



TEDx Speaker Series: Jason Alan The Magician



Jason Alan, professional magician, shuffles his deck as he prepares for a card trick in preparation for TEDx Youngstown.

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Students, faculty and Youngstown residents will be in for quite a show when Jason Alan, a full-time magician, takes the stage at Ford Theater as part of the TEDx Youngstown event on Jan. 23, 2015.

Jason Alan was a Youngstown State University graduate originally from Salem, Ohio. He came to YSU in 2003 on a track and field scholarship and graduated in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in general studies.

"I had always done magic since I was 13 and performed. I used to actually practice on campus. I'd go to all the parties back then because I didn't drink, but then I would entertain all the frat guys that drank. So then if I messed up nobody would know," he said.

To differ from the usual presentation of TED talks, Jason Alan explained that during his talk, he and his wife, Stacy Alan, will be performing a magic show with a twist — the role of magician and assistant will be switched.

"Our big thing is that we're not trying to do a typical magic show. Every magician says that, but a typical show is that I come on stage, [Stacy] is my assistant, and I cut her in half, and so on," he said. "This speech that we're going to do is about changing the roles.

I'm the assistant and she's the magician."

Along with the role reversal, Jason Alan and his wife will open with a quick-change act, where he and his wife will change clothes to match that of magician and assistant.

"We're going to base the entire performance on magic. We plan on opening with a quick-change act, which is exactly how it sounds. We're going to open the show with that to get people's attention, to show them what we do ... something very quick and flashy," he said. "Then I'm going to perform a trick, and then we plan on reversing the roles, and [Stacy] is going to do the trick her way just to see what the difference is, and if it really makes a difference when the female does it."

Stacy Alan, a former supervisor at Child Guidance and Family Solutions — a non-profit mental health facility in Akron, Ohio — was introduced to the world of magic in 2010 when she got engaged to Jason Alan during one of his performances on a cruise ship.

"The magic community is such an interesting, close-knit community that most people don't really know about. I mean, a lot of people, if you say 'magic,' they know the name Houdini, they know the names David Blaine, David Copperfield, Criss Angel ... those are very common, but

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YSU OEA to Hold Strike Authorization Vote

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The Youngstown State University chapter of the Ohio Education Association union will meet Wednesday to hold a strike authorization vote.

This vote will not result in a strike, however.

Instead, a strike authorization — if approved — will grant the union executive committee the authority to call a strike.

YSU faculty members are now in their second month without a solidified contract — a situation Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez, chief negotiator for YSU OEA and a professor in the philosophy and religious studies department, called "unprecedented."

Palmer-Fernandez indicated the time is now for a strike authorization vote.

"The executive committee [of OEA] determined that the faculty ought to have a say in what has been a protracted negotiation," Palmer-Fernandez said. "It's time for our faculty to have a say."

Though YSU and YSU OEA reached a tentative agreement on a new three-year contract in August, one key element of this contract has yet to be agreed upon — Article V, the portion of the contract dealing with faculty healthcare benefits.

The university and YSU OEA specifically disagree on the best method to calculate employee premiums — the percentage of salary that a faculty contributes to their healthcare benefits.

In an email to a council of executive and administrative staff, Neal McNally, interim vice president for finance and administration, explained the university's suggested premium calculation.

"The university ... has proposed revising the manner in which employee premiums are calculated, i.e., a uniform 15 percent of premium instead of the current variable range of 11 percent to 21 percent," McNally said via email. "This proposal would reduce health care contributions for most faculty members."

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Ellen Tressel Comes Home



Ellen Tressel has returned with her husband, Jim Tressel, to the Valley after a 14-year absence. She plans to continue supporting charities and projects that seek to benefit the Valley and YSU during her time in Youngstown.

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Ellen Tressel, Youngstown State University's new first lady and a local celebrity in her own right, has returned to her home after 14 years, and

she is excited to be back.

Now having returned, Ellen Tressel said she is looking forward to events and activities at YSU, such as the Pink Ribbon Cheer Classic, which she was asked to speak at this year.

"We were both excited about the changes that we had

seen in Youngstown, and the growth the Valley had taken — the new industries, the new personnel that had joined the ranks," she said. "It was different, and it was a challenge we both looked forward to. And we haven't been disappointed."

Ellen Tressel uses her position and renown in the community to help further the causes and projects she believes to be important, and she plans to continue this trend.

"When you're in the public eye, when you have an opportunity to make a difference, you have to do it," she said. "We've been very blessed and we've been given a lot, and so we feel that it's our privilege and our responsibility to give back. It's our way of paying it forward, of saying thank you."

Ellen Tressel stated that she is not quite sure what the future may hold for her at YSU, but she looks forward to contributing wherever the greatest need is.

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Presidential Debate:

Tressel to Moderate Debate Between College Conservatives and College Democrats

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On Oct. 30, President Jim Tressel will be moderating a debate between the College Democrats and the College Conservatives.

Ernie Barkett, president of the College Democrats, said he pitched the idea to Tressel during an unrelated meeting.

"I just brought it up. I said 'Well, we're thinking about putting on a debate, would you like to be the moderator for it,' and he was right on board," Barkett said.

Tressel said he thinks it's an important event because voters have a responsibility to be politically aware.

"I think one of the most valuable things you have is a vote, and that you ought to be aware of what's being discussed by all involved," Tressel said. "This is about political awareness, and it's an opportunity to have the issues discussed and elicit some thinking and give people a vantage point from which they can be more informed as they head to the polls."

Christopher Anderson, the communications director for the College Democrats, said the goal of the event is to present both sides of several important issues and increase voter turnout this November.

"Our goal is that after this event people will get out and vote. No matter what party they're a member of or what stance they take on these issues, we're focused on making sure they get to the polls and take part in democracy," Anderson said.

Mark Stanford, president of the College Conservatives, said he sees the event as an opportunity to educate people.

