of two who was laid off in January from Hewlett-Packard, has mixed feelings about Twitter. Yes, it was helpful in making him more intimately knowledgeable about compa-

nies he had staked out for jobs. But Ashton says those benefits were largely erased by Twitter's near-gridlock traffic.

"The information overload gets to be too much at times," he says. "I sort of just scan it now. I see Twitter as a huge asset as an informational tool. But I just haven't been able to use it yet to find a specific job."



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TUTORS page 1

"I think it's great. I actually help tutor here as well, so I know firsthand the amount of work they put into this job," Walker said. "It's an outside job as well; tutors take the material home and study it so they know what they're doing. There is not one tutor here that doesn't care about helping students. They add a lot to the Center."

Sydney said the enrollment hike has increased the sections offered at the R&SS Center.

Walker said six sections were added.

"The Center can use all the support we can get from other students on campus who feel they would be a good fit to tutor," Walker said.

GRANTS page 1

Wagner also cited the cooperation of Fireline TCON Inc., a Youngstown corporation collaborating with YSU to research ceramic-metallic composites.

Wagner said the next step is to build research funding on the shoulders of such instrumentation.

Federal appropriations to the tune of \$2.2 million have also contributed to the grant total, through the aid of Rep. Tim Ryan. The second highest grant on campus — \$1.3 million — was awarded from these funds to chemistry professor Allen Hunter by the U.S. Department of Defense. The money funded the National Defense Center of Ex-

celle in Industrial Metrology and 3D Imaging.

Hunter was unavailable for comment.

Since 2000 grant funds at YSU have more than tripled. The university has received \$57.7 million in that span.

"This is a testament to the outstanding effort our faculty has put forth," said Dr. Martin Abraham, dean of STEM. "... and to the new reality of our evolution into an urban research university."

All six YSU colleges, along with the Office of the Provost, the Public Service Institute and numerous non-academic programs have received grants this year.

THIS WEEK THEY LEARNED THE IMPERFECT VERBS IN ITALIAN.
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FOUR-CHEESE SAUCE.



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Career & Counseling Services

The Office of Career & Counseling Services needs students to work for a phone campaign beginning October 19th and ending November 21st. You will call YSU Graduates to get their feedback regarding job placement since graduation.

Phone calling will take place on:

The week of October 19th, Mon—Thurs 5:15—8:15 pm & Saturday 9am—1pm

The week of November 2nd, Mon—Thurs 5:15—8:15 pm & Saturday 9am—1pm

The week of November 16th, Mon—Thurs 5:15—8:15 pm & Saturday 9am—1pm

Training - training will be provided at the beginning of each shift.

Students will receive \$7.30 per hour. Please contact Susan George—Admin. Assistant of Career & Counseling Services at 330-941-3299 if you are interested in this opportunity.



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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

Painting over the problem

RELATED STORY

Crosswalk, page 1

THE JAMBAR EDITORIAL BOARD

It seems the Jambar is perpetually critical. We don't enjoy it any more than those being criticized. It would be nice to call off the dogs once in a while. The problem is that Youngstown State University seems hell-bent on providing us with ammunition.

After quite a wait, Fifth Avenue has a crosswalk again. Almost.

White lines are in fact painted and students are back to ignoring them like usual.

But there are those who choose to observe safety. For them, the new crosswalk is a small consideration.

The "walk/don't walk" signals are not facing the walkway, so pedestrians cannot tell when they should be crossing. On one side of the path, there is no signal posted at all.

If one chooses to stand outside the lines long enough to watch the signals, they find they still do not have nearly enough time to cross safely.

The positioning must be adjusted for easy viewing, a signal must be posted on the campus end of the path and the timing must be adjusted.

If YSU is serious about student safety, then timeliness should be the consideration. If it takes as long to adjust the signals as it did to paint the lines, tragedy could be inevitable.

Certainly, students don't always follow the rules of crosswalks. But YSU cannot afford to be careless just because a few meatheads choose to.

For the students who care about their own safety, they deserve to feel as though the administration shares that concern.

It is incumbent upon YSU to at least pretend to care.

As it is, the white lines are a feeble attempt to paint over the problem.

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.

YOUR SIDE POLICY

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.

Letters will not be rejected based on the view expressed in them. Letters may be rejected if they are not relevant to Jambar readers, seek free publicity or if the editorial staff decides the subject has been sufficiently aired. The Jambar will not print letters that libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The Jambar does not withhold the names of writers of letters or guest commentaries.

The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of Youngstown State University.

POLICE CHIEFS ENDORSE ANTI-TERROR COMMUNITY WATCHES



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

Pass shield law

MCT
MIAMI HERALD

The Obama administration's efforts to impede Senate approval of a law designed to protect reporters from punishment if they refuse to divulge confidential sources are both surprising and utterly disappointing.

As a candidate, Sen. Obama endorsed the "media shield" that allows courts to decide whether a confidential source deserves protection. (So did Sen. John McCain, the Republican contender.) As a senator, Obama co-sponsored an earlier version of the bill that the Senate Judiciary Committee is considering.

Now that he's the decider, Obama has developed cold feet. Last week, he let lawmakers know that he wanted the bill changed in a way that would cripple key provisions on when and how to invoke protections for reporters and their sources. This would gut the essential provisions of the proposed law.

No one disputes that there are instances when the government should have the right to compel information to safeguard the public. That is why all versions of the bill offer a qualified, rather than absolute privilege, with courts providing meaningful judicial review to determine when the "media shield" should come into play.

It also requires prosecutors to make reporters the last

stop, not the first stop, for finding the source of information. More important, it offers a balancing test that weighs the needs of the government for information against "the public interest in gathering news and maintaining the free flow of information."

Obama apparently decided he didn't want any of this after meeting last week with his national security team. The administration has proposed changes that would eliminate the balancing test in cases deemed "significant" to national security. Judges would be instructed to be deferential to government claims about the significance of a leak.

These changes would turn reporters into government accessories, answerable to pros-

ecutors instead of the public. Judges have never been noticeably partial toward reporters when national security issues are raised, so it's hard to see why the administration would oppose independent judicial review. These proposals stack the deck in favor of investigators instead of obliging them to prove their case — always convenient when your case is weak.

The Judiciary Committee should quit trying to work with the White House and approve the bill as is. A version has passed in the House. That would oblige President Obama to openly oppose the media shield he once favored or veto it when it comes to his desk.

Ideally, he would embrace a bill he once backed.

Apologists twist the truth

Glenn Garvin
MCT

In our new era of teachable moments, nothing has been so educational to me as Roman Polanski's arrest in Switzerland last week for having sex with a 13-year-old girl. Listening to the impassioned defenses by Polanski's supporters in Europe and Hollywood, I've learned so much that my head is just about to explode.

