



THE JAMBAR

Since 1931 The student voice of Youngstown State University



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Issue 63

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TO THE POINT

Youngstown Early College Dean

The Youngstown City School Board has named John Wilson as the new dean of the Youngstown Early College. Wilson is the current executive director of development and community outreach for the Warren City School District and is also director of the district's alternative school. Wilson will begin his position in August.

Summer Honors Institute

The Ohio Summer Honors Institute will be hosted at Youngstown State University over the next two weeks. Marking its 20th year at YSU, the program will host 253 gifted freshmen and sophomore high school students.

YSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble CD

The Youngstown State University Symphonic Wind Ensemble released its new CD, "Tipping Points." Under the direction of Stephen Gage, this is the fifth in a series of CDs. The CD includes solo performances by Dana faculty members.

Exhibits at McDonough Museum

Three exhibits are featured at the McDonough Museum of Art on the YSU campus through July 27. The exhibits are free and include Christian Wulffen's "How to Improve your English," Jim Lucas's "Recent Works" and Georgia Tambasis' "TransMutations."

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Please remember to recycle your copy of The Jambar

Who lives near the campus of YSU? Know your Neighbors

Sarah Sole
News Editor

Students moving into Youngstown State University housing will have to fill out a criminal verification form due to changes in the housing contract.

In the past 6 weeks, there has been an addendum to the housing contract, Bill Sperlazza, director of housing and residence life said. Students applying for housing must fill out a criminal verification form.

Sperlazza said to conduct criminal background checks for every student would be unrealistic, but if housing is aware that a student has a criminal background, they can refuse the student's housing. Criminal background will be taken on an individual basis.

"We're really taking a proactive approach," Sperlazza said.

The Mahoning County Sheriff's Department Web site provides a map showing sex offenders living in a one-mile radius of a given address.

According to the map, there are 16 registered sex offenders within a one-mile radius of YSU campus.

The closest sex offender lives on Spring Street — but the address appears to be on campus.

Detective Charles Emery of the Mahoning County Sheriff's Department, said the individual is not currently in jail. On June 18 the individual registered as living on Spring Street, although Emery, who maintains the map, said the address could also be a false one.

Remias differed saying the sex offender's address does not exist. The individual is homeless and has been arrested for theft.

There are sex offenders living near the

please see *Offenders*, PAGE 2

YSU



This map, based on information from the Mahoning County Sheriff's Department Web site, locates registered sex offenders near campus. One address, on Spring Street, is in question. The map shows it to be on the campus of YSU. Art by Mike Minotti.

YSU

YSU community mourns death of Provost Herbert

Adrienne Sabo
Editor In Chief

After the death of Robert Herbert, provost and vice president of academic affairs, Youngstown State University President David Sweet has been meeting with his cabinet and the deans to decide who will take over the position.

"This is a top priority," Sweet said. He expects the university to have plans in place by next week.

Speaking of Herbert on July 11, Sweet described the provost as a person of great integrity. "He embraced the mission of YSU," Sweet said. "He will be greatly missed."

Bege Bowers, associate provost for academic programs and planning, was serving as acting provost during Herbert's vacation and will continue to do so.

Sweet said while Nathan Ritchey returned to his position as department of Mathematics and statistics chair, he will still continue working part-time on several projects including the community college. Ritchey served as interim associate provost.

Shearle Furnish, founding dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, said the news was a great shock. "I very much looked forward to working closely with a man of such humor and sharp perception," he said.

Senior Kristin Olmi worked with Herbert while serving on Student Government. "He seemed like a nice guy. Any position like that is a loss and no matter who replaces things are going to change."

Janice Elias, professor of human ecology said it was very sad, "He was a very good man and we're very sorry to lose him."

Bruce Waller, chair of philosophy and religious studies remarked on his memories of Herbert, "Very cordial; most impressed by his deep affection for his family."

Senior Christy Blazek said, "He was for the students in making changes, even if he wasn't supported by the administration. He wanted long run benefits. Of course it's a big loss."

The funeral for Herbert will be Friday at 11 a.m. at St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church in Whitestone, Queens, New York. The family has asked that no flowers be sent; instead a memorial fund will be established in Herbert's name.

Herbert drowned while on vacation in Costa Rica. The trip was a graduation present for his daughter, according to a report from The Vindicator.

A university memorial service for Herbert will be held on a later date.

Additional reporting by Laura Brown and Brad Trumppower



Herbert

CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

Tressels, Watsons donate for facility

Robert Boehm
Jambar Contributor

This week, Youngstown State University President David Sweet announced the donation of \$1 million toward YSU's Centennial Capital Campaign.

