The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

Look inside YSU's greenhouse in Ward **Beecher Hall VIDEO ONLINE** 

Meet Don Stevens, Penguins' super fan **VIDEO ONLINE** 

More than 70 years of homecoming coverage PAGE 4

Penguins look for Leatherneck revenge in homecoming game PAGE 6

YSU nixed from Petro's plan

Jordan D. Uhl **NEWS EDITOR** 

Woes increased across campus last week when a report by Inside Higher Ed was spread among faculty.

It was alleged that remedial courses might be removed from the university setting in Ohio by 2017, as Jim Petro, chancellor of the Board of Regents, looks to scale back on higher education operating costs.

Campus community members were concerned about the potential result of Youngstown State University becoming a closed enrollment university.

However, YSU will dodge

the bullet.

Accompanied by Central State University and Shawnee State University, YSU is still able to receive state operating subsidies for remedial courses, according to Section 3345.061 (B) of the fiscal year 2012-2013 State of Ohio operating budget, H.B. 153

Ikram Khawaja, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said YSU was exempt due to the lack of a solid community college presence in the area, despite the newly established Eastern Gateway Community College. It hasn't proved itself a significant force to disqualify YSU from receiving subsidies just yet, Khawaja added.

EGCC's enrollment this fall semester is 2,466, a 15 percent increase from last fall when it was 2,136. The emerging community college has seen the most growth in the Youngstown area, said Elizabeth Modlin, secretary in the office of enrollment management at EGCC.
Brenda Haas, Shawnee

State's dean of the university college, said she feels her university was exempt for similar but different reasons.

We serve a high generation of first-generation students," she said.

That, coupled with the distance from a community college, is why Haas said she feels Shawnee was grouped with

"[The policy] is based on the population you serve," Haas

Shawnee State, which offers six remedial courses, is located in the southern part of Appalachia, which draws many incoming students with remediation needs.

Kim Norris, communica-tions director for the chancellor's office, said Petro feels the relocation of remedial courses to two-year institutions or community colleges would save the state money, with some estimates at \$130 million annually.

Remediation, in Petro's opinion, is a burden to students. The classes cost students money and time to take, while they don't count toward a degree.

Norris said remedial courses could also be discouraging to first-year students.

YSU offers nine remedial courses, which the university classifies as "developmental." There are four math, two English and two reading and study skills classes available

Petro has established requirements for university presidents to meet "uniform statewide standards in math, science, reading and writing for a student to be considered as having a 'remediation-free' status," Norris said in an email.

Universities will also be required to report annual remediation costs to the state.



(Left to right) Millicent Counts, President Cynthia Anderson and Sudershan Garg, Chair of the Board of Trustees, deliberated and ratified both Association of Classified Employees and Ohio Education Association's contracts with a near unanimous vote on Wednesday. Scott Schulick objected to the OEA contract as he was disappointed in their health care proposal. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

Jordan D. Uhl **NEWS EDITOR** 

The Youngstown State University Board of Trustees ratified the Association of Classified Employees and YSU's Ohio Education Association contracts Wednesday, putting an end to months of bickering, negotiations and turmoil.

"The past several weeks have been very difficult for the board, ACE and OEA membership," Sudershan Garg, chair of the board, said. "All of you deserve board gratitude."

The board's university affairs committee met prior to the full board meeting, where they discussed and voted on the contracts.

What came out was a result of a near unanimous vote on both contracts, with Scott Schulick, board of trustee's chair, objecting to the motion to ratify OEA's contract.

"I was prepared to ratify both today," he said.

Schulick was disappointed upon finding out OEA had recently had a collective change of heart regarding the health care plan it put forth in hopes of having it changed out for ACE's plan, which the board had originally proposed.

"I was disappointed with the process and content of the [memorandum of understanding]," he said. "It was an 11th hour kind of situation.'

"[Schulick was] not happy with the memorandum of understanding that was presented to the board of the last moment," Garg said. "But the executive committee of OEA had already signed off on it and our legal counsel had advised us that it wouldn't have any ramifications on the University."

Trustee Delores Crawford said she's pleased the board is moving ahead with university business.

Harry Meshel, who has been absent from recent meetings due to health issues, returned Wednesday with high spirits and accolades for Cynthia An-

"[It was] one of the best job's I've seen in a labor negotiations during the **NEGOTIATIONS PAGE 3** 



One of the chambers of the YSU greenhouse known as the rainforest in Ward Beecher Hall. The greenhouse can be seen from Lincoln Avenue, and the rainforest section is closed to the public for legal reasons. Photo by Alyssa Italiano/The Jambar.

## A not-so-green greenhouse

Alyssa Italiano REPORTER

The windows of Ward Beecher Hall reveal a room of browning plants visible to students walking along Lincoln

Despite the lack of green, the chamber of dwindling foliage is Youngstown State University's greenhouse, which has languished under insufficient funds.

I call it death valley," said Ian Renne, assistant professor of biological sciences and greenhouse coordinator. "It was a failed exhibit that started out as a tropical rainforest but failed due to poor infrastructure and lack of maintenance."

There are three sections of the greenhouse: angiosperm, gymnosperm and rainforest. The sections are more commonly known as chambers one, two and

Alexandria Szakacs, YSU junior and undergraduate assistant for the greenhouse, said that two chambers are more or less doing well. They hold more than 260 plants and 80 species, Szakacs said.

The third chamber is the one people think of when they see the greenhouse from the road," she said. "The rainforest section is dead, locked and collapsing. I have been told that no one is allowed in the third chamber for legal reasons."

In addition to aesthetic value, a fully renovated greenhouse could provide learning opportunities and research possibilities, Renne said.

But the 30-year-old project is in dire need of renovations as wilting funds have left the greenhouse high and dry.

"It needs funding," Renne said. "There are three components to a greenhouse: community outreach, education and research. We have a poorly functioning greenhouse that has all three.