No doesn't always mean no after all.

A 13-year-old girl who says she doesn't want to have sex with you is probably just kidding around. The girl testified to a Los Angeles grand jury that she repeatedly told Polanski that she didn't want to kiss him or have sex with him and that she wanted to go home. No matter: The real standard for consent is that she "was not unresponsive," as Polanski put it. That was good enough for Debra Tate, the sister of actress Sharon Tate and Polanski's former sister-in-law. "There's rape and then there's rape," she said. "It was determined that Roman did not forcibly have sex with this woman. It was a consensual matter."

Date-rape, schmate-rape.

When you're pursuing a flighty teenager, there's nothing wrong with employing a little chemical assistance. Polanski admitted, to law-enforcement officials that he plied the girl with Quaaludes and champagne — and the girl herself admitted that when he discovered she wasn't taking birth-control pills, he decided to simply sodomize her rather than have regular sex. Philosopher-queen Whoopi Goldberg carefully considered these facts, then proclaimed on her TV show "The View": "It wasn't rape-rape. It was something else."

Conservatives were right all these years — our legal system is too damned concerned with minor legal niceties.

Actress Debra Winger, who was supposed to present Polanski with an award at the Swiss film festival where he was arrested, was infuriated at his incarceration. "It is based on a 3-decade-old case that is all but dead, except for a minor technicality," she protested. The "minor technicality" was that Polanski skipped bail before his sentencing back in 1977 and, aside from six weeks confinement for psychiatric evaluation, never served

a day of time for the crime to which he pleaded guilty.

Even if Polanski stepped over a line, piped up alleged French intellectual Bernard-Henri Levy, the worst that could be said was that he "perhaps had committed a youthful error."

Polanski was a mere 43 at the time of the crime — more than three times the age of the girl, but who's counting?

Anyway, we wouldn't put him in jail here. We'd ... oh, never mind.

Outside of Hollywood, nobody has been more outspoken in demanding Polanski's release than officials in his native Poland. Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski has announced plans to press the Obama administration and California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger for a pardon. Polanski "is a great person," said the country's former president Lech Walesa. "He did a lot for Poland and the world ... it should be forgiven." In Poland, of course, he'd be forgiven only after chemical castration: A bill passed by parliament two days before Polanski's arrest establishes that as the penalty for pedophiles convicted of sex with anybody under 15.

Artists deserve protection from the world's vulgarians, as long as they're not Muslim assassins.

Declaring Polanski an "Art God," popular Hollywood blogger Jeffrey Wells said that made him quasi-immune from concerns of the real world: "Art Gods have earned the right to be shown an extra measure of consideration."

Meanwhile, more than 100 show-business celebrities (including Martin Scorsese, Michael Mann and, ahem, Woody Allen) have signed a petition demanding his release. Interestingly, when Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh was murdered in 2004 by Islamic terrorists after making a short film critical of treatment of women in the Muslim world, there wasn't a peep out of Hollywood.

There are a few Hollywood nuts who just don't get it.

"People are defending Roman Polanski because he made good movies 30 years ago?" comedian Chris Rock asked in wonder last week. "Are you kidding me? Even Johnny Cochran didn't have the nerve to go, 'Well did you see O.J. play against New England?'"

Forget it, Chris, it's Tinseltown.

got an opinion?

Send letters to:

thejambar@gmail.com

If economic recovery doesn't feel real, Democrats will pay

Dick Polman
MCT

Pass the word, the great recession is over.

What, you haven't heard? Various economic gurus are talking about a strong third-quarter rebound, the Dow continues its upward creep toward 10,000, and a former Reagan economic whiz named Michael Muzza declares that America has already commenced a "moderately vigorous recovery."

But, in terms of President Obama's political health, and the Democrats' prospects for success in the 2010 congressional races, upbeat macroeconomic statistics really don't mean squat. Voters won't believe that the economy has truly begun to rebound until they can see tangible evidence with their own eyes.

A recovery won't seem real until the vacant corner store has a new occupant and a "hiring now" sign on the glass; until the jobless spouse in the den is going out the door every morning with a new work bag; until it's a hassle once again to find a parking spot at the mall; until the price tag for fixing the porch seems doable, and the contractor who does the work is again swamped with

other bids.

Until such time as these things happen, Obama and the Democrats will be treading on thin ice in the long march to the '10 elections. This might be arguably unfair — the economy went bad for a host of well-known reasons, and presidents are often at the mercy of economic trends beyond their control — but that's politics. Inevitably, those in charge are held accountable when times are tough. Or, more importantly, when times are perceived as tough, no matter what the graphs look like.

Presidential approval ratings tend to rise or fall in accordance with the jobless rate. Obama's have been no different; since last January, the drop in his thumbs-up rating has closely tracked the rise in the jobless rate. If the current jobless rate persists well into 2010 — and the Congressional Budget Office is predicting that next year's rate will average 10.2 percent — Obama may be hard-pressed to post decent numbers of his own.

The health-care reform debate is obviously crucial to the president's long-term political standing; if reform dies this year, the Democrats will pay a price at the ballot box next year, because the party's base will be too angry to vote. But ultimately, the pocketbook is-

sue matters more; as Bill Clinton's team famously said back in 1992, "It's the economy, stupid."

Hart Research Associates, a Democratic polling firm, has just released a snapshot of the national mood: Sixty-one percent of Americans say they are close to somebody whose hours or wages has been cut; 57 percent are close to someone who has been laid off; 44 percent of households have suffered either a layoff or a cutback in hours/wages. Most important, 85 percent of Americans say we're still in recession.

And most people may hew to that belief well into the '10 campaign season. Obama and the Democrats, seeking to defend their hefty congressional majorities, will argue that the key economic indicators are trending upward — and that may well be true. But, among voters, there is typically a time lag between reality and perception.

There is no more vivid example than the misfortunes that befell the first President Bush back in 1992. Many of you may recall that we suffered a bad recession during Bush's term, notably in 1990. The top wonks decreed in March 1991 that the recession was officially over, and kept saying so all year long. In macro terms,

they were probably right. But at street level, they were perceived as wrong — because the stores stayed empty and the jobless rate continued to rise.

Bush's first stop on his ill-fated '92 re-election trail was the New Hampshire primary. But nobody there believed the recession was over. I covered that primary; while doing so, I rode around with Republican voters in the town of Salem. The mini-malls were barren, except for the signs: For Sale, For Lease, For Rent. To my hosts, this was all tangible stuff; they didn't care what the wonks said.

I rode at one point with a nice young couple, the Bensons. Their kids — 3-year-old Michael and 2-year-old Brian — had picked up the vibe. I took notes. Michael told me, "I don't buh-weeve this. There's nothing in the stores. I just hate when they do that." And Brian chimed in, "Me too hate it."