At a press conference held Monday in the Debartolo Stadium Club, YSU President David Sweet thanked the Watsons and Tressels for their contributions to the \$3 million indoor practice facility for YSU's Intercollegiate Athletics programs.

Alumnus Tony Laricca presented Tressel with a framed portrait of Vince Lombardi, pointing out the resemblance to Tressel.

"That's one thing I've never been accused of before," Tressel said.

The new indoor WATTS Center (the Watson and Tressel Training Site) will be used primarily by the baseball and football teams, but it will also be available during inclement weather for other outdoor teams, such as soccer, track and softball. The location of the WATTS Center has yet to be decided.

Paul McFadden, YSU chief development officer, described YSU's need for an indoor practice space in the press release: universities with warmer climates or indoor facilities have an advantage.



YSU President David Sweet with the Watson and Tressel families during a press conference Monday that announced their donation. Photo by Robert Boehm.

The WATTS Center will also benefit local youth organizations and high schools, according to the university press release.

The goal of the Centennial Capital Campaign is \$43 million, and current donations amount to \$32 million.

The money will partially fund the new Williamson College of Business Administration building. Money will also go to scholarship and faculty

endowments and the Rich Center for Autism.

The Watsons and Tressels teamed up in 2003 to donate \$250,000 to the Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center.

Frank Watson, 1949 graduate of YSU, led the campaign to raise \$16 million to build Stambaugh Stadium.

Frank and Norma Watson's daughter please see *Donation*, PAGE 2

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

Studies in Spain translate into new perspectives

Brad Trumppower
Jambar Contributor

After studying at the University of Seville in Spain in 2005, recent graduate Ashley Anderson recommends the experience to other students.

"You should experience as much as you can and travel as much as possible. Be open-minded and don't have any expectations," she said.

It was easy for her to get involved. Where YSU's study abroad program was once unorganized and under-pro-

moted, Ashley found the Center for International Studies and Programs in Jones Hall is more helpful to students now than in the past.

Anderson wanted to experience international life because she felt like she was missing something.

The CISP also helps students with the financial considerations of studying abroad.

According to Jef C. Davis, director of the CISP, YSU loans, scholarships and grants can be applied to studying abroad. In some cases, students who were

not previously eligible for grants and other types of aid become eligible, Davis said. Students' tuition at host schools is often near the YSU rate, he said.

Students also need to meet with their advisor to talk about the transfer of credits to YSU and how a semester abroad fits into the student's academic plan, Anderson said. Getting department chair approval can help avoid wasted classes and money.

Anderson stressed that this is a student-driven process. She said it should be something stu-

dents are motivated about. This includes doing research on where you would like to go.

There are many options for host schools, Davis said. The CISP website lists 30 schools, but there are many more.

Since many foreign institutions teach in English, language is not necessarily a limiting factor when choosing a destination.

Anderson chose to live with a host family in Seville. Another option offered by some institutions is to live in a dorm setting with other American students.

In retrospect, it was the best choice, she said, because she got more out of the experience.

"Living with the host family, I was never left out," she said. Anderson traveled with her host family and got to experience Spanish culture first hand.

Students can also choose to stay abroad after their semester is done. Anderson went backpacking through Europe after school let out.

Some schools also offer field trip packages to go traveling on the weekends, Anderson said.

CULTURE

Can summer love survive?

Sarah Sole
News Editor

As Hot 101 broadcasts Justin Timberlake's "Summer Love" across Youngstown, The Jambar asks, does love really fizzle out with the summer heat?

YSU students and professionals say no. Successful love, including summer love, they say, depends upon individual maturity level.

Freshman Amy Hermance appreciates maturity.

After meeting a guy at a medieval fair while she was selling art, Hermance became friends with him and invited him to prom.

A relationship has not started yet, but Hermance said they can still be friends. "He's sweet on me, but I need someone who's a little more responsible."

The ability to have a successful relationship varies from person to person, Hermance said.

"I don't think that an entire season should be blamed for bad relationships," she said. If there is a good connection, individuals should see where it takes them.

Christine Yukech, a doctorate student, thinks there is more opportunity to meet people in the summer.

"I think timing is everything," Yukech said. If someone is graduating, a relationship is

more likely to last.

College relationships sometimes last 6 or 7 months, Yukech said. If relationships do not have the right timing, then they fizzle out. Having things in common makes staying in a relationship easier, she said.

Some students feel summer relationships could become complicated if distance is an issue.

People might meet more individuals from other states during the summer, Sophomore Kevin Bailey said. This might make it harder to keep in touch. "You're not spending as much time with them," he said.