"We want to help educate students on important topics and important political issues affecting young people that they don't necessarily hear about," Stanford said.

He said a lot of the stigma that surrounds conservatism could be dispelled if people set their preconceptions aside and listen to them.

"There are a lot of stereotypes that come with being a conservative that I think are inaccurate, and we hope to combat that," Stanford said.

Barkett said they wanted to do something with the College Conservatives before the election and a debate seemed like the best fit.

"We were trying to decide on an event that would educate voters. We were thinking about doing a meet the candidates event, but we knew it was very close to election time," he said. "So we met with the College Conservatives, we talked for a little bit, and we decided to have a debate because we thought that'd be great to educate voters, and we also thought it would be great to get some word out."

Stanford said they were also interested in having a debate when they heard that the College Democrats had re-formed.

Students who attend the debate can submit questions on Twitter via a yet-to-be-disclosed hashtag. Debaters will field audience questions at the end of each debate topic.

"Whichever questions we either decide are the best or if there are enough that we can answer them all, we'll answer all the questions at the end of each debate topic," Barkett said.

They will take time constraints into account, and Stanford noted that they had already reduced the list of issues they will debate.

"We want to focus on the things that are really going to impact students' lives as they move into adulthood," Stanford said.

Tressel hopes that students will come out to get informed about these issues.

"We're fortunate that we live in a country where you can vote, and I'm hoping that a lot of people come to get more informed, and then do indeed go vote," he said.

The debate will take place at 4 p.m. on Oct. 30 in the DeBartolo Lecture Hall.

YSU to Host Law Day

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On Wednesday, Oct. 29, Youngstown State University will host Law Day in the Presidential Suite of Kilcawley Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This free event gives students the opportunity to speak with representatives of various law schools at information tables.

Paul Sracic, chair of the department of politics and international relations and director of the Rigelhaupt Pre-Law Center, is the one responsible for coordinating the event.

"Students can come by and go to the table of the law school that they're interested in going to and they can talk to the admissions people about what they need to do to get into that law school and any questions they have about it," Sracic said. "So it's really informational for the students. It lets them speak to the people who often times are going to be the ones who are evaluating their law school applications."

Sracic encourages students who have any interest in law school to attend if possible.

"Even if you're not positive you want to go to law school, if you even think you might be interested it's a great chance to talk to people about what law school is like and get more information before you make your decision," he said. "There's no obligation for showing up. It's free and there are the experts representing their law school programs so it's a great opportunity to talk to them one on one."

Sracic also hopes that factors such as major and class schedule will not prevent too many students interested in the event from attending.

"I hope that all the students, regardless of major,

feel welcome," he said. "You can show up any time between 11 and one. ... The admissions people will be sitting there ready to talk to you, so stop by whenever you can."

Lindsey Harrison, senior pre-law major, has attended the event the previous two years and has found it to be helpful.

"I think it's very important so students see what's out there," she said. "They might not realize what each school has to offer individually. It was really beneficial to me because I didn't realize the different special programs or certificates that each school offers."

Harrison has received valuable information from the event in the past and hopes to again this year.

"I really enjoy reading the pamphlets that the schools give you," Harrison said. "They call them their 'view books.' It gives a step-by-step of everything you need for their application for their law school and an overview of how other classes have done with their LSAT scores and GPAs who have gotten in, so it kind of gives you a benchmark of how you would do in that law school."

Harrison also appreciated the convenience the event presents in terms of eliminating travel for students.

"I like going because it gives you an insight into the different law schools without having to actually set foot on their campus," she said.

Sracic views the event as a positive for both sides, as it saves students the trouble of traveling as well as recruiters the trouble of coordinating their visits to the college individually.

"This is an efficient way for the law schools to meet a lot of potential students at one time, so the law schools like this, we like this, it's really a win-win for everyone," he said.

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"A lot of what we've done since we've been here, we've done together. So, these are opportunities where perhaps Jim is the speaker, and I'm coming along as role of the support person," she said.

Jim Tressel said his wife is a natural leader and is a powerful ally to any cause.

"We were gone for 14 years, and she is excited about how she can help. [Her talents are] her ability to be a part of events and causes, to come together for people," he said. "She is a great team player and leader."

Jim Tressel said his wife loves YSU and attending the university has become a bit of a family tradition — she, along with her father and son, graduated from YSU.

Ellen Tressel said her favorite part about being back in the community is the people.

"I grew up here, so I have friends and connections, and my family is here. My mom and dad are still in Canfield. To be back home where your folks are is very comforting," she said.

In her childhood years, Ellen Tressel said she enjoyed playing with the neighborhood children, riding bicycles, playing baseball in the backyard and, most of all, swimming.

"We grew up with a swimming pool, and we were all swimmers. I had an older sister and a younger brother, and when I was about 5 years old, my mom and dad put an in-ground pool in, so we lived in the water all summer," she said.

After graduating from high

school, she attended YSU and graduated with a degree in business.

"I began an education route and then switched over to business. And actually, I never taught, even though my emphasis was on education. So, I've never taught a day in my life," she said.

While studying at YSU, Ellen Tressel said she worked for her father's company, Youngstown Welding and Engineering Company.

"I started out at the bottom, like most folks do, and worked my way up to Director of Purchasing. I went to school full-time and worked part-time. I loved the business side of the industry," she said.

After working 11 years at her father's company, she then took up a job at Jostens — a yearbook and class ring company — for a couple of years.

Then she worked at Butler Wick for 14 years, where she became vice president of trading. After leaving her job at Butler Wick, she went to Columbus with Jim Tressel in 2001, where he had received a job at Ohio State University.

She explained the story of how she and Jim Tressel met. In the late '70s, when plans began for the YSU stadium development project, her father was chairman of the campaign to raise money to build the stadium. They met after the stadium opened.

