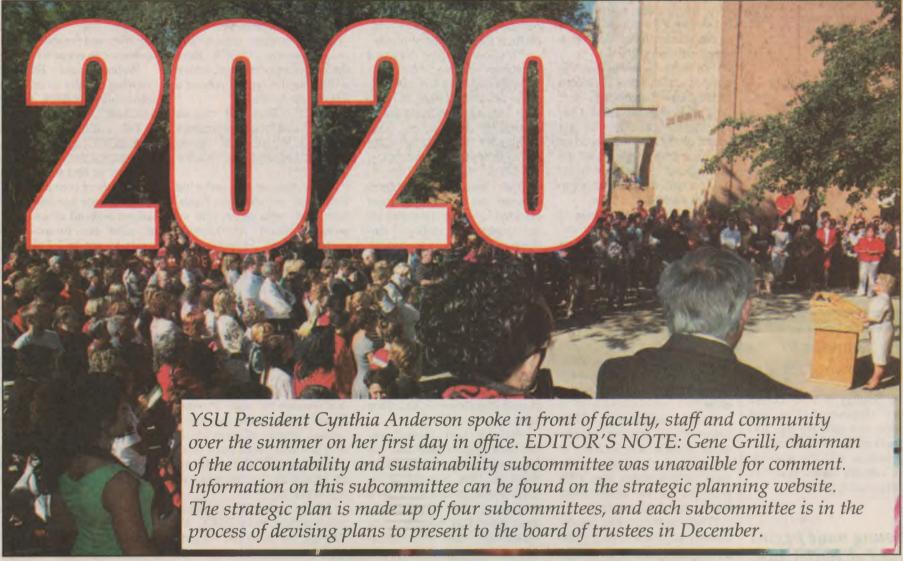
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Thursday, October 28, 2010

THE JAMBAR COM



=REGIONAL: IMPACT-

Marissa McIntyre REPORTER

The regional impact subcommittee, one-fourth of Youngstown State University's 2020 Strategic Plan, concerns the "quality of life and economic development of the immediate communities in and around Youngstown and the surrounding region," according to the subcommittee's definition.

The definition also states that "Youngstown State University impacts the regions through active engagement, not merely by existence."

Bryan DePoy, dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts and regional impact subcommittee chairman, said the subcommittee worked hard to accurately define what YSU should work toward concerning regional impact.

The committee has decided the focus will be on YSU's value to businesses, industries and nonprofit organizations. DePoy said YSU plays a major role in the quality of life in the areas surrounding campus, with one of the major ways being through bringing culture and arts to the area.

DePoy cited the College of Fine and Performing Arts as an example, and explained that the program brings in thousands of attendees every year, giving the community a direct economic impact.

DePoy also said focus on health in the community is another issue.

"People don't think about community health," DePoy said. "The Bitonte College of Health and Human Services' dental hygiene program also serves as a resource to the community."

DePoy said the committee is also reaching out to the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and the Williamson College of Business Administration to research how YSU can improve its community reach.

"We want to find what

IMPACT PAGE 3

-THE PLAN-

Caitlin Fitch & Josh Stipanovich

Patiently waiting in a conference room in Tod Hall, YSU Provost Ikram Khawaja and Vice President of finance and administration Gene Grilli looked composed and ready to answer questions regarding the university's 2020 strategic plan.

The plan, which is chaired by the two, is essentially a blueprint for how the years leading up to the year 2020 will play out for the university. To aid both men in the process, YSU President Cynthia Anderson put together a 51-member steering committee, which includes students, faculty, staff, trustees, administrators and community members.

"This [strategic planning] process will provide our university community, as well as our surrounding community partners, the opportunity to consider broad issues of institutional directions, to develop goals and priorities and to subject their priorities to open discussion, evaluation and debate," Anderson said in a letter to members of the committee.

Members were split into four cornerstone subcommittees: regional impact, accountability and sustainability, student success and urban research transition. A communications subcommittee was also organized, and its objective is "to provide transparency and inclusivity to the [strategic planning] process," said Adam Earnheardt, chairman of the communications

subcommittee.

Earnheardt added that the subcommittee was developed through discussion and ideas at some of the first steering committee meetings over the summer. He and members of the communications subcommittee developed a website and created Facebook and Twitter accounts for the strategic plan.

"[It was a way of saying] look here [and] watch us as we move through this process," Earnheardt said.

The subcommittees are different by name but similar through their goals.

It is the subcommittees' responsibility to individually meet and discuss issues based on missions. Each committee meets once a month to share progress, and all minutes from the meetings can be viewed on the strategic planning website.

"Everybody's work is defined by the vision of the university ... looking at the vision and mission of the university, we are working on reaffirming that and developing a cornerstone under that," said Grilli, chairman of the accountability and sustainability subcommittee.

Anderson said the university invited a consultant hired from AGB Consulting to visit campus twice. AGB is assisting YSU in developing the strategic plan, she added.

Anderson said one tool the university is using to measure the efficiency of the plan is through "dashboard indicators," and each cor-

nerstone will utilize them.

As an example, Anderson said one of the indicators used within the student success committee could be used to measure retention rates.

"How we would measure whether we're succeeding or not, would be to take a look at what our freshman to sophomore retention rate is from fall to spring [and] from fall to fall," Anderson said.

Those numbers would then be calculated the following year, and YSU would be able to compare numbers on an annual basis to see if improvements were made.

"It's meant to be a report card in one way, [and] it's meant to be a way for us to continually improve whatever processes we have in place." Anderson said

place," Anderson said.

Grilli said November is the target deadline for the subcommittees to have final drafts to the board of trustees.