Sophomore Stephanie Domenick agrees.

If people went to different colleges, then staying in a relationship would be difficult, Domenick said. "It just depends on the people."

A good relationship requires communication and trust, Domenick said.

Robert Sutak, licensed independent social worker at the Canfield Counseling Clinic, offered additional tips for healthy relationships.

Couples should communicate and treat each other fairly, Sutak said. In unsuccessful relationships, one party often gives up or does not play fairly. "They drift away," he said.

"The key is, there has to be that chemistry," Sutak said. The chemistry has to keep growing with time.

Sutak said relationship success is based upon maturity level. He does not, however, believe

summer relationships are harder to maintain than relationships started at other parts of the year, although he said younger individuals might have summer flings.

"If it's a good match, it doesn't matter when they meet," Sutak said.

Some students stress the importance of age.

Younger kids attending carnivals in the summertime might not understand the concept of a relationship, Isaiah Anderson, a senior, said. College students are more mature, so their relationships will have a greater chance of surviving. "I think it just depends on the age," he said.

Sophomore Tanesha Madison said the ability to stay in a long-term relationship comes with age. "If you're younger, it's like a fling," she said.

Madison met her significant other in court when they sat next to each other. After meeting



MCT Campus

again through mutual friends, they remembered seeing each other before, she said.

"We started out being friends for the first year," Madison said. Although they were younger, they stuck together. The couple has been together for 12 years.

Madison advises people to try being friends first before they date. "It can always lead to something," she said.

From *Offenders*, PAGE 1

police department near Wood Street, Remias said. "We have their information. We really haven't had a problem with any of them."

A new law regarding sex offenders may have a positive effect on security.

The law, which went into effect July 1, changed the classification system for sex offenders, Emery said. Offenders in the Tier 1 category must register their addresses annually for 15 years from the date of their release. Offenders in the Tier 2 category must register biannually for 25 years. Offenders in the Tier 3 category must register every 90 days for the rest of their lives.

There is going to be a significant increase in Tier 3 individuals due to reclassification, Emery said.

The Attorney General's office will be sending letters to sex offenders regarding the changes, he said.

As the officer responsible for registering sex offenders, Emery said he tries to do some research to make sure sex offenders' addresses are updated. "I'm one person," he said.

"It's the offender's responsibility to report changes," Emery said.

In addition to being required to report their addresses, sex offenders also face regulations if they decide to attend college.

While sex offenders are allowed to attend YSU, they are not allowed to reside in university housing, Emery said.

Housing cannot force students to be truthful on applications, Sperlazza said. If housing were to find out about a student submitting an untruthful application, that would be a strong case for removal from housing.

Sperlazza said he would be surprised if other colleges ran criminal background checks on every student housing application. "That's just not realistic," he said.

If a sex offender was to attend YSU, YSUPD would probably put the offender's information on YSU's Web site, Remias said.

"We try to go above and beyond what the law requires," Remias said.

Remias stresses the importance of student awareness.

"Just call in people that don't look

right. We're here to check them out," Remias said.

Some students are appreciative of the police's efforts.

Johnnethen Pierce, a junior, said he has little to complain about in terms of campus safety.

"The police presence is great," Pierce said. "They're always around. I feel they're very accessible."

Although he knew the sex offender map was available, Pierce said he has not looked at since he has limited Internet availability.

Freshman Jamie Butler said she feels safe on campus and she was unaware that the student escort service was available. "I don't really have issues. The rest of Youngstown, I'm not fond of."

Qualifying Schools

The Youngstown Early College and The Rich Center for Autism are both schools on YSU campus and are not identified on a map on The Mahoning County Sherriff's Department Web site that shows where sex offenders live.

Ohio Revised Code 2950.031 prohibits convicted sex offenders from residing or "occupying residential premises within one thousand feet of any school premises." This rule is part of the sex offender legislation commonly called Megan's Law.

There is some debate on whether Megan's Law can be applied to either school.

The YEC houses students in grades nine through 12, its location is not shown on the sex offender map.

While he is familiar with the general issue, YSU President Sweet said he was not aware of YEC and the Rich Center not being recognized on the map. "I find it difficult to understand why they would not be included," he said.

Sweet said he was concerned that there might be a misinterpretation. "It's something that I would like to look into."

Emery said the university does not fall under a qualifying school. He has been investigating the reason why YEC is not a qualifying K-12 school. "I've been trying to get a determination from the Attorney General's office."

Although YEC students get high school

credit, they take college courses, Emery said. "This is not your normal high school. You're looking at a college setting." YEC is not a charter school, he said, comparing it to an internship experience. "The problem lies with where the school is situated."