Renne said the greenhouse contains a variety of plant specimens that are occasionally used for educational purposes, research activity and lab exercises

Biology students conduct experiments involving plant materials, while chemistry students use the greenhouse for gene research.

Mario Motha, YSU freshman and social services major, works on his "Grow it Green" experiment in the greenhouse. "My goal was to see the glass half full

instead of half empty," he said. Motha said he strives to help the economy and the area's low-income families through his project. He wants to

show people how to eat healthfully with a low-cost garden. "Everything is going well so far," he

said. "The challenge is when the weather **GREENHOUSE PAGE 3** 

## **Faculty procure** second highest grant total in history

Marissa McIntyre **ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR** 

Fiscal year 2011-2012 has brought in the second highest amount of grants in Youngstown State University history.

FY 2011 grants totaled \$8.7 million, dwarfed only by the \$12 million accumulated in 2009. Last year totaled \$7.2 million.

"That was exceptional. This year is more in line with what we expected," said Peter Kavinsky, dean of the School of Graduate

Studies and Research. Kavinsky said this year's success was not unexpected, and YSU is fortunate to have faculty members who are willing to combine research and teaching.

The College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics is the largest recipient of grant awards, bringing in more than

Kavinsky said more grants are available for STEM research, which "are more dependant on external resources."

'The College of STEM has a large number of faculty and many have been very active in submitting proposals the last several years," said Edward Orona, director of grants and sponsored programs.

"STEM ... has made it a part of the agenda to engage in research," said Martin Abraham, founding dean of STEM.

Abraham is particularly pleased with STEM's four active Ohio Third Frontier

"The real benefit is for students. It gives the experience needed to compete in this 21st

century society," he said. Chemistry professor Tim Wagner said he's excited about the projects afforded by the

A \$1.2 million grant, courtesy of the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, will extend STEM's work with Fireline Tcon and advance nano-composite materials research for

**GRANTS PAGE 3** 

## Google trends with social networking site

Dustin Livesay REPORTER

Google is trending with its launch of Google+.

Google+ is marketed as a way to communicate with friends while having the ability to play games and search for places, like restaurants and bars, that friends have visited.

Google+ allows users to categorize their friends into "circles," providing the option to limit posts to a specific

In his own Google+ post, Google co-founder Larry Page said Google+ is grow-

According to the post page, the website has 40 million active users since it officially became open to the public on Sept. 20. The Google+ iPhone application also became the most popular free application in the app store in less than a

day.

Sophomore Cindy Thompson is a Google+ user who uses other social networking websites.

"I love all of those sites," Thompson said. "My favorite thing about Google+ is being able to keep certain posts away from people like my mom and boss."

Google+ also gives users the chance to search friends' posts. When a user types a keyword into the Google+ search engine, a list of detailed posts that friends have made relating to that topic ap-

Google has created a specific section for viewing, managing and editing multimedia. Google has also implemented a section that it calls "hangouts," which emulates a video chat room where users can talk to friends in a one-on-one environment.

Google+ also has a messenger system that gives users access to instant messaging.

The website also provides users with an easy way to play common games such as blackjack and poker. Users can compete in various games with friends and strangers.

Senior Tiffany Rogers has tried out Google+ but said Facebook is better.

"I like the set up of Facebook better than Google+ because I am so used to it already, and I have been using it for so long," Rogers said. "It would be difficult to change

Some students, like freshman Jeremy Shaloka, aren't impressed with social networking, let alone Google+. But Shakola does guard his comments by using common

"It's too much of a hassle to watch what you say and wonder who might be reading what you post," Shaloka said. "People get fired from their jobs or break up over those sites, so I try to stay away from them."



Illustration showing Google+ as a fighter taking on Facebook and Twitter in the ring, with a table comparing some of the ways Google+ differs from the other two social networking sites. Photo courtesy of San Jose Mercury News.

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Alyssa Italiano REPORTER

This year's costume trends take Halloween from horrifying to Hollywood as experts are expecting fewer bloodcurdling monsters and more fashionable ce-

Experts on the Experian Hitwise, a website that collects trends in Web browsing, said movie-inspired costumes like Rapunzel and Catwoman would be this year's top costumes. Captain America costumes for men are also predicted to be popular this Halloween.

Youngstown State University junior Alex Antonucci plans to be Hulk Hogan on a college student's budget.

"I started growing my moustache three weeks ago," Antonucci said. "I'm using my wig from my Garth from 'Wayne's World' costume last year so I save mon-

The National Retail Federation estimated a more than \$1 billion increase in Halloween spending in the U.S. Halloween expenditures are expected to reach around \$6.9 billion, as compared to last year's \$5.8 billion.

Of that \$6.9 billion, \$2.5 billion is

likely to go toward costumes.

Hitwise data displayed searches for "Mortal Kombat" costumes, hinting that men might be trying to make the fighting fantasy game a reality, at least for one

In addition to bringing video games to life, costume trends hint at a celebrity

overload.

Renowned for bringing out witches and monsters, Halloween 2010 brought out a new kind of monster: Mother Monster. Along with the "Jersey Shore" cast, Lady Gaga ranked among the top costumes of 2010.

Halloween goes Hollywood

YSU freshman Tracy Fessler has no plans to dress up but expects to see a lot of celebrity-inspired looks with Gaga taking the costume crown.

This year, Nicki Minaj's Barbies may overpower Gaga's little monsters, with Minaj landing at spot 15 on Hitwise's list of the top-20 costume searches.

The site's data reveals that Gaga missed the top-20 trending costumes in 2011, but she will still have plenty of little monsters impersonating her.

On the other hand, Marie Claire magazine listed Gaga as one of the hottest costumes this year, only under a different name: Jo Calderone.