Each subcommittee also plans on asking many people for assistance and input.
"We encourage when these people are so-

licited, they participate fully and give their in-

put," Khawaja said.

He added that input could be given through Google, Facebook and Twitter. Groups that committees will solicit are the Ohio Board of Regents, Health Care, K-12, peer institutions, COX, businesses, student and legislative

groups, and faculty.

"Looking at the mission of the university, in terms of what needed to be addressed, we needed to review, understand and strategize," Khawaja said.

=URBAN RESEARCH=

Dan Pompili NEWS EDITOR

The urban research transition subcommittee is one part of the 2020 Strategic Plan that intends to define Youngstown State University's identity well into the future.

Among the four subcommittees organized to carry out the plan, the urban research transition subcommittee borrowed its name from the university's new designation as an urban research university, assigned to YSU by the chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents, Eric Fingerhut.

YSU Provost Ikram Khawaja and Janice Elias, chairwoman of the human ecology department, chair the urban research transition subcommittee. Each subcommittee, of which there are four contained in the 2020 Strategic Plan, developed topics for developing the university's goals, and each topic is broken into priorities and measures for success.

The urban research transition committee has three topics Khawaia said

ics, Khawaja said.

The first is academic programs. This topic identifies and assesses the graduate to undergraduate ratio and the programs and fields of study within the undergraduate and graduate levels, degrees awarded, academic rigor and relevance of degrees, new programs, assessments of faculty, the integrity of the student body composition and the academic quality of new students

The second topic focuses on funding. Khawaja said the committee would consider and evaluate the whole of total research and contracted funds at YSU. The university will strive to develop research programs that will attract more funding from industries, foundations, and government and civic agencies.

The third topic is "innovation and discovery." This topic focuses on the staff and faculty and their professional and personal achievements. Such

RESEARCH PAGE 3

STUDENT SUCCESS

Andrea DeMart ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The student success subcommittee, part of Youngstown State University's 2020 Strategic Plan, will attempt to improve students' experiences at YSU and transition that success into post-college careers.

The subcommittee has

defined student success as "academic achievement, satisfaction and productive postcollege performance." "We're trying to encompass

everything for the students, not just the higher-end students but what works for the kids who come in here who aren't academically prepared," said C. Reid Schmutz, president of the YSU Foundation and sub-

committee chairman.

The committee has identified various areas that should be looked at for reasons students are not succeeding. These include course completion rate, six-year graduation rate, placement testing, exit interviews, conditional admits and the percentage of students on warning, probation or sus-

SUCCESS PAGE 3

NEWS BRIEFS

YSU president holds news conference

On Thursday at 1:30 p.m., YSU President Cynthia Anderson and Eastern Gateway Community College President Laura Meeks will be holding a news conference. The news conference will be regarding the common goal of improving education in the Mahoning Valley. The conference will be held in the Board of Trustees room meeting room in Tod Hall.

YSU dedicates Centennial Circle

On Friday at 10 a.m., YSU will dedicate Centennial Circle. Centennial Circle consists of the bricks, personalized and donated by alumni, supporters, past and present students, and staff, that are placed around the bronze sculpture of Howard W. Jones, YSU's first president. This event will take place at the statue, which is located near Tod Hall.

POLICE BRIEFS

Damage to parking lot

On Sunday, a YSU Police officer discovered that the wooden exit arm for the 100 lot north of the Wick Oval had been broken off. The surveillance camera could discover the responsible party.

Young male begins night as victim and ends in jail

On Sunday, a YSU Police officer stopped a suspect trying to enter Cafaro House. The suspect became upset and began yelling obscenities at the officer and said he had been in a fight earlier in the night. Police took the suspect to the scene of the alleged assault, but the suspect was disoriented and admitted to drinking. The suspect struck the officer in the face with his arm and was then restrained inside the YSU Police station. The suspect was transported to the county jail and charged with disorderly conduct and underage drinking.

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Administration re-evaluating open enrollment policy

Andrea DeMart **ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR**

Due to a change in state funding, Youngstown State University is taking a closer look at its admission stan-

In 2008, the Ohio Board of Regents changed the funding method from 14th day enrollment numbers to course completion rates, subsequently causing YSU administrators to reconsider the current open enrollment procedure.

"It really is an across the campus discussion between faculty, board members, staff [and] admissions," said Car-ole Weimer, member of the board of trustees. "It's one of the issues we're facing as we look ahead to the new funding mechanism that's going to fund us through the state.'

Weimer said she feels if YSU continues to accept everyone who applies, the university would be penalized because it would limit money brought in.

President Cynthia Anderson suggested what "seems to be a much better model": "Do well in assisting your students to complete their coursework, [and] do well in taking them all the way through to graduation."

Weimer said there is a "fine balance" in altering admissions criteria and looking at the university's mission statement, which states that YSU provides for the underserved and needs of the region.

This includes the conditionally admitted students who are admitted but do not meet certain criteria other students must meet, such as ACT scores or high school GPA.

"The other piece of it, and I know it's part of Dr. Anderson's initiative, is to have a tighter oversight on those students that are the conditionally admitted students," Weimer said. "Sometimes some of the students have fallen through the cracks."

Weimer said good policies and procedures are in place, but the programs need to tighten their focus on the students.

'It takes a village to raise a university student," she said. "There obviously are ramifications of doing either nothing and leaving our admissions criteria as they are as open enrollment to making some changes in the admissions criteria.'

The two demographics Weimer said would be most affected by the change are first-generation college students and minority enrollment, which the university does not want to disrupt.

Even so, Anderson emphasized that "all of [this] is in [the] discussion stage."

