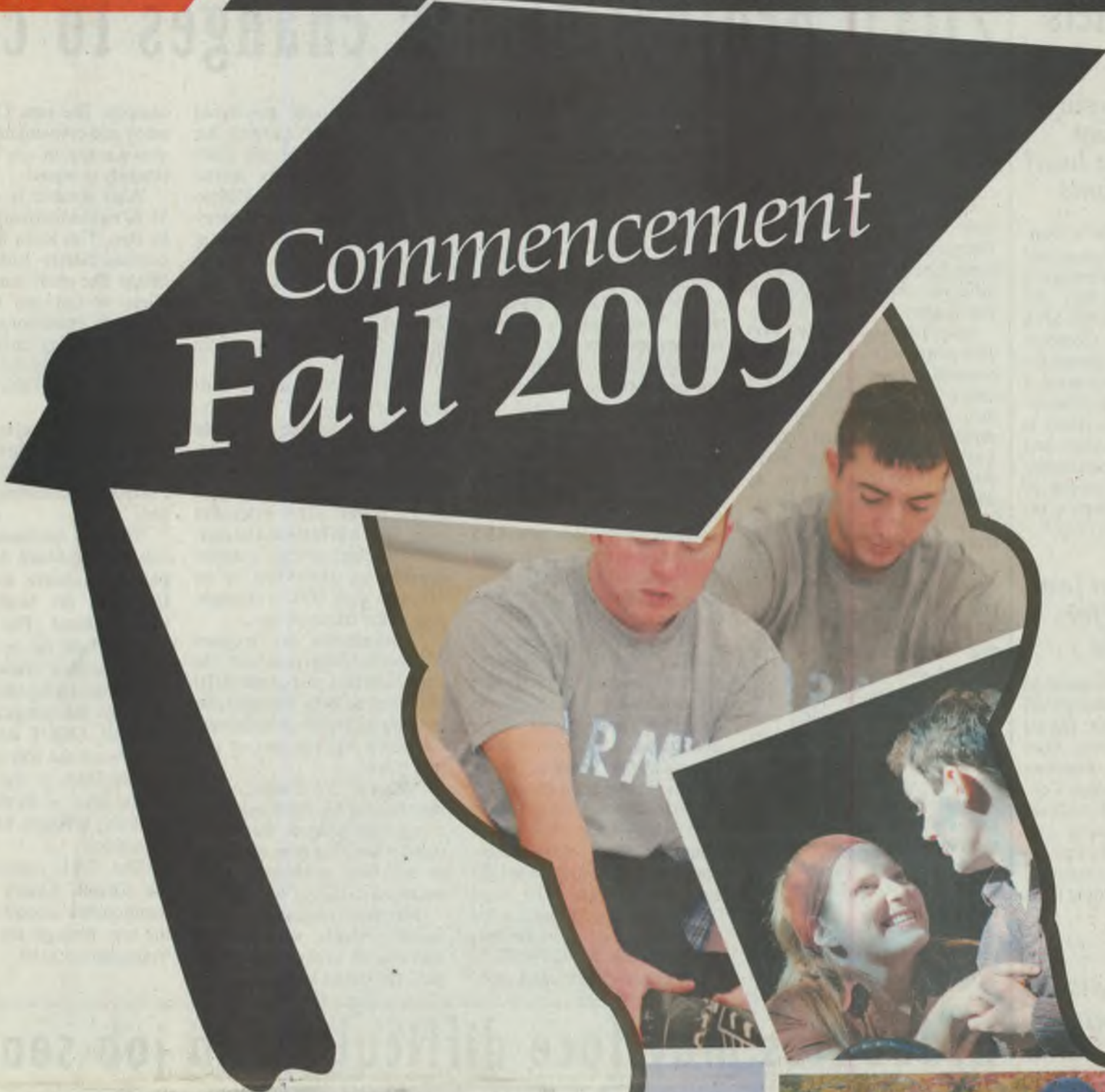


THE JAMBAR

The student voice of
Youngstown State University
since 1931.

PAGE 2

BISHOP MURRY TO SPEAK AT GRADUATION



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 BUSINESS MANAGER: Olga Ziobert 330-941-3094
 ADVISER: Mary Beth Earnheardt 330-941-3095

CONTACT THE JAMBAR
 E-MAIL editor@thejambar.com
 FAX 330-941-2322

NEWS

News Briefs

Student Nursing Association volunteers for local organizations

Members of YSU's Student Nursing Association will be serving dinner at the local Rescue Mission on Dec. 20. Earlier this semester, the SNA received the Best Community Health Project award for members' outstanding work at various shelters in the Mahoning Valley. The association is also collecting clothing and nonperishable food donations; these items can be placed in the nursing department's office in Cushman Hall.

Annual Exam Jam scheduled for Monday

The Campus Recreation and Student Programming staff will be holding their annual Exam Jam on Monday from 3 to 7 p.m. in the Andrews Recreation and Wellness Center. The event, which features food, games, massages and prize giveaways, attempts to relieve the stress associated with finals week. Student ID is required for entry.

Campaign raises funds for United Way

YSU's United Way Campaign, with the help of several student organizations, collectively raised more than \$55,000 for the United Way. With a goal set for only \$45,000, the campaign is celebrating yet another successful year of fundraising and donations.

Police Briefs

Student reports damage to vehicle in M-2 deck

A student contacted campus police Monday, stating that her vehicle had been damaged while parked in the M-2 deck. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that a large metal pipe had rotted through and fallen over the area she was parked in. Parking Services was contacted to survey the damage.

Stolen vehicle involved in multiple pursuits

A Dodge Magnum reported stolen by Coitsville Township Police was spotted by campus police Monday. As an officer approached the vehicle, the driver fled, resulting in a high-speed chase. When the officer lost the vehicle, Youngstown Police Department stepped in to sweep the area, without success. The vehicle has been seen around campus over the last two weeks and has been involved in two pursuits to date. The driver's identity remains unknown.

Vandals hit Ward Beecher Hall

Campus police observed broken glass outside a door of Ward Beecher Hall on Saturday. A rock was discovered inside the door, but the building was found to be secure, as the panic bar was still engaged. Maintenance was called to secure the door.

2010 project brings changes to city

Dan Pompili
 ASSIST. NEWS EDITOR

As the semester comes to a close, students may notice that Youngstown and Youngstown State University look a little different than they did 15 weeks ago.

In less than one month, 2009 will come to a close and the ball will drop on Youngstown's target year: 2010. Therein lies the catalyst for the changes students see around them. The 2010 project was introduced in 2002 as a plan to address the city's declining population and counter negative economic, social and environmental issues ailing Youngstown and surrounding areas.

Bill D'Avignon, community development director for the city of Youngstown, said the plan is based on four main platforms. The first is to recognize that Youngstown is a smaller city, the second is to define the city's role in the regional economy, the third is to devise a strategy to improve the city's image and increase the quality of life and the fourth stage is to fully implement the plan.

D'Avignon stressed that the plan is called Youngstown 2010 because that is the target

year for implementing much of the agenda, as opposed to the misconception that the project will be completed by 2010.

He also said some of the programs and goals are not realistic for the target date, specifically the objective to increase the city's population to 150,000. Latest estimates place Youngstown's population at approximately 73,000.

