



Bob Dylan

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Rebuilding YSU Baseball

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The Mystery of the Cushwa Stank



I mulled over the clues outside Cushwa in the company of the nemesis scent and cigarette butts.

PHOTO BY LIAM BOUQUET/THE JAMBAR.

GRAIG GRAZIOSI
grgraziosi@student.y su.edu

Something stinks at Cushwa Hall.

We've all smelled it. The olfactory-assaulting sewage-stench strikes anyone unfortunate enough to be walking near the north-facing Cushwa entrance where the tribe of smokers lives. While it isn't always there, it certainly is there enough.

It had been some time since I'd thought about the Cushwa Stank. Being a student of journalism, my classes tend to keep me in the basements of other buildings on campus, though for one putrid semester in the spring of 2014 I had the displeasure of swimming through the fetor three times a week. Once the

semester ended, I moved on and eventually healed from the experiences, even forgetting about the offending funk.

Late last week, that all changed.

My phone chirped one evening, the tone telling me I had received an email. Reaching through a haze of hookah smoke, I plucked my phone from between my laptop and a styrofoam cup of noodles and checked to see who needed what.

Expecting spam for penis enlargement, I was surprised to find something much more intriguing sitting in my inbox.

The Jambar's editor-in-chief had forwarded me an email from none other than Ray Beiersdorfer, professor of geological and environmental sciences, Moser Hall's own Dumbledore, asking us to inquire into that very stench that so plagued me a year ago.

In the message, he pointed out something I had failed to notice during my time at Cushwa — anytime it snows near the smelly spot, the snow melts significantly faster there than anywhere else on campus. Could it be a sewage leak? Perhaps something else entirely?

I was on the case.

My first thought was to reach out to a friend working at WYSU in Cushwa Hall, Chris Hartman. I shot him a message and found my first lead.

"You'd probably have to talk to facilities or the university plumber. I'm almost certain that's due to a sewage manhole that's close by. It's been smelling since I started school in 2004, at least," Hartman said.

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REPRESENTATION FOR PART-TIME FACULTY ON ACADEMIC SENATE?

ALYSSA PAWLUK
apawluk@student.y su.edu

James Zupanic, part-time faculty member in the department of engineering technology, said he wants part-timers represented on Academic Senate, requesting that the body's Charters and By-Laws Committee extend a voting membership to one part-time faculty member.

"There's a number of ways that we would like to try to integrate part-time faculty more into the academic routine of the university. This is just one, but it's an important one," Zupanic said. "There is sort of a status thing about it; it says, to part-time faculty, that we recognize you as being real faculty, not the same thing as full-time faculty, but real faculty. So trying to integrate them, get their advice a little bit, seems like a natural thing to do."

Zupanic used to be a full time professor in the department of engineering technology at Youngstown State University. He said that from his experiences with part-time faculty in his department, they have been reliable and helped to better the curriculum.

"I've had a lot of interaction with part-time faculty over the last 35, almost 40 years. In our department, we have often had them in our departmental advisory committees. That's worked well," Zupanic said. "Over the years, we have gotten a lot of good advice from them on curriculum or our courses."

Zupanic said that adjunct faculties have never had representation on the Academic Senate.

"My feeling is just that it's never come up. Everybody's busy with lots of things. I don't think anyone at any time said 'We would like to do this' and then people said 'No, we don't want it.' That's not the case. It's just that everybody is up to their neck in things to do," he said.

Because part-time faculty teach over a third of the classes offered on campus, Zupanic said he

feels that adjunct faculty ought to have representation on the Senate. He said he believes a part-time presence may bring a new and needed perspective to the body.

According to the Charter and By-Laws of Academic Senate, the senate is composed of 70 full-time faculty members, 15 administrators and 15 students.

"I think it's a good thing for every aspect of the university to be represented there," Zupanic said. "It's primarily, and should be representative of, full-time faculty, and the fact that 70 percent of the members are full-time faculty and remain essentially that way, that's certainly appropriate because that's what it is devised for. Even though there are now student administrative members, it seems fairly natural to have another component of people who teach over a third of the classes, and they are courses that are very critical to retention of students."

Last year, Zupanic said that a survey was sent out to part-time faculty members about academic involvement. The results revealed that these faculty members want more involvement.

"I don't look at it as something being controversial. The only issue is that it does involve changing the charter and by-laws. It looks like it is going to take some time to do that. The concept is pretty simple, and everybody seems to agree with the concept," Zupanic said.

Zupanic said that he talked to the chair of the Charter and By-Laws Committee and has gained positive feedback about the proposal; he hopes that the amendment will be made by April.

"They said they are willing to handle this. They can't guarantee exactly how it's going to come out, what their recommendations would be, or [if they can] get it done by April," he said. "[The amendment] defines faculty members as full-time faculty so they have to put another definition in there for a separate slot, and I don't think anyone

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YSU Foundation Takes Full Control of Fundraising for YSU

SPENCER CURCILLO
smcurcillo@student.y su.edu

How many organizations does it take to raise money for Youngstown State University? Apparently just one.