"What I know is being discussed are several topics surrounding closed enrollment, and to be honest I don't know if YSU will ever go to total closed enrollment," Anderson

Weimer said limited enrollment has come to the forefront, thanks to the 2020 Strategic Plan. Several of the cornerstone groups have been discussing the idea during their individual meetings. She speculated that discussions

within the university would occur during the next year.

Jack Fahey, interim vice president for student affairs and ombudsperson, said one step in changing the enrollment criteria is looking for the assistance of the Eastern Gateway Community College.

"It will no longer be Youngstown State University's job to be everything in terms of higher education for all of the students in our community and in our Valley," said Jack Fahey, interim vice president for student affairs and ombudsperson. "We'll have the community college, which will serve the typical role of a community college."

EGCC President Laura Meeks said the community college's mission is "never to be a baccalaureate institution."

"Our mission is to serve the first- and second-year freshman and sophomore year of college mission," Meeks said.

Meeks said 54 percent of

the students coming to the community college are looking for, at least, a two-year program, and the rest are looking to transfer.

Weimer said aligning courses offered by YSU and EGCC would create a seamless transition to YSU from the community college. She added that Anderson and Provost Ikram Khawaja are creating a contact group of individuals at YSU who will meet with officials at EGCC to help the university and community college work together.

Meeks said YSU is already collaborating with EGCC by offering an associate degree program for a power plant operator on one of the community college campuses.

"We are absolutely interested in more partnerships like that, that help people not just get jobs, but transfer," she

Meeks said EGCC is ready for a large collaboration, but the only question is where the courses will be held.

"We've done a strategic summary of available spaces, and there are available spaces," she said. "We can find facilities and remodel them so students can come to us."

Weimer said EGCC is "moving rapidly to bring their community college into the forefront.'

Fahey added that a meeting with EGCC administrators is planned for the coming week, and "we've had some preliminary kinds of conversations."

'The state has had conversations with all of us in terms of what our future mission needs to get to," Fahey said. "We want to have a close partnership [with EGCC] so that what's most important is the students in our Valley. The last thing we want is for students to be coming here and for us to be saying, 'You belong at Eastern Gateway' and getting shuffled."

Weimer said she believes EGCC will make a name for itself in the community in the coming years.

"I think as time goes on, high school guidance counselors are going to become more aware of the existence of EGCC, and then they're going to be in a better place to recommend," Weimer said.

SGA freshman representatives ready to make their mark

Patrick Donovan REPORTER

Along with a new president, the Youngstown State University Student Government Association also welcomes new freshman faces to the mix.

"What attracted me to YSU first was the location. It is 25 minutes from my house, so I am able to stay at home and save up some money before moving out. Plus, I knew the education program was great," said freshman representative Kelli Bryan, who is studying middle childhood education.

Bryan, who was an active student council member in middle and high school, jumped at the opportunity to get involved with SGA.

"I heard SGA was looking for applicants, so I thought I'd go for it. I was so excited when I found out I'd been accepted,"

Bryan, also a member of the Emerging Leaders Program at YSU, was shocked when she found out how involved student groups are within the campus community.

"I'm actually shocked that SGA has such a big impact on the university as a whole. We get to propose classes, create events, hear about new parking plans and so many more things that I didn't think would ever be something I'd get to be involved with. It's nothing like high school," Bryan said.

Along with other freshman SGA members, Bryan is finding out how hectic scheduling can be.

"I definitely have to manage my time well; we have meetings every Monday. Plus I work, and I obviously have classes and homework to do, along with activities scheduled for other days of the week for SGA and Emerging Leaders," Bryan said.

Zach White, a fellow freshman representative, agreed.

"The biggest transition from [high school] to college is the work load. I have homework to do every night. That is part of growing up and learning time management though," White

White joined SGA because he's interested in helping his fellow students as well as making new friends.

"The more and more I get involved with YSU's SGA, I feel like I am getting a better grasp on the pulse of the students. The students here want to learn, make new friends and have fun. YSU is great for all of these. I love that fact that a student can come to me, and I can bring up their concerns with SGA and we can come up with a solution," White said.

Gary Davenport, SGA senior representative and vice president for university affairs, said he sees a lot of promise for SGA.

"I see a lot of potential for both this academic year as well as beyond it with our freshmen," Davenport said.

He added that he's seen firsthand the changes the university has made since he was a freshman. "I can say I notice a different attitude on campus. There seems

to be both more student involvement and administrative involvement. There's optimism and willingness to open dialogue. I see this in SGA but also generally around campus," Davenport said. Chet Cooper, SGA adviser, said he's also optimistic about the

large number of freshmen in SGA this year. "It's been my observation that as a whole the freshman [representatives] are working hard and making contributions to the overall activity of SGA," Cooper said.

University searching for electronic textbook center director

Caitlin Fitch REPORTER

Youngstown State University and Maag Library are still accepting applications for the position of director of the electronic textbook center, a position that was supposed to be filled in Au-

An electronic textbook is a selection of readings, texts, audio and assessment tools that faculty will use to structure courses differently and promote better learning with technology. Electronic textbooks are a cheaper option than paper textbooks.

The electronic textbook center will do three things, said Paul Kobulnicky, executive director of Maag Library.

"It will provide faculty with help with the technological aspects. For example, whether or not to use flash software or QuickTime, and how to do it. It will help faculty to connect with other professors in the region, state or nation who are working on the same things as them and provide a way of networking,"

The service will be free because faculty will be using Creative Common licensing.

"It is free to use, but not to abuse," Kobulnicky said. Others cannot resell or change faculty members' work.

Although the position is vacant, that's not to say that Maag Library, and the four-member search committee consisting of three faculty members and Kobulnicky, haven't been looking.

In August, three candidates were interviewed for the position but none were hired.