D'Avignon did, however cite one aspect of the plan that is meeting great success. The city's agenda to raze unsafe or unstable housing in target areas has enjoyed strong investment and been implemented proactively. Since 2005, the city has spent more than \$3.5 million on demolition in target areas. More than 1500 structures have been demolished in the past 4 years.

Much of that success has resulted from \$2.7 million in federal funding through the Neighborhood Stabilization Project. Those funds have been used to raze houses on Pennsylvania Avenue, many of which have been recent targets of suspected arson.

YSU director of Campus Planning and Community Partnerships Hunter Morrison said Youngstown 2010 is an "important project that has led to some great developments which have benefitted YSU."

Morrison mentioned spe-

cifically the land purchased by the city that allowed for the construction of the Flats at Wick Apartments across from the Lyden and Cafaro residence halls. The factory building previously standing there was demolished through city funding — out of the Clean and Green portion of the 2010 plan — and the land was leased to contractor Dominic Marchionda.

The new Williamson College of Business Administration was made possible through similar city investments. Equally important and linked to the WCBA project is the Hazel Street extension plan, which is intended to connect the core of YSU campus directly to downtown in an effort to give YSU a stronger role in the community.

"Universities are engines of growth," Morrison said. He explained that part of the 2010 plan was to help Youngstown identify as more of a university town and not just an old mill town.

"Mayor Williams and members of his administration ... are YSU alumni. We understand what their help means to us and they understand what we mean to them," he said.

Morrison mentioned other recent projects, such as improvements to the bridge near the I-680 ramp leading toward

campus. The new CVS Pharmacy and convenience store is also a result of city efforts to beautify campus.

Also notable is a \$1.6 to \$1.89 million earmark acquired by Rep. Tim Ryan for the Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Study. The study has spawned plans to improve crosswalk and road conditions on main arteries leading through campus. Specifically the plan will address Rayen, Fifth and Wick Avenues.

Since the inception of the 2010 plan, Youngstown has spent roughly \$4.8 million toward implementing its agendas.

The only mentionable falter was the "Hubbard Arterial," a plan to improve and extend Interstate 80 heading east into Hubbard. The proposal advanced as far as the Ohio Department of Transportation. ODOT however, decided the focus of the project was too regional. ODOT decided not to forward the Environmental Impact Study — the next step in that plan — to the Federal Highway Project for recommendation.

The 7-11 connector and the Covelli Centre are also mentionable contributions to the city through the focus of Youngstown 2010.

Graduates may face difficulties in job search

Juliana Hull
 REPORTER

With the national unemployment rate at 9.5 percent according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, graduat-

ing seniors may have trouble finding a job amid a national recession. According to the economics department at Youngstown State University, the last time the unemployment rate was this high was between 1982 and 1983, at 10 percent.

Tod Porter, chairman of the department of economics, said it's difficult to predict

when the economy will rise.

"The last time the unemployment rate was this high, it took almost four years to get it back to normal, there's a real possibility it might even be worse this time," Porter said.

Porter said in the long run we need to worry about the deficit, and at some point the government will have to raise taxes and cut down on spend-

ing. He added the outlook for students is still positive.

"One thing to think about is a college degree is an investment that will affect your earnings for the rest of your work life," he said.

JOBS, Page 4

What are you doing over the break?

"I am working, getting drunk and eating a lot of food."
 Cory Stevens

"I am going to sleep, and start reading and researching for my thesis."
 Rebecca Sumner

"I am working, spending time with friends and baking holiday cookies."
 Steve Weeden

Commencement to feature bishop, student as speakers

Chelsea Miller
 SPORTS REPORTER

This year's commencement will be held Sunday, Dec. 13, at 2 p.m. in Beeghly Center. Bishop George Murry of the Diocese of Youngstown will be the guest speaker, and the student speaker will be Douglas Wajba.

Wajba, who is a mechanical engineering and applied math major, was chosen to speak on behalf of the student body. Wajba participates in Pi Mu Epsilon, the math honors society, and Tau Beta Pi, the engineering honors society, and obtained a 3.85 GPA during his college career. Wajba also participates in several intramural sports such as football and dodgeball.

As for his plans after graduation, Wajba said he would return in the spring to take a few graduate-level classes. In the fall, he will move to another college for mechanical engineering graduate school. He said he hopes to work for a research company or institution one day.

Wajba said he would miss all the friends he has made since living on campus. He also added that he is nervous to give his speech.

"I haven't thought about what I'm going to say yet," he said.

Exam jam offers respite for stressed students

Jennifer Tomerlin
 REPORTER

Think back and remember the days when Mom packed your lunch, math was as easy as 2+2 and kickball was part of the curriculum. Youngstown State University students may have another chance to relive the good old days. This semester's theme for Exam Jam, recess, allows students to take a break from learning and have fun.

Campus Recreation and Student Programming will be having their annual Exam Jam on Monday from 3 to 7 p.m. The event will take place in

the Andrews Recreation and Wellness Center.

Students can participate in nostalgic activities like tug of war, dodgeball and kickball. Free packed lunches will be served, and students can make friendship bracelets to help relax before their next exam.

The time of the event was set with the convenience in mind.

"Majority of classes are from 9 to 3. It's a part of the day where everyone can come," said Anthony Muscatello, a member of the Exam Jam committee.

Local massage therapists will be offering five-minute massages to students to relieve

the test tension that lies between the shoulders. This has been one of the more popular activities in past. Students should sign up early to ensure a time slot.

This semester's Exam Jam will be different than most.

"We are strictly geared to having fun," Muscatello said. "It's to bring out the child in everybody. Everybody loves recess."

Exam week is one of the most stressful times of a student's career. Exam Jam is a way to help unwind and "take a break and play."

CELEBRATION SCHEDULE



Squeeze in all the merry-making you can handle with our guide to holiday to-dos

When you think about it, 31 days aren't nearly enough to pack in all the shopping, baking, wrapping, hosting and mailing required to celebrate the winter holidays. But

every year, we try to cram it all in between Dec. 1 and New Year's. Here, we offer a monthlong guide to help you plan your schedule, and wring every last moment

of joy (and stress) from the holiday season. Hang it on the fridge so you can check it every time you go for another gulp of eggnog. — Becky Sher, McClatchy-Tribune