"Jim came in 1986, and in 1997 he contacted my mom and dad about some renovations that they wanted to do at the stadium and to the suites. At that point, Jim and I had

never met," she said. "So from that day, which was in June of '97, I met Jim. I thanked him for the tour and wished him luck for the season and followed it up with a note to him, a handwritten note, and had to go back to work. ... He got the note a couple days later, and then he called me. And he wanted to talk, and so our first date was a couple days after that. It was actually July 4 of 1997, and we went to a fireworks party."

They have been together ever since — they married in May of 1999.

Shannon Tirone, chief of staff in the Office of the President, is inspired by how much Ellen Tressel cares about the university and community.

"I think anyone who is constantly positive, motivated and engaged is inspiring. She inspires me with her never-ending energy and the way she gives positive reinforcement to those around her," Tirone said.

Tirone said how smart of a woman Ellen Tressel is, and how she makes time for everything that is important to her, including YSU.

"She has opened her home to student groups ... attended many university lectures and programs, has become engaged with the community [by] serving on boards and committees and gets excited to watch our various student athletes compete," Tirone said. "The number of things she gives to the community is never ending."

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that is just the surface. There is so much more that goes into it," she said. "It's really interesting to see the creative process that people go through to make magic happen."

Jason Alan and his wife travel all over the world performing in places like the Bahamas, Denver, Aspen, Colorado and Utah. They have two dogs, but no children. Jason Alan said that he had many influences at the university like Nicole Mullins and Frank Bosso, professors of exercise science, but no one has inspired him more during his career than his mentor Steve Daly — a professional hypnotist, entertainer and female impersonator.

"My mentor goes by Steve Daly. He's out of Vegas. Years ago, I won a bunch of competitions, and I thought I was very good at what I did. He invited me out to Vegas to mentor with him, and immediately he knocked me down and straightened me out. He taught me about show business," Jason Alan said. "He is one of the best entertainers I've ever seen in my life, and both of us owe a lot to him. He's like family to us."

Jason Alan explained that he enjoys the audience reaction more than the actual trick and said he thinks that

tricks are just puzzles for people to solve.

"The best feeling is when we create something from scratch and we go and perform it, and you just see the reactions. My goal is not to trick people; it's to make an experience of what it is. If I'm tricking you, I'm showing you a puzzle. A puzzle can be solved. If we do something that's crazy then it doesn't make sense, and it can't be solved," he said. "I used to do this at YSU. I'd walk up to a homeless person and I would show them that my hands were empty and I would rub my hands together and a hundred dollar bill would appear, and I would hand it to him and walk away. That's the type of reaction. There's no explanation. It's really the reactions and turning puzzles into miracles that I enjoy."

Stacy Alan and her husband expressed excitement for the event.

"I think it will be exciting. We were really happy that they contacted us, and we listened to a few different things," she said. "We've had some friends who had done TED Talks, and it is just a really great program so to be a part of that is really cool for us. We're really excited about it."





PHOTO COURTESY OF ROSS MORRONE/MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS.

Everet Thompson and Rebecca Banks were crowned Homecoming King and Queen during half-time of Youngstown State University's game against Southern Illinois University. Banks, an active 52-year-old nontraditional student, has received positive attention for her run, which she dedicated to her late son.

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Palmer-Fernandez, though, argued that this proposal — one that asks employees to contribute a uniform percent of their pay to healthcare benefits — would negatively impact those employees positioned on the lower end of the salary scale.

“The administration has proposed an amount of premium that would be devastating for any faculty member making less than \$60,000 a year,” he said.

Kevin Reynolds, chief human resources officer and a negotiator for the administration, declined to comment on issues regarding healthcare premiums.

Internal polls conducted by YSU-OEA suggest that — if struggles regarding contract negotiations persist — faculty members are poised to strike.

“72 percent are prepared to strike,” Palmer-Fernandez said.

Rumors have suggested that no-confidence votes for President Jim Tressel and the Board of Trustees could also be held during Wednesday's meeting, but Palmer-Fernandez did not confirm these rumors.

“I have nothing to do with a no-confidence vote,” he said. “If there is one being planned, I am not one of the planners.”

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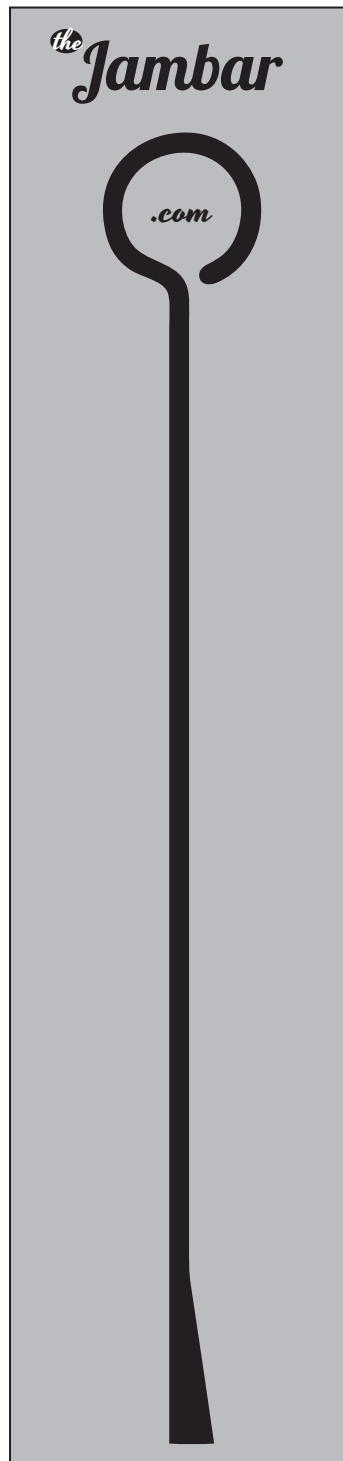
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NEWS BRIEFS

National Suicide Survivors Awareness Day

The 16th annual Candlelight Vigil will be held Nov. 15 at 6 p.m. at the Warren Campus of Victory Christian Center. Individuals who have lost a loved one to suicide are welcome to bring photos or signs. For more information call 330-372-3020.