"There was one candidate that we liked a lot, but couldn't come to an agreement with them on the terms of service, so we are continuing to look for a candidate," Kobulnicky said.

Kobulnicky did not disclose the name of the candidate. January is when they hope to have the position filled but that

may prove difficult. Kobulnicky said it is hard to advertise a job opening like this one because there are not many people doing this type of work

He added that another problem they might run into in the hiring process is candidates already under contract from other or current jobs, so the position may remain open until May.

Some YSU faculty members are excited for the textbook center and the many opportunities available while using the electronic textbook. Students should be excited too, Kobulnicky said.

"If the position isn't filled by January, it will definitely slow the progress down, but it is more important to find the right person for the job with the skills and enthusiasm to make the electronic textbook center work well," Kobulnicky said.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

SEND US AN E-MAIL

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RESEARCH PAGE 1

achievements include, but are not limited to, research, publications and creative works.

In terms of identification as an urban research university, Khawaja said YSU, to a great extent, is already such an institution.

"The question is, 'How do we become a more defined urban research university?'"

IMPACT PAGE 1

needs to be strengthened and build on that. [We want to] find a way to impress student service learning through internship opportunities, as well as local industries. Being access to them as an intellectual resource," DePoy said.

One of the goals of the university is to get involved with the community and the region, rather than attracting people just because the university is located here, DePoy said.

He noted that the criminal justice department also plays a major role in decreasing the crime rate to "a community in need and improving the quality of life."

The subcommittee's expectations for YSU to advance regional impact by 2020 are high.

"I don't think we have a choice. We're going through a

major transition," DePoy said. "Campus has many resources and is holding more and more accountability within the region."

Albert Sumell, assistant professor in economics and member of the regional impact subcommittee, said the subcommittee is in its early planning stages. Members are attempting to outline where they feel the university should be once the 2020 deadline comes around.

"We're looking into getting a proper representation of where YSU currently stands with regional impact, and then we're going to look at how the plan should be assessed from there," Sumell said.

He said the committee would have an outline ready for the board of trustees by the semester's end.

SUCCESS PAGE 1

pension.

An institutional research report submitted to the sub-committee cited that since 2005, the university has had 1,465 conditional admit students. Of those students, five received degrees.

According to the report, of students suspended and reinstated, without sitting out a semester in fall 2008, 60 percent did so poorly that they were again suspended.

With the state now setting funding standards based on retention rates, the board of trustees' goal for graduation rate by 2020 is 40 percent. According to the Office of Institutional Research, YSU's graduation rate is 34.2 percent, of those entering in fall 2003.

Schmutz said one problem is that the university's admission standards are not always enforced. YSU's standing as an open enrollment university, while many of YSU's peer universities are limited admissions, may also affect graduation rates.

"We have a community college so if a kid comes ill prepared at this point and time, he or she can go to community college and get rectified, and maybe it would be a seamless transfer to here," he said.

Jonelle Beatrice, associate executive director for the Center for Student Progress and subcommittee member, said the university has most of the necessities it needs to achieve student success.

"We know that what we want to improve is academic progression toward graduation," Beatrice said. "We know that that it is the one area that

the university wants to target and make the most progress towards."

She said the university might need to evaluate individual student needs and determine if the optional assistance services should be mandatory.

"I think, quite frequently, the students who need the most support don't often seek it," Beatrice said.

Another issue the committee is addressing is the amount of available academic advising

ing.
"When you show up for SOAR [Student Orientation, Advisement & Registration] as a freshman, you take placement tests that day and then you pick your courses that afternoon so that adviser doesn't know where to put you because they don't have the result of the placement test," Schmutz said.

He said admission dates have been moved back so students can't make a last-minute decision to attend the university, which would allow more time to better prepare a class schedule.

Schmutz said students ultimately don't prepare in advance for obtaining a job after graduation. He said the committee doesn't want students to leave the university with a large amount of student loans because, the majority of the time, students are taking the first job offered so they can start paying the loans.

"The general rule is that for every \$10,000 in salary it's one month [of job searching]," he said. "And if you want to stay locally it's probably double."

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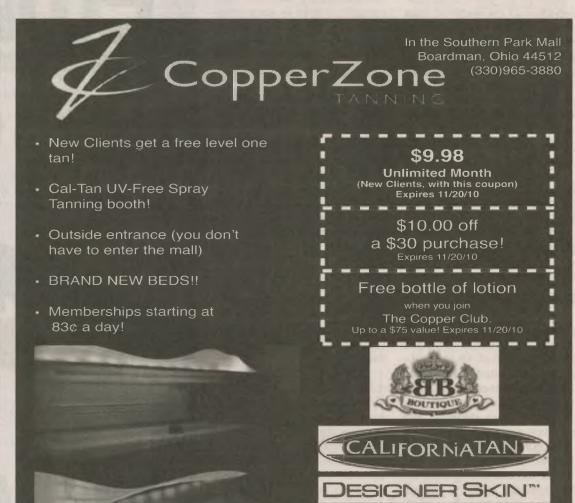
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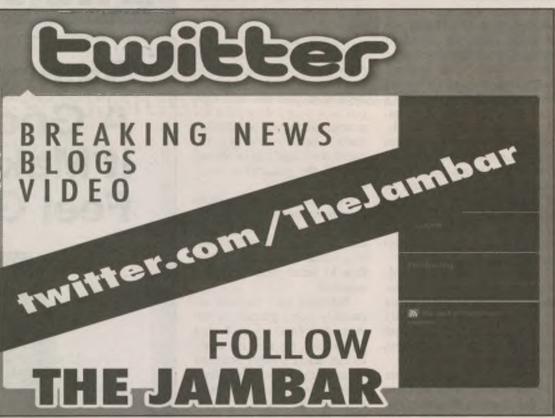
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Success is the key

The Jambar **EDITORIAL BOARD**

RELATED STORY

2020, page 1

The Ohio Board of Regents has constructed a new funding formula, primarily based on student achievement. Because of this, we were initially skeptical about the direction of the 2020 Strategic Plan.