The next day, a grown-up Republican named Al Sack (who had been sacked five months earlier, and hadn't worked since), told me that he planned to vote against Bush because of the recession. In his words, "I don't give a rat's damn who's to blame, he's the president."

It may be no different for Obama and the Democrats, barring any street-level

evidence during the next 13 months. There certainly won't be any tangible progress on the health-care front, because even if historic reforms are enacted, the key provisions aren't slated to kick in until 2013. So the big question, between now and November '10, is whether Obama can successfully plead for patience until a recovery feels tangible and perceptions accordingly change.

The Democrats won't cough up control of the House next year unless they suffer a net loss of 40 seats; even if they're saddled with a perceived recession, it's hard to envision that scenario. They could easily lose two dozen seats (so say the political forecasters), and that makes sense, historically speaking. Ronald Reagan's Republicans lost 26 seats in November 1982, when the jobless rate was nearly 11 percent. But the problem for Obama, in our hyper-polarized era, is that even a Reagan-style loss would be spun by his foes as a massive repudiation.

Well, he asked for this burden. Not long ago, he told a Michigan audience, "I love these folks who helped get us in this mess and then suddenly say, 'Well, this is Obama's economy.' That's fine. Give it to me."

To which I say, be careful what you wish for.

Clarity needed on Afghanistan

MCT
DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Unusual friction seems to be developing between the Obama administration and its commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Stanley McChrystal. The national security adviser, James Jones, appeared to rebuke McChrystal for campaigning to get 40,000 additional troops to stabilize Afghanistan.

Some administration of-

ficials, including Vice President Joe Biden, say al-Qaeda's defeat, not Afghan stability, should be the priority. But in London on Thursday, McChrystal labeled as "short-sighted" any strategy "that does not leave Afghanistan in a stable position."

Jones suggested on CNN on Sunday that McChrystal had overstepped his authority: "Ideally, it's better for military advice to come up through the chain of command."

That's true, but McChrystal's comments seem hardly out of line. After all, President Barack Obama has supported a strong troop and stabilization strategy in Afghanistan. He moved McChrystal into his current position in large part because he didn't believe his predecessor, Army Gen. David McKiernan, was effective in implementing one. Only recently has the administration seemed to pause over whether a troop buildup and stabiliza-

tion strategy is the best way to go. Consider what Obama said in a July 2008 trip to Kabul:

"We have to understand that the situation is precarious and urgent here in Afghanistan. And I believe this has to be our central focus. ... I think one of the biggest mistakes we've made strategically after 9/11 was to fail to finish the job here, focus our attention here."

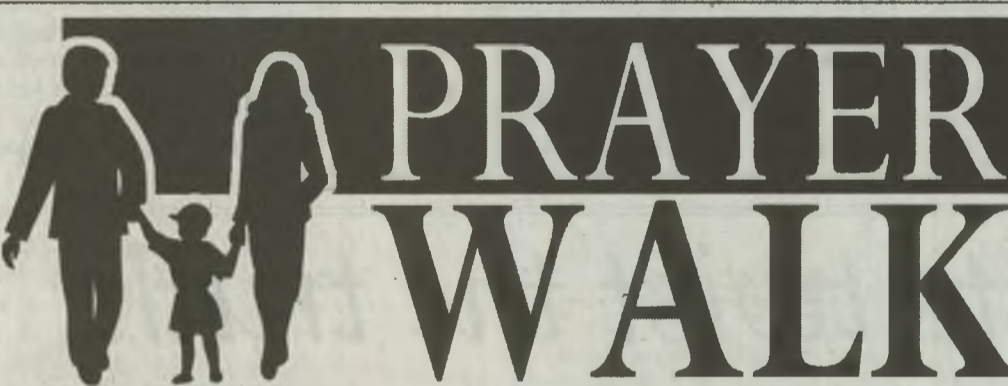
The administration now contends that troop levels

are only one component of an overall strategy still under review. True enough. But to some degree, other components hinge on Western forces' ability to keep the Taliban at bay. That's why settling on a firm and shared strategy for Afghanistan is critical.

If the administration is rethinking its strategy in Afghanistan, Obama should be clear about how and why. Short of that, McChrystal deserves unequivocal support.

got an opinion?

Send letters to:
thejambar@gmail.com



WEEKLY CAMPUS PRAYER WALKS are currently being held on **Tuesdays at 11:15 am and Fridays at noon** to focus on our University, city, and world. Meet at The Rock in front of Kilcawley, and walk as you are physically able, and as your time allows.

For anyone that has not participated in a Prayer Walk, think of the walk around Jericho prior to God giving the city to His people. We will walk throughout the campus praying aloud. The prayer order will be: Praise, Repentance, Petitions, and Thanksgiving.

This Prayer Walk is not part of any organization or group, and not affiliated with any church. The Prayer Walk is open to everyone.

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LOCAL CARTOONIST CELEBRATES POPEYE'S 80TH BIRTHDAY BASH



Gary S. Angelo
FEATURES REPORTER

The 80th birthday of cartoon icon Popeye claims a local tie with Youngstown artist Chris Yambar. Yambar and his production company, Premium Pop, recently created a brand new Popeye comic called "Popeye Picnic." This comic is a full-size, 32-page premium comic book.

"The comic is titled 'Popeye Picnic' because it was released during an event to celebrate Popeye's 80th anniversary this year. It was the first new Popeye comic written after 30 years," Yambar said.

Artist Elzie C. Segar created the iconic sailor in 1929, in Chesterfield, Ill. Popeye made his grand debut in 1929 in Segar's comic strip "Thimble Theater."

"His creator set into motion one of the biggest character licensed properties ever," Yambar said.

Chester, Ill., venerates the character of Popeye every year with a festive celebration of the cartoon. This celebration includes live radio dramas, a picnic and a parade.

"This event in Chester, Ill., is a great tourist destination, and people from Canada, Europe and all across the United States come to this celebration," Yambar said. A Popeye museum is even located in the town.

In four and a half hours, Yambar and Premium Pop signed more than 2,200 copies of "Popeye Picnic." In 2007, three Popeye cartoon DVD box sets were released, containing 60

Popeye cartoons in each box set.

"It's amazing how popular he is after all these years. With Popeye, everyone is as popular as Bart Simpson or Mickey Mouse," Yambar said.

Yambar is especially fond of Popeye's war hero days from the 1920s to the 1940s.

"I love the hell out of Popeye comic books published by every comic company in the world, including Dell Comics and Charlton Comics," Yambar said.

Charlton Comics is the leading company for printing and reprinting Popeye comics.

Yambar is fortunate to be a part of this Popeye anniversary experience.