Poets and Essay Winners to Read

A reading featuring William Greenway, professor of English; Diane Raptosh, National Book Award long list nominee; and the student winners of the 2014 CROW essay awards, will take place Tuesday Oct. 21 at 7:30 in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center. This event is free and open to the public.

Flute Festival Oct. 25

The Dana Flute Festival is Saturday Oct. 25 in Bliss Hall. The event, geared towards flute players of all levels, includes workshops, vendor exhibits, performances and master classes. Registration forms can be found at <http://web.ysu.edu/fpa/music> under the special events tab or by calling Kathryn Thomas Umble, festival coordinator, at 330-941-1831.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN BENNETT/LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT. A sculpture of the Virgin of Guadalupe stands in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, on Aug. 19, 2014, near the house of the widow of Guillermo Arevalo Pedraza, a Mexican man who was allegedly shot and killed by a U.S. Border Patrol agent on Sept. 3, 2012.

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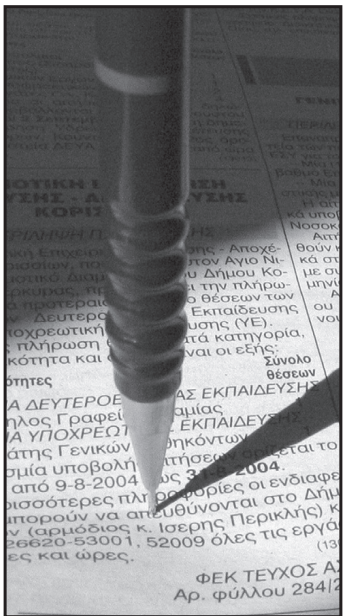
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Chairing Space Subcommittee Attracts Campaign Cash for Miss. Congressman

GREG GORDON
McClatchy Washington Bureau
(MCT)

As chairman of a House Science and Technology Committee panel over the last four years, Republican Rep. Steven Palazzo of Mississippi has been a vocal advocate of U.S. space exploration, calling for the resumption of manned flights.

That stand has served his re-election campaign well, too, bringing a pile of cash that helped him stave off a primary challenge last spring.

From Jan. 1, 2013, through Sept. 30 of this year, the chairman of the Space Subcommittee has collected at least \$73,000 from political action committees and employees for aerospace contractors. Among them is a PAC for Tesla creator Elon Musk's SpaceX Corp., founded with the goal of colonizing Mars.

The out-of-state donations are in keeping with Palazzo's overall fundraising pattern as he closes in on winning a third term in office. More than half of the \$882,620 he collected through Sept. 30 came from PACs representing special interests, nearly all of them from outside Mississippi, a computer-assisted McClatchy analysis of his donations found.

Only \$13,731, or 1.5 percent of his total, came in small donations — those under \$200.

The percentage of small donors "is far, far lower than we usually see, even with incumbents, who tend to get less of their money in small donations than challengers do," said Viveca Novak, a spokeswoman for the Center for Responsive Politics, a nonpartisan Washington-based group that tracks campaign fundraising.

"Voters might want to pay attention to that and the large amount of out-of-state money as well," she said. "Big corporate political action committees and donors are attracted to incumbents because they usually win. And you want to be on the winning side."

Asked about his donations, Palazzo issued a statement that sidestepped those issues.

"I'm proud and humbled to receive such overwhelming support from so many of my constituents, individuals and businesses, and I will continue to work hard every day to earn that support and best represent the people of South Mississippi in Congress," he said.

Palazzo fended off a challenge from Republican former Rep. Gene Taylor in a primary election battle and is considered a shoo-in to win next month's general election. He faces four challengers: Democrat Matt Moore, independents Cindy Burleson and Ed Reich, Reform Party candidate Eli Jackson and Libertarian candidate Joey Robinson.

So far, the congressman's re-election campaign has raised nearly as much money as he garnered in winning a second term in 2012.

Palazzo has reaped donations from political action committees for an array of space contractors, including the maximum \$10,000 each from Virginia-based Alliant Techsystems, or ATK, California-based Northrop Grumman Corp. and Maryland-based Lockheed Martin Corp.

Other aerospace PAC donations included \$9,000 from Chicago-based Boeing Co.; \$8,500 from Massachusetts-based Raytheon Corp.; \$6,000 from Musk's California-based Space Exploration

Technologies; \$5,500 from California-based Gencorp., the owner of Aerojet Rocketdyne; \$5,000 from the Virginia-based U.S. subsidiary of Intelsat, S.A.; \$4,500 from Virginia-based Orbital Sciences Corp.; and \$2,000 from the British-American Airbus Group, formerly known as EADS.

Executives of Pioneer Aerospace, a firm based in Columbia, Miss., whose products include parachutes used in space exploration, chipped in \$2,500.

Among Palazzo's biggest concentrations of money from a single employer is, not surprisingly, giant Mississippi Gulf Coast shipbuilder Huntington Ingalls Industries. Besides \$10,000 in political action committee donations, its executives and employees chipped in another \$5,000 in direct donations. The Shipbuilders Council of America's PAC donated \$1,000.

An accountant, Palazzo also has benefited from lots of high-dollar donations from colleagues in his profession, as he has in the past.

The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' PAC contributed \$7,999, hosting a fundraiser last February. PACs and employees of other accounting firms gave him more than \$29,000.

Palazzo got more than \$6,000 in donations from PACs for the National Rifle Association and the Safari Club International, representing the gun lobby. He received \$2,500 from the PAC for Koch Industries, led by brothers Charles and David Koch, who are seeking to advance their libertarian philosophy by pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into trying to regain Republican control of the U.S. Senate.

California Looks to Curb Methane Emissions

SEAN COCKERHAM
McClatchy Washington Bureau
(MCT)

Pressure is growing on regulators in California and Washington, D.C., to crack down on methane, a greenhouse gas that's 25 times more potent than carbon dioxide and is accelerating the warming of the planet.