With pressure from the state to improve a number of student performance and retention percentages, we wonder what paths the 2020

plan will take.

It could follow in the footsteps of the Youngstown 2010 plan, once a comprehensive goal to greatly improve the city by the start of the decade, now alluded to as a concept to work on for years to come.

The plan could form a trend with the Centers of Excellence, established to be approved and supported by the state, now sitting at the wayside of their primary financial supporter: YSU.

Or, the plan could succeed, endure the financial pressure and optimize our university in ways we could not imagine. Obviously, this is the plan we want.

So, in an effort to show we are fully supportive of any option to make our campus better, we will put aside our suspicions and highlight one important aspect of this strategic

While each cornerstone of the YSU 2020 Strategic Plan carries its own important weight, one sticks out above the rest for us: student success.

We completely agree with the importance of urban research and the university's influence in the city. But we must also remember why we are all here and why this university has continued to thrive and grow for more than 100 years: students.

Members of the student success subcommittee have defined student success as "academic achievement, satisfaction and productive post-college careers."

The committee's main goal is to increase YSU's graduation rate from 34.2 to 40 percent by 2020.

Quite frankly, we think this number is low for the amount of time allotted. Certainly, with as large of a support group as we have, our goals could be more ambitious.

Aim high.

With a 51-member committee of experienced education officials and the support of not only the student body but also the entire Youngstown community, there is no reason why YSU cannot reach its goals.

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.

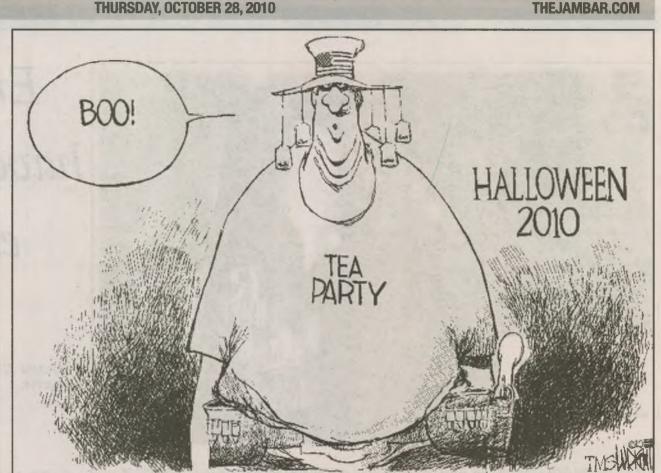
YOUR SIDE POLICY——

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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

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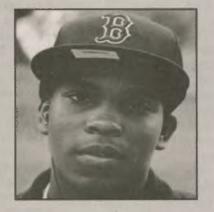




The views of this syndicated artist do not necessarily agree with those of The Jambar.



What are you most excited about for homecoming this



"I just want to see a good game."

Brandon Logan, freshman



"Just going and being in the student section is always a good time."

Amanda Shuttleworth, junior



"It'll be fun to go to the game and see people."

Michael McMaster, freshman

It's diverse if you're liberal

Richard E. Redding

Last month, 18 million college students returned to school to those hotbeds of debate about the crucial issues of the day, right? But not so fast. A major new study on the campus climate for viewpoint diversity surveying 24,000 U.S. students and published by the American Association of University Professors

found otherwise. Only a third of college students felt that their professors made learning about different views a priority. In fact, most did not think it entirely safe to hold unpopular opinions on campus. Since more seniors felt this way than freshmen, it appears that the college experience makes students less comfortable about exploring and voicing diverse opinions.

This lack of intellectual diversity at our nation's colleges and universities should be a concern to all of us. It means that our future leaders in industry, government and science are receiving a one-sided education (at an average cost of \$75,000 to \$155,000 for a degree) that leaves them ill-equipped, as the report explains, to work "across differences to tackle challenges and create solutions." It also limits the phenomena studied, questions asked and solutions proposed by professors who, as the main producers of research and development in this country, fuel our innovative

Why are our colleges and universities such unimaginative places?

As Robert Maranto, Frank Hess and I document in our book, "The Politically Correct University: Problems, Scope, and Reforms," rather than being a marketplace of political ideas, intellectual diversity is what schools value least. Instead, it is only diversity of race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation all of which are very desirable, to be sure that rules the day in higher education. This agenda dominates higher education in faculty hiring, student admissions, curricula, student life programs and virtually every other aspect of college life. Universities assume that (1) demographic diversity has educational benefits, and (2) that we must give preference to race, ethnicity and gender because they are central to students' worldview and self-identity.

Yet, whether demographic diversity enhances learning is still debated among social scientists. Intellectual diversity clearly does so, however. As we discuss in our book, studies show that students respond better to multiple ideological perspectives, which stimulates critical thinking and creativity, improves understanding and decision-making quality, and facilitates moral development.

Our sociopolitical values are fundamental to who we are as individuals. It should not be surprising that conservative students feel alienated when their perspectives are excluded from the classroom. A 2009 study by professors Matthew Woessner and April Kelly-Woessner found that conservative students lack academic role models, have more distant relationships with their professors and have fewer opportunities to do research with professors (particularly on sociopolitical issues).