Calderone is Gaga's alter ego whom she revealed at the 2011 MTV Video Mu-

Fellow music icon Bevonce didn't make the magazine's list, but pregnant Beyonce did.

Marie Claire anticipates that Justin Bieber and Kim Kardashian might not make the best costume pair thanks to Kardashian's recent marriage.

The magazine also hints that Kate Middleton and Prince William may beat them both, calling them the "It' couple costume of the year."

"A lot of people want to do matching couple costumes this year," said Shirley

James, an employee at Ward's Costume Shoppe in Niles. YSU senior Nicki Mitchell is one of

"My boyfriend and I are going togeth-

er as trolls," she said. "He didn't want to be anything girly." While trolling with the apple of her eye, Mitchell said she expects to see nu-

merous Steve Jobs costumes. The International Business Times put Steve Jobs at the top of the list of the 10

hottest Halloween costumes for adults. The International Business Times also lists big political names like Sarah Palin, Anthony Weiner and Arnold Schwar-

Moving on from Weinergate, Charlie Sheen continues his winning streak in 2011 as one of the most popular Halloween costumes.

According to trends from Yahoo search data, Sheen is the most popular costume for Halloween 2011. According to the Washington Times, though, "Angry Birds" is the most "sought after." Released in 2009, "Angry Birds" is a

game for smartphones featuring wingless

Alyssa Scott, an employee at Party Place in Boardman, said "Angry Birds" has been a popular costume this year.

James noticed that pirate costumes seem to be a popular look this year at Ward's Costume Shoppe, but not many others stood out.

"There's many costumes to pick from, but ultimately people are just going to be whatever they like," she said.

## YEC graduates express concern over housing policy

Pat Donovan **NEWS REPORTER** 

When Aaron Hughes-Ware graduated from Youngstown Early College in 2011, he thought of himself as an upperclassman. But now he feels like he's being treated as a freshman.

As a junior at Youngstown State University, Hughes-Ware has already earned an associate degree. However, he is one of 11 recent YEC graduates considered dorm freshmen even though they're studying at sophomore or junior levels.

"This all started because I just assumed I was an upperclassman, so now I am just trying to explore the reasons why I am not in this situation," he said. "My understanding is that if I am a junior academically, I should be a junior for everything else."

Hughes-Ware's concerns

arose when he tried to clarify the rules for upperclassmen visitation in the 2011-2012 resident handbook,

Danielle Meyer, director of housing and residence life, said in this case the policy may be worded improperly, but that doesn't change the implications and purpose of the rule. "When this issue was first

raised at the beginning of the academic year, we realized that the handbook doesn't specifically address credit hours, and we are absolutely going to try to clarify the language further to make it clear that credit hours are not part of that policy," she said.

Meyer pointed out that the policy is in place for students' who have never lived away from home and are dealing with having roommates while juggling college courses. "I understand the students"

frustration in this situation,

and we certainly are not belit-

tling the work and the effort

they have put forth to get to

the status that they are credit-

determines first-year visitation," Meyer said. Although Meyer cited age and experience as reasons for a more structured policy, Hughes-Ware said YEC graduates in particular have earned

wise, but the fact of the matter

is they are still first-year resi-

dents of ours and that is what

pable of dealing with college "I have an associate's degree. I am part of the alumni society," he said. "I know the only difference in privileges is that you get to have guests in your room 24 hours a day. I don't care so much about that, but it's very important to me why our time doesn't count when it comes to this situa-

the right to be considered ca-

Hughes-Ware and other former YEC students have brought the issue to Jack Fahey, vice president for student affairs, who arranged a meeting between the students and

housing and residence life. "I am open to listening to

both sides," Fahey said. "I was the director of housing here for years and years, and I probably wrote that policy, and I certainly remember all of the reasons for it, but in this case the students have some valid arguments.'

Although the issue has been a matter of contention, both sides agree that communication is the only way to resolve anything.

"I like it when students can come to me and say, 'Hold on. This is not clear. We are interpreting this differently than you are," Meyer said. "I'd rather hear it from them than

assume that I know." Hughes-Ware said he is excited to discuss his concerns.

"When we sat down with ... Fahey it was like a breath of fresh air," he said. "I am looking forward to the meeting scheduled for Nov. 4. Really, that is enough for me, to just get my voice heard, just so they know where we are com-

#### **NEWS BRIEFS**

#### YSU military friendly for third straight year

G.I. Jobs has designated Youngstown State University a Military Friendly School for the third consecutive year. The 2012 Military Friendly Schools list includes the top 20 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools that are doing the most to help U.S. military service members and veterans as students. The list was created through research and a survey of more than 8,000 schools across the country. A full list is available at http://www.militaryfriendlyschools.com/mfsList.aspx.

## Dana's symphony orchestra readies for concert

The Dana School of Music will host its symphony orchestra concert on Monday at 8 p.m. in Powers Auditorium. The concert will open with Rossini's "Overture to La Cenerentola" under the direction of YSU professor John Wilcox. That will be followed by Strauss' "Four Last Songs," which will feature soprano soloist professor Misook Yun. For ticket information, call 330-744-0264.

#### **POLICE BRIEFS**

#### Man tried to enter Lyden House

Early Tuesday morning, YSU Police noticed a man attempting to enter Lyden House with a key that did not belong to him. The man was not a YSU student, and he was not signed in by a Lyden House resident. YSU Police issued the man a written trespass warning and escorted him off YSU property. The owner of the dorm key — a YSU student — was written up for disciplinary action by the housing staff.

### Prof misplaces keys after sabbatical

On Monday afternoon, YSU Police reported to De-Bartolo Hall after an assistant history professor could not find her state keys, issued to her by YSU. The professor, who had just returned from a yearlong sabbatical, said she checked her belongings but didn't know where or when the keys were lost. A YSU police officer told the professor to notify the history department chair about the lost keys.



