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ONLINE STORY

YSU celebrates Day of Silence on Friday

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THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1931

Thursday, April 18, 2013

Vol. 95, Issue 52

Surviving the infection

Justin Carissimo
NEWS EDITOR

Beginning Sunday, Youngstown State University's Urban Gaming Club will host its campuswide survival game, Humans vs. Zombies.

After two years of being denied the chance to play by the YSU Police Department, the Urban Gaming Club finally received permission to bring the game to campus. The game will run through April 26.

Nick Uroseva, founder and president of the gaming club, said the game was first presented to YSU Police two and a half years ago.

"The new chief of police was more willing to hear us out and was impressed with our organization. As long as

we keep them in the loop, they don't have a problem with us running the game," Uroseva said. "There will be a lot of students that aren't playing the game, so police needed to sign off on it."

YSU Police Chief John Beshara said he believes the YSU needs to host more events like Humans vs. Zombies.

"We've met with the Urban Gaming Club to make sure we have definite rules and are confident they will work out well," he said. "Most events held on campus won't experience any incidents. We want to have events for people affiliated with the university."

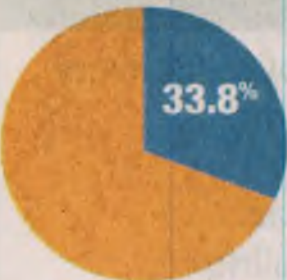
Uroseva and his group have traveled to play the survival game at various colleges and universities in the region—Ohio State University, Penn State University and Slippery Rock University.

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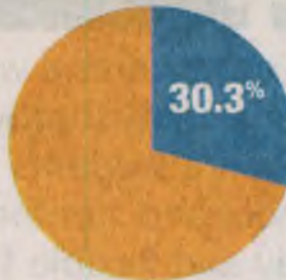


YSU students Lizzie Hanna and Danny Bogue square off against a group of zombies. A Humans vs. Zombies game will be held at YSU through April 26. Photo courtesy of Nick Uroseva.

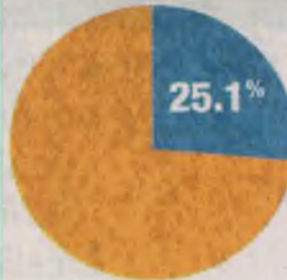
2010
TOTAL BUDGET
\$148,000,000



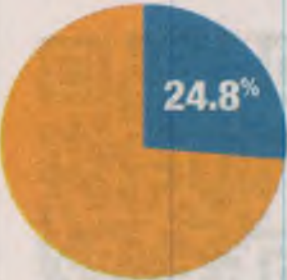
2011
TOTAL BUDGET
\$154,000,000



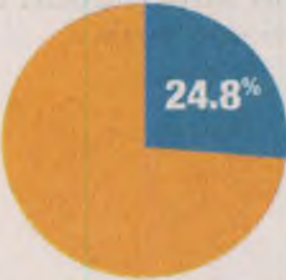
2012
TOTAL BUDGET
\$158,700,000



2013
TOTAL BUDGET
\$156,300,000



2014
TOTAL BUDGET
\$156,300,000



● - STATE FUNDING
● - TUITION + DONATIONS

SOURCE: YSU OPERATING BUDGETS. GRAPHIC BY KEVIN BUCK/THE JAMBAR.

Budget bill impacts YSU

Frank George
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The Ohio House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on its biennial budget, House Bill 59, on Thursday. The bill contains provisions that will impact institutions of higher education such as Youngstown State University.

Gov. John Kasich's initial funding formula for state colleges and universities has remained unchanged.

YSU is projected to receive a 1.1 percent increase in state funding, or \$408,743 more during fiscal year 2014. This is the first year that funding has increased since 2009. State contributions to YSU's operating budget have fallen by half since the beginning of the millennium.

The funding formula will award 50 percent of the state's contribution to the general fund based on graduation rates. Only 28.2 percent of funds will be awarded for course completion.

Rob Nichols, Kasich's press secretary, said this for-

mula gives state colleges and universities incentives to graduate students.

"Funding should be directly tied to graduation rates," Nichols said.

While the funding formula remained the same, House Bill 59 makes changes to some provisions that impact institutions of higher education.