Methane, the main component of natural gas, escapes into the atmosphere through leaks in drilling operations and pipeline delivery. Sometimes the gas is vented or intentionally burned as waste by oil companies, particularly in the Bakken fields of North Dakota.

The Environmental Protection Agency is considering new rules to target methane emissions from oil and gas, which account for a quarter of the methane emissions in the United States, according to the agency.

In California, the nation's second-largest natural gas consumer, Gov. Jerry Brown has just signed a bill requiring the California Air Resources Board to come up with a comprehensive strategy to cut such emissions.

"Although we've been taking action in various ways, we actually did not make a big effort to include methane initially in our climate program," California Air Resources Board Chairwoman Mary Nichols said Monday at the Center for American Progress, a Washington research center with ties to the Obama administration.

Nichols said California's climate plan focused on carbon dioxide, which isn't as potent a greenhouse gas as methane but remains in the atmosphere far longer.

Wall Street is joining environmental groups in calling for action on methane. A group of investors with more than \$300 billion in assets, organized by Trillium Asset Management and New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer, urged EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy this month to aggressively tackle methane.

"As investors in the oil and gas industry we are deeply concerned that methane emissions pose a serious threat to climate stability, accelerating the rate of warming in the near term and threatening infrastructure and economic harm that are bad for the country and bad for investors," they wrote.

Oil and gas industry representatives said they already were taking steps and didn't see additional regulations as necessary. They cited EPA figures showing that methane emissions from petroleum and natural gas systems have dropped 12 percent since 2011. Companies said they had been acting in advance of a federal rule coming in January that requires capturing pollution from fracked natural gas wells.

"We're proud to see our industry's efforts demonstrated in EPA data that show emissions are far lower than EPA projected just a few years ago, even as U.S. production has surged," Howard Feldman, the regulatory and scientific affairs director at the American Petroleum Institute, said in an email.

More needs to be done with the oil and gas industry, "the largest industrial source of methane emissions in the U.S. and, frankly, we believe globally," said Mark Brownstein, chief counsel for the U.S. energy and climate program at the Environmental Defense Fund.

California also passed a bill this year that seeks to force utilities to find and fix methane leaks in the state's natural gas pipeline and distribution systems.

The worries are about safety as well as climate change. Weak welds in a 54-year-old natural gas pipeline are blamed for a 2010 explosion that destroyed 38 houses and killed eight people in a San Francisco suburb.

Nichols said California would be working to put together programs to curb methane emissions, looking at agriculture — another huge producer — as well as the oil and gas industry. Cows and other domestic livestock produce methane as part of their digestive process, and state efforts to promote dairy digesters, which convert manure into power, have turned out to be uneconomic. Nichols said it was an ongoing challenge to figure out "how to really make these systems affordable."

"The focus here, of course, is primarily on the oil and gas sector, and they are the largest emitters ... but we also have a lot of methane being created by agricultural waste in large portions of our state," she said.

Nichols said there would have to be strong methane rules if natural gas was to be considered better for the environment than other fossil fuels, citing the push to replace diesel and gasoline in vehicles with natural gas.

"For us to get excited about this we need to see that there is a net environmental benefit," Nichols said.

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Youngstown State University

Law Day

October 29, 2014 from 11 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Presidential Suite, Kilcawley Center

Representatives from various law schools will be available to answer questions, distribute catalogs, applications and financial aid information. This is a unique opportunity for students who are considering a career in law to gather information about law school programs.

This event is free and open to the public.

Sponsored by the Department of Politics & International Relations/
Riegelhaupt Pre-Law Center

2014 Jewish Music and Identity Academic Conference

GABRIELLE FELLOWS
gabbymfellows@gmail.com

After years of tedious planning and hard work, the Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies along with Youngstown State University's Dana School of Music, were able to present the 2014 Jewish Music and Identity Academic Conference.

The conference is occurring Oct. 19-21 and will host scholars from all over the world. Over the course of the three-day period, Jewish music, identity and culture will be discussed via lectures, musical presentations and a film screening.

Helene Sinnreich, the director of the Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies at YSU and editor-in-chief of the Journal of Jewish Identities, said that a lot of

planning and effort went into making this conference the gathering she and many others hoped it would be.

"We have been planning this conference for a number of years, so at other conferences we have been able to get the word out and have talked to people," Sinnreich said. "We've been able to partner with some of the music scholars to be our co-organizers. ... We were able to put together a strong group of scholars that way. It's a really unique conference; many people are really excited about talking about the topic. The more people signed on, the more people wanted to come. It was a build up."

On Sunday, Maureen Jackson, ethnomusicologist specializing in Sephardic culture, presented her lecture "Mixing Musics: Turkish Jewry and the Urban Landscape of a Sacred Song," to a group at the McKay Auditorium in Beeghly

Hall.

There was also a reservation-only Indian Dinner held at the Jewish Community Center at 6 p.m. that night followed by a performance by the Om Shalom Trio.

Different events were scheduled to take place at the Chestnut Room in the Kilcawley Center on Monday, including different discussions, lectures and musical performances.

A screening of the film "Iraq n' Roll," a film about an Israeli rock musician named Dudu Tassa and his journey to bring the original music of his grandfather back to life, was played at Williamson Hall.

Sinnreich said that after the movie screening, many different musicians from the conference would be performing informally in Boardman.

"After, not well known to the public,

informally, the musicians from the conference are heading over Vintage Estates in Boardman to have an informal jam session. Joel Rubin, a well known clarinetist, will be there and they're just going to do an improv kind of thing and have fun," Sinnreich said. "There will also be some music professors from Dana. To see Joel Rubin, you usually have to pay some serious money, and there he is going to be, there up on stage, free."

The conference will come to a close on Oct. 21 after the topics of Popular American Music and Music in the Youth Culture are discussed between scholars.