#### **CLASSIFIEDS**

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#### **GRANTS PAGE 1**

for lightweight integrated systems

The research collaboration meets industry needs by aiming to replace heavy metal with a lighter composite.

The main funding came from Ohio Third Frontier, which endorsed the project in 2009.

The Public Service Institute brought in the most after STEM with just under \$1.5 million.

The Williamson College of Business Administration brought in \$476,915; the Beeghly College of Education had \$471,176; Academic Diversity had \$367,640; the College Fine and Performing Arts had \$170,911; the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services had \$71,819; and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences had \$23,068.

Kavinsky said a school like the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services is less likely to obtain funds at a level that STEM does because grants are less attainable due to competition.

"[Grants] are evaluated and reviewed on a competitive basis," Orona said.

He said grant proposals are submitted to support scholarly endeavors for research, service or academic reasons.

Kavinsky said the breakdown is normal, and the university is right where it needs to be.

#### NEGOTIATIONS PAGE 1

last 30 years," Meshel said.

During the closing of the meeting, Garg thanked the union members for recognizing the sacrifices they have made and will continue to make, saying it shows their dedication to the university.

"There are no winners or losers. We're all winners," Garg said. "From now on our job is to build the university."

"This is a fine moment in the history of YSU. All of us together are facing an unprecedented financial time. We will overcome," Garg said.

### Campus Connection

Do administrators make too much, and should they take a pay cut?



"They should take the pay cut. That way, they don't have to worry about laying off more teachers or faculty." – Ray Jones, freshman



"Pay cuts wouldn't hurt. They have large enough salaries. If they take 10 percent off their pay, they need to budget wisely."

– Alex Foreman, sophomore

#### GREENHOUSE PAGE 1

changes."

Greenhouses typically regulate light and temperature, creating an ideal environment for growth. YSU's greenhouse lacks that control.

"The main problems with the greenhouse are with the structure and climate regulation systems," Szakacs said. "An ideal greenhouse temperature would be a stable 60 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit at all times."

She added that the climate system is too inefficient to maintain this temperature range, and the greenhouse experiences major temperature fluctuations.

"Depending on the season and sun, it can freeze or go up to 120 plus degrees," Szakacs said.

The lack of temperature control limits research activities and undergraduate work.

"Nobody wants to devote months to a project and have it freeze," Renne said.

In 2007, YSU paid Chof-

fin Career and Technical Center \$500 to use its reliable greenhouse for Renne's first research project.

"I couldn't risk 125-degree temperatures torching the plants," he said.

When Renne started as the greenhouse director, there was a small amount of money for renovations, but that was never allocated.

"It's not just an administration issue; there are lots of ways for it to be funded," Renne said. "It would be nice if a generous benefactor were to donate funds to this important facility. It's one that fosters education, drives research and provides community services."

The greenhouse will help community garden projects like Grow Youngstown, whose goal is to bring fresh local foods to the area. Native plants from the greenhouse were also given away at the YSU Summer Festival of the Arts.

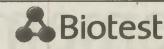
"I believe the greenhouse is necessary for many plant experiments, as well as a teaching tool for a number of biology and environmental classes," Szakacs said. "There is a difference between seeing a cycad in a text book and seeing live ones growing right in front of you"

Renne submitted three grants to the National Science Foundation for full renovations. Although one came close, none were approved.

The grant could have provided \$690,000 for the renovations. That money could have provided a "state-of-theart, fully modernized 'green' greenhouse."

Renne doesn't see student interest as the problem but rather limited funds.

"Administration, grants or benefactor support would greatly improve the research and education infrastructure at Youngstown State University, an urban research institution," Renne said.



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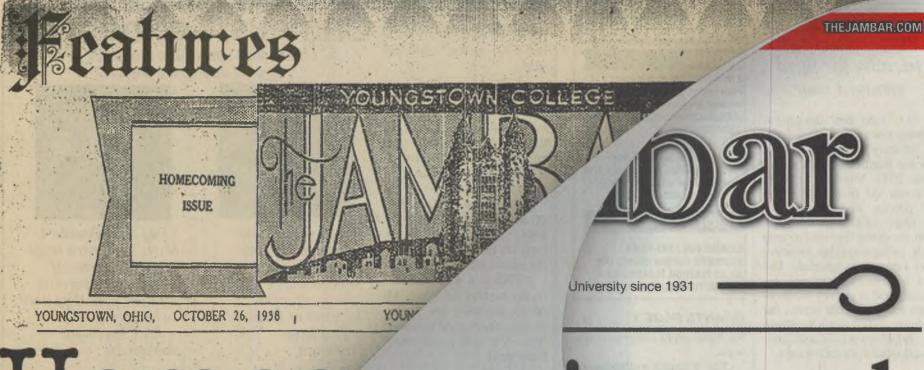
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## Home

# More than 70 years of homecoming coverage

Homecoming Queen To P
For First Time In



## Anderson remembers

Candace Mauzy REPORTER

In 1973, Cynthia Anderson was a student at Youngstown State University preparing for the 35th annual celebration of homecoming. Thirty-eight years later, Anderson is amidst another homecoming celebration as the university's president.

As a student, Anderson spent most of her time on campus as a shorthand typing laboratory assistant actively involved in student government.

"I was a part of student government," Anderson said. "First of all, I got very involved in my major. We had a lot of courses that took place in what is now the Rayen School on Wood Street. The students would come in and practice shorthand, which is not even taught any longer, but I served as a lab assistant for two years as a student."

The university's business education department needed a representative for student council, so they asked Anderson to run. She did.

Two years later, Anderson became interested in student government and ran with another student, Larry Simco.

"We became president and vice president of student government," Anderson said. "At that time, the Vietnam War was going on and college campuses were very active. Students were passionate about their viewpoints. There were many rallies that included leaders on the campus and leaders from the community at the fountain."

Most of the rallies were against the war, "but not against the soldiers by any means," Anderson said.