Such factors may partly explain why there are so few conservative professors. Conservatives and libertarians are becoming increasingly rare in academia, outnumbered by liberals by 3-to-1 even in fields known to be relatively conservative, such as economics, by more than 5-to-1 in moderate fields such as political science and by 20-to-1 or more in many fields, such as sociology and anthropology. Studies of professors' party affiliations and self-reported political views show that, on average, liberal professors outnumber conservatives and libertarians by about 8-to-1, with the imbalance being much greater at elite institutions.

So what is the solution? For the same reasons colleges and universities are sensitive to race, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation, they should include and respect a range of political ideas. In upholding affirmative action in student admissions, the Supreme Court said in its 2003 Grutter decision that diversity policies are legally justified because of the educational benefits they produce. If so, then schools should include conservatives and libertarians in faculty hiring and admissions.

If, instead, diversity is defined to include every kind of differentness except different political ideas, then our universities will never be truly diverse in the way that matters most for learning and the development of innovative solutions to our nation's problems.



Located at the B&O Station, the Rust Belt Brewing Company serves the city with a variety of beers. The brewery has begun expanding its shipments outside of Ohio to other Midwestern states such as Indiana and North Carolina. Photo by Doug Livingston/The Jambar.

Local brewer turns passion into profit

Jason Horkey REPORTER

You may have heard the term "comic book nerd" or "Star Wars geek." Well, Lee Gidley, head brewer for Youngstown's Rust Belt Brewing Company, calls himself a "draft beer nerd."

Imagine sitting in class smelling like beer and wondering if your classmates are staring at you, suspicious if you are intoxicated. Or maybe driving home from work, and worrying you're going to get pulled over by a Canfield cop, then trying to explain, "Yes, I literally smell like a brewery, but I am not drunk."

These are common concerns for Gidley, but despite his paranoia, the brewer loves his job, primarily because his career is like "being drunk without the benefits."

But a love for alcohol does not mean Gidley has a drinking problem. He loves the process of producing the beverage, from writing the recipes to pouring out the first bottle of a fresh batch.

An accounting major at Youngstown State University, Gidley started home brewing about three or four years ago with others and split the cost. He brewed about 10 gallons twice a week.

Gidley said he is constantly reading about the process and looking for different ways to

add to his knowledge of the craft.

Rust Belt started when Ken Blair, Nick Rosich and another silent partner had the resources to start their own business. Blair's "love for the area and the love of the craft" were all reasons for starting the company.

The brewery, located at the B&O Station, was originally set up strictly as a brewpub. The equipment was commissioned in 1997 by the Ohio Brewing Company. The facility experiences issues with loading and unloading, due to no docks or ramps to ship or receive the bottles brewed.

"It is a pain getting this stuff in and out," Gidley said.

A number of beers produced by the brewery include Rusted River Irish Red Ale, Coke Oven Stout, Old Man Hopper's India Pale Ale and the Blast Furnace Blonde, which is only available on draft.

Blair is a full-time Youngstown Police officer. When Rust Belt sponsors events, he is always aware of what's going on, and looks out for people to get home safely. The brewer stressed drinking responsibly.

"Drinking craft beer is not about getting slammed. It's more about the taste and enjoying that like a fine wine," Gidley said.

Rust Belt is growing, with shipments traveling to Indiana, Michigan, North Carolina and South Carolina.

"We have tripled in sales since last year," Blair said. "Local bars such as University Pizzeria, the Lemon Grove and BW3 are very loyal to keeping the beer on tap," Blair said.

Creating a fine beer isn't just putting ingredients into a vat, hitting a button and walking away. It's a daylong process to produce a quality beer, and correcting problems requires quick action, Gidley

"You have a matter of minutes to fix the problem, or the whole batch has to be dumped. It's a constant battle with consistency" Gidley said.

That's where YSU comes in.

The biology department has been helpful in sanitization of the brewing process.

Making beer is a fragile process; the slightest bit of bacteria can change every aspect of the taste. There isn't a health risk but more of a waste issue.

"The biology department is also helping with the study of the yeast. Too much or too little can completely change the taste. Rust Belt does about 15 generations with the same yeast. The change in taste is very minimal from generation to generation, but the department can help create new strains of yeast to improve the process," Gidley said.

Rust Belt's retail hours are Saturdays from noon-5 p.m. at the B&O Station brewery on Mahoning Avenue. Other than the 22-ounce bottles for sale, Rust Belt also offers shirts, glasses and jugs. Once a jug is purchased, a refill costs \$7.

Energy beers have health risks, experts say

Marissa McIntyre

Energy beers combine the stimulating effects of an energy drink with a buzz that can be acquired from drinking alcoholic beverages. Most of them can be purchased where other alcoholic drinks are sold, for around \$2 a can.

A regular energy drink takes the idea of a soda and uses stimulants, herbal supplements and vitamins to boost energy, rather than relying on large amounts of sugar.

Besides caffeine and alcohol, energy beers typically contain standard ingredients found in energy drinks such as taurine and guarana.

Four Loko, Sparks, Liquid Core and Rockstar 21 are a few examples of energy beers.

Four Loko is one of the more popular energy beers among the college crowd, gaining more than 100,000 "likes" on Facebook.

According to Four Loko's official website, http://www.drinkfour.com, this caffeinated alcoholic energy drink contains 12 percent alcohol, or the equivalent of three beers. Depending on the drinker's alcohol tolerance, one can of Four Loko could intoxicate the drinker.

The difference between Four Loko and standard energy drinks is immediately evident on the site.

As soon as a user accesses the website a birthday must be entered. Anyone who is under 21 years old cannot enter the website, which includes a section on responsible drinking. Instructions are provided to retailers to place the product away from non-alcoholic energy drinks and regular sodas, as the colorful packaging could be mistaken for a non-alcoholic product.

alcoholic product.