"The two artists of this book, George Broderick Jr. and Ken Wheaton, are super Popeye fans and Popeye was on the top of their bucket list," Yambar said.

Meanwhile, Yambar did some research in Chester, Ill., and spoke with representatives at the Popeye Picnic. It was at the Popeye Picnic where Yambar introduced the idea of putting together a premium promotional comic book that illustrates Popeye's history. This is how "Popeye Picnic" emerged.

Inside this anniversary comic, all the early and modern Popeye characters are invited to the picnic. Popeye then travels back in time and meets a man named Rocky Fiegel, who inspired the creation of Popeye.

Rocky is a wiry, two-fisted bar brawler, and labeled as the toughest man in Chester, Ill. He was the quintessential symbol of a

macho man who was a laborer and a drunk. Although Rocky was kind to children, he did not take any abuse from the adult world.

Yambar continued his research by going through early Popeye newspaper comics and comic books.

"I wanted to make sure that the Popeye characters spoke with the right 'Popeyeisms,'" Yambar said.

Yambar wanted to realize the importance of Popeye as a character, research the comic's history and discover the reasons why Popeye is a cult icon.

"When I worked on 'The Simpsons,' I made sure that they spoke with the voice that is consistently recognizable to the fans," Yambar said.

Yambar's mission is to be as legitimate as possible with his characters in order to keep the concept recognizable to loyal fans.

"There is no worse insult to a fan than someone who does not research the character of Popeye," Yambar said.

Yambar gets bombarded with mail from fans encouraging him to continue his work with Popeye.

"When many people demand something, that means that I have done something right," Yambar said.

In February 2010, Yambar will celebrate his 10th anniversary of being a writer for "The Simpsons" comics.

"I love the characters I work with, and that's the way I roll. People have to love what they are doing, and do it well, because we only get one chance," Yambar said.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHRIS YAMBAR

National holiday
celebrates equality,
promotes awareness



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.MYSFACE.COM/PRIDEYSU



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCTCAMPUS

Lamar Salter
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

On Sunday, Youngstown State University will celebrate National Coming Out Day, with a week-long series of events highlighting the holiday.

Established in the 1980s, after continuous protesting from many different human rights groups, the holiday serves as a time of celebration for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. Although it's a national event, it has been recognized in many different countries, including Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The holiday brings together different organizations involved in the gay and lesbian community as well as various human rights groups.

In Youngstown, local groups such as YSUunity and the Youngstown Unitarian Church are coming together to promote civil awareness.

Pride Youngstown, a non-profit organization that works around the area in promoting

equality among individuals, is also gearing up for the celebration.

Pride member Alicia Davis talked about the importance of the holiday.

"It's designed to help people come out of the closet," Davis said. "It's important to be comfortable with who you are as a person."

Davis also talked about the various other activities the group has worked on including organized marches, counseling and festival appearances.

"We want people who are out of the closet and come to this city to know that there are people like them out here," Davis said.

A national movement will also be held in Washington D.C. reminiscent of the various events promoting equality before.

The National Equality March will be a public rally that will call for equal protection among all persons in many different aspects including the right to marry, serve openly in the army and receive the same health care benefits.

The march falls close to the anniversary of the death of Matthew Shepard, a student in Wyoming who was tortured and murdered for being a homosexual on Oct. 12, 1998.

Charles Mesrobrian, the director of Sponsorship and Gay-Straight Alliance talked about the importance of the event in relation to students and called out for people of any sexuality to support the cause.

"I hope to serve as a resource for those who want to be supportive of LGBT students," Mesrobrian said.

Brian P. Wells, an academic adviser for the College of Health and Human Services, said that National Coming Out Day continues life-long work toward finding a voice in today's society.

"It's our job to educate people on the laws. It is still the truth today that people who are gay and lesbian are getting fired from their jobs," Wells said.

Additional Reporting by
Gary S. Angelo



Local DJ takes bar scene for a spin

Jennifer Tomerlin
REPORTER

Music has the ability to control emotions, moods and physical behavior. Mike Romeo understands the power music has over people, and the power people have over his music.

A Youngstown native, Romeo is the house disc jockey at Pal Joey's on Midlothian Boulevard in Youngstown. He began when he was in the 8th grade. "I had a lot of money saved up. So it was either DJ equipment or a fancy car," Romeo said. Once he got his equipment, he began to DJ school dances in Struthers un-

til Youngstown State University presented him with a life-changing opportunity.

Romeo was training for YSU Parking Services when Gary DiLisio, a member of the Alpha Phi Delta fraternity at YSU, asked him if he could DJ one of their parties that was coming up. That was the opportunity Romeo needed to open the door to his passion. "That really motivated me. It was like whoever could flip the coin the highest; I wanted to be the best at it," Romeo explained.

Romeo remembered the Monday after the party. He described how people he had never met were coming up to him and saying "Hey DJ," or "Great party Saturday!" His

friends on campus really gave him the extra push to pursue and surpass all expectations. "People began to know me and recognize me. That made me want to be the best in this area," he said.

After becoming the DJ for the Alpha Phi Delta fraternity, he was approached by another fraternity brother to DJ his 21st birthday party at Pal Joey's. The very next day, the bar owner offered him a job. "I was paid \$100. I didn't even use my own equipment, and it was just me and my laptop," Romeo said.

Being a DJ at a bar does come with certain responsibilities. The bar needs people to drink and Romeo knows the

perfect solution to this problem. "I like the fact that you can control people. I want to make people dance and drink. So you have to play songs at the bar that make people stop dancing and go to the bar," Romeo explained. One of the songs that is played to get people off of the dance floor and into the bar stools is "American Boy" by Kanye West. It has a smoother, slower beat to it. The song played at 1:12 a.m. and it didn't even take more than 30 seconds before the dance floor was completely empty. To get the patrons back on the dance floor, the next song he played was the "Cupid Shuffle," an updated, hipper version of the electric slide with a hip-hop

rhythm. The dance floor was immediately swarmed by people.

When asked what makes a good DJ, Romeo answered, "You have to be personal. You have to be able to relate and see people."

Being a DJ is only the beginning for Romeo. He plans to expand his business and pass the torch to a new, young DJ with a laptop and a dream. "You can't be 20 years old your whole life. I'm going to get done with school and start my life. Next five years, I want to pass it to someone," Romeo explained. Until then, he is currently enrolled in the police academy at YSU and is showing no sign of slowing down.

Towell headlines McDonough

Rick Pollo
REPORTER

On Friday, Sept. 18, the McDonough Museum of Art introduced the public to Larry Towell's "The World from My Front Porch." This multimedia presentation is the photographer's largest exhibition to date. Along with photographs taken by Towell throughout his 30-year career, it will showcase many of his other talents such as his written essays, musical recordings and videos, providing for an interactive and educational multimedia experience.