"This was a period of time where you really learned a lot about yourself and a lot about what you believed in. You spoke up in debates," she said.

YSU was an active campus at that point, she said.

"There was a choice of student government, or a sorority or fraternity. So you made the decision because they were both so time-consuming," she

Anderson described campus life as filled with camaraderie.

"It was a time when students really got together a lot,"

she said. "I had lots and lots of friends, and they all supported me."

"Downtown was hopping at the time," Anderson said. "Campus was hopping. It was not different for people to be in the library until nine and ten o'clock at night. Then a bunch of us would gather and go to restaurants sometimes downtown or on Belmont Avenue."

"Music was at its height," she said. "You sat around someone's house and talked about the activities of the day. Ate your pizza or [drank] some beer. We had a wonderful time."

Anderson said musical groups like Ike and Tina Turner, Three Dog Night, Sly and the Family Stone, and Chicago came to Youngstown and performed at the South High Fieldhouse or Rayen Stadium.

Anderson said the campus climate today is much different, and she understands why.

"I think it's just a sign of times, but when I was in college the vast majority of students did not work outside of college," she said. "You didn't have to leave campus to go to work or get a job. We all know that the majority [today] have to go to work."

Anderson and her peers had more time to participate in campus life, and life revolved around what they did on campus. She said her decision to go to YSU made perfect sense.

"I was one of those students who, when I graduated [from high school], I knew what I wanted to major in," she said. "I never once changed my major."

Anderson remained in business education for the four years she worked toward her degree.

She always wanted to be a teacher, and she followed that dream

"I loved teaching high school, and when I came back here to teach college I knew [that] this is what I wanted to do in life," she said.

Looking back on those days has made Anderson proud and appreciative of being a major part of YSU today.

"I am very humbled and very proud to be serving as a president," she said. "I was so proud to have gotten a job as a faculty member here because I love the university and the area. It is truly a privilege."

Jessica Johnson & Stephanie Vogel REPORTERS

Homecoming weekend is fast approaching. The final votes for king and queen are being cast, while events are taking place on campus.

Youngstown State University — formerly known as Youngstown College — celebrated its first homecoming on Nov. 12, 1938. Homecoming was reported on for the first time in The Jambar's October 26th issue that same year.

Two headlines read, "College Makes History In Homecoming Game" and "Homecoming Queen To Be Crowned For First Time In YoCo History."

"Homecoming has changed very much over the decades." said assistant university archivist Brian Brennan. "Today, homecoming is a mere shadow of what it once was."

The year 1938 marked the historical beginning of homecomings at YoCo, or Youngstown College. The Penguins played Clarion University

sity from Pennsylvania that year.

The first queen, Marie Barrett, was crowned during the game. As documented in YSU's yearbook, "The Neon," homecoming celebrations began at noon with a parade through

downtown Youngstown.

The parade included several decorated floats, one that carried the newly crowned

queen and her court.

A dinner and ball followed the parade, ending the night with dining and dancing.

Prior to this, the only YoCo events that included a queen were the junior prom and May Day festival.

In 1974, homecoming began to change.

The Nov. 5, 1974, issue of The Jambar read, "Homecoming event is successful but lacks adequate publicity."

The article expressed dismay over the decrease in event attendance but blamed it on the "lack of publicity." The Jambar quoted Ron Anderson, then a junior student organizer, who referred to the event as "both successful and unsuccessful."

For the homecoming parade, 400 were in attendance, while 800 people showed up to the dance. It included a YSU student dressed as a skeleton and carrying a dummy to represent the Wayne State University quarterback, the football rivel that day

ball rival that day.

Brennan referred to the history of home-coming at YSU as a "rise and fall." Homecoming experienced a thriving period, but the event

has become more low-key over the years.

This year's Homecoming Week features several activities for students and faculty to participate in with the hope of boosting campus spirit.

On Saturday, the YSU tradition continues with the homecoming parade, which starts at 11 a.m. The homecoming game against Western Illinois University will begin at 1 p.m. The king and queen will be crowned at halftime.

For a complete list of YSU Homecoming Week activities and events, visit http://www.ysu.edu/homecoming.

### Students explore the paranormal

Jenna Medina FEATURES REPORTER

"Paranormal Activity" might be a film shown in movie theaters, but to some students, it's an investigation to help unravel the unknown.

Carl Parke and his friends founded the Youngstown State University Paranormal Society in fall 2010 in response to vari-

ous paranormal incidents.

"We really got started because we had a lot of questions of our own that we wanted to answer ourselves," said Parke, president of the YSU Paranormal Society

mal Society.

Parke is skeptical, however.

"I typically don't really believe in the supernatural," he said. "I mostly have to prove to myself they exist because I have a lot of family and friends who have experiences where I don't want to think of them as crazy."

Samantha Henry, secretary of the society, said she's skeptical as well.

"I do what I can to debunk findings," she said. "For example, a client always hears knocking on her walls. I try to say, 'Can it be something outside hitting the wall? Maybe it's bad piping or small animals,' and proceed to find any traces of animals, feces, scratches, etc."

Parke and other group members have participated in several investigations, searching for signs of the afterlife.

The latest investigation took place on Saturday in Beaver Creek State Park at Pretty Boy Floyd's monument,

"Unfortunately, we didn't catch anything," Parke said. "The place was just so calm. It was like there was kind of a peace around the area."

Parke said society members follow a general process when "ghost hunting." Prescreening is the first step.

we can talk to about the loca-

"We find somebody that

tion, usually whoever owns the property or who has experiences

there," Parke said.

They then ask witnesses questions to ensure credibility.

Finally, Henry said they get

Finally, Henry said they get permission to investigate.
"We meet at night, about 9,

"We meet at night, about 9, and go for six to eight hours," she said.

Equipment similar to that shown on "Ghost Hunters" is bought individually.