The house added \$8.1 million to the budget to provide bridge funding to schools that will experience a decrease in state funding next year. This supplemental money is available only during the first year of the budget and will be given to institutions based on performance.

Sen. Joe Schiavoni said House Bill 59 poorly defines performance, leaving the parameters up to speculation.

"Whenever you are going to talk about performance- or merit-based pay, you have to consider the criteria. Who is the judge of performance? Who is to say? I would only vote for a merit-based bill if the requirements are specifically enumerated," Schiavoni said.

House Bill 59 also allows universities to establish a fixed tuition price for a four-year degree. Schools can enforce a one-time 6 percent tuition increase.

Sen. Capri Cafaro expressed concern with this tuition increase.

"The bill allows for a one-time tuition increase, but how often is that one time?" Cafaro said.

The House's budget removes Kasich's provision for an increase in college professors' workloads without an increase in compensation.

Annette Burden, an assistant professor in the mathematics and statistics department, serves as president of the YSU chapter of the Ohio Education Association. Burden said the House's decision to remove this provision is good for YSU professors.

"[House Bill 59] does not appear to have [the provision that pertained to increased faculty workload]. If that provision has now been deleted, that is very good news for full-time faculty in Ohio," Burden said.

Who's choosing YSU's next president?

Justin Carissimo
NEWS EDITOR

On Tuesday night, the race for Youngstown State University's next president was narrowed down to three finalists: Randy J. Dunn, William R. Decatur and James D. Moran III.

The search began with 47 names in March, three months after YSU President Cynthia Anderson announced her plans to retire at the end of the fiscal year.

The YSU Board of Trustees has led the 17-member presidential search committee, while consulting with AGB Search. The committee consists of 11 current trustees, two of which are students; two former trustees; a retired associate provost; two YSU alumni; and one YSU professor.

Sudershan Garg, the board's chair, said the remaining candidates will visit campus sometime after April 28 to get to know the university's VIPs as well as the community at large.

"The board will decide which candidate will be the best one to sell the university," he said. "We have to keep the constituents very happy."

The YSU chapter of the Ohio Education Association released an official statement regarding the search, expressing disappointment that only one faculty member was included on the search committee.

"We accept that decision and will move forward within those constraints. However, the four union presidents will be requesting an opportunity to sit down with members of the board in order to establish a line of communication that does not currently exist on this campus," the statement read.

Colleges and universities

across the state have used similar processes to select their presidents. Ohio State University used a 24-member committee — which included seven professors, two deans and three students — to aid their search for E. Gordon Gee in 2007. Gee previously served as OSU's president in the 1990s.

In 2009, AGB Search assisted in the selection of the University of Cincinnati's former president, Greg Williams. Williams resigned three years later, in a similar fashion to YSU's Anderson, who was also chosen with assistance from AGB.

The University of Cincinnati's board of trustees formed a 32-member search committee, which was twice the size of the previous search group. This committee elected the university's current president — who was previously the university's provost — without the help of AGB.

Nicole Blount, executive assistant to the University of Cincinnati's board of trustees, said the board doubled its search party to ensure equal involvement for members of the academic community.

"I guess you have to be careful with firms because they already have names on their list, so many of these people are just trying to advance their careers," Blount said.

On March 15, the Murray State University Board of Regents voted 7-4 not to extend the contract of President Randy Dunn and to begin searching for a new president.

In 2012, Dunn interviewed for the presidency of Missouri State University, then interviewed to become the state of Florida's commissioner of education.

According to The Murray State News, 46 members of

PRESIDENT PAGE 4

ZOMBIES PAGE 1

Rock University, to name a few.

Uroseva said he's excited to finally play on YSU's campus.

"We've had a lot of interest from students. Most people are as excited about it as we are," he said.

Players will begin the game as "humans" and will attempt to escape the "infection," or tag, by a designated zombie. As the amount of infected players grows, it's harder for the humans to remain untagged.

The elaborate game of tag requires each player to stun zombies with a foam dart blaster or a clean, rolled-up sock.

Two scenarios indicate the winning team. Humans can win by lasting through the game without being converted into a zombie, or the zombies can convert every human in play into a zombie.

Bert Amoline, YSU junior,

has been playing the game since his second year of college and has been traveling to different universities ever since.