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|---|
| 1  Make a giant to-do list. Include everything you can possibly think of: gifts to buy, parties to attend (or host), cookies to bake. Don't leave anything off; just assume if it's not on the list, it won't get done. | 2 Edit your holiday card list. Get rid of the college roommate you haven't talked to in a decade, and add the couple you met at the block party. E-mail people for address updates. Buy stamps at usps.com . Watch "A Charlie Brown Christmas" on ABC. | 3 Watch the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree lighting on NBC. Fun fact: Since 1974, the tree has been recycled into mulch, which is donated to the Boy Scouts of America for use at its camps. | 4 Support the troops. Send holiday priority mail to service members overseas, especially those in Iraq and Afghanistan, by Dec. 4, if you want them to arrive by Dec. 25. See usps.com for a complete calendar of military shipping dates. | 5  COOKIES! Search "cookie of the day" on marthastewart.com to find dozens of recipes. Make several varieties and freeze some to enjoy throughout the season. | 6 Decorate the tree. Make or buy a new ornament for each child in your family. | 7 Finish your online shopping in the next day or two to ensure gifts arrive on time without paying outrageous shipping fees. |
| 8 Make a menorah to celebrate the Jewish Festival of Lights, which begins Friday. Search "menorah" on familyfun.com for options, including an easy paper-cup menorah, and an elegant nature menorah made from a tree branch. | 9 Take the day off to do some shopping when the stores aren't quite as packed. | 10 Gather the family's holiday outfits. | 11 Finish any sewing or craft projects. | 12 Plan your holiday menu. | 13 Happy Hanukkah! Hanukkah begins at sundown. Read about the holiday's history and traditions at www.history.com/minisites/hanukkah/ . | 14 Volunteer in a soup kitchen, wrap gifts at the mall or find another charitable cause to help as a family. |
| 15 Host a holiday open house for the neighbors. Serve cookies, fudge and hot apple cider. | 16 Visit containerstore.com for tips on wrapping boxes and making bows. | 17 Start wrapping. | 18 Dig out your family's favorite holiday books, or head to the library or bookstore for a new supply. A few to try: "Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree," by Robert Barry, or the Mary Engelbreit-illustrated "The Night Before Christmas." | 19 Double-check your gift list — this is the final weekend for shopping before Christmas. | 20 Buy batteries. Make sure you have proper batteries for toys and gadgets you're giving. | 21 Watch "Christmas Vacation." |
| 22 Create amenity baskets for your overnight guests. Include a small bar of soap, travel-size shampoo, a bottle of water, late-night snacks like granola bars and nuts, a nail file and Tylenol or Advil. | 23 Get those last minute packages out. It's the last day to send priority mail if you want it to arrive for Christmas. (You can send express mail until Dec. 23.) | 24 Gather some friends and go caroling. Find lyrics to holiday songs online and make song lists for your group. | 25 Santa's gone high-tech. Send him an e-mail at emailsanta.com . | 26 Leave out cookies and milk for Santa. Put together the toys after the children go to bed. Then play with them while you can. Fill the stockings. | 27 Merry Christmas! Kwanzaa begins. Shop the after-Christmas sales for wrapping paper and cards for next year. | 28 Put your feet up and do absolutely nothing! Research tree pickup or recycling in your town so you'll be prepared when it's time to take down your decorations. |
| 29 Bone up on the basics of chilling, serving and storing Champagne at www.champagne.us . | 30 Happy 2010 | | 31 Happy 2010 | | | |

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Academic Senate discuss vacant positions

Emmalee C. Torisk
COPY EDITOR

At the last Youngstown State University Academic Senate meeting of the year, which was held Wednesday in the DeBartolo Hall auditorium, Academic Senate president and biology professor Dr. Chet Cooper discussed the importance of supporting the numerous position searches within the university community.

These include searches for YSU's seventh president, a head football coach and a head volleyball coach. All positions, Cooper said, significantly contribute to the university. Cooper announced that seven presidential candidates would be interviewed in an off-campus location this weekend.

"I'm very pleased and very excited," Cooper said, adding that a strong pool of candidates applied for the position. "It's a new era ... YSU can move forward in accomplishing its new mission as an urban research university."

Cooper also noted the significance of filling the athletic department vacancies, and said "athletics are the window to the university."

"It's a potent recruiting tool. Once students get a taste of the university, they remember it," Cooper said. "Some people don't appreciate how athletics play a role in academics."

Dr. Martin Abraham, dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, said he has observed a large number of student-athletes being "top notch" both in and out of the classroom. Additionally, many of these students were drawn to the university because of YSU's athletic program, Abraham said.

"All sports bring in a huge number of students you wouldn't get otherwise," Abraham said.

Executive director of Marketing and Communications Mark Van Tilburg also announced changes to the YSU Web site, and its change to a new content management system: Content M. Van Tilburg said these changes would allow content to be more easily managed and said he was

"very impressed" by the system.

Each college's Web site would have a "clear palate" with a "unique look," he said. Specific templates with similar navigations would be offered. Van Tilburg said the transition should be complete by the end of the year.

"We've uploaded two times as much content in one month as we did in 12 months with the other system," he said. "It's very fast."

Additionally, due to unexpected university business, YSU President Dr. David C. Sweet was unable to attend and speak at the meeting; Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Ikram Khawaja spoke in his place. Khawaja noted the university's successful fall, discussed YSU's acquisition of the Museum of Labor and Industry's operating responsibilities and talked about YSU's financial situation.

"This institution is in much better financial shape than many of our sisters are," Khawaja said. "We are trying to keep balance between what we must invest in, but are also trying to be financially restrained."

JOB page 2

YSU is not the only university worried about helping graduates find a job. Lou Gibbs, director of career services at Cedarville University said he has changed his recommendations for students accordingly.

He said he would be telling his seminary students today not to "expect to be in the job they trained for, [but] to start out with the bridge work." He added the number one problem with finding students a job lies within the economy.

Some students may find a way to avert the recession and low job outlook by just continuing to stay in school and attain other degrees, but there is no evidence at YSU according to institutional research.

Brian Godsen, program analyst for institutional research at YSU, said he has seen a minimal increase in graduate admissions. He said graduate student enrollment has remained the same based on the 14th Day Preliminary, an enroll-

ment summary posted on the university's Web site.

Godsen said the greatest percentage came from undergraduates, and graduate admissions have remained consistent.

Gary Boley, director of Career Services, said he knew there was a problem because fewer employers attended this year's career expo event at YSU than prior years.

"Given the number of employers being down from the career fair, we believe that people aren't hiring right now," he said.

"We are working more on their [students'] job search skills, resume writing and graduate school admission," Boley said. "Anytime we can help students get any information on how to search for jobs we will, that's what we are here for. Any student can walk in and we will help them in anyway we can."

Additional reporting by
Alicia Pantillo.

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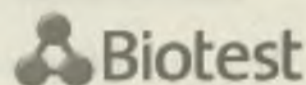
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OUR SIDE EDITORIAL

Vicious Cycle

RELATED STORY

Outlook, page 1

THE JAMBAR
EDITORIAL BOARD

Youngstown is a city stuck in a vicious cycle of paradox.

The country is convincing society to believe that we are in a recession and nothing is recession-proof. We're led to believe that jobs are nearly impossible to get and even harder to keep.