Emery has his doubts about the current rules regarding the distance that sex offenders can live from K-12 schools.

"I think it needs some tweaking," he said.

Others differ on the status of YEC. Remias said he believes YEC is not a qualifying K-12 school. The Rich Center is a daycare, so it too would not be a qualifying school, he said.

Rick Dickinson, deputy executive director/general counselor for the Ohio School Boards Association, said the Ohio Revised Code defined a school as a "parcel of land on which any school is situated." The definition is extremely broad, he said. A school means any school operated by the board of education, Dickinson said. This would include public, non-public, and community schools.

If YEC were a public or community school, it would be clear that Megan's Law would apply, Dickinson said. If it were run out of YSU, then the law would be harder to apply.

Dickinson said he thought it would be likely that Megan's Law would apply to YEC. "You certainly would want it to," he said.

Mike Hubbell, education consultant at the Ohio Department of Education, said YEC is listed as Youngstown City Public School and the Rich Center is listed as a private institution.

Georgia Backus, director of the Rich Center for Autism, said Megan's Law covers the center.

Backus said the Rich Center has full confidence in both the YSU and the Youngstown Police. She also explained the Rich Center's security measures.

"Our kids are not mobile without adult support," Backus said. "Our kids are in our eyesight the whole time they are here." Individuals wishing to gain entrance to the center must be buzzed in, she said.

Backus knows this is not the case with YEC students.

"YEC kids are all over campus," Backus said.

From *Donation*, PAGE 1

Ellen, former vice president of trading for Butler Wick and Co., is married to Jim Tressel.

Tressel's record of 135-57-2 skyrocketed the Penguins to four Division I-AA championships and was a four-time pick as the Division I-AA National Coach of the year.

In seven seasons at Ohio State, he has guided the Buckeyes to six bowl appearances, three big ten titles and one national championship.

Tressel summed up both his and Watson's philosophy toward YSU. "Pay back, pay forward," Tressel said.

"YSU will always hold a special place in my heart," Tressel said in the press release. Before moving to OSU in 2001, Tressel was head coach of the Penguins for 15 years.

Jambar Classifieds

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To apply see Lynn Haug in the Kilcawley Center Staff Office, and ask for a Jambar application

Deadline to apply is July 23, 2007

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Distributor position available beginning August 27. Must be available between 7 and 8 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday Mornings to distribute The Jambar. Must be dependable. For additional information, contact Olga at 330-941-3094, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. or stop by The Jambar office located in the basement of Fedor

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Opinion



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OUR SIDE

Remembering Herbert, looking ahead

The death of Youngstown State University Provost Robert Herbert means change for YSU.

With his role as vice president of academic affairs now vacant, the university is at a turning point.

During his two years at YSU, Herbert reorganized. The College of Arts and Sciences became the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, and the College of Engineering and Technology became the College of Science Technology Engineering. Both launched July 1 with a new founding dean.

Herbert was in charge of a new academic plan for the Youngtown Early College and was a representative for YSU at the Northeast Ohio Universities Collaboration and Innovation Study Commission. The study aims to make college more accessible and affordable, and improve the quality of higher education in Northeast Ohio.

He also played a vital role in the self-study as part of the re-accreditation process.

His actions did not come without controversy. At an April 4 meeting of the Academic Senate a resolution to pass a vote of no confidence against Herbert was tabled.

Herbert was also accused of tampering with a professor's application for tenure at Stephen F. Austin University. After an investigation Hebert was cleared of the accusation.

In a short time, Herbert had an impact on the university. Many of the projects he undertook have great benefits for YSU and its students.

Now the university must find someone to fill his shoes.

Information about how the provost's job responsibilities will be divided has not yet been publicly released. President Sweet has said to expect an announcement next week.

The administration could give students and faculty more information as they make decisions in private meetings. The YSU community expects answers to these unresolved issues.

What will happen to the many projects that Herbert spearheaded? When will the search for a new provost begin?