According to a press release provided by the McDonough, his "multimedia retrospective focuses on the impact of social unrest on cultural identity as seen through Towell's lens as he traveled from Canada to the Middle East, Central America, and the United States."

The exhibition consists of more than 120 black and white images taken by Towell throughout his travels. They also include related artifacts, shell casings from war zones, posters of martyrs and a water-soaked image of a Hurricane Katrina survivor.

Larry Towell also offers a rare intimate glimpse into his personal life with his exhibit. Growing up in rural Ontario, some of the photos capture his early years. Towell has since gone on to study visual arts at York University in Toronto. At that time he was given a simple camera with black and white film, and went on over the last three decades to travel the world and record it via photographs, while adding personal touch and commentary from an artist's perspective. It is said that Towell's business cards read "Larry Towell: Human Being."

Towell is also an accomplished folk musician, storyteller and poet, as well as a photographer. Being that he is a multifaceted artist in so many ways, he uses a vari-

ety of insight as shown in his exhibition on display. "The World from My Front Porch" he recalls his experiences and travels by calling it a "a crisis of landlessness ... a phenomenon caused by the agro-export economy, globalization, free trade and national building without respect for indigenous populations."

"Today, one human being in six lives in a 'squatter city' as farmers throughout Asia, Africa, and Latin America migrate from the plots of land they farmed for generations and on which they can no longer subsist, to live in urban slums," states Towell in the press release. "A growing number, 35 million persons, also live in exile, cut off from their rural origins, often due to conflict over land."

Towell has also composed many essays to accompany his photographic work. Of those essays, several have been published in major publications such as [LIFE, Elle, Esquire, Rolling Stone and The New York Times]. A montage of these clippings will appear at his exhibition. He has also authored ten books chronicling his travels.

On Friday, the Larry Towell experience won't end at the McDonough, for fans and those interested will get a taste of his "Collected Works." With his "Collected Works," he will give a musical performance/multi-media performance. For this special performance, he'll be joined by renowned harmonica player Mike Stevens, who has performed at the Grand Ole Opry more than 300 times. This live performance will celebrate "the art of storytelling" and incorporate slides and video taken by Towell along with his original music, poetry and song. "Collected Works" will be held at Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room from 7 to 9 p.m.

Storm brews funk at bike town

Gary S. Angelo
A&E REPORTER

Since 2003, local funk unit Geo C. and Tha Storm has been opening local minds and hearts to pure experimental funk. The band just recorded their third studio full-length album "Geology." The new album concentrates on alternative soul, laced in late '70s hip-hop. They take the mysticism of Prince and the raw funk power of Fishbone to excellent levels.

On Saturday, Oct. 10, Geo C. and Tha Storm will play outdoors at 1 a.m. at Harley-Davidson Bike Town, located on Interstate Boulevard in Austintown.

What makes the Storm unique is that frontman George Case, aka Geo C., does not stick to simply one lineup of musicians. The band endured multiple lineup changes through each album. For instance, the cast of musicians who play on the Storm's studio albums differ from the lineup of musicians who play live.

"I would pick different players at different times and incorporate them on different albums and shows," Case

said. The band's current live lineup includes George Case on vocals and keyboards, Melody Case on vocals, flute and keyboards, Harold Rollins on drums, Tyrone Williams on guitar and vocals, Gary Strothers on guitar, Mark Castro on keyboards and Keith Crockett on bass. George Case is also the owner and founder of the downtown record shop Geo's Music.

The band's new release "Geology" was recorded at Head Room Studios in Warren, Ohio, and released on the band's own label, Earthtone Records. The second half was then recorded at Underdog Studios in Hubbard, Ohio. Case is confident that "Geology" is an introspective masterpiece.

"I feel that my songwriting in constant progression and will be different from album to album," Case said.

Case chose the title "Geology" because the new CD represents a study of his life and experiences, hence "Geo" and "Geology." Case said "Geology" displays many positive traits.

"Geology" is better recorded, and I learned how to use the studio and recording tools a lot better," Case said.

Despite the album's funk aspects, the band delves heavily into the lyrics, speaking in-

trospectively to their listeners. "Geology" is definitely the band's approach to an experimental concept release.

Case grew up in a multicultural background where he was exposed to many genres of music. His influences range from Sly and the Family Stone, Fishbone, Funkadelic, Prince, the Eagles, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Case has a batch of songs that he and his Storm-mates have yet to play live. Case is always writing and recording songs at a constant speed.

"I have a melting pot of gumbo in my head and it's slowly coming out," Case said.

When it comes to the new CD, Case said it's all up to the listener. Case said artists like Lenny Kravitz allow their listeners to make their own perceptions and observations of their music. This is the technique Case is achieving.

"I always try to record things that represent where I am and where the band is at," Case said.

Case said he is honored to play at Saturday's End of The Year event at Harley-Davidson Bike Town.

"Expect to hear heartfelt string music that's powerful and different," Case said.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1 "Overhead" engine parts
- 5 Shoe undersides
- 10 ___ the lily: ornament to excess
- 14 Doing the job
- 15 Between, quaintly
- 16 There oughta be one, so it's said
- 17 "Keep out" sign
- 19 Turn on a pivot
- 20 Jungian feminine principle
- 21 Coll. major for a future concert artist
- 23 Anger
- 24 Pay for everyone's dinner
- 29 Lively Irish dance
- 32 Peter, Paul or Mary
- 33 Not shut, in verse
- 34 German river
- 36 Like a cold, damp day
- 37 Type of notebook
- 40 "All exits are blocked" situation
- 43 Shiny photo
- 44 Delivery vehicle
- 45 WWII submachine gun
- 46 Floral welcome
- 47 Mexican money
- 49 Mag. staffers
- 50 Throng management
- 54 Witchy woman
- 55 Place for a ring
- 56 On-the-job reward
- 60 Norse war god
- 62 Four-on-the-floor, e.g.