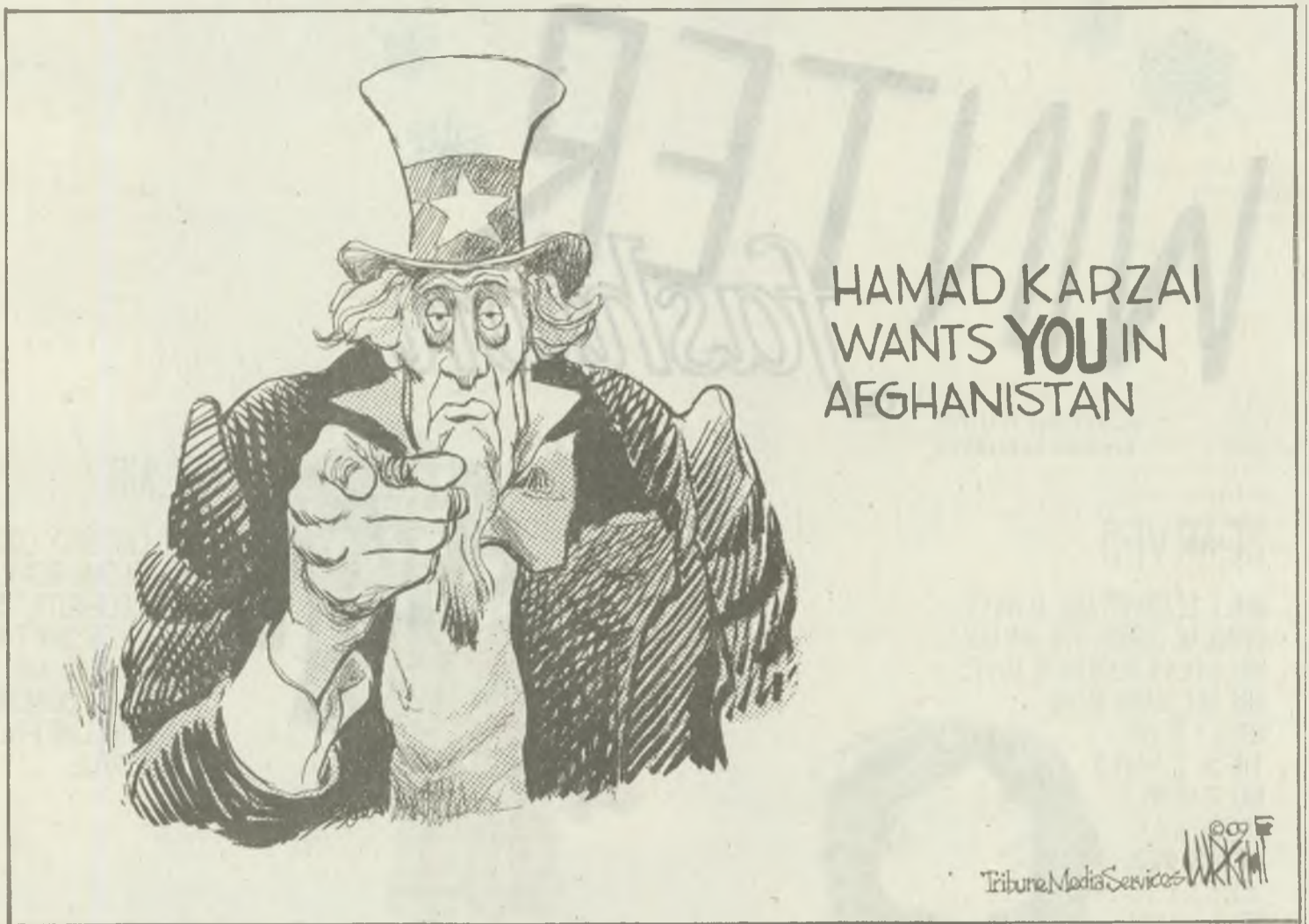
But the soon-to-be graduates, as well as current students, of Youngstown State University should realize one thing: As the country may be receding, Youngstown and our university are excelling and exceeding expectations.

Everything around us is changing.

The Williamson College of Business Administration will be complete in the fall, enticing prospective students to pursue a degree here. The AT&T tower is lit up with the symbol of our university, acting as a beckon for recruitment. The Office of Veterans Affairs is reaching out to a community of students that is not only important to our country, but to our campus community. Dr. Sweet's era is ending, and a national search for the next leader of the university is beginning. Athletics will have two new faces on the sidelines at Stambaugh Stadium and at the volleyball matches in Beeghly Center. Athletes will soon be able to practice in the indoor WATTS Center, out of the elements. The Flats at Wick will be attractive housing for students who wish to live just a little farther from campus. All of this is happening, and soon.

Officials have time and time again stood on the premises that young people are helping this community thrive. Change doesn't occur overnight, and we should second-guess any fast track we have to leave the city.

We shouldn't look for the Youngstown 2010 program to be a destination, but instead as part of us shaping our futures.



HAMAD KARZAI
WANTS YOU IN
AFGHANISTAN

Tribune Media Services W.K. Kim

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

Peace department could work to defuse violence

Lewis Diuguid
MCT

Department of Defense and FBI investigations as well as congressional hearings will try to determine why Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan exploded in a violent rage and what could have occurred to prevent the senseless carnage.

On Nov. 5, Hasan killed 13 people at Fort Hood, Texas, and wounded more than 30 others.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates ordered the 45-day emergency inquiry to examine personnel, medical, mental health, discharge and other policies to identify volatile military personnel and slip-ups that might allow security risks to go undetected. A second six-month investigation will examine what Gates called "systemic institutional shortcomings."

In Hasan's case, there were many. He seemed to be among the military's elite, meeting many of the Pentagon's needs. He was a psychiatrist, a mid-level commander and an Arab-speaking Muslim of Palestinian descent. Overlooked were

his disturbing, radical Islamic views.

What made sense and fit the country's war needs would have stood out if viewed through a lens of peace. That insight is missing, yet is sorely needed. It's why President Barack Obama and Congress must immediately act to create a department of peace. That Cabinet-level post, which Rep. Dennis Kucinich has sought for nearly a decade, would work to prevent future slayings of innocent people such as Hasan's victims. In addition, it would promote diversity and tolerance, which Hasan needed to curb his extremist views.

The Pentagon seemed too focused on maintaining the assets it thought it had in Hasan. The warning signs Hasan showed were mostly overlooked.

A department of peace working with the Department of Defense would have brought a different set of standards to the examination of Hasan and other military personnel to ensure the stability of the people in uniform and the safety of everyone.

Legislation for a peace department proposes that it institute best practices programs

pulled from those in the U.S. and in other countries to ensure safety and productivity. A peace department with a Cabinet-level secretary would advise the president just as other secretaries do. In this case, it would not function in opposition to the Department of Defense but would complement the military.

A peace department would ensure that individuals who want to serve the nation as Hasan once did would find the appropriate, stable spot during their time in the service. If identified to be mentally unstable, those individuals would be removed immediately to receive treatment.

The peace department also would institute programs that would defuse the hatred that has long troubled the nation and its diverse population. It would help to remove racial, ethnic and sexual orientation biases, eliminate religious and other hatreds and sow new seeds of understanding among people here and abroad.

U.S. lawmakers have the power to make a department of peace possible. Obama won the Nobel Peace Prize this year because the people who picked him thought he pos-

sessed the capacity to institute peace initiatives and push for global cooperation instead of an aggressive, militaristic approach to solving problems, which has dominated U.S. foreign and domestic policies.

A peace department could help ensure international and domestic productivity and stability. It would be far better than the constant fighting that has occurred with people aggressively at each others' throats over scarce resources.

For the military's purposes, peace standards for service personnel would mean that each person would put peace first for the safety of everyone. People in the service need to know they can trust and depend on their fellow servicemen and women on and off bases and in combat.

A peace department could defuse the hatred that folks in the service might harbor just as it could have identified and addressed the boiling anger that Hasan had.

It is long past time for peace to be given a chance. Peace is not a weakness; it's a strength if it's allowed to prove itself.

BPA should be banned at least in products intended for children

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
MCT

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration seems paralyzed by the controversial chemical bisphenol A. On Monday, the agency blew its own self-imposed deadline for issuing a ruling on the safety of the ubiquitous chemical, which is found in thousands of household products and has been linked to an array of diseases. The FDA is taking more time to have its scientists analyze studies of the chemical's effects.