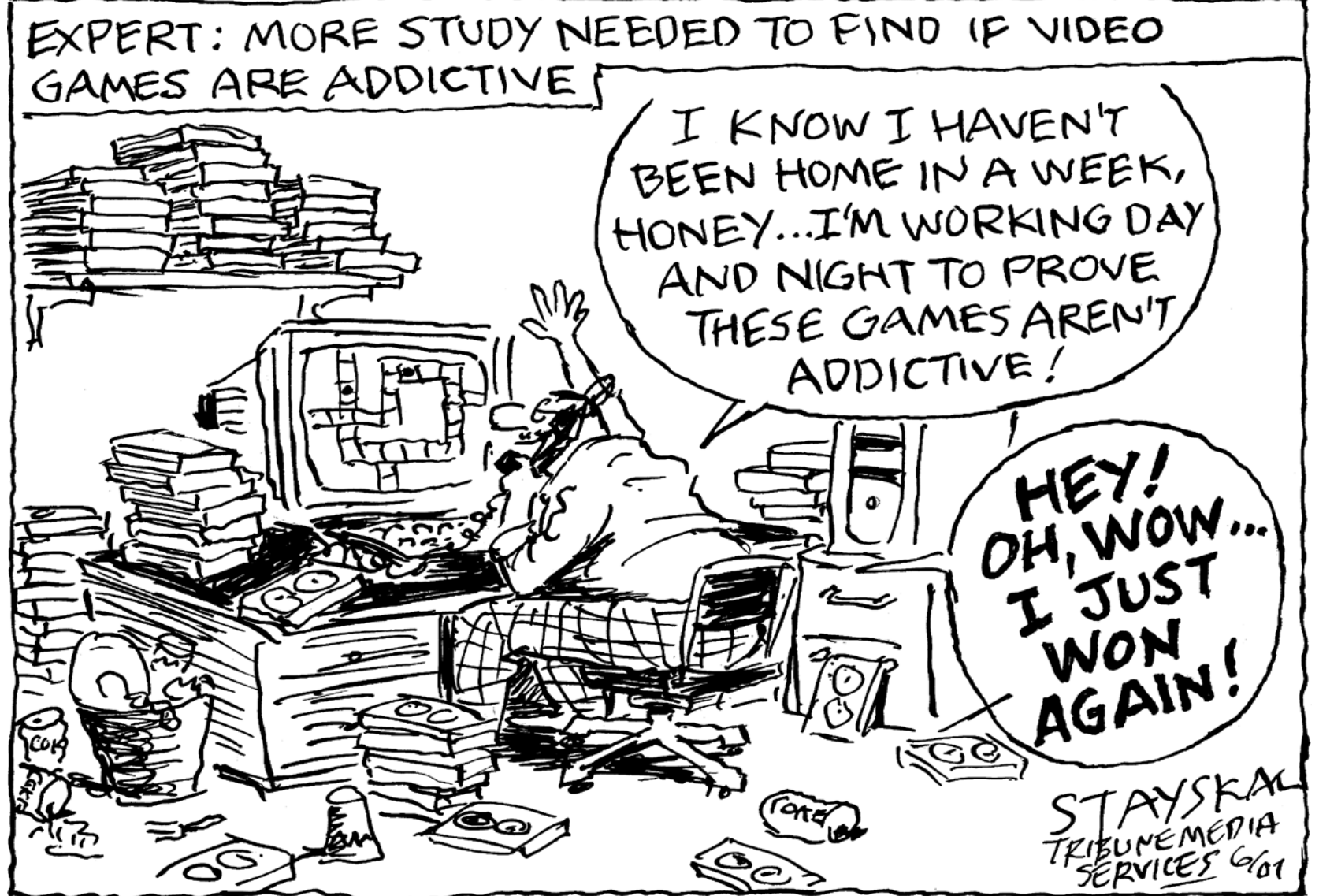
While the meetings attempt to answer these questions, the importance of Herbert's position allows for no delay. YSU awaits a response.

The Jambar editorials reflect the opinions of The Jambar and its Editorial Board members. Those wishing to schedule meetings with the Editorial Board should call the editor in chief.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters must be typed and should not exceed 400 words. Each letter must include a name and telephone number for verification purposes. Submissions are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters must be received by noon Friday for Tuesday's edition and by noon Tuesday for Thursday's edition.

The Jambar will not print letters that libel others or threaten harm. The editor in chief reserves the right to reject letters that do not follow policy. The views and opinions expressed in published letters do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff or YSU faculty, staff or administration.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Learn and remember from grief

Editor,

This last weekend, I was at the Summer Arts Festival enjoying the beautiful booths, music, cultural dances and exquisite food when I learned of the terrible news that Provost Herbert had passed away.

Herbert was a protector, promoter and supporter of Student Diversity Council's vision: a definition of diversity that includes all students and faculty. I never realized the true impact one person had on such an important issue, but we have lost one of the best.

In the diversity field, we talk of how everyone must pull together; Provost Herbert was chief among those calling for us all to "get out of our silos." Rather than giving cover when diversity departments

fail to produce, Herbert instead wanted to focus on the root of the problems!

We were set to discuss many important issues that students have been demanding for some time at the September University Diversity Council. Now, not only has a friend and mentor passed away, but so too, I fear, does the firm voice of reason that he possessed.