The YSU Paranormal Society uses electromagnetic field detectors, analog and digital photography, recording devices, Internet protocol cameras for live videos and spiritual items, such as pendulums or dowsing

"We do not get into anything that carries a heavily negative connotation like Ouija boards or anything like that," Parke said.

Parke said the group has taken several recording sessions during an investigation, which have turned up a few electronic voice phenomena. However, the EVPs were not clear.

The group has also taken photos of anomalies.

"Proving what that anomaly is is a different story," Parke said. "When you look at these photos, you kind of have to decide for yourself what you believe. It's really hard to try to capture something that's so perfect you can't debate that it's not real."

While going through archives of their first investigation at Hambleton's Mill in Beaver Creek State Park, Parke said he found what appeared to be an apparition in a photo.

"You'd have others that would say otherwise, so it's all speculative," Parke said.

Parker said the B&O Station has been one of the area's more active places in terms of paranormal activity.

The owners reported to the YSU Paranormal Society that objects have been moved to strange locations, such as chairs

or tabletops. During events, they also have witnessed cake toppers fly off cakes and onto the floor, as well as observed figures that relate to ghostly images.

"Typically there aren't too many of us that are afraid, [but] you always have that feeling in the back of your head like, 'What am I getting myself into?" Parke said.

A lot of the society's work is performed in complete darkness.

"We turn all of the lights off

and kill the electricity and junction box and actually go in and do night vision investigations," Parke said.

The society records all evidence on its Facebook page. The group is creating a website, expected in January, which will include evidence archives.

The group also produces reports and evidence reviews for the client they are doing an investigation for. They also present information, which includes photos and recordings on a DVD.

Parke said the best way to collect evidence, other than audio recordings, would be capturing images on digital cameras.

"Seeing it with your own eyes would be extremely difficult," Parke said. "Photos are a little bit more cut and dry. You either see something anomalous and it's there or not."

On Monday, the YSU Paranormal Society will host a Halloween costume and dance party fundraiser from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the B&O Station with music provided by a DJ. Costumes are encouraged.

Those under 21 will be required to purchase a \$10 bottomless fountain drink in addition to their ticket for admittance.

There will also be small prizes for costumes. This party will help the society raise funds for an overnight ghost-hunting trip in the summer.

# A bleak future ahead

The Jambar Editorial Board

#### **RELATED STORY NEGOTIATIONS PAGE 1**

The curtain fell on the opening act of YSU's contract production when administrators ratified union contracts Wednesday afternoon.

It's about time.

We're relieved that the squabbling sides were able to come to a coerced agreement.

Unfortunately, Act II begins with no more fiscal security.

Here's your program:

Scene I: A pending initiative by President Barack Obama to reduce payments for student loans.

Scene II: Enrollment trending in the wrong direction for the first time in 10 years, down more than 9 percent from last year.

Scene III: A \$7 million deficit to fill. The university must take swift, calculated measures to prepare for the future.

We anxiously await the board of trustees' proposals and potential solutions stemming from November's retreat, but our inherent cynicism leads us to believe it'll be nothing more than a series of talking points that look good on paper.

So, we're calling on President Cynthia Anderson to make those decisions. Hold your State of the University address and assure the students that education will not be forfeited in pending budget cuts.

We want new austerity measures that allow little to no wiggle room.

The end result should undoubtedly be improvement. But for now, there is little more than doubt on the horizon.



#### —JAMBAR POLICY——

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

#### **OUR SIDE POLICY=**

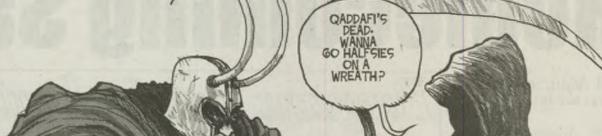
The editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, the managing editor and the news editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and do not reflect the opinions of any individual staff member. The Jambar's business manager and non-writing staff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

#### =YOUR SIDE POLICY=

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Email 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 are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The Jambar does not withhold the names of writers of letters or guest commentaries.

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

## The phone that talks back

Chicago Tribune (MCT)

With the release of the iPhone 4S, Apple Inc. has put artificial intelligence in the hands of millions. Meet Siri, the voice-activated software that allows you to perform tasks on your phone through natural speech.

Talk to your phone (go ahead, you'll get used to it) and Siri responds in a robotic yet gentle female voice. She's your "humble personal assistant," capable of gathering information and sending text messages and emails that she writes from your words.

Ask Siri, "What's the temperature today?" and she'll pull up the weather report. You can even ask, "Do I need a jacket?" or "Should I wear rain boots?" and she'll respond accordingly because she understands the meaning behind the

Besides searching the Internet, Siri can initiate phone calls, read text messages aloud and verbally remind you about appointments and errands. Siri knows what your iPhone knows - and after all, it's

But the wonder of Siri - and to be honest, the unnerving part is that she learns. She is smart, and she will become smarter over time as Apple updates her brain and as she adapts to her user. The more she learns about your contacts, schedule and interests, the more efficient she will be.

Siri isn't just answering your questions. She's taking notes.

Maybe this reminds you of "Ask Jeeves," a search engine also marketed as a personal assistant. Jeeves was forced into retirement in 2006 because he wasn't efficient. You'd ask Jeeves a question, and he'd retrieve a lengthy list of possible answers. Siri, however, will find and display the single best answer, based on her ever-evolving understanding of her user.

Popular culture is ridden with tales of artificial intelligence outsmarting its creator.

In the film "I, Robot," an army of robots controlled by a vengeful supercomputer wages war with humans, forcing a Chicago police detective, played by Will Smith, to save mankind.

When IBM's supercomputer

known as Watson trumped Brad Rutter and Ken Jennings - two of the most winning contestants of all-time — on "Jeopardy!" in February, some viewers feared that it was just a matter of time before robots took over.