Down

- 66 Atomizer output
- 67 Division of society
- 68 Sunscreen ingredient, perhaps
- 69 ___ helmet: safari wear
- 70 Ease, as fears
- 71 Home on a limb
- 1 Musical finale
- 2 Soon, to a bard
- 3 Short skirt
- 4 Defeat decisively
- 5 Sault ___ Marie
- 6 Possess
- 7 On, as a lamp
- 8 Like churches, vis-à-vis most taxes
- 9 Rooster's gait
- 10 Tank filler
- 11 Unable to read
- 12 First lady before Michelle
- 13 Dork
- 18 Mai ___: rum drinks
- 22 Small stores
- 25 Traveling show worker
- 26 Sedona and Sorento
- 27 Not made of interlaced parts, as fabric
- 28 Expansive stories
- 29 Author Erica
- 30 "American ___"
- 31 Precious stone expert
- 35 Stitch over
- 37 Man of La Mancha
- 38 Acted like

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COURTESY OF MCTCAMPUS

- 39 Contact or zoom
- 41 "All kidding ___ ..."
- 42 No-food protest
- 47 Snazzy entrance
- 48 Bursts into tears
- 50 Bite vigorously
- 51 Pie slice edges, geometri-

- cally
- 52 One of Caesar's assassins
- 53 Actress Lindsay
- 57 Longest river
- 58 Roswell sightings, briefly
- 59 Printer's "let it stand"
- 61 To the ___ degree

- 63 One of many in the Aegean Sea: Abbr.
- 64 Windy City transportation org.
- 65 Computer feature that ends each of the five longest across answers

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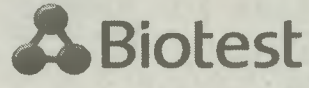
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Senior Kevin Smith runs behind his block to gain some positive yards for the Penguins.

STAFF PHOTO BY THE JAMBAR

Penguins looking to bounce back after tough loss

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

A frustrating loss to conference opponent Missouri State University last week has forced the Youngstown State University Penguins to search for the answers to avenge that loss and look forward to this week's game against the Leathernecks of Western Illinois University.

Nothing went right for the Penguins, who had won three straight games before the woeful showing last Saturday against the Bears. Four turnovers by the Penguins, which included three interceptions and a fumble deep in their own territory, doomed the Penguins, who moved the ball enough on offense to theoretically win the game. An offense that accumulated 398 yards and moved the ball efficiently and effectively throughout the game — that's the offensive output the Penguins put forth.

The Bears racked up 352 yards of offense but, only turned over the ball once, on senior Lenny Wicks' interception. Despite the Penguins outgaining the Bears by 46 yards, the turnovers were too prevalent for the Penguins to mount a positive push on offense.

"You always want to win games at home, so we felt like we let one slip away," senior wide receiver Aaron Pitts said, adding that he is looking forward to another home game

this Saturday.

The offense must regroup for another intense battle within the Missouri Valley Conference when the Leathernecks roll into Stambaugh Stadium Saturday. "I think we got a great group of leadership. When things get a little bit tough, that's when you have to lead," head coach Jon Heacock said.

Missouri State came into the contest against the Penguins 0-1 in the Missouri Valley Conference. The Leathernecks will come into the Ice Castle with the same conference record as the Bears and are 1-3 overall. Last week, WIU squared off against the eight-ranked team in the Football Championship Subdivision, the Southern Illinois Salukis.

The Salukis ruined the day for the Leathernecks during their family weekend, defeating them 30-10, and the Penguins hope they don't ruin Saturday's fireworks night.

The Leathernecks only win on the season came in the first week of the season on the road against Sam Houston State, 35-28. On the season, the Leathernecks are struggling to put points on the scoreboard. They average 20.5 points per game on the season. Their opponents average a shade under five touchdowns per game with a 34.8 per game average.

The problem with the Leathernecks, similarly to the Penguins are sluggish starts.

The Penguins have outscored their opponents 42-14 in the fourth quarter, but their opponents have outscored them 31-10 in the first quarter.

The Penguins have won games by starting slow, so it's not an indicator on wins and losses. The Penguins were behind at one point in two of their wins, Austin Peay and Northeastern. But putting themselves in a hole early in the game does not help their cause. The Leathernecks opponents outscored them 98-48 in the first half of games this season, and they have a losing record.

On the offensive side for the Leathernecks, junior wide receiver Lito Senatus stands out above the rest. His numbers on the season are impressive. Senatus averages 108.8 yards receiving per game, has caught 30 passes for 435 yards and has two touchdowns on the season.

For the Penguins, senior Brandon Summers needs to lead the team and not turn the ball over. If the Penguins do this, they should win the game. The running game was solid in the loss to the Bears as seniors Kevin Smith and Dana Brown had good games. The defense was decent for the Penguins as well as they gave up just 17 points. A solid performance by the defense would do wonders for the Penguins to get back into the win column.

Soccer team heads to Wisconsin

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

An important road trip faces the Youngstown State University soccer team.

The Penguins will travel to the state of Wisconsin to take on two Horizon League opponents. The Penguins' first test in Wisconsin involves the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Phoenix. The team's next test in Wisconsin pits them against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panthers.

In the Penguins' last three games at home, they could only muster two goals. The two goals came in one game, a win against Robert Morris 2-0 on Sept. 20. In the last two games of the Penguins' home stand, they were held scoreless. During their game versus Saint Francis University, the game went into double overtime and ended in a 0-0 tie. The last game of the three home matches was against Loyola University. Loyola scored one goal, which was good enough to get the win in the game.

In games against Loyola and Detroit, head coach Will Lemke felt his team played hard and definitely could have

come out of both games with the win.

"We played very well against a very good Loyola team. We traveled to Detroit and we did not handle the pressure, and we lost focus. We are not capitalizing on our opportunities," Lemke said.

The road trip that awaits the women's soccer team will test how well the players handle life on the road.

"It's an extremely long road trip. It's going to be very challenging," Lemke said.

The road games will test a Penguins team who only has one road win on the season and are 1-4 overall in road games this season.

"It's important to play well. We're a very good home team, but we need to challenge teams on the road," Lemke said.

The Penguins are a much better team at home than on the road and their record proves it. A 2-2-2 record on the home turf proves they're solid at home. Their two losses at the Ice Castle were by just one goal to Kent State University in overtime and Loyola.

The Phoenix has lost three straight games. Their record stands at 2-8-2 on the season with wins against North Da-

kota State and Northern Iowa. Despite the seemingly bad record, the Phoenix played just two home games at home and are 1-0-1 in those two games.

Sophomore midfielder Corey Arno leads the Phoenix in scoring. Arno leads the team with three goals on the season along with one assist.

After the Green Bay game, the team will travel to Milwaukee to take on the Panthers. The Panthers are a solid team with an overall record of 5-5-3. The Panthers have a winning record at home where they are 3-2. The team boasts a three-game winning streak with victories at Butler and Valparaiso and at home against Loyola.

A big problem for the Penguins lies in sophomore Panther Sarah Hagen. Hagen has dominated with 11 goals in 13 games with four assists this season. Hagen had a stellar freshman year as well, scoring 24 goals, and adding six assists.

On offense for the Penguins, sophomore Kara Cooper counters Hagen's ability to score. Cooper has seven goals and two assists on the season to lead the Penguins on offense.

Tisia gets chance to prove himself to his country

Josh Stipanovich
NEWS EDITOR

It's 5:30 a.m. The sun has yet to show its presence, yet training has officially begun for the day. Every stride taken is one step closer to a goal — receiving a degree.