The FDA has all the evidence it needs to support a ban at least in products intended for children. We're puzzled by the foot-dragging. BPA, a \$6 billion-a-year business, is found in everything from the lining of metal food containers to hardened plastics to teeth sealants. Bills are pending in Congress that would ban the chemical, and in the absence of FDA action, Congress should move ahead with the legislation.

The FDA has not covered itself in glory. Last year, the agency concluded that the chemical was safe for all uses, basing the decision on two studies bought and paid for by BPA makers and allowing chemical industry lobbyists to help write the ruling. The industry, of course, is hellbent on persuading consumers that BPA is as safe as mountain spring water, employing many of

the same tactics used by the tobacco industry to sow doubt. The industry even considered having a pregnant woman vouch for the chemical's safety.

Under pressure, the FDA's science board did the right thing and forced a review of the agency's findings.

Advocates for a ban saw the delay as a positive sign, concluding that if the FDA had planned to confirm its previous ruling, it wouldn't need additional time. But we believe that any delay is harmful. There is too much evidence that BPA is hurting people.

Tests on lab animals have found links between BPA and breast and prostate cancers, diabetes, heart disease and behavioral disorders. A recent Kaiser Permanente study of Chinese factory workers found that those exposed to large amounts of the chemical were far more likely to experience sexual dysfunction. Other tests, including those conducted on behalf of the Journal Sentinel, have found that the chemical leaches out of even some food cans labeled "BPA free." It is found in the urine of 93% of Americans tested.

The FDA or Congress should ban the chemical. In the interim, the FDA should issue a public health warning and order mandatory labeling of food cans and a ban of the use of polycarbonate plastic for food containers. Further delay is pointless.



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OUR SIDE POLICY

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

YOUR SIDE POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. E-mail submissions are welcome at editor@thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification and the writer's city of residence for printing. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. The editorial board reserves the

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

WINTER fashion

Chelsea Miller
SPORTS REPORTER

SCARVES

WHILE SCARVES ARE ALWAYS POPULAR DURING THE WINTER, BRIGHTLY COLORED SCARVES ARE BECOMING MORE WIDELY SEEN. THESE SCARVES ARE A MORE AFFORDABLE OPTION THAN JEWELRY TO SPICE UP ANY OUTFIT.



PLAID

THIS LAID BACK LOOK HAS BECOME POPULAR WITH CELEBRITIES SUCH AS TAYLOR SWIFT AND MILEY CYRUS, WHO HAS RECENTLY LAUNCHED A CLOTHING LINE FEATURING THE STAPLE.

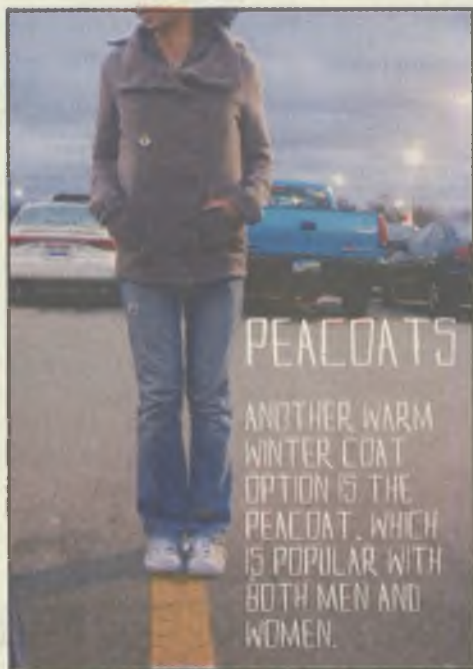


MILITARY INSPIRED JACKETS

WITH THE RECENT PASSING OF THE LEGENDARY MICHAEL JACKSON, WHO MADE POPULAR THE MILITARY INSPIRED JACKET, A RESURGENCE OF THIS STYLE BEGAN TO BE SEEN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

SILHOUETTES

JESSIE SUMMER, THE STORE MANAGER OF CHARLOTTE RUSSE, SAID THAT A POPULAR SILHOUETTE FOR THE SEASON IS TIGHT TOPS AND FLOUNCY SKIRTS.



PEACOATS
ANOTHER WARM WINTER COAT OPTION IS THE PEACOAT, WHICH IS POPULAR WITH BOTH MEN AND WOMEN.

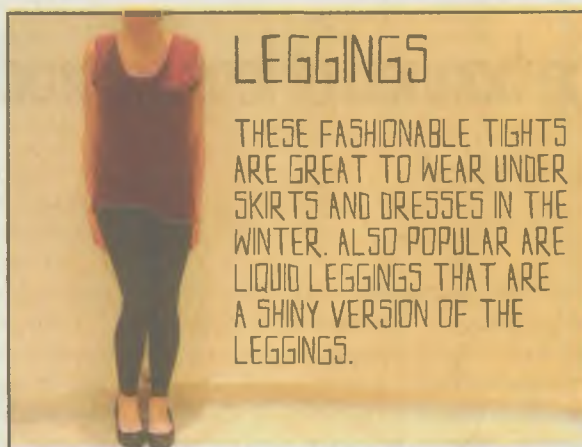
SNOODS



THIS SCARF LIKE TREND, ALTHOUGH NOT SEEN IN MOST LOCAL STORES YET, IS SURE TO BECOME POPULAR AS IT WAS SEEN AT NUMEROUS RUNWAY SHOWS AND IS A FAVORITE OF DESIGNERS. THE SNOOD IS MORE CONVENIENT THAN A SCARF IN THAT IT ONLY GOES AROUND THE NECK AND DOESN'T HANG DOWN.

OVER THE KNEE BOOTS

THESE BOOTS ARE A GOOD WAY TO KEEP WARM IN THE WINTER, AND ARE POPULAR WITH STARS LIKE RIHANNA.



LEGGINGS

THESE FASHIONABLE TIGHTS ARE GREAT TO WEAR UNDER SKIRTS AND DRESSES IN THE WINTER. ALSO POPULAR ARE LIQUID LEGGINGS THAT ARE A SHINY VERSION OF THE LEGGINGS.

RITZY GLAM

NEW YEAR'S EVE IS FAST APPROACHING AND WITH IT NEW GLITTERED FASHION, ACCORDING TO SUMMER, WHO SAYS THE STYLE HAS BEEN FLYING OFF THE SHELVES.



STATEMENT JEWELRY

THE CRAZIER THE BETTER. AT RECENT RUNWAY SHOWS, MODELS HAVE BEEN SEEN WEARING ANYTHING FROM SPIKED NECKLACES TO CRAZY RINGS. SOME VERSIONS OF THESE HAVE BEEN SPOTTED IN STORES ALREADY.



BOYFRIEND JEANS

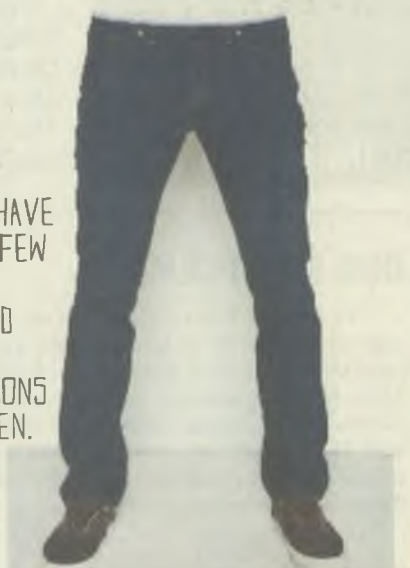
AT THE OPPOSITE END OF THE SPECTRUM ARE BOYFRIEND JEANS FOR WOMEN. THESE JEANS RESEMBLE MENSWEAR AND ARE OFTEN BAGGY AND RIPPED.