Siri is not HAL, the evil supercomputer from "2001: A Space Odyssey," but she's familiar with the reference. Ask her to "open the pod bay doors," and she'll play along by quoting the movie or sassily saying, "We intelligent agents will never live that down, apparently."

But her wisdom is not infinite. She cannot express emotions, help you make tough decisions or honestly tell you if that outfit makes you look fat.

The thought of having conversations with (not through) your phone can seem unreal, especially if your phone talks back. Yet, just more than a decade ago, transporting 1,000 songs on one small, rectangular device seemed unreal as well.

Siri's arrival reminds us that humankind innovates to become smarter, better, faster. The great thing is that she can remind us to pick up the dry cleaning, too.

### With Gadhafi's death, a tough road to democracy

Detroit Free Press

Now comes the hard part.

The cycle of creative destruction that began with isolated uprisings last spring and took a decisive turn when U.S. and European forces threw in with Libyan rebels the following month reached a milestone Thursday with the news that deposed Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi had been smoked out of hiding and killed near his

hometown Sirte. While it has been months since forces loyal to Gadhafi exerted any influence over the country's affairs, leaders of the looseknit coalition that has served as Libya's transitional government had declared his capture or death the prerequisite to the beginning of a process they say will lead to a general election for a national council sometime next year.

The key question for Libyans is no longer "Where is Gadhafi?" but "Who are his successors?" And how soon can they replace the wreckage of his despotic regime with the foundations of a sustainable democratic government?

President Barak Obama rolled the dice when he committed U.S. military support to a-then inchoate coalition of rebel forces last March, just when a resurgent Gadhafi was on the verge of annihilating them. But the rebels took full advantage of that risky intervention, and stunned the world when their lightening assault on Tripoli sent Gadhafi and his dwindling loyalists scurrying for cover just a few months later.

As in Iraq and Tunisia, the nature of the successor government that will eventually emerge from the stew of tribal leaders and committed Islamists that conspired to oust Gadhafi is hard to discern. The United States and Libya's immediate neighbors are united in the hope that that any democratic coalition will ultimately prove more stable than the autocracy it displaced. But now more than ever, the realization of that fond hope is squarely in the hands of the Libyan





## Homecoming Saturday

Nick Mancini SPORTS REPORTER

The Youngstown State University football team (4-3, 2-2) has revenge on its mind as it prepares to play host to the Western Illinois University Leathernecks (2-5, 1-3) on Homecoming Saturday at Stambaugh Stadium.

"We owe them something after last year, and we're looking to come out and execute on all cylinders," sophomore quarterback Kurt Hess said. "It was a tough loss last year, just like they all were. Offensively, we had a chance to win the game, and we couldn't get the 4 yards. This year, we look to get the 4 yards.'

The Penguins are coming off a convincing 49-23 win over the Saint Francis University Red Flash. The Leathernecks lost 31-17 on Saturday at home against Missouri State University.

Last season, when the Penguins played the Leathernecks, the game had nine lead changes, and the Leathernecks scored with one minute left in the game to come away with a 40-38 win.

YSU head coach Eric Wolford said the team can't look past this game.

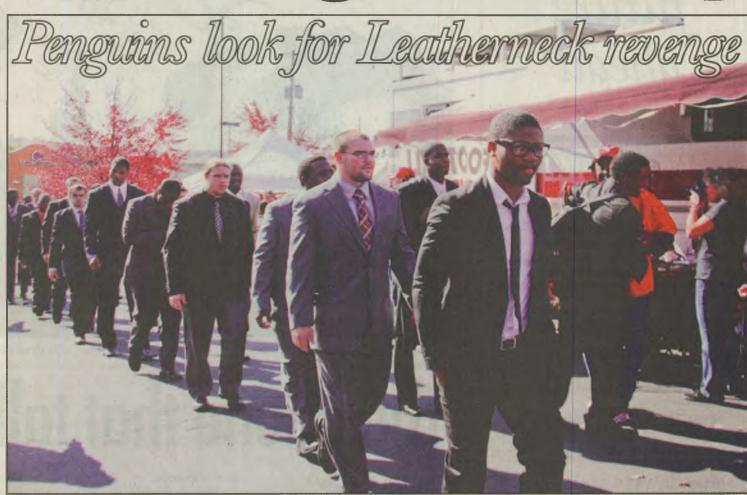
"We haven't accomplished anything where we can start looking past someone, not a single team we play," he said.

Freshman linebacker Tevin Williams said the team is ready and focused for Saturday's game.

"It would be easy to look ahead, but that's where our focus comes into play," Williams said. "We always work hard and try to get better each day."

Wolford said the Leathernecks' offense lost its quarterback last season but has a tal-

ented group of receivers. "These guys can flat out



The Penguins walk the tailgating lots before every home game. The team will play the Western Illinois University Leathernecks in this year's homecoming game. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

ford said. "Also, their running back [junior Caulton] Ray ... is a big back, and they like to get him the ball in some zone reads."

Williams said the defense is ready for the challenge.

"They have a pretty good receiving core," Williams said. "As a defense, we prepare every week to prepare to have us ready to play. We are getting more confidence, and it is like once a guy makes a play, everyone else feeds off it.

Wolford also emphasized getting to the quarterback. The Leathernecks rank 115th in sacks allowed.

'Any time you play someone, it is about getting to the quarterback," he said. "It

play and catch the ball," Wol- makes a difference in the game."

> On the offensive side of the ball, the Penguins look to continue the strong play.

"They run a lot of the schemes that they did last year," Hess said. "They have a good line backing core. We just have to play fundamentally sound and tough football."

Hess said the running back core for the Penguins is as good as it gets.

"As you can see, we have a lot of talented running backs," Hess said. "As an offense, we are definitely a confident group."