"My favorite part of the game is being a zombie. I'm actually in charge of getting the zombies where they need to be," Amoline said. "We encourage players to put on makeup, but it's not a problem if they don't."

Amoline said the weeklong event is a great way to meet new students.

"Players don't need to change their schedules; you play between classes and take breaks whenever you want. You don't need to commit a lot of time to have fun with it," he said.

Students interested in playing can visit <http://www.hvz-source.com/ysu> to register or find information tables set up by the Urban Gaming Club in Kilcawley Center. All players are required to attend one safety meeting before the start of the game to be eligible to play.

YSU walks for a cure

Justin Carissimo
NEWS EDITOR

Relay for Life of Youngstown will return to Youngstown State University's Beeghly Center for its 12th year. The event will be held from 6 p.m. on Friday until noon on Saturday.

The American Cancer Society hosts the nationwide fundraiser for cancer research. Participants pledge to walk or run in the event in exchange for donations. More than 4 million people walk in the relays worldwide.

The American Cancer Society's goal was to raise \$1,000 in Youngstown. According to the Relay for Life of Youngstown's website, 29 teams have already raised \$22,084.

Francesca Kostek, income development manager for the American Cancer Society, said YSU has been receptive toward the project since its inception.

"The university has graciously opened its door to us year after year. We are very thankful to be able to use such an amazing venue," Kostek said.

Kostek said the American Cancer Society hopes the event will bring the community together to honor loved ones.

"Relay For Life is an amazing opportunity for many

groups of community members and students to spend 18 hours fighting back against cancer," she said.

Kara Miller, president of Sigma Alpha Lambda, will serve her second year as a team captain. Miller has been involved with the relay for five years.

"I stay involved because I love the message and raising money fund research and all the stuff they do," Miller said.

She said she's excited to walk and lead her team again.

"Yeah, I'm planning on taking a nap. We're going to try to keep a person on the track at all times," Miller said.

Lucas Politsky, YSU senior and Leslie H. Cochran University Scholars and Honors Program representative, has participated in relays at Boardman, Poland and YSU. Politsky keeps attending the event for friends and family.

"I want to support the cause. My friend's mom recently passed away from cancer," Politsky said. "We see people in our families and our communities, and it's important [to] support those that are dealing with this and fund the research to support them."

Kostek said the event is open to the public and students do not need to be on a team to participate.

This year's event marks the largest number of student teams participating in the relay.

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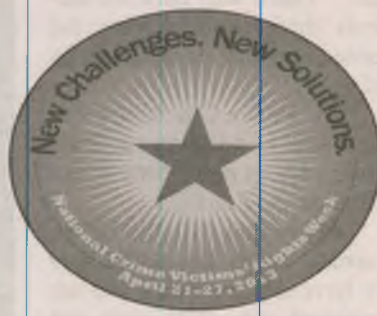
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NEWS BRIEFS

STEM sees increase in female faculty members

Since 2007 — when YSU’s College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics was created — the number of female faculty members in the STEM College has increased from 17 to 24, a 41 percent jump. Just this month, STEM hosted three events on campus, including the Edward W. Powers Women in Science and Engineering Career Day, which encourages middle and high school girls to pursue careers in math, science and engineering.

English Festival reaches milestone

This week, the YSU English Festival will celebrate its 35th year and welcome its 100,000th student participant. Around 3,000 middle school and high school students will attend the festival, held on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in Kilcawley Center. This year’s festival will feature four authors: Nikki Grimes, Sharon Draper, Chris Crowe and Chris Crutcher. The event will also include a book drive; participants are asked to bring in slightly used books that will be sent to schools on the East Coast that have been affected by Hurricane Sandy and to schools in the Philippines. For more information about the YSU English Festival, visit <http://www.yсуenglishfestival.org/index.html>.

Live on Lincoln block party planned for April 26

The Live on Lincoln block party will be held from 6 to 10 p.m. on April 26. Hosted by Penguin Productions and YSU Students Motivated by the Arts, the event will feature Nocturne, an up-and-coming New York cover band. Food and drink specials will be provided by Lincoln Avenue establishments like Inner Circle Pizza, Coyoacan and The Beat. Additional drink specials will be provided by SMARTS. A valid ID will be required for any drink purchases. The block party will be held on Lincoln Avenue between Elm and Hazel streets on the YSU campus. It is open to the public, and tickets are not required.