RIPPED JEANS

THE DISTRESSED LOOK IS FAST BECOMING POPULAR FOR MEN AND WOMEN ALIKE.

SKINNY JEANS

SKINNY JEANS HAVE BEEN IN FOR A FEW SEASONS, BUT A NEWER TREND EMERGING IS SKINNIER VERSIONS OF JEANS IN MEN.



Students exit with Exhibition

Rick Pollo
REPORTER

At the end of every fall and spring semester, the McDonough Museum of Art honors works from graduating seniors in the art department at Youngstown State University with an exhibition dedicated to their works. Beginning Friday and running through Dec. 19, the McDonough will conclude its 2009 exhibits with the fall

graduation showcase.

The showcase marks the end of another eventful season for the museum, which included such successful exhibits as Larry Towell's, "The World from My Front Porch."

The exhibition consists of various forms of media such as photography, installation art and graphic design. The 13 students to be included in the exhibit are Justin Banasiewicz, Joe Campesi, Tsai-Chieh Chen, Sarah Amelia

Clarke, Eric Daniels, Ryan S. Firm, Melissa Kerchak, Rosemarie Orsini, Richard Pedaline, Magaret Russo, Jonathan Shearer, Seoun Som and Rachel Yolanda Wilson.

"We in the department are always excited about the graduating Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition. The event is a celebratory rite of passage for our students as they leave YSU and enter the professional world.

This year's show will showcase our graphic design and Photography programs and we expect a strong showing for the exhibition," said Dr. Stephanie Smith of the art department.

Coinciding with the showcase and exhibit will be the Student Art Association's Fine Art and Craft Show and Chance Auction. The sale takes place on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Ven-

dors at the sale will consist of students, staff and alumni selling their own personal works. Admission for this event is free.

An opening reception for the fall graduation showcase and its featured artists will take place on Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. The exhibit can be seen at the McDonough from Tuesdays through Saturdays from Dec. 4 through 19. Admission will be free for all who wish to attend.



Chasing the dragon: Geology class travels to China

Gary S. Angelo
FEATURES REPORTER

From Dec. 13 to Jan. 6, some Youngstown State University geology students will travel to China to study and experience the country's rich geological history.

Dr. Ray Beiersdorfer, geology professor, and his environmental geology students will first arrive in Beijing to take a trek to China's Great Wall. In Beijing, the students will also go to the 798 Art District, which was a German military industrial complex and factory that was transformed into a world-class contemporary museum. The 798 Art District houses an art gallery, boutique and many other creative venues.

"We are going to meet with a group of university students from Beijing who speak English at the 798 Art District," Beiersdorfer said.

The students will then make their way just slightly southwest to Xi'an.

In Xi'an, the students will also visit Banpo, a neolithic village with a booming Muslim community.

From Xi'an the students will make their way to Beichuan, Chengdu, Shangrila and Lijiang. Beiersdorfer and the students will spend Christmas in Shangrila, where Chinese geology merges into India's mountains. They will head to the southernmost cities of Dali, followed by Kunming and Guilin. The YSU group will make their way to Wuyishan, home of the famous weight-loss tea, Wuyi, followed by the urban megacity of Shanghai.

Beiersdorfer and his environmental geology class will be studying water, air pollution, geological hazards and earthquakes in China.

"The students will have customized reading packets while they are in China," he said. "Every city is a new ethnic experience for the students."

Chris Grope, a geology major, is excited about his first experience traveling to China.

"I thought the trip would be quite an adventure, only packing one bag for 26 days and traveling to 11 different cities," he said.



Grope said he expects to try many different foods and see strange and interesting landmarks.

"I am interested in traveling and geology influences me to want to go to China. Of course there is Dr. Ray. Who wouldn't want to travel with him for a month?" Grope said.

Brenda Hamrick-Gibson, a junior social work major, is excited about her first experience studying abroad.

"Every one of my children studied abroad. My oldest son who works at NYU jumped at every opportunity to study abroad," she said.

Hamrick-Gibson will also be celebrating her birthday in

China, which is on New Year's Eve. She's also looking forward to learning more about the country itself.

"I am excited to learn about the dynamics of China's moving tectonic plates and how the Himalayas are constantly growing, which is mind-boggling," she said.

Hamrick-Gibson is intrigued by China's ever-changing ring of fire.

"We are climbing a moun-

of energy and research into the upcoming trip to China.

"I think I am going to appreciate life and our country more after this trip. I'll look at our world differently and wonder if it will ever change, which leaves me speechless," she said.

Hamrick-Gibson said all her research is paying off.

"I do not want to walk into this experience cold turkey, not knowing how to squat on

systems and devices, and that is why the city areas are polluted."

Beiersdorfer recalls the first trip he made to China.

"I knew that the geology was going to be great, the food would be weird, the culture different, but the Chinese people are trusting, friendly and quick to smile," he said.

Beiersdorfer walked into the China experience being interested in the geology, but today he is more interested in China's diverse ethnic cultures.

"I am still struggling to learn the language, and I also learned from going to China just how lucky we are. There are 1.3 billion people in China, and a majority of them are still peasant farmers and working in the factories."

Beiersdorfer pointed out that a majority of the industrial world is dependent on the backs of China's working class. "The peasant class in China is harvesting food to sell cheaply, so the factory workers can eat. The working class and the farmers are getting low salaries and they're using generated wealth that U.S. citizens use."

Beiersdorfer said he would like to experience the atmosphere of China's rich countryside.

"I grew up in New York City and a lot of things I like about cities are the funky, artsy districts. China does not really have that as much in terms of that aspect," he said.

Beiersdorfer is just learning about China's unique underground, but these types of districts are difficult to find. He enjoys the splendor of every new China experience.

"I really love going to China and taking students because I feel they are changed by the experience. It has a positive impact on their life," he said.

Youngstown brings back a holiday tradition

Lamar Salter
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

On Saturday, downtown Youngstown will come to life with marching bands, floats and hot cocoa as the city revitalizes its traditional Christmas parade.

After about a 20-year hiatus, First Night Youngstown, an organization specializing in the city's New Year's Eve celebration in collaboration with local businesses have resurrected an annual celebration of

the winter season.

City events director Lyndsey Hughes talked about the importance of the parade.

"We thought this year would be the perfect time to relaunch, seeing we're approaching 2010," Hughes said as she talked about the 2010 project, a citywide revitalization plan.

Hughes said a diverse number of organizations in the area would be participating in the event.

Local businesses like BW3 and the Lemon Grove will be

designing floats to present.

Chaney High School will be one of the schools marching in the parade and motorcycle groups, decorated for Toys for Tots, will ride through the city.

The parade will begin on East Federal Street at about 4:30 p.m. and will travel through the city, concluding in Central Square for the annual Youngstown tree-lighting ceremony.

While an exact number is unknown, Hughes said she was expecting many families

and residents to attend the celebration.