For more information about the Center for Judaic and Holocaust Studies along with YSU's Dana School of Music, visit their websites at <http://web.yzu.edu/class/judaic/> and <http://web.yzu.edu/ccac/music>.

'I Put the Punk in Punctual' An evening with Henry Rollins

BILLY LUDT
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Punk rock icon Henry Rollins spoke at the Cleveland Masonic Auditorium Saturday evening.

At 9:30 p.m. the lights dimmed on the audience in the Masonic Auditorium and an eruption of cheering began. Spotlights from unoccupied balconies illuminated the front of the room.

Rollins took center stage, removing the microphone from its stand, wrapping the chord around his palm multiple times and gripping it between his middle and forefinger. Wearing his signature plain black T-shirt and Dickies pants, Rollins assumed a power stance and began to speak.

This was Rollins' first time, in the last three years, speaking in Cleveland.

"I have had good shows [in Cleveland] and have found the audiences to be quite faithful," Rollins said. "But as something that makes Ohio stand out? I can't think of anything. It has certainly never been a place I tried to avoid."

For those who have ties to the sub-culture of punk rock, Rollins is a well-known figure. He was the front man for Black Flag, arguably the most influen-

tial hardcore punk band of the 1980s. After Black Flag's disbandment, Rollins fronted his own band by the name of Rollins Band.

Aside from his time in Black Flag, Rollins has worked in nearly every facet of show business. He has done everything from voice acting in the popular cartoon "Adventure Time," to playing an institutionalized white supremacist in the hit television show, "Sons of Anarchy."

Rollins owns his own publishing company, producing books that pertain mostly to his travels. "Get in the Van: On the Road with Black Flag," a book published by Rollins, won a Grammy in 1995 for its audio book accompaniment.

Rollins began participating in spoken word well before Black Flag broke up for the first time. Since then, his spoken word engagements have taken him all over the world, delivering performances in venues from Israel to Cleveland.

The content of Rollins' speaking engagements centralizes mostly around events and observations of his many travels. Humorous, emotional and always engaging, Rollins' spoken word performances operate at an intensity that has not slowed in the thirty years he's been performing.

When asked of what advice



PHOTO COURTESY OF MELANIE LEVIFUCKER

Writer and musician Henry Rollins was featured at Bonnaroo Music Festival in 2011.

he could provide for students majoring in the arts, Rollins had the following to say.

"I don't know what to advise, besides maintain your voice and your artistic integrity no matter what you were taught," he said. "As far as being an artist, school is the last place I would ever think of going, that's why I don't know what to advise. Hopefully, you end up as yourself, not like what you were instructed in a room with a bunch of other people. I know very talented people went to school for art and have done well. It's just

that I don't know any."

Rollins covered a variety of subjects in the night's speech. His outspoken demeanor, extensive vocabulary and array of stories held the audience's attention for the two-and-a-half hours that he spoke.

Rollins spoke about the basis of his theoretical presidential campaign — sex, music and pizza — his misadventures with Motorhead front man Lemmy Kilmister and a vision quest he encountered under the influence of Cuban coffee and caramel, to just name a few of the stories he

shared.

Not leaving a second for breath, Rollins will be traveling to Europe next week to work on a film he wrote the dialogue for.

"It's been an on-and-off process of about three years," he said. "Since it's not mine, it's not mine to talk about and I don't want to steal any thunder from the thing, but it's a great idea and most of it is in the can."

Musician, author, poet, actor and advocate, Henry Rollins is the self-made man, never missing the chance to see something new and keep himself fed.



PHOTO BY ALAN RODGES/THE JAMBAR

The 2014 Fall Fire Fest, hosted by Penguin Productions, was a success this year with over 1,000 attendees. The homecoming event took place on Oct. 16 between 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. and featured a large bonfire, food and drink. Live performances from The Labra Brothers and The Vindys took place at the Green on Grant, with the opening act starting at 7:30 p.m. Attendees were urged to bring a blanket to the bonfire to keep warm, and then donate it into the Penguin Productions collection bin — which would then go to a local shelter.

LETTER — TO THE — EDITOR

Human Destruction in Higher Education

Students — of all ages — do not merely learn from the classroom. We learn from our surroundings, society, the culture around us and from each other.

We, the university community at Youngstown State University, are learning that the end justifies the means, that power lies with the corrupt and that the self-serving individuals will rise to the top. We are learning that experience, accuracy and efficiency are no longer valued, and that respect and tolerance are required as homage to those who least deserve it.

“How are we learning all this?” you ask. One school of such learning is fostered by YSU’s Human Resource Department. This department neither values its employee resources, nor adheres to laws and contracts. In fact, HR relishes in making opponents of supervisors and employees and even maneuvers the unions against one another. This is not a department of resources; rather it is a fountain of human destruction.

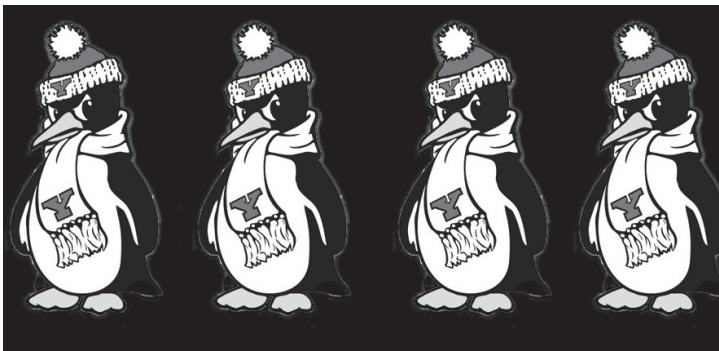
This destruction is readily seen in the arbitrary placement and displacement of employees without qualifications to perform the jobs they are assigned to, as well as the protection, and often promotion, of those with poor performance records. This then manifests itself in squabbles among faculty, staff and administrators, and is a great disservice to our students. How is it that we naively believe the students are immune to the inner workings of the university? The students see and understand far more than most of us.