POLICE BRIEF

YSU police officer stops driver with arrest warrant

On April 10, a YSU police officer noticed a blue Chrysler traveling north on Fifth Avenue. The officer ran the car’s registration and found that the driver had an active arrest warrant out of Boardman. The officer then performed a traffic stop and placed the driver under arrest and turned him over the Boardman Police Department.

to be among this group,” Moran said.

Moran said he has visited Youngstown several times.

“What has impressed me the most about Youngstown has been the people who, in all my contacts, seem to love the university — the people I have known with a connection to YSU have a sense of pride that is infectious,” Moran said.

Moran said it would be a privilege to work with YSU students and faculty.

Decatur currently serves as executive vice president, chief financial officer and treasurer at the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence.

Multiple attempts to reach Dunn and Decatur were unsuccessful.

PRESIDENT PAGE 1

Murray State’s Student Government Association voted against Dunn’s return. Only one member voted for Dunn’s return.

Moran served as the interim president at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania from 2011 to 2012. He currently serves as the vice chancellor for academic and student affairs at the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education in Harrisburg.

Moran said he is “thrilled” to be among the finalists for the presidency at YSU.

“The strength of the pool of candidates is a real testament to the reputation of the university, and I am honored



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TO WRITE LOVE ON HER ARMS.

Writes to America

Caitlin Sheridan
REPORTER

To Write Love on Her Arms — a nonprofit organization whose objective is to present hope for those struggling with addiction, depression, self-injury and suicide — offers these words on its website: “You need to know your story is important, and you’re part of a bigger story. You need to know your life matters.”

On April 10, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars participated in TWLOHA’s letters of encouragement campaign.

TWLOHA is headquartered in Melbourne, Fla., and from there, the letters of encouragement written by NSCS members will be sent out across the country. The objective is to raise public awareness of mental health issues and to let those who are suffering know that TWLOHA provides real, accessible help to those in need.

Rochelle Houy, president of the NSCS, came up with the idea to participate by looking at TWLOHA’s blog. Houy said she felt honored to engage in this activity, adding that it was a powerful experience to watch people write letters of hope and encouragement.

“This is a topic that is very dear to my heart, and it was so wonderful to see other people getting so involved. I have been so blessed, and I just want other people to feel the light of the love,” Houy said.

Houy said this generation is full of people who live with depression and low self-esteem, just looking for others to express that they care about them.

“People deserve to know that they are loved, and it is up to us to pick up the torch and share the light of hope for a brighter future. Life gets better. Sometimes, people just need to hear that,” she said.

Some letters were written as postcards, while others included pictures. Many included messages like, “There is hope,” “You are loved,” “Your life matters,” and “You are beautiful.”

Aaleigh Barker, a member of the NSCS, said she recommends that others participate in this event because raising awareness of suicide is important.

She added that it is amazing how a few encouraging words can have such a powerful impact on someone.

“There’s always someone who cares for you and wants you to be a part of their life,” she said.

Kassia Naser, a member of the NSCS, said his favorite part of the event was working with fellow members and making creative letters for the victims. Naser said he felt proud knowing that he participated in an event that is of importance to someone else.

“I encourage others to support this initiative and help those in need of support,” he said.

GRAPHIC COURTESY OF TO WRITE LOVE ON HER ARMS

Student groups fight war on drugs



Rebecca Soldan, Deandre Radcliffe, Maggi Gratz, James Martin and Deaudra Edgerson discuss the film “The House I Live In,” a documentary about the war on drugs. Photo by Marissa McIntyre/The Jambar.

Marissa McIntyre
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
EDITOR

On Tuesday, various Youngstown State University student organizations hosted a screening of the Eugene Jarecki documentary “The House I Live In,” which explores the war on drugs and the misconceptions that go along with the battle against the black market drug trade.

The Bridges Out of Poverty Student Union, the Black Student Union and the United Purpose II collaborated with the Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative to host the screening.

Before showing the film, YSU senior Rebecca Soldan asked the 50 people attending to think about three

questions while watching the film: “Who is affected by policies of the war on drugs?” “Who benefits from these policies?” “Are we winning the war on drugs?”

Following the screening, Soldan found that the audience had similar answers.