Most students did not have the privilege of personally interacting with him in the capacity that I did, although he made an awesome attempt to interact with them. A man of vision, dedication and even controversy — whether you agreed with him or not, you could not help but to respect his concentration.

The thoughts, prayers and sympathies of the Student Diversity Council, and myself, go out to his family.

The Provost was always someone I could count on to tell me the

way it was, not the way YSU wanted things to appear. In a university filled with serpents, Provost Herbert was someone we could count on to go out on the limb, not hiding the problems of Academics Affairs, but unveiling the curtain of protectionism that often plagues other areas of the University.

He was brave enough to face any storm that came his way, instead of, as he put it, "wagon training around those at fault to protect the guilty." Although I did not always agree with him, I am unashamed to say that Student Diversity Council shall miss the man, his spirit and his drive.

YSU grieves, but hopefully from this grief we shall learn from and remember a man who was always there when diversity needed a sound, reasonable and clear head, and when YSU needed someone to "stir the pot."

Joe Iesue
Student Diversity Council President

Accessibility response not good enough

Editor,

Many thanks to The Jambar for its prominent coverage on disability issues on campus, and especially to Jain Savage for her thorough documenting of the kind of problems that handicapped people run into.

It is very true that until one is handicapped, one remains blissfully unaware of such problems. Having spent a large portion of my adult life as an able-bodied world traveler, I experience a new form of patriotism in my appreciation of our nation's legislative assurances of open access to public buildings.

As my ambulatory capabilities wane due to my MS, I sometimes joke that the only thing that I can do with much confidence is — go to work. Human compassion is our finest resource, and therefore I find lack of vision on the part of administrators, architects and engineers all the more disconcerting.

I have never been one to meekly sit by and wait for

someone to notice my problems, and I am perfectly capable of asking for assistance when it is needed. But each time I must ask, I am reminded of my disability and like Blanche Dubois in Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire," I have always depended upon the kindness of strangers, even when no such stranger happens by.

Handicapped accessibility on the other hand, mandates a higher form of social conscience. We come to expect rights, not privileges. Therefore, it is not enough that YSU responds to individual needs and complaints. Students and faculty who enter buildings with armloads of books can also benefit from automatic door openers; temporarily disabled athletes might appreciate university vehicles with wheelchair access; uneven pavements can trip up the casual jogger. Unfortunately, but perhaps not by accident, the hardest place to find a handicapped parking space on campus is in the vicinity of Tod Hall.

Melissa T. Smith
Foreign Languages and Literatures Professor

COMMENTARY

The 100-calorie snack: bet you can't eat just one

Rex W. Huppke
Chicago Tribune

In this nation of bulging nibblers, it appears we're able to resist a big bag of Oreo cookies about as well as a hungry hound can keep off an untended platter of ham.

But that's OK. Who needs the quaint, pre-obesity epidemic concept of self-control when the snack food industry has so graciously stepped in to control ourselves for us?

Waddle on down, fellow Americans, to the local grocery store and witness the proliferation of snacks sold in individually wrapped, 100-calorie packages. Popcorn, cupcakes, chips. Even Keebler cookies — all miniaturized, as if actually made by elves. You'd think there were a national Cheetos shortage and we've been reduced to government rations.

For a country that not long ago tried to supersize everything — drinks, meals, vehicles, pants — this is undoubtedly a healthy trend.

"These foods aren't very healthy," said Christine Gerbstadt, a registered dietitian with the American Dietetic Association and, clearly, a professional buzz-kill. "They don't contribute a lot of nutrients to the diet and they shouldn't be consumed with regularity."

Aw, c'mon, they're so tasty. In

fact, it's almost impossible to eat just one ...

Oops. Maybe that's the problem. "From my personal experience in weight control, very few people who use the 100-calorie snacks are successful at limiting themselves to one pack," Gerbstadt said. "They end up eating two or three of them."

It almost seems as if that was the snackmakers' intent.

But that's not possible. A quick look at these companies' advertisements and news releases reveals their sincere concern for consumers' health.

On the Web site for Kraft Foods Inc.'s Nabisco-brand products, the company asks, "Who says you can't snack as part of a healthy lifestyle?" noting that their 100-calorie packs "not only taste good, but you can feel good about eating them, too!"

When Frito-Lay rolled out its 100-calorie snacks last year, the company declared it "part of Frito-Lay's ongoing commitment to health and wellness." This from the company kind enough to warn us that some of its snacks are "dangerously cheesy."