According to the Global Healing Center, a company that educates the public about good health, energy drinks have health risks of their own.

Taurine, which is manufactured in the human body as an important amino acid, has health risks associated with it. A standard diet supplies all the taurine that the body needs. The standard daily dose that the body needs is 100 to 500 milligrams. Popular energy



drinks can contain up to 1,000 milligrams of taurine.

Drinking alcohol over time can have damaging effects on the body such as heart, brain and liver disease, according to the Bacchus Network, a network made up of more than 32,000 student leaders who work with more than 900 campuses worldwide. Short-term effects associated with alcohol include poor control over functionality of the body.

With separate health effects associated with energy drinks and alcohol, college campuses are taking action in banning the drink.

Ramapo College of New Jersey officially banned energy beers Oct. 1 after 23 students were hospitalized over the first few weeks of the semester, according to a Ramapo College of New Jersey press release.

Some students like Youngstown State University junior Natalie Scott don't plan on picking up an energy beer anytime soon.

"Two of the worst things that you can drink, and they're mixing them together. It just doesn't sound like a good idea to me," Scott said.

Dr. Terry Puet of Youngstown suggested that consumers compare the energy beer's contents to those of other caffeinated drinks.

"It will have the same physiological effect on the body as a mixed drink, like rum and coke," Puet said.

Puet also said that additional ingredients unique to certain brands could create more problems.

"If there are other ingredients present, however, it can have side effects, including allergic reactions as it is broken down chemically by the body," Puet said. "The ingredients predict how the body will react."

THE ZOU HOLDS ANNUAL ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

Jared Buker ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT REPORTER

One of Youngstown's staple bands, The Zou, will hold their annual tribute to "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" at Ce-

dars Lounge on Saturday.

This is the fifth year the band has held this concert in Youngstown, but they have expanded this concept into Cleveland, Pittsburgh and as far as Chattengoga Pa

far as Chattanooga, Pa.

Last year, the Rocky Horror concert was the biggest

single-venue show in downtown Youngstown. This year, Zou founder Khaled Tabbara expects the show to be even bigger.

"I feel Rocky Horror is just about letting your freak flag fly, being whoever you are," Tabbara said. "There is no one in the country that does anything like this, and it brings Rocky Horror fans from all over the country."

Tabbara said the Rust Belt Theater Company will be putting on a live performance of the movie because of how popular it is in Youngstown.

popular it is in Youngstown.

Last year The Zou decided

to not hold the concert, but were convinced to keep the tradition alive by a mob of unhappy fans.

"The best thing about rock shows in Youngstown is the creativity," Tabbara said. "When you live in a town like this, with a large music scene for its relative population, the stakes are high."

The concert begins at 9 p.m. with Youngstown hip-hop native D Jones and his wife, Natural, who live in Bowling Green.

Following D Jones are Simeon Soul Charger from Akron and Stokeswood from Atlanta.

Simeon Soul Charger just finished a tour in Europe. Their drummer, Joe Kidd, said it has been nearly a year since they last played in Youngstown.

"We consider Youngstown to be one of our favorite local markets," Kidd said. "For Khaled to want us to come out and play that show is a big honor."

At around midnight, The Zou, dressed in Halloween attire, will perform a set of original work, including two brand new songs. Following this set, the band will return to the stage in different costumes to perform a set of covers from

"The Rocky Horror Picture Show" soundtrack.

Tabbara said the cover songs from the movie will have a "Zouified style."

In between their two sets, the band will give away prizes for the most original, scariest and sexiest costumes of the night.

"Everyone in the band is very theatrical," Tabbara said. "We are nerds and musicians and artists, so it just feels right."

Doors open at 8 p.m. and the concert is 18 and over.







got an opinion?

Send letters to: thejambar@gmail.com



SATURDAY, OCT. 30 • 7:30 P.M. VS. DES MOINES BUCCANEERS

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\$2,000 IN CASH & PRIZES >



On-Ice Kids Costume Parade at Intermission FAMILY FOUR PACK -> Four purple-level tickets for \$20

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Spoofts T1 Western Illinois 2-1 4-2 3-3 T1 Southern Illinois 2-1 3-3 T1 Northern Iowa 2-1 2-3 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2010 Pasquale ready to lead young Penguins in 2011

Ioe Catullo Ir. REPORTER

The Youngstown State University baseball team concluded its 2010 fall practice season Friday. After the regular season came to an end, YSU baseball players participated in the fall season to help prepare for next season.

Head coach Rich Pasquale called it "spring training."

This year, there are eight incoming players and two redshirt freshmen. Twelve seniors from last year's squad are now gone.

Over the summer, sophomore Neil Schroth won the batting title of the All-American Amateur Baseball Association Tournament because of his .583 batting average. On a young team, Schroth looks to become one of the leaders for the next few years.

On Sept. 29, professional scouts came to watch the Penguins at Eastwood Field in Niles. Pasquale said the scouts gave him numerous compliments on the wellorganized practice and the hustle the players showed.

Pasquale, cousin of Boston Red Sox manager Terry Francona, is entering his fourth season with YSU. In 2008, Pasquale was named the Horizon League Co-Coach of the Year. He led



PASQUALE

the Penguins to a third-place finish in the Horizon League that season.

Pasquale said he hopes some of the freshman pitchers step up with the help of senior pitchers Phil Klein and Kevin McCulloh.

The team includes five



Senior Joe Iacobucci digs into a pitch for the Penguins in the 2010 season. Iacobucci contributed with a .369 average, 10 homeruns and 52 runs batted in in 56 games.

seniors: outfielder Johnson, pitcher Dearth, outfielder Joe Iacobucci, pitcher Phil Klein and pitcher Kevin Mc-Culloh.