Deaudra Edgerson, president of the Bridges Out of Poverty Student Union, said her initial reaction to the film was sadness.

What stood out most to her was learning that the prison sentence for possessing five grams of crack cocaine is the same as for possessing 500 grams of powder cocaine.

To demonstrate her point, she showed what a gram of baking soda looks like. Similarly, the film showed five Splenda packets versus 500 Splenda packets.

Soldan and a panel of four including Edgerson, James

Martin, Maggi Gratz and Deandre Radcliffe discussed these issues and others with the audience.

Gratz’s reaction to the film was similar to Edgerson’s.

“It causes me some sadness, and it causes me some anger. At the same time, the movie generates some hope that we’ll be able to spread the word,” Gratz said.

One of the topics talked about in the film was the idea that pain behind drug use is more problematic than the drugs themselves.

“We look at drugs like that’s the problem. Really, people want to ease the pain. So, the question is, ‘Why is there so much pain?’” Edgerson said.

The film also discussed how some children are essentially raised to think that they’re destined to sell drugs.

“Kids and families were accustomed to it. They wel-

comed it as if it were OK. To them, there was no future because that’s what their future was — to be a dope dealer,” Gratz said.

The student organizations all hope to spread awareness of the war on drugs.

“It’s time for our community to think outside the box,” Martin said.

Martin said he works with ex-offenders and teaches them how to get ahead in their lives. He also helps those coming to YSU make the transition from ex-offender to student.

Rebecca Banks, a member of the Bridges Out of Poverty Student Union and a volunteer with the MVOC, said it’s important for the participating groups to collaborate and have events on campus.

“I love how we supported each other in this endeavor,” she said. “It was a wonderful privilege to work with each

group.”

Their ultimate goal is changing the conversation about the war on drugs.

“We want to help educate students and make it fun,” Banks said.

The Bridges Out of Poverty Student Union was recently awarded a \$3,000 grant through the Raymond John Wean Foundation to hold mixers and help to educate the community.

“They were generous to award it to us to educate the student population. You never know the different things students may be going through on their journey, and we’re here to help,” Banks said.

Edgerson said they will be using the grant to bring more events to campus.

“I have a voice I think is loud. But with everyone else, my voice can be 300 times as loud,” Edgerson said.

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No sequestration without representation

The board of trustees — oh, sorry, the “search committee” — has narrowed the pool of presidential candidates to three. Two academics and a financier remain.

Students’ tuition dollars will pay the salary of the next president who will affect the fate of the faculty union’s next contract. Yet the board comprises the majority of the search committee. Students and faculty are effectively shut out of the process.

Two students, albeit student trustees, and just one faculty member sit on the committee, but with a student body of more than 13,000 and several hundred faculty members, this is far from adequate representation.

The remainder of the 17-member committee is current and former trustees, a retired associate provost and two alumni.

Ohio State University and the University of Cincinnati used diverse committees in their most recent searches. Seven professors and two deans represented the faculty on OSU’s committee.

Decisions like these should be more inclusive. The board was always going to make the final decision anyway, but we would have appreciated a bigger say in the process.

If the faculty contract negotiations in 2011 are to be a guidepost, the board will choose someone business-minded with a financial focus.

This, and the proposed changes in higher education funding from the state, could result in changes that affect the student body’s wallets.

So, when our tuition rate is at stake, we want a say.

JAMBAR POLICY

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

OUR SIDE POLICY

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

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The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com or by following the “Submit a Letter” link on thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 500 words. Submissions must include the writer’s name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer’s city of residence for printing. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters will not be rejected based on the views expressed in them. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries and letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinion with facts from reliable sources or if the editorial staff decides that the subject has been sufficiently aired. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitting writer based on these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. 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 YSU.



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

Boston's bombs and the hard-won lesson of 'post-traumatic growth'

Chicago Tribune (MCT)

The carnage at the close of Monday's Boston Marathon tripped Americans' natural psychic reflexes: Are there any more bombs? Any more cities? And, is Uncle Pat running that race again this year?

These reactions were more thoughtful, more muted, more knowledgeable than they were 20 years ago, when this nation began its own, most recent marathon of terror assaults on U.S. soil. The tactic then: a truck bomb beneath the World Trade Center that failed to topple the north tower into the south.