But what are we teaching in the process? Today’s students are tomorrow’s leaders — literally. It is our graduates that will be making the decisions that govern our lives. Are we teaching them, and ourselves, well? For those students who manage to succeed, to push through and beyond the infighting, incompetency and apathy created by this human destruction, what will the outcome be? I pray they will utilize their knowledge and vast array of life experiences to build healthy and vital personal and business relationships that change the world.

As employees, we shouldn’t need to fight the system, fight to work under fair contracts, fight to do the right thing, fight for compliance to the law. Instead we should be able to focus on utilizing our efforts, talents and energy on serving our students. We have accepted complacency and have turned over our life decisions to others. It is difficult to accept that which is not truth, that which is not right. However, sometimes it is simply easier to believe the lies and to succumb to oppression. It is only by facing reality that we can move forward.

William Lloyd Garrison rightly stated, “Enslave the liberty of but one human being and the liberties of the world are put in peril.” Corruption and oppression create a sense of unity of purpose against it, in solidarity. We, the faculty, staff and students of Youngstown State University will stand strong together in solidarity against the enemy within, and cause the leaders of tomorrow to rise up in hope, justice and righteousness. United in truth, we stand strong together, strong against all forms of destruction.

Laurie, an employee at Youngstown State University.



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.

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The editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, the managing editor, the copy editor and the news 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.

YOUR SIDE POLICY

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.

EDITORIAL

Your Degree Alone Means Almost Nothing, So You Better Start Making Friends

Everyone has heard the complaint, “All the companies hiring want 3-5 years of experience. Well how am I supposed to get that experience if no one will hire me?”

College degrees have been devalued. It’s simple economics: the market has been flooded with college grads, gradually at first but much faster in recent years, and therefore having a degree is less valuable as there are more graduates to go around. Scarcity raises value.

Now, that is not to say that people shouldn’t doggedly pursue degrees. There is an often-touted statistic that individuals with college degrees will on average make \$1 million more than those with only a high school education. However, looking at the numbers and adhering to the “correlation does not equal causation” line of thought, this claim is dubious at best.

There is value to college though, one that goes beyond churning out well-rounded, liberally-educated young people who are really good at jumping through hoops and meeting deadlines and learning how to brown nose authority figures to get what they want.

College forces people to spend copious amounts of time with classmates and professors who share passions and job aspirations.

Tons of people have degrees. Tons of people participate in internships. These accomplishments are now the bare minimum.

Once students hit their upper division courses, the faces in class tend to stay pretty consistent. Classmates are pursuing the same degree, likely looking to land in similar career fields. The professors are likely people who have worked in the field professionally, or at least have a great degree of education concerning the career the student is pursuing.

Use these people.

Not in a nefarious way, of course. However, students cannot underestimate the power of a strong network of peers and professional mentors when trying to break through the brick wall of inexperience following graduation.

Too often, graduates that find themselves with limited employment opportunities once they hang up the cap and gown immediately think graduate school is the golden ticket that will open all the doors — the same song and dance guidance counselors gave them about college. Just a few more years and few more letters after their name, that’ll make all the difference.

Maybe. But maybe not.

This is not to knock grad school, but it is not for everyone. For some, their fields don’t necessarily warrant the extra structured education; experience working in their field will serve just as well. For others, the high cost of grad school simply makes pursuing it a financial impossibility. Either way, it should be understood that grad school isn’t a magic wand that will make a person employable.

For some employers, those extra letters mean extra dollars in that person’s salary. It can be a company turn-off.

Instead of spending more money and time to become potentially less employable, students need to take networking seriously.

Office hours with professors shouldn’t be seen as only a time to fight for a higher grade, but for students to get valuable one-on-one time with someone who is a skilled and knowledgeable professional who has skilled and knowledgeable professional contacts in that student’s chosen career field.

Academic advisers can direct students to on-campus networking events and career mixers with movers and shakers in a chosen industry.

A student’s classmates in upper division courses will likely pursue similar career opportunities, and most likely a few of them will find decent positions in good companies. Those companies will eventually need more employees, and a job seeker with a friend in the company who has the boss’s ear can be the deciding advantage in a hiring decision.

Greek organizations have utilized college networking for as long as they’ve been in existence, giving preferential treatment to brothers and sisters simply for wearing the same Greek letters.

Students don’t need to endure pledge week and membership fees to find a similar network of likeminded colleagues to rely on following graduation — though they can if that’s their thing.

On- and off-campus student organizations, campus jobs, professor office hours, conferences and volunteer opportunities involving local businesses give students a variety of opportunities to meet influential individuals in their chosen fields.

If a student isn’t involved in a student organization relevant to their career aspirations, they’re doing college wrong. “I don’t have time” is not, and never has been, an excuse.

College is just like anything else in life: people reap what they sow.

Students can coast through school, get a degree and become another inexperienced name and number on a resume to get tossed into the trash by a tired-eyed intern.

Conversely, they can amass an army of friends and professional contacts who share their passions and goals, who understand the trials they faced during college and who can offer a helping hand during the difficulties of post college job searching.

As a group of wise men once said, “I get by with a little help from my friends.”

Climate Wars: The Pentagon Doesn’t Need More Global Hotspots

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (MCT)

Conservative members of Congress may not be ready to acknowledge the reality of climate change, but the Pentagon sees it for what it is — a threat to national security.

On Monday, the Pentagon issued a report assessing the immediate dangers of climate change. The military is no longer treating it as a theoretical threat in the distant future that will loom only after the glaciers have melted. Unlike ideology-driven politicians, the military must deal with reality as it finds it, regardless of how unpleasant it may be.

Surveying the contemporary landscape, the Pentagon lists a Pandora’s box of social and political ills resulting from conditions generated by climate change: terrorism, infectious diseases, poverty, conflicts caused by food and water shortages, and mass refugee migrations.