Johnson was enrolled at YSU in 2009, but did not play. That was counted as his redshirt year. In 2010, Johnson batted .248 with three homeruns and 19 RBI. He led the team with six sacrifice bunts.

Dearth finished the 2010 season with a record of 1-6 and an ERA of 8.47.

Iacobucci was second on the team in batting average (.369), homeruns (10), RBI (52), at-bats (214) and slugging percentage (.603).

Iacobucci also led the team in doubles (18), walks (36), and on-base percentage (.469).

Klein finished with a 6.51 ERA and a record of 2-4. In 2009, Klein was named to the First-Team All-Horizon

McCulloh lead all pitchers with 28 appearances, starting in two games. He finished with a 4.96 ERA and a 1-5 record.

The 2010 YSU baseball team finished 22-34 overall and 9-17 in the Horizon League, 8-13 at home and 10-19 on the road.

Pasquale added two new coaches for the 2011 season. Dan Lipari is the new pitching coach, and Bill Herman is the new assistant coach. They'll be aiding Pasquale with the position players. Craig Antush is the longest reigning coach for the Penguins and is entering his 12th season as an assistant coach.

Eastwood Field is the home for YSU baseball, which shares the field with the Mahoning Valley Scrappers. In 2004, it was the venue for the Horizon League Baseball Championship, where YSU went 4-0 to earn its first ever conference championship and trip to the Division I NCAA Regional.

The Penguins' 2011 season begins Feb. 18 at East Carolina University.

FCS TOP 25

- 1. APPALACHIAN STATE
- 2. DELAWARE
- 3. JACKSONVILLE STATE
- 4. WILLIAM & MARY
- 5. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
- 6. VILLANOVA
- 7. JAMES MADISON
- 8. MASSACHUSETTS 9. SOUTH CAROLINA ST.
- 10. MONTANA ST.
- 11. MONTANA
- 12. EASTERN WASHINGTON
- 13. CAL POLY
- 14. NORTH DAKOTA STATE
- 15. LIBERTY
- 16. NEW HAMPSHIRE
- 17. NORTH DAKOTA ST
- 18. NORTHERN ARIZONA
- 19. PENNSYLVANIA
- 20. CHATTANOOGA
- 21. WESTERN ILLINOIS
- 22. SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
- 23. GEORGIA SOUTHERN
- 24. GRAMBLING STATE 25. TEXAS STATE

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"This is a team we haven't beat in nine years. If you can't get pumped up to play those guys, then you are in the wrong sport,"

Eric Wolford

PENGUIN SPOTLIGHT



POSITION: Defensive End Senior YEAR:

Pittsburgh HOMETOWN: HIGH SCHOOL: Woodland Hills

2010 Season Stats

Tackles: Tackles for loss: Sacks:

SCHEDULES

FOOTBALL

Oct. 30- UNI

(Homecoming)

Nov. 6- @ Illinois St.

Nov. 13- Indiana St.

CROSS COUNTRY

Oct. 30- @ Horizon League

Championships

Wolford has chance for rivalry redemption against Panthers

Keith Langford Jr. SPORTS EDITOR

Homecoming week and annual Homecoming game are upon Youngstown State University once again. A return to their home field will be a welcome sight for the Penguins, who are 0-4 on the road this season.

YSU's opponent, the University of Northern Iowa Panthers, may fill this Halloween weekend with more tricks than treats.

An unremarkable stretch of nine straight losses to the Panthers with former head football coach Jon Heacock makes this so-called rivalry rather one-sided.

"I don't think right now they consider us their rival," head coach Eric Wolford said in his weekly press conference.

Wolford said some back and forth winning must occur to even consider the YSU-UNI matchup a viable rivalry

Despite Wolford's downplay of the rivalry, Wolford will still have his players geared up for this game. "This is a team we haven't

beat in nine years. If you can't get pumped up to play those guys, then you are in the wrong sport," Wolford said.

The last time the Penguins beat the Panthers was in 2000 on the home turf. The Penguins won 28-24 despite being down 24-21 with less



Redshirt freshman tight end Carson Sharbaugh looks to shake off defenders in a game against North Dakota State University. Sharbaugh has caught five passes for 69 yards this season.

than three minutes left in the

Former YSU standout quarterback Jeff Ryan led the Penguins on a memorable drive that concluded when Ryan threw a 26-yard touchdown pass to Dennis Dlugosz with 1:17 left in the game.

In this series, the Penguins have had their fair share of heartbreaking losses the past couple of seasons, most notably in 2008

The game was tied 14-14 in the fourth quarter before the Panthers took the lead, 21-14. The Penguins responded with a scoring drive

of their own to potentially tie the game at 21.

Former quarterback Brandon Summers connected with current Buffalo Bills wide receiver Donald Jones on a 51yard hookup. With the score 21-20, all the Penguins needed was the extra-point to tie the game. Unfortunately, the Panthers blocked the crucial extra point and held on for

"We're positive going into this week, and we're still going to play. We want to show people how we are capable of playing," said redshirt freshman Kurt Hess.

the 21-20 win.

For the Penguins to win, they'll have to suppress what Wolford and his players said is the Panthers' team speed.

"UNI is a very physical defense. They're very fast and very athletic," Hess said. "They are one of the fast-

est teams I've ever seen," said senior defensive back Brandian Ross.

Wolford said he believes the Panthers are a fast, athletic team but looks more toward limiting mistakes and penalties to pick up the win.

"Our margin of error in this game is very small," Wolford said.

VOLLEYBALL

Oct. 29- CLEVELAND

STATE

Nov. 5- VALPARAISO

Nov. 6- Loyola

Nov. 12-@ Butler

Nov.13- @ Wright State