Frito-Lay spokeswoman Aurora Gonzalez went so far as to note the inherent nutritional goodness of foods such as Cheetos or Doritos: "At their core essence, they are literally corn that comes from the fields,

some oil and some seasonings."

Indeed. They're practically fresh from the farm to your grocer's shelf, with just some minor enriching, partial hydrogenating and artificial flavoring along the way.

It's clear the always-weight-conscious yet predominantly chubby American populace has bought into the 100-calorie notion, rabidly stocking cupboards, desk drawers and glove compartments with teeny bags of treats. A spokeswoman for Kraft, which claims to have pioneered the 100-calorie pack, said the company sold \$160 million worth of the snacks last year.

Snackspiration theorists will likely assert that this wave of snack downsizing allows food companies to charge more than twice as much for essentially the same product. They'll say these companies are preying on a nation forever searching for a weight-loss plan that doesn't promote broccoli as a "crunchy, delicious snack!"

But we, the snackoisseurs and Doritologists of the world, know the truth. These corporate patriots are simply doing their part to save America.

Consider this brief history: In the mid-1990s, the economy was strong and we, as a nation, were hungry. We demanded our beverages in 48-ounce cups, our french fries served in small buckets, our burgers not just big but colossal.

As our appetites grew, we found ourselves needing larger and larger vehicles to transport our fat kids and buckets of french fries. The SUV craze began, culminating in the mainstream marketing of the Hummer, a vehicle of almost unlimited absurdity.

Life was good — at least until the last few years, when gas prices skyrocketed and we all began suffering high blood pressure and shortness of breath. The pure-hearted CEOs of the snack food companies recognized the problems. Americans were out of shape and running out of money, unable to squeeze their broad bums into the bucket seats of hybrid cars.

Supersizing had run its course. They knew it was time to begin "mini-sizing," and the 100-calorie pack was born, unquestionably the best thing in the world.

"It's not the best thing in the world," said Gerbstadt, that pesky dietitian. "Four ounces of low-fat yogurt with half a banana or a handful of walnuts and a piece of fruit. That's my idea of a 100-calorie snack."

Yuck. Yogurt and a banana — or a bag of baby Chips Ahoy?

C'mon, America. What's it going to be?

Feature

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THEATRE

Greased lightning hits the Playhouse

Laura Brown
Jambar Contributor

The Youngstown Playhouse has certainly spiced up their summer nights with the musical favorite "Grease" running through Sunday. While the playbill boasts, "Grease is the word," it is clear that "great" is the word for this spectacular show.

The awe-inspiring set design is incredible for a community theater. On either side of the stage are 50's-esque TVs that light up throughout the show. One TV even turns on as a broadcaster can be seen in the set.

Life-size paintings and cutouts of 50's movie stars are strategically placed on stage and a painting of James Dean moves up and down throughout the show to reveal the band. Of course there is also Greased Lightning, a hot rod car that actually drives on and off stage.

The performance begins with a choir-like rendition of doo-wop favorites immediately showcasing their wide range of vocal talents. This serenity doesn't last long, however, for the play then takes on a life of its own as an intense, high



energy musical.

Sean Philibin plays Danny Zuko, the 50's poster boy for greasers who has fallen in love with the goody-two-shoes new girl in town, Sandy Dumbrowski. He nails the role, proving that hard-core bad boys can still fall in love and sing beautifully too.

Meg Brautigham is believable as Sandy, the naïve, sweet-natured school girl who ultimately turns into a trash-talking, leather wearing sex kitten. Her vocals match that of Philibin's and she manages to stay strong even

through her challenging solos.

Cristina Cala rocks as Betty Rizzo, the ultimate bad girl meets boy toy. Her supporting role carries the show to a new level and her character's witty comments

the incredible talents of Khaled Tabbara as the Teen Angel to Meka Kalouris' Frenchy. Tabbara gives Teen Angel a comic character comparable to something seen on Saturday Night Live, combining audience participation, a sermon-like chant, and a James Brown imitation complete with silk cape. To cap off the audience excitement, Teen Angel gets his wings and actually flies.

Kalouris seems the most natural on stage, depicting her character's half-witted nature and accent superbly.

Overall, the play ran smoothly despite a few technical glitches. During "Summer Nights," the chorus overpowered Danny and Sandy — it was nearly impossible to hear the leads. Also, throughout the show the microphones kept cutting out, and at one point popped loudly enough to scare the actors.

Director Michael J. Moritz Jr. has drawn talented actors to a production that encapsulates what musical theater is all about. "Grease" is vocally impressive in all aspects, easily combining old school charm with new age comedy.



throughout the play bring many laughs from the audience.