Just 5 months ago, freshman Kiplingat Tisia, native Kenyan, was training intensely for the upcoming season.

Coach Gorby said his work ethic and training methods were more unique than he had ever seen.

"Of course nobody in Ohio, nobody within our region has the abilities and talents that Kip has," Gorby said of Tisia, who ended last season as the nation's No. 1 ranked freshman in the steeplechase.

Tisia, who earned two letters in volleyball during high school, made the decision to leave his mother Anah Cheruitot, father Timothy Cheruitot, four brothers and two sisters, after realizing this was an opportunity for him to run — something he has been doing his entire life.

"[Running] has helped me as a young person. I figured out that in life, there's nothing that some other people have done that you cannot do ... I've been able to meet other people, socialize with other people — I've been all over the place ... I've seen a lot of things, and that has helped me to think positively," Tisia said, looking over at Gorby — the man who has taken him under his wing since the day he stepped off the plane in his shorts and T-shirt in the middle of winter.

Though he is the only one of seven siblings to go to college, Tisia said he is trying to teach his two younger brothers who are in high school to follow in his footsteps — not necessarily coming to the U.S., but going to school and furthering their education, and to get through to them that they can do whatever they want to do.

"It doesn't matter if they come here, I want them to have good life, I want them to be able to think critically, to go for anything they want to go for," Tisia said.

After finding out he would be able to continue doing what he loves while receiving an education for free, Tisia jumped on the opportunity.

"They [YSU] give me a full scholarship, and you know back home it would have been challenging for me to pay for my college. I gotta go with that," Tisia said, adding that it wasn't an easy decision because he would be leaving his home, his family and friends, and said that his parents were

not happy with the decision he had made, but he knew he would be alright considering he had some family in the U.S. who were able to help tremendously.

Despite coming to the U.S. for the first time, Tisia has remained loyal and kind to everyone he has come across according to assistant Guy Pizzoferrato, who has helped him train for each season.

"There was a gas station over here, and we got gas ... Somebody came up panhandling, and he started to walk over to Kip, and I said, 'Well you [panhandler] have more money than he does,' but when Kip heard him asking for money, all the food he had for the day, he went over to give it to him," Pizzoferrato said during a training session.

Since coming to YSU, becoming familiar with teammates was how Tisia learned how to become comfortable with U.S. customs, which has allowed him to practice religion — something that he has followed and taken seriously his entire life.

Tisia said that one teammate in particular who was able to assist him when he arrived was junior thrower Sam Cassano of Youngstown.

Cassano, who graduated from Austintown Fitch High School, introduced Tisia to church in the U.S., which has helped him to remain religiously passionate.

"I'm not going to say I'm a Christian ... When you say a Christian, everyone can be a Christian," Tisia said. "Sam is like the fast twig [because when] I got here, he took me to his church. That was the best thing, I appreciate that more than anything because I value Jesus most in my life because I was pulled up from a Christian family."

Tisia said that everyone in his family practices a different religion and that his grandfather and mother used to fear God. "That doesn't matter, what matters is myself — my mom did [her] own, my grandfather, and I'm doing my own thing. I cannot fear God," Tisia said.

Practicing religion in the U.S. has been the only thing that has kept him close to home because he hasn't and said he doesn't believe he will have the chance to visit home where religion was an everyday part of his life.

"I would love to, love to [go home], but the number one thing is my studies. There's no point of me being around my family having nothing to show...it's very pointless for me," Tisia said. "I want something that can help me and help [my family] too."



Kiplingat Tisia

To 'flo' or not to 'flo'

Dan Brown
REPORTER

To many people "flotastic" means nothing, but to Frank Bavero, a special education major who looks more likely to be a professional wrestler than teaching special needs children, it's another way to make someone laugh.

While describing "flotastic" as the art of being one with the world spiritually, physically and emotionally, Bavero started to get a mischievous smile on his face, knowing that he was making this all up as he went along.

"When people see me, they have a flogasm," Bavero said through a smile. "My hair is the basis of the flo."

Bavero used to look like a typical clean-cut young man with short hair and no stubble on his face. Now, Bavero sports a 5 o'clock shadow on most days, and his long, wavy hair that runs past his shoulders resembles that of a Samoan rather than a young kid from a good town. Bavero's outer appearance wasn't the only thing to change.

At Mount Lebanon High School, Bavero would often do things worthy of punishment but often avoided it. Finally, Bavero was caught for two incidents, and it would change him forever.

As a junior, Bavero was leaving the high school after a football game when a schoolmate stepped in front of his car, refusing to move. Bavero grabbed a pellet gun from his glove box and began shooting at the person

until he moved.

Unfortunately, this was a weapons violation and Bavero was suspended for the rest of the semester. He came back his senior year and made another mistake: stealing a math test and giving it to everyone in the class. Bavero was subsequently expelled from school.

Not very "flotastic."

Bavero's former principal, Dr. Zeb Jansante, was in charge of more than 2,000 students, but Bavero and his situations always stuck out to Jansante.

"His choices didn't fit the caliber of kid he was," Jansante explained. "I was a principal for almost 20 years at the time, so nothing surprised me. This surprised me."

Bavero worried he wasn't going to be able to graduate. His future flashed before his eyes and he realized he didn't want to be someone forced to get his GED and attend ITT Technical Institute.

"It was a wake-up call," Bavero said.

Bavero came to Youngstown State University to quit playing the part of the underachieving "goof off."

Along with a friend, Bavero started the YSU lacrosse club team where he holds almost every major position within the club, ranging from coach to secretary. Some of Bavero's duties involve coaching, setting up games and fundraisers, entering the team in tournaments, recruiting and helping supply players with equipment. The team has existed for several years and has been making strides every year. They even have a lacrosse house this year, com-



PHOTO BY DAN BROWN

Junior Frank Bavero shown here with his prized possession, his lacrosse stick.

plete with a room with a turf floor.

"[It's] just like the fields we play on," Bavero said.

Bavero also got his club team involved with the Cardinal Mooney High School lacrosse team. He contacted the athletic director of the school who put him in touch with coach Tom Trefethern. The YSU lacrosse team often practices with the high school players and teaches them about the game. While the whole team helps, Trefethern thinks the leader is clear.

"Frank is the leader of the YSU

team; he has the energy and desire to make the YSU team a success," Trefethern said. "Frank is great with the kids. The Mooney team respects him and wants to play for him."

Bavero enjoys YSU lacrosse, but is keeping his eye on the big picture. He says he will graduate in a few years, and after that he wants to continue his education either at YSU or Eastern Kentucky University in hopes of getting his master's degree.

"I'm just trying to do it right," Bavero said.

No worries for YSU athletics on Twitter ban

Chelsea Miller
SPORTS REPORTER

Twitter, a popular social-networking site that allows users to post 140 character "status-updates" and stay connected to others, has gained fame in the news recently.