"I'm estimating that we will get upwards of 500 to 600 [spectators]," Hughes said. "I am hoping that relaunching this will get the ball rolling again and bring more [people] down to the city."

Hughes also said she wants the parade to serve not only as a celebration, but also as a way to bring attention to the city.

"Downtown has a lot of available vacancies to occupy. I want the business owners that are traveling through the

area to take note of our potential," Hughes said.

While waking a sleeping tradition is a challenge in itself, Hughes is already developing ideas for next year's holiday parade.

"I think a huge learning experience for me has been trying to develop a cohesive parade line together, more than just band on top of bands," Hughes said. "I also want to expand on the lighting in the city so when the mayor flips that switch, it's not just the tree going up, it's all of West Federal Street."

YSU's United Way Campaign Finale

YSU's campaign to raise funds for the **United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley** wraps up at the annual **Holiday Breakfast** for faculty and staff, **Dec. 9 and 10** in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center.

- Silent Auction
- 50/50 Raffle
- Raffle for a campus parking space
- With a donation of \$100 or more, you'll have the chance to win a flat screen TV

The momentum behind this year's **United Way Campaign** is greater than any time in recent history. This is your *last chance* to be a part of this special campus initiative.

Thanks to those who have given

For those who have not, please stop by the *Office of Student Affairs* in Tod Hall or call **330-941-3532** to make a donation.



Youngstown
STATE UNIVERSITY

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YSU is ranked as one of the safest campuses in Ohio, including all public and private universities in the state.



Blast from the past

• December 2000

Semesters make me sick

"I feel more overwhelmed taking four classes on semesters than when I took four classes on quarters," said a student, responding to YSU's switch from quarters to 15-week semesters.

• December 2002

Disabled students will cross the stage

For the first time in the history of YSU's commencement ceremonies, students with severe disabilities were able to cross the stage along with their classmates.

• December 2004

Library offers coffee, cookies and a quiet place to study for finals

"It's nice to know that we can come to a quiet place and work," said a junior.

• December 2007

Recent graduate says YSU prepared her for management

In between school and work, one university student attended resume-building workshops and networking events to learn more about the job market.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Jambar would like to wish all graduating seniors luck in the future.

CONGRATULATIONS

Dominique Price

God Bless in all you do.
Love, Nana



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CONGRATULATIONS

A tiny little bundle,
Arrived from overseas
You looked just like an angel
As you cuddled close to me.

The years have gone so quickly
And as I look at you today,
Ready to face your future
In such a winning way....

Now the time has come to graduate,
And my prayer for you is this....

Remember the things I've taught you,
And you will certainly know success.

We are so proud of you Kelsey.....



A NEW GI BILL FOR A NEW CENTURY

POST - 9/11 GI BILL



Are you waiting for your VA Education Benefits?

The Department of Veterans Affairs has made funds available for Veteran students who are still awaiting their education benefit claim to be processed. Eligible veterans can receive up to a \$3000 advance, which will be recouped from future benefit payments. If you are a student who applied for one of VA's education programs and have not yet received your monthly benefit payment for the Fall 2009 term, you can request a one-time advance payment at your local VA Regional Office or through VA's website, www.va.gov.

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

AFRICANA STUDIES PRESENTS

THE TENTH ANNUAL

JABALI

(THE ROCK)

AFRICAN CULTURAL CELEBRATION

Friday, December 11, 2009

The Chestnut Room, Kilcawley Center

6:30 p.m.

Dinner:

Adults: \$25.00

Students: \$10.00

Table of 8: \$175

Entertainers:

Harambee Youth Group

African Student Union

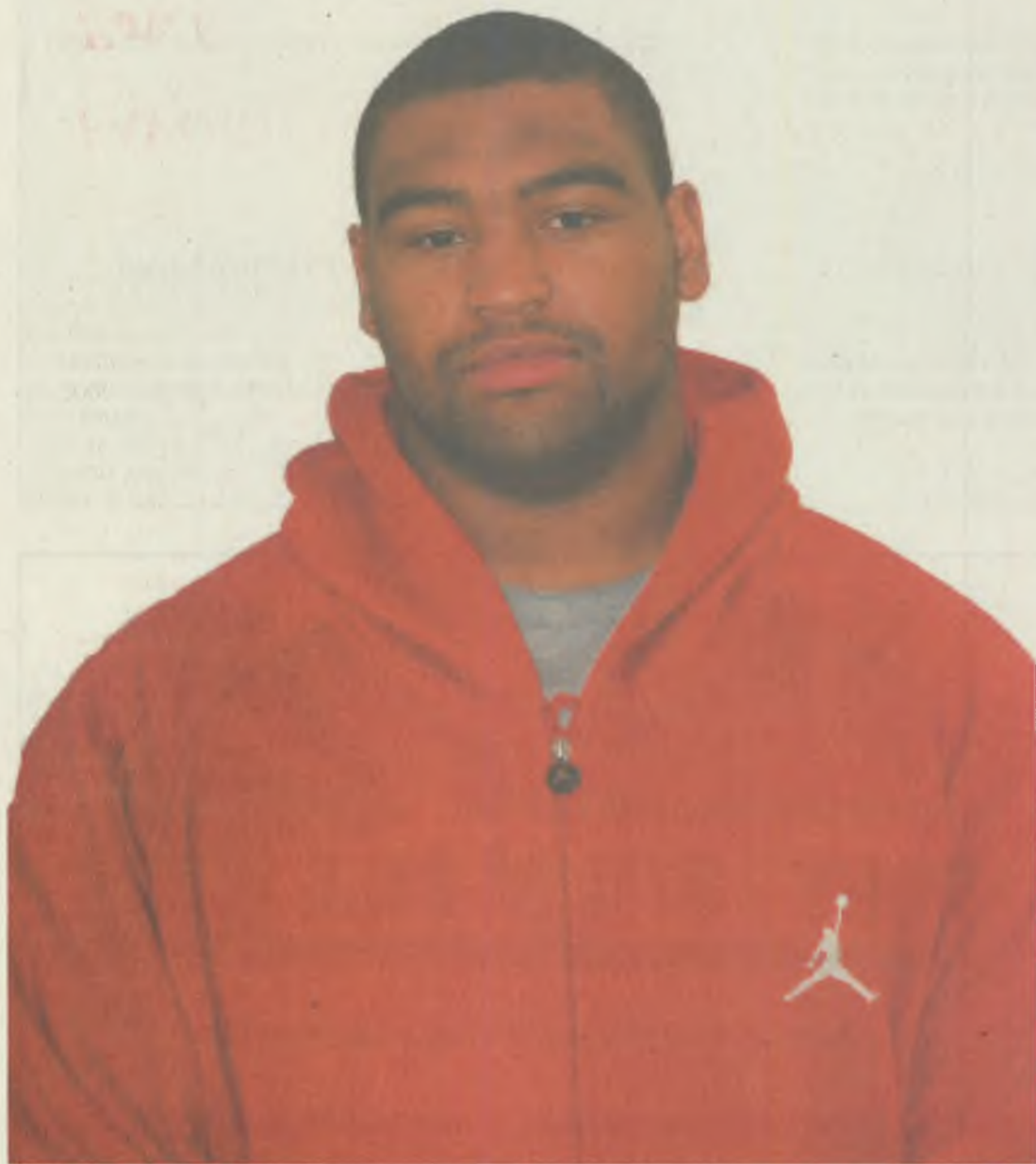
Keynote Speaker: Mayor Jay Williams

Topic: Youngstown on the Rebound

For more information and reservations contact the Africana Studies Program at (330) 941-3097

Youngstown
STATE UNIVERSITY

SENIOR PROFILE



Senior Mychal Savage was named to the 1st team All-Missouri Valley Conference team in 2006, 2007 and 2009.

