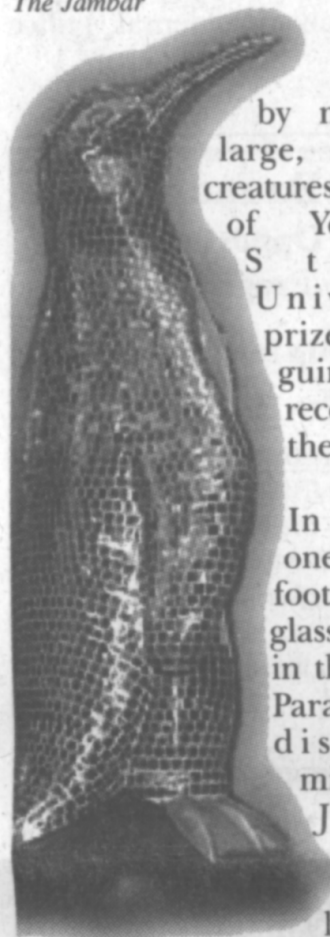


Pilfered penguin: Waddle we do?

Police seek community help in tracking down missing sculpture.

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The Jambar



Penguins by nature are large, flightless creatures, but one of Youngstown State University's prized penguins has recently flown the coop.

"Mosaic In Metal," one of 31 five-foot tall fiberglass sculptures in the Penguin Parade, was discovered missing on July 17 from its display location on

the south side of Tod Hall.

Catherine Cala, associate director of Internal Operations, notified the Youngstown State University Police Department, initiating the investigation into the sculpture's disappearance.

see MOSAIC page 4

MOSAIC

FROM PAGE 1

Thinking that Jeri Evans Cooper, the artist who designed the penguin, may have removed the sculpture to move it to its new location without notifying the university, Cala made multiple attempts to contact the artist. On July 20, Cala received an e-mail from Cooper stating that she had not picked up the penguin. YSUPD was then notified of the sculpture's disappearance.

The executive director of the Community Foundation, Patricia Brozik said that the missing penguin is insured for \$3000, but that the organization will wait until the police conclude their investigation before filing any insurance claim. "It is our hope that this thing turns up," Brozik said.

Though the disappearance is denoted as "lost property" on the police report, John Gocala, chief

of the YSU Police Department, said that if the penguin was stolen it would result in felony charges being filed against those involved in the theft.

Whether the penguin was lost, stolen or just got tired of staring at Moser Hall, many are questioning how movement of any five-foot penguin could go unnoticed. "It's not every day a giant penguin disappears," said Sgt. Rosemary Marsco, the YSU police officer who responded to the initial call. "A five-foot penguin just doesn't get up and walk away."

Or does it?

At least one local business isn't taking any chances. Michael Sabella, of Galaxy Seafoods on Belmont Avenue, said that he and the rest of the staff would be keeping their eyes peeled for the wandering waddler. "Well, penguins love fish, and he's gotta' eat sometime," said Sabella. "But honestly, I'm not too worried. We haven't seen

any of the penguins on this side of the city from the Penguin Parade."

According to the World Book Encyclopedia, penguins prefer the arctic climate, but can survive in warm environments as well. Because penguins must regulate their body temperature, a lost penguin wandering through Youngstown neighborhoods would likely seek out a shady back yard or a cool swimming pool to take a dip.

"You have to remember, they are wild creatures, so it would be smart to exercise caution around a 5-foot penguin," Denise Christenson of Animal Control Services in Girard said. "As far as I know, they're pretty peaceful - at least I would think they'd be. They're carnivores but I don't think they could contract rabies or anything like that."

Christenson advises that if anyone discovers a penguin lounging in their yard, the penguin should not be cornered or

approached and law enforcement agents should be notified immediately. "We can come out and net it, or cage it or grab it with one of the many hooky thingies we have that go around the neck."

Currently no reports have been filed with local police of Mosaic meandering around Youngstown neighborhoods. Worry grows with each passing day and many are suspecting that 'fowl' play is involved.

When comment was sought from the Detective Bureau of the Youngstown Police Department as to how one goes about searching for a burgled bird, officers remained hawkish about the seriousness of the crime. "There don't seem to be any detectives here who see this as a joke," said a YPD desk attendant. "There's no humor in crime."

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