Two years later, a yellow Ryder truck-turned-fertilizer bomb ripped one face off the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City. And in 2001 the 9/11 attacks on New York and Washington carried terrorism to a ghastly extreme.

Before those three assaults, though, many Americans had forgotten — or didn't know — of a sorry timeline: Attacks that can reasonably be called terrorism, often involving bombs, are a treacherous staple of U.S. history. These events have slaughtered innocents, shattered families and caused enormous damage to property. Even within these last two decades, the toll has been steady, from the Unabomber's lethal mailings to the bombing at

the Atlanta Olympics to the anthrax attacks that all but paralyzed postal service.

We cite these earlier incidents not to diminish Monday's horror but to acknowledge a growing resilience in the American people. This is not yet Israel or Britain, lands where the relative frequency and ferocity of terror attacks has hardened many citizens against fear. This is, though, a nation whose people cannot be rattled as easily as was the case in earlier decades.

Americans never will take these dreadful events with anything less than initial shock and dutybound resolve: Who did this, and how should our leaders react? But there was more than symbolism at work Monday in the video from the first blast: more people running toward this ground zero than running away. For the most generous or other-oriented among us, that may be a natural response, but it wasn't a necessarily rational one: None of those leaping into the smoke knew whether the explosion they had just witnessed would prove to be the only one at that site — or merely the first in a concussive cascade.

Monday, then, confronted all Americans with a sense of helplessness, but not of hopelessness. We have been here before, we will be here again. We have survived many terror assaults, and whatever comes next, we will survive that, too. We have learned these things about ourselves.

Those with twisted minds and treasured grievances never will stop doling out damage and wedging their causes into headlines. But with each incident the next perpetrators lose some fraction of their ability to leave us fractured and flummoxed.

Late Monday, as most of America glumly but resolutely went back to its business, we thought of two moments past, one here and one overseas:

In the days after 9/11, fear tore at the American mind — often irrational frights that what had happened in New York and Washington suddenly stood a strong chance of happening in Chicago or other communities across the country.

In the days after the deadly bombing of the London Underground in 2005, authorities and riders more experienced in homefront terror almost instantly recreated the normalcy that had governed the subway — and their lives — before those coordinated suicide attacks.

The U.S. military tries to build that sophistication into its training: An Army resilience program, developed at the University of Pennsylvania, stresses the notion of "post-traumatic growth." In the layman's cliché: That which doesn't kill you makes you stronger.

Familiarity with terror is a miserable way to attain that growth. But we are here and surviving, a more resilient America.

Colorado prosecutors should have accepted James Holmes' offer of a guilty plea in a Colorado theater shooting rampage

Los Angeles Times (MCT)

Prosecutors have rebuffed an offer by James E. Holmes, the accused killer of 12 people in a movie theater rampage in Aurora, Colo., last year, to plead guilty in exchange for a sentence of life in prison. In deciding instead to seek the death penalty, the district attorney is ignoring significant indications that Holmes was deranged when he allegedly committed his crimes. Equally troubling, the D.A. said he reached his decision after speaking to families of victims.

We oppose capital punishment in all circumstances. But even those who support the death penalty should want to confine it to cases in which the defendant is clearly responsible for his actions and not in the grip of a serious mental illness. Holmes doesn't

meet that standard. Among other things, the troubled graduate student told a University of Colorado psychiatrist a month before the shootings that he was having homicidal thoughts that the psychiatrist apparently feared he couldn't control.

Holmes' attorneys can still offer an insanity defense, which is more robust in Colorado than in other states. For example, the prosecution would have to prove the defendant was sane and knew right from wrong, rather than the defendant having to prove he suffered from mental illness. The defendant can also argue that his disease created an "irresistible impulse" that led him to commit a crime. But jurors are often unresponsive to insanity pleas.

Arapahoe County District Attorney George Brauchler should have exercised prosecutorial discretion by accepting the offer of life in prison. That he declined to do so is doubly disturbing be-

cause, in explaining his decision, he noted that he had personally spoken to 60 family members of people killed in the shooting and that his office had reached out to hundreds of survivors and family members. Although Brauchler didn't say that he acted at their behest, the notion that victims or their families should drive decisions about the death penalty is a dangerous one.