PHOTO BY KEITH LANGFORD JR./THEJAMBAR

Senior reflects on final season, looks toward future

Keith Langford Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Senior defensive end Mychal Savage has accomplished a lot in his decorated career as a Youngstown State University Penguin. Now he's earned something he could never gain on the football field — time to relax.

"I got a lot of free time now that the season is over and I don't know what to do with it," Savage joked.

Opposing offensive linemen probably wish Savage had been as relaxed on the field as he is off the field. At 6'2", 310 pounds, Savage is an imposing figure.

Savage's statistics from this season were impressive. He compiled 37 tackles with eight tackles for loss. He had 4.5 sacks to go along with the tackles.

Because of his numbers and raw ability to shed through an offensive line, Savage was named to the first team All-Missouri Valley. This achievement is special, but Savage also earned the honor after the 2006-2007 season. Savage was extremely durable despite a season-ending injury in 2008 against Ohio State. He started 44 times for the Penguins in

his career.

Savage said he was disappointed with team's performance for the 2009 season. He said he wanted his senior season to go better but was happy how the Penguins ended the season by winning their last two games. Savage added he thought his team lost their competitiveness during the season, and because of this loss, it changed their winning attitude.

Hailing from just outside New York City in Hartsdale, New York, Savage chose YSU because he felt it was the best option for him. He said it was the right fit for him at the right time, and he could not be happier with his decision.

During his sophomore season, Savage was looked upon to step up and be a leader. This was a role Savage was uncomfortable with at first.

"I fought it at first because I didn't like the attention but eventually I grew into it," Savage said.

The whole senior leadership idea was not a big deal for Savage this season because he felt nothing had changed since his sophomore season from a leadership perspective except his age.

Savage said he will miss the family atmosphere of the Penguins. He has a lot of memories from his illustrious

career. His fondest memory dates back to the 2006 season where the Penguins went 11-3 and made it to the Football Championship Subdivision national semifinals.

Savage said he pondered the two games the Penguins played against the Illinois State Redbirds, a Missouri Valley Conference opponent, because they went into their stadium and shut them out in the first meeting. The teams met for the revenge clash in the playoffs at the Ice Castle. Savage reminisces about the playoff game against the Redbirds.

"The second time was under the lights at the Ice Castle. The atmosphere was bananas. It was a great game to be a part of," Savage said. The Penguins won the game 28-21. Savage said he always points back to the Penguins being a family and the playoff atmosphere would have been null and void without them.

As for life after college football, Savage said he has no idea what he wants to do after he graduates. However, if the possibility of making it the next level in the National Football League presents itself, Savage would pursue the opportunity.

"I'm not reliant on it, but it is something I would love to do," Savage said.



Sophomore Macey Nortey sizes up a Pittsburgh defender.

PHOTO BY KEITH LANGFORD JR./THEJAMBAR

Women's attendance for basketball trails men's by wide margin

Todd Mounce
CONTRIBUTOR

The games may be played on the same court and field, and even in the same facility, but there is one big difference between men's and women's athletic events nationally and at Youngstown State University — the attendance.

Attendance directly affects the atmosphere of the game and can even play a role in deciding who wins and who loses.

At YSU, the difference is most obvious at basketball games.

Last season at YSU, the men's basketball team averaged 2,382 attendees to each of their 16 home games, while the women's team had 13 home games, and an average of 914 fans per game.

"The crowd definitely gives a lot of energy and fuel to the team," said YSU head women's basketball coach Cindy Martin.

"When the crowd gets going, it gets loud," agreed senior basketball player Kaitlyn March. "The crowd can pump us up and cause the other team to mess up."

However, this difference in attendance is not exclusive to the women's basketball team.

YSU sophomore Kara Cooper, who plays soccer, realizes the difference in the crowd even though there is no men's game to compare it with.

"I remember when we were down one-nil and I scored and was expecting to hear this huge roar and there was nothing," Cooper said. "[The crowd] gives us players the drive to do better and the will to fight until the end."

Though there may be a significant gap between the numbers, it is not a problem just at YSU.

In Ohio, there are 13 universities that offer Division I athletics. Of those 13 schools, only Bowling Green averaged more fans to their women's basketball games than to the men's games.

The Bowling Green State University women's team averaged 1,763 attendees per game last season, edging out the men's team who averaged 1,729 fans.

The reasoning is simple for the BGSU women's crowd: They won.

The Falcons women's basketball team boasted a 30-6 record and made it to the Women's National Invitational Tournament.

In Ohio, Cleveland State University and the University of Akron averaged the lowest attendance for women's basketball last season, as both averaged 372 fans.

The Ohio State University women's basketball team averaged the most fans in the state with 3,510, though their men's team averaged more than 15,000 fans.

The differential can also be seen in the national numbers.

The Division I men's national attendance average for

the 2008-09 season was 5,185. The women's national average was 1,612.

"Guys are more athletic and put on more of a show because they play above the rim, while the women play with more fundamentals," March said.

"I don't think our sport is promoted as well as the men's," Martin said.

Martin also attributes this difference to the time the women play; if both teams are playing on the same night, the women start at 5:15 p.m., while the men don't start until 7:35 p.m.

"It's really hard for people to come to a game because people are just getting off work ... they haven't even picked up their kids yet or had dinner with their family."

The problem is known and is trying to be fixed.

Last season the NCAA started a contest called "Pack the House," which promotes attendance at women's college basketball games across the country. YSU was the Horizon League winner of the award for the greatest percentage of increased attendance at a selected women's home basketball game.

This season, the contest will return and YSU is targeting the women's game against Detroit on Saturday, Feb. 27. The game will be the second part of a doubleheader as the YSU men's team faces off against Detroit prior.

"We have several promotions tied into that game to help with attendance such as Kids Day inside Stambaugh Stadium," said assistant athletic director of marketing and promotions Robb Schmidt. "We will have inflatable bounce-a-rounds and other games for the kids to enjoy prior to the game, and it's free with a game ticket."

The YSU Athletic Department has also scheduled several Dollar Days for the women's game that feature \$1 general admission tickets, \$1 hot dogs and \$1 popcorn to try and boost attendance.

March, Cooper and Martin all agreed that winning would be the top priority in bringing fans to women's events.

March also thought that time is important to consider as well because adapting to a new coach can be difficult. Cooper added that getting involved in the community more would help boost soccer numbers.

Martin feels that those in attendance need to have a good time so they want to come back.

However, none are discouraged.

"I still play my game," Cooper said.

Coach Martin sees the future as being bright for the women's basketball program.

"They'll come," Martin explained. "They'll see we are doing things right; we're working hard, we have great team chemistry and I think the fans will really want to follow our team here in the next couple of years."

FAVORITES

Fav. Food:

Pizza

Fav. Movie:

The Lion King

Fav. Music Artists:

Gnarls Barkley and

Joe Budden

Fav. Athlete:

Ray Lewis