By far the best scene and song is "Beauty School Dropout," highlighting

REVIEW

Transforming the big screen

Mike Minotti
Jambar Contributor

"Transformers" is eye candy on film. Fans of the original toy line and cartoon series who wanted to see giant robots fighting on the big screen will get exactly what they waited for. More surprising is the excitement between the robot battles.

The good guys are the Autobots, led by Optimus Prime (voiced by Peter Cullen, Prime from the original cartoon), and the bad guys are the Decepticons, led by Megatron (voiced by Hugo Weaving). Both groups come to earth seeking the Allspark, an energy source that the Decepticons



wish to use to enslave the universe.

Caught in the middle of the interstellar, giant-robot conflict is Sam Witwicky, played by soon-to-be Indiana Jones Jr. Shia LeBeouf, and his romantic interest Mikaela Banes, played by Megan Fox. Sam holds the key to Allspark's location. This makes him an object of interest to both sides, and to the military on Earth.

Although you could easily write the plot off as an excuse to get the viewer from one special effects showcase to another, the movie's story is well-told, the plot well-paced. Sam forms a relationship with the Autobot Bumblebee, who serves as a guardian to Sam and Mikaela. This relationship, while no means profound, helps make Sam more of an actual character instead of a plot device.

The movie's humor is surprisingly good. There were more laugh-out-loud moments in this film than in some full-fledged comedies. For example, many of the Decepticons call Sam by his Ebay handle, Ladiesman217, and they pronounce the ridiculous name with such thunder and menace that you can't help but giggle.

Even without its charming humor and decent plot, "Transformers" would still prevail as an awesome movie on visuals alone. This is simply a stunning movie to look at. The towering transformers have amazing screen presence and to watch them do battle is simply astounding; even watching them stand around is a visceral experience. This movie has some of the best



MCT Campus

visual effects ever seen on film, courtesy of Industrial Light and Magic.

While fans of the original toys and shows will enjoy this movie the most, it really has a broader audience appeal. I feel silly calling a movie with so many explosions a family friendly film, but "Transformers" almost feels like one. The number of on-screen fatalities is surprisingly low. You've probably seen movie deaths in a Disney movie.

This movie is simply a lot of fun. Never for a moment does it pretend to be more than what it is. It doesn't try to make any broad political statements, nor does it get lost in its own made up mythology. Director Michael Bay knew exactly what people wanted to see, and he definitely delivered.

SPORTS

Superstitious penguins get their game face on

Lou Gattozzi
Jambar Contributor

Athletics and superstitions go hand in hand, from staying off the lines in tennis or baseball, to talking to the ball in golf or the goal posts in hockey. Weird as they are, superstitions can be soothing in the game.

Some athletes find themselves doing the same routines before every game. Routines turn to habits and eventually become a superstition.

Baseball Hall of Famer Wade Boggs is notorious for his pre-game actions. Boggs ate poultry before each game, and entered the batting cage at exactly 5:17 p.m. for batting practice.

Goalie Patrick Roy, one of hockey's greatest, would talk to the goal post during the game for good luck.

Dallas Mavericks point guard Jason Terry wears the opposing team's shorts to bed the night before he plays that team.

Minnesota Twins first basemen and reigning American League MVP Justin Morneau stops at the same deli on his way to the stadium, orders a turkey sandwich, and eats it with a slush drink made by teammate Nick Punto.

Superstitious penguins Professional athletes are not the

"Two nights before a game I have to eat a spaghetti dinner."

Bob Perez, Senior

only players with superstitions.

At YSU, players on the softball team wear lucky ribbons in their hair for games. The baseball team wears eye black every time they compete — even at night games.

Junior Allyse Ledford needs music. "I have to listen to my iPod

before games, it helps me focus," she said.

"During the game Becky Hibner and I have a handshake before every inning when we are in the field, and after the game I always put my glove in my helmet in my bag," Ledford said.

Hibner has a few superstitions of her own. "I will wear my sunglasses for pre-game, but not during the game," she said, "and when I am not wearing my spikes, I never tie them."

Senior football player Bob Perez has a routine that starts two days before a game. "Two nights before a game I have to eat a spaghetti din-

ner," he said.

"On game day I always put my equipment on the same way," he said. Sometimes, superstitious routines serve a real purpose.

Senior baseball player Mike Turjanica said superstitions help him before games.

"I always have to wear my socks up, I put my uniform on the same way, and put my bag at the end of the bench." He said it simplifies things throughout a long season.

"About 15 minutes before the game I will go in the outfield to throw and do some digs to warm-up."

Turjanica said his superstitions and routines keep him on an even keel.