Any of these challenges would be daunting even without the prospect in the United States of rising sea levels, extreme droughts and violent storms.

Because the U.S. military is one of the first responders whenever and wherever there is a regional crisis in the world, it must plan for these possibilities, too. The fact that political unrest is

the No. 1 ingredient for war, the likelihood that climate change will stimulate the necessary conditions for international chaos is high.

Some will dismiss the Pentagon’s concern on this subject as an attempt to prop up President Barack Obama’s agenda as he tries to build support for a U.N. agreement on climate change, which could be drafted in Peru in December and signed in Paris next year.

More likely is the Pentagon doesn’t want to be stretched any more than it already is. Weather-related disasters that trigger more war and unrest would certainly do that.

ROOKERY NEWS: WF 8^{PM} | 10^{PM}

SENIORS SCHLEGEL AND WALKER LEAD LADY PENGUINS

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Much uncertainty faces this year's Youngstown State University Women's Basketball Team. The Lady Penguins are replacing four seniors, including two starters, with seven true freshmen. YSU is the only school in the Horizon League with that many freshmen on their roster.

Head coach John Barnes said that he definitely expects some freshman to play.

Barnes said he would like to have a roster full of experienced players but is aware that the younger players will have to step up and play this season.

This will be Barnes' second season coaching YSU. Last season, Barnes set a new school record for wins by a first-year head coach with 15 and also led the team to its best ever start in conference play by winning the first six games. He has high expectations for this year's team despite the lack of experience.

"I'm expecting to play really hard — to be a really tough team, and if we can do those two things I mean anything can happen," Barnes said.

Barnes will rely heavily on his front court as he returns two starters, senior forwards Latisha Walker and Heidi Schlegel.

Walker averaged 7.1 points and 6.0 rebounds last season.

Schlegel earned First Team All-Horizon League honors last season, and has been named to the preseason First Team All-Horizon League this

season. She averaged 20 points per game last season and finished with a total of 621 points, fifth most in school history. She also set school records for free throws made with 192.

Schlegel said she looks forward to being more of a coach out on the floor this year, as she hopes to be a coach once her playing days are over.

"Coach Barnes is kind of letting me take on that role as a leader," Schlegel said. "I'm trying to help the younger girls learn the little things and learn how Coach Barnes wants things done."

Sophomore guard Jenna Hirsch is the only other returning starter. She earned Horizon League All-Freshmen Team last season, averaging 7.3 points and 3.1 assists per game.

Hirsch must transition from being an inexperienced freshman a season ago, to being one of the more experienced players on the team.

"It's been a huge adjustment. Last year I was the quiet one," Hirsch said. "Now I'm the one telling them what to do and just being a leader out there."

Hirsch and Schlegel both agree that culture surrounding the program has completely changed from a season ago. Both say that the team has better chemistry and that the team as a whole has really bonded together.

"We hang out more on and off the court — it's a lot more enjoyable," Schlegel said. "I think it helps that the freshman have been here since July and we've had three or four months together to hang out off the court because I think that's really important on the court."

YSU opens up the season against Niagara University on Nov. 15.



PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION.

Heidi Schlegel (15) attempts a shot during last season's opener against Virginia Commonwealth University. Schlegel finished second on the team in scoring with 31.6 points per game.

Kathy Baquero Finds New Family



PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION.

Kathy Baquero (5) scores the game-winning goal against Milwaukee on Sept. 29. The goal was her second game-winning goal of the season.

DANIEL HINER
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Youngstown State University is no stranger to foreign student-athletes; there are three foreign members of the softball team, five on the women's tennis team and the entire men's tennis team. The soccer team has relied on Kathy Baquero, a Columbian native, to lead the team's offense.

Baquero came to the U.S. nine years ago, where she attended American Senior High School in Miami, Florida. During high school, she set the school records for goals and assists.

"The culture is completely different. Over there, it is very family-oriented and here, you try to focus more on your future," she said.

During the recruiting process, head coach Will Lemke became aware of Baquero's journey — one that eventually led to her arrival at YSU.

"It was something we found out during the recruiting process, and something we discussed when

we were getting to know her and learned about her background," he said. "During the recruiting process, we learned about her personality and her ties to her family."

Baquero is only a sophomore but has seen success during her first season with significant playing time. Last season was a different experience for the mid-fielder as she became aware of the talent level for college-athletes.

"It was a huge difference," she said. "When I used to play in high school, I remember it was easy for me to do — my performance level came easily. Now when I came to YSU, it has been completely different. I have to work to perform the same way the other girls are performing."

Last season, Baquero only played in 16 games, attempting just two shots and didn't score a goal. Lemke said the lack of success was due to a change in scenery for Baquero — she experienced culture shock and needed to integrate herself into the university and the team.

"Last year was a big learning process," Lemke said. "It was a big improvement from when she first started. She has a better mindset and her conditioning

was better heading into this season."

Baquero leads the Penguins in scoring and game winning goals, and her five goals are currently tied for fourth in the Horizon League. She scored the game winning goals in the previous two wins for the Penguins against University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Oakland University.

"I think it comes from my teammates and the way they perform. That helps me perform a lot better, so when it comes down to the right ball that they are playing, that's how I'm able to score," she said. "When they read the play the way it's supposed to be played, that's how I'm able to make the five goals."

For most people, English is a difficult language to learn. While Baquero can speak English very well, she still needs to rely on her teammates and friends to translate for her when necessary.

"I struggled a lot with understanding English, and to this day, I still have my teammates helping me out with everything because it is hard for me to understand the translation," she said.

If Baquero continues on her current pace, she could finish in the top 10 in goals and points for a Penguin during a single season.

CORRECTION

In last Thursday's issue of *The Jambar*, the article "Hockey Returns to YSU" misspelled Justin Passaro's last name, falsely suggested that the club hockey team requested funds from the Student Government Association and indicated that Dan Jech runs the team. Enzo Recchia runs the team; Jech and Passaro assist Recchia with this process.