A waiter from Beverly Hills was fired after "tweeting" about a celebrity that didn't tip, and a New York man was arrested after alerting protestors of police movements. Perhaps more commonly mentioned in the news, however, are the problems circulating the professional sports world with Twitter, which led to a recent ban of using it during the season.

Currently, three of the major professional sporting leagues, National Basketball Association, National Foot-

ball League and the National Hockey League have publicly declared certain time restraints on athletes using the site. This also includes coaches and personnel as well and stems from certain events that led to controversy within the sport.

New York Jets wide receiver David Clowney was benched for complaining about his playing time on Twitter, although, according to the New York Daily News, Coach Rex Ryan said he benched him because of his poor performance at practice as well.

Bengals wide receiver Chad Ochocinco has been pushing the envelope on the Twitter ban since it was put into place several weeks ago. Ochocinco used to tweet from the sidelines during games.

Some colleges are now following suit. Texas Tech

University recently banned players from using Twitter completely after one of the players criticized his coach on Twitter for arriving to a meeting late. The coaches are also carefully monitoring the athletes' use of Facebook and other social networking sites.

This ban should not be affecting athletes at Youngstown State University anytime soon, however. Sports information director Trevor Parks, said if anything, YSU supports the use of such social-networking sites. "[The ban] won't affect us at all," he said.

Assistant basketball coach Byron Thorne agrees, saying that the basketball team currently has a strict no-cell policy during key functions.

"During the meetings and the game, cell phones are turned off," he said adding that, because of this, the ban will not be in place.

Cleveland Browns may be in danger of having games blacked out this season

Dan Brown
REPORTER

When a team in the National Football League doesn't sell out their game, it gets blacked out, meaning it will not be shown in local markets, which means that Browns fans might be without their "Brownies" at some point this season.

In this tough economy, talk of blackouts has increased greatly, and NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said in an Associated Press article posted on the NFL's official Web page that it'll be a challenge for some teams to avoid a blackout.

Since the economy is still suffering, Browns losses are mounting the possibility of their first blackout since 1995.

Over the years, the Cleveland Browns have proven they have one of the most loyal fan bases in the National Football League — they watched their beloved team leave for Baltimore and become the Ravens, eventually winning that coveted championship Cleveland desires. They saw their Browns come back in 1999 as an expansion team and have only seen a single playoff appearance since.

On top of it all, this season things aren't looking up. The Browns traded popular tight end Kellen Winslow Jr. They benched hometown hero Brady Quinn and on Wednesday traded former Pro Bowl wide receiver Braylon Edwards. The team doesn't have much of an identity. So when is enough, enough for Browns fans?

The Jacksonville Jaguars have had two more playoff appearances than Cleveland since 1999, they have popular

running back Maurice Jones-Drew, a former Super Bowl winner in wide receiver Torry Holt, and more importantly, they have an identity. Yet they face the potential of having every home game blacked out this season.

Jaguars Senior Vice President of Business Development Tim Connolly attributes the local economy and lack of Fortune 500 businesses, who buy tickets for clients and employees, for the fall in ticket sales but doesn't believe the NFL should change its blackout policy, adding that there's only one way to put an end to it — "We have to win. Create some excitement," Connolly said.

So if a team that wins more than Cleveland can have trouble selling games out, can it happen to the Browns? If so, who is going to protect the fans from having their Browns' games blacked out?

Armstrong Cable representatives refused to comment and said, "They weren't at liberty to discuss." Comcast representative Beth Bacha added, "This is not something Comcast has a decision in deciding."

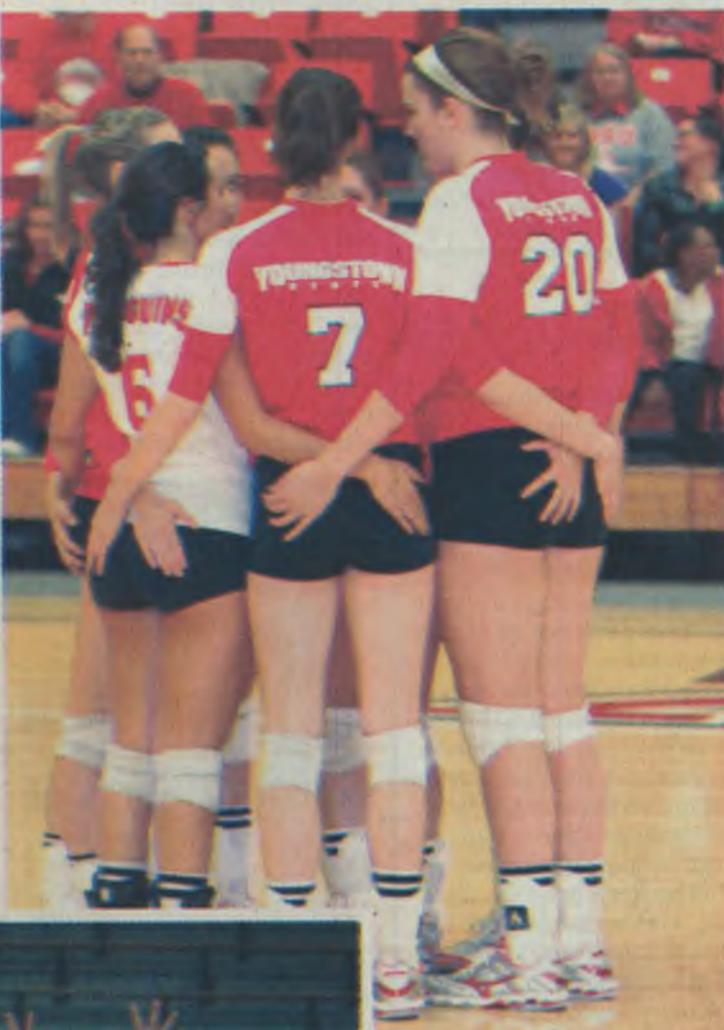
Calls to the NFL led to a press release that explains the NFL will show blacked out games online after midnight the day of the game and will show the game for 72 hours, except during Monday Night Football broadcasts.

Rachel Cohen writes in an AP article that the NFL has no plans to budge on their blackout rules. It also states that the NFL's average ticket price this season is \$74.99.

Questions and calls to the Cleveland Browns were not immediately returned.

Volleyball falls to Cleveland State

Record evens to 4-4 in Horizon league play



ABOVE — The volleyball team comes together to plan the next angle of attack. The team lost in three sets to Cleveland State Wednesday night.

LEFT — Senior Allison Heinz shows a nice vertical as she tries to win this point against the Vikings.



PHOTOS BY SAM MARHALUK/THEJAMBAR



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