A friend of one of the people who died said of Holmes, "I want him dead. I just want to be there in the room when he dies." Understandable as such sentiments are, they shouldn't have any influence over a decision on the death penalty. The whole point of the legal system is to prevent private vengeance and entrust decisions about punishment to judges, juries and prosecutors whose highest duty is to the law, not to crime victims or their families. The prosecutors in this case made the wrong decision.



Dynamic Duo

IRWIN



Cory Bartek
SPORTS REPORTER

Michael Davis and Tarelle Irwin both came to Youngstown State University in 2010 to run indoor and outdoor track and field.

Four years later, the two seniors are more than just runners and teammates, but friends who have certainly left their mark on the Penguins track program.

Irwin recalled first arriving at YSU, saying he was shocked at the big school setting and a bit timid.

"Coming into a [Division] I track program, you're focused on setting goals and accomplishing them," he said.

As time progressed, head coach Brian Gorby noticed that Irwin and Davis were within 1,000th of a second close to each other in their practice times.

"Coach put us together, and we were running one-two in most everything we entered," Irwin said.

Davis said that the transition from his small, country town of Vienna to a big city college was different, but he quickly adjusted to it.

"The guys on the team were

all nice, so it was pretty easy," he said.

Davis said that track has been a good experience and has helped him get through school. He is especially thankful for his friendship with Irwin.

"He's a good guy, and I'm really glad he's on the team," he said.

"We've become such great friends," Irwin said. "We don't care which one of us wins, as long as it's one of us."

Irwin said the two are constantly pushing each other in practices and workouts.

"It's funny; it's really more instinctive than it is verbal," he said. "If one of us speeds up in practice, then the other one does too."

Although they now take a more laid back approach in practices trying to stay healthy for meets, Davis said the competition between the two in practice was tremendously high in their freshmen, sophomore and junior years.

That competitive instinct rolls right over into meets as well. Irwin recalled a recent meet where Davis came up to him before the race and said: "I'm coming to win, but if I lose you better be the only one in front of me."

"We've become such great friends."

"Younger runners look up to us like we used to look up to other runners."

DAVIS

Both Irwin and Davis have goals that they want to accomplish before their times as Penguin runners are over.

Along with winning the conference in their individual events, Irwin hopes to at least make regionals in the 200-meter dash.

"We want to go out with a one-two punch and end up the second and third fastest runners to ever come out of YSU," he said.

Davis has very similar goals to his teammate, hoping to sweep all of the Horizon League events he participates in. His ultimate goal is to win an event at regionals.

As their time as YSU athletes winds down, both Davis and Irwin said it seems like yesterday that their track careers at the collegiate level were just beginning.

"It's definitely weird," Davis said. "Four years ago I couldn't believe that I had four years of track left, and now we only have a few meets remain-

ing." Irwin agreed.

"It seems like a split second passed, and now we're seniors," he said. "Younger runners look up to us like we used to look up to other runners. So, we try to lead by example and let them know that one day this will be their team."

Still, Davis and Irwin said they don't expect their friendship to end after they graduate.

"I always see myself keeping in touch with 'Big Mike,'" Irwin said. "He's a funny guy and a good friend."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Softball 1-1 in Eastern Michigan double-header

The YSU softball team split a non-league doubleheader with Eastern Michigan University on Tuesday, raising its overall average to 10-17. With a loss in game one, 5-3, the Penguins came back for the ninth win of the season for the second game, 13-3. Junior Casey Crozier had three strikeouts in six innings of work, while junior Samantha Snodgrass went 2-for-4 with four RBIs and hit the 20th homerun of her career. The Penguins will face Loyola University Chicago on Thursday and Friday at 3 p.m.

YSU baseball loses to Pittsburgh

The YSU baseball team lost to the University of Pittsburgh, 11-9, on Tuesday. YSU pitcher Russ Harless gave up nine runs on seven hits, including a seven-run first inning. Jason Shirley led the Penguins' offense, batting 3-for-5 with an RBI and a run scored, while Phil Lipari had two hits.