Wolford said they have changed up their defense from

the beginning of the year. "They were running a lot

The NCAA also offers a sixth-

year aid to student-athletes still

needing to complete less than 30

hours toward their degree. Jacobs

said this program is particularly

beneficial to student-athletes who

tuition-based assistance and does

not allow student-athletes to re-

ceive refund checks if their aid

question to complete a degree is

harder than others. Buffalo Bills

wide receiver Donald Jones left

Youngstown State University be-

fore finishing his communications

in the off-season, but right now

who haven't completed their de-

"I plan on finishing my degree

For some former Penguins, the

exceeds the cost of tuition.

degree to play for the NFL.

The program is also only for

change majors.

of four-man fronts," Wolford said. "Now, they have been running a variation of the bear [defense]. That runs more of a three-man front."

One thing Wolford is not worried about is not kicking a field goal all year.

"I don't care if we kick one field goal all year," Wolford said. "I'm a touchdown guy, and you get what you emphasize. I think [everybody] learned in kindergarten that seven is greater than three."

The team is also ready to get back into conference play.

"We know we just have to go out and focus on just one

week at a time," Williams said. Wolford said being back in

the conference is good. "We have to go out and execute the things we are coached to do," Wolford said. "We have to eliminate some of the stupid penalties from last week. But it is good to be back at home and have it be homecoming."

Hess said the homecoming game would be a great environment but one with more distractions.

"We just have to focus on eliminating the distractions and go out and play our game," Hess said.

Wolford said the team knows it controls its destiny.

"I think it is good for our program," he said. "We are a scrappy bunch, and we are going to compete. We are going to go out there and take a swing at it."

## Advisers discuss student-athlete graduation trends

Caitlin Cook REPORTER

Graduation rates for student-athletes are higher than the university average, but for some Youngstown State University athletes, competing takes precedence over graduation.

The university graduation rate stands at 34 percent while the student-athlete graduation rate is 60 percent. Marilyn O'Bruba, head

athletic-academic adviser, encourages athletes to maintain their academic commitment after sports.

Elaine Jacobs, associate athletic director, said students must be headed toward a degree on a set curriculum path no later than their first year.

Jacobs added that the department provides athletes with oncampus resources for academic needs, but at times it is a balanc-

ing act. 'You've got two competing interests sometimes," Jacobs said. "One is we want to do what is best for the student's eventual career, but the other factor is maintaining athletic eligibility."

O'Bruba said she works from

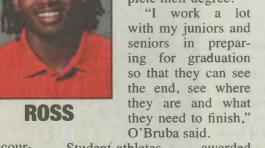
day one with all students to let them know what they need to do to complete their degree.

Student-athletes awarded an athletic scholarship for any amount but have not completed their degrees by the time they are done playing may qualify for extra

Jacobs said student-athletes on scholarship who have completed all four years and exhausted their eligibility qualify for tuition-only assistance.

"It's a promise to say, 'we brought you here, we invested in you, we want to try and make sure

you graduate," Jacobs said. Because of financial



I'm just focusing on football," Jones said. O'Bruba said she hopes the few YSU student-athletes that go into the NFL ultimately finish their degrees. She said the league has a program that works with players

> grees to help facilitate that. For Jones, one of the remaining roadblocks in finishing his degree is where he will finish. According to Jones, YSU told him he needs

> > not going to happen. "We'd like them to finish here,

but that's not always possible depending on what their schedule is and where they are," O'Bruba

to be on campus but he says that's

Wide receivers coach Andre Coleman attended classes at YSU and earned his degree in the summer after he left Kansas State University early to play in the NFL.

Coleman said he tries to use his experiences to encourage young football players to finish their de-



Nick Mancini SPORTS REPORTER

The Youngstown State University cross-country teams travel to Cleveland on Friday for the Horizon

League championships The meet begins 11 a.m. Saturday at Cleveland

State University's Squire Valleevue Farm.
"Our first focus is just improving day to day, month to month and year to year," said head coach Brian Gorby. "With the ladies coming off the best national finish in school history, they have a good shot at going after a Horizon top-two trophy.'

Leading the women's team will be junior Samantha Hamilton, who finished 19th out of 268 runners at the Penn State University National Collegiate

Meet. The women finished in 12th place. "We came in with a young team, lots of freshmen and sophomores, but we have really been improving," Hamilton said. "At the Penn State meet, we beat a lot of league champions, and we are really

shooting for a top-three finish.' Hamilton said she expects the Penguins to battle Butler University and Loyola University Chicago for the top three.

"Beating out Loyola would be a real big accomplishment for this team, with this team being so young," Hamilton said. "It would be really great for the school.'

Gorby said he has high expectations for the wom-

"We had five girls who ran faster than our top runner last year," Gorby said. "It really shows the girls are paying attention to the detail. It would be awesome to be able to come away with a trophy.'

However, Gorby said the men's team still lacks depth, adding that the team could be where the women's team is in a few years.

"We got four guys at the freshman and sophomore level that I think are a great nucleus," he said. 'Our goal is to be around six or seven with all these freshmen.'

Sophomore Eric Rupe will lead the charge for the Penguins. He finished 60th at the Penn State meet, while the team finished 18th. Rupe has his eyes set on a top-14 finish on Saturday.

"We lost eight guys from last year, so it's more of a rebuilding year for us," Rupe said. "We are still looking to go out there and compete and knock off a few teams we have been close to. Hopefully, in the next couple of years, we will be in the top two or so."

Rupe said two teams the Penguins hope to beat are the University of Detroit Mercy and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

Detroit lost some guys from last year, and I think we can beat them this year," Rupe said. "If we can have a good race, we can be right up there with them."



Former Penguins defensive back Brandian Ross left YSU before finishing his psychology degree to sign as a free agent with the Green Bay Packers. Ross is working with the Packers' director of player development to arrange finishing his degree as soon as possible in the off season either at YSU or in Wisconsin.