HL names its players of the week

For the second time this season, Silviu Mistreanu and Paula de Man have been named as the Horizon League's tennis players of the week. Mistreanu went 4-0 for the week with a 4-1 overall in the league. He won his singles match against the University of Illinois at Chicago, 6-4 and 6-1, and his doubles match, 9-8. Paula de Man went 4-0 this week as well with singles victories against UIC, 6-2 and 6-2. She has now won 13 consecutive singles matches and is 6-0 in Horizon League play. This week, the men's tennis team will face Duquesne University and Wright State University, while the women's tennis team will face Wright State on Friday.

PENGUIN SPOTLIGHT



Vicky Rumph

Height: 5'5"
Year: Senior
Hometown: Mount Forest, Ontario
High School: Norwell
Position: Catcher/infielder
Bats/Throws: R/R

Vicky Rumph is in her fourth season with the YSU softball program. The two-time Capital One Academic All-American has belted 16 home runs and driven in 89 runs, boasting a career batting average of .324 with 22 doubles. In her freshman campaign, Rumph started all 50 games, splitting time between third base and catcher; she also batted .327 with six doubles, eight home runs and 26 RBIs. For her efforts, Rumph was selected to join the HL All-Newcomer Team. She had 14 multi-hit games and eight multi-RBI games. She batted .371 with runners on base, .327 with runners in scoring position and .329 in conference play. Rumph had a .519 slugging percentage, and she batted .458 in a six-game hit streak.

Final exam: YSU's Spring Game planned for Friday

Steve Wilaj
SPORTS EDITOR

While final exams for students at Youngstown State University are still a few weeks away, the final spring test for the football team takes place at 7:30 p.m. Friday.

YSU will hold its 41st annual Red-White Spring Game at Stambaugh Stadium. The glorified intra-squad scrimmage — which is free to the public — will serve as an "evaluation tool" to the coaching staff, said defensive coordinator Joe Tresey.

"The interesting thing about the spring game is that when the lights are on, some guys play better," he said. "Some guys don't play as well under the lights. So, I think that's really an evaluation tool, because some kids will, all of a sudden, do things you don't expect them to do."

Through this evaluating, head football coach Eric Wolford hopes to answer numerous questions he has about his roster.

"I think there's a lot of things that can take place that can affect our post-spring evaluation," he said. "After, you can sit down with your coach and determine if this is the right place for you as far as where you are on the depth chart."

Wolford said the main goal is to get a better grasp of the "top 60" players on the team. Other concerns are the depth and pecking order of the offensive line, wide receivers and quarterbacks.

At quarterback, the Penguins are still trying to determine who will back up Kurt Hess. The two candidates are Dante Nania and Nick Wargo.

"I'm dying to find out myself," Wolford said. "I want somebody to step up."

Wolford added that in addition to the backup quarterbacks, he wants to see progress from the rest of the second unit on Friday.

"I always get on those guys because I want them to improve," he said. "I don't want them to think, 'I'm second string



YSU quarterback Kurt Hess scrambles during Saturday's scrimmage. On Friday, the Penguins will hold the 41st annual Red-White Spring Game at Stambaugh Stadium. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

and I'm behind this guy, so I have another year to marinate.' What happens if that guy gets hurt?"

As for the first team, starting right offensive tackle Kyle Bryant likes the progress that has been made since the beginning of the spring.

"There's always room for improvement, but the progress has been promising," Bryant said. "We have been getting better and better with communication, camaraderie and just becoming a more cohesive unit."

That being said, he's anxious to test the progress in Friday's game setting.

"It's definitely a big event, and it's going to be an exciting day to come out here and get some work done," Bryant said. "We just want to get some real live work against the defense, go hard and have a good time."

The YSU defense is now in its second year under Tresey and is hoping to improve on a mediocre 2012 season.

"I just think overall — the tempo, the

urgency and just the way we operate — we're starting to operate like a real defense," Tresey said. "Positives have to be that we retained quite a bit from the fall, which is good, especially with our starters. And we caused more turnovers [this spring], which we struggled with during the season."

Going into Friday, Tresey is interested in the play of his safeties and defensive line in particular. The defensive line lost four players to graduation last season.

"Safety-wise, we're a little thin there right now. We have to get a couple kids that are back up there to develop hopefully," he said. "I'd say defensive line, we're pleased with our progress with the new players, but we have to continue."

Friday's scrimmage marks the end of spring practice for YSU. Put simply, Wolford wants his team to head into the summer on a high note.

"We have to find out if guys can play at a high enough level where we can win football games," he said.