The university has decided to turn over all fundraising responsibilities to the YSU Foundation, a private corporation that has participated in major YSU fundraising campaigns since 1966, under former president Howard Jones. Prior to taking over, YSU Foundation President Paul McFadden said he believes the change will be better for YSU economically and looks forward to the foundation's increased role in serving the university.

"I'm excited," McFadden said. "I've been here since 1992. This is the right thing to do. We are an institution of constrained resources right now. When we had a foundation and a university development office, we had redundant operations."

Heather Chunn, vice president of the foundation, also believes the university will benefit from a more efficient fundraising process.

"It's not that anyone in university development wasn't doing their job, or did a poor job," Chunn said. "But the ability to streamline and create less confusion for our donors I

think is very important."

The elimination of redundancy should save YSU money and may actually make fundraising more efficient in time.

"We're going to go live April 1, which means the foundation will start April 1 receiving all gifts, but I do think it will take upwards of a year to fully complete this transition," McFadden said.

McFadden and Chunn expressed some concern that there may be some initial confusion from donors, but remain confident that it will alleviate confusion in time.

Under the current system, donors often would be contacted by both groups and were often confused by it. Having only a single entity should solve that issue.

McFadden views this change as a return to its origins for the foundation.

"The foundation handled all fundraising from 1968 to 1997," McFadden said. "We're going back to our roots with the foundation handling philanthropy on behalf of the university. So to say we're making a great change, we are making a great change, but we're going back to the way it was done in the past."

The YSU Foundation itself is a private, nonprofit entity unaffiliated with Youngstown

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jambarad@gmail.com

PETE'S PRIDE TAKES ON YSU'S CHALLENGES

ASHLEY SMITH
amsmith14@student.ysu.edu

Alumni have always played an integral role in a university's support functions, with Youngstown State University being no exception. In the last year, a new campus organization comprised primarily of alumni called Pete's Pride has been focusing on alleviating some of the university's most pressing issues.

Heather Belgin, the office of alumni events coordinator, explained that the group was created and developed based off an idea from President Jim Tressel.

"The name was a team effort among our staff. The idea for the program came from President Tressel, and then we kind of brainstormed some different ideas at our annual retreat back in July of last year," Belgin said.

According to Tressel, the overarching goal of Pete's Pride is to generate additional alumni involvement in YSU's goals.

"One of the discussions we had when we started was people always say we have x number of alumni from our university, so our goal is to have x number of active alumni — people who are still involved even though they're out living their own lives," Tressel said.

Tressel developed a program similar to Pete's Pride when he was employed at the University of Akron.

"It really mirrors it a lot in that it was two Julys ago that we came up with the idea that one of the human resources that we had at our institution was the people

that went there," he said. "They knew it better than anyone and gained a lot from it, so we put together a group, kind of like Heather did, and brainstormed as to what we could do there."

Akron's program has influenced the creation of the new Pete's Pride initiative in numerous ways.

"They got us kind of started on the ideas of what this could be, and then I also did some research with some other institutions about volunteer programs and some different things that had worked," Belgin said. "So, we kind of got off the ground last July with trying to get the word out to the alumni and the friends of the university with this opportunity to become engaged with the university in a different way, to kind of give back. It became an opportunity for them to help with the mentoring efforts, recruitment, networking and different aspects of the university."

A unique aspect to the Pete's Pride initiative, as compared to other alumni-centered programs, is that this group is not centered on monetary donations.

"We sought to figure out what our alums and our friends would enjoy, as opposed to simply every time they hear from us we want money. So we thought, especially for the young alums that were just getting on their feet, we felt like what they could contribute that is as or more valuable than money is their passion for our school, so we began and went through some planning," Tressel said.

Even though the majority of Pete's Pride members are alumni, it is not a requirement for joining and participating in the organization.

"You don't really even need to be an alum," Belgin

said. "We have individuals who are parents of current students or previous students, community members who just love the university, so it's primarily alumni, but anyone who loves YSU is welcome to do it."

In a recent effort by the group, volunteers reached out to prospective students by sending over 2,200 letters to admitted students.

While the actual impact of Pete's Pride is not easily measured, Gary Swegan, associate vice president for enrollment, said he believes the group's impact will be significant.

"While this isn't a measurable, take the Crash Day for instance. Last year in November we had the largest [turnout] we ever had at 478, this one was 1,010, so how else would we staff that? [Pete's Pride volunteers] gave us 22 or 24 bodies over in the WATTS center in the morning, smiling faces, and we passed out I don't know how many boxes of popcorn," Swegan said.

Tressel echoed Swegan's remarks, believing that the efforts of the group will bring a positive impact to YSU's struggle against declining enrollment trends in past years.

"I think it would be fair to say that whatever number of students we end up choosing [for] YSU, for this upcoming year, that Pete's Pride will have had an effect. If we end up attracting one percent more than what we had, who knows, maybe the combination of efforts between some of our direct marketing and some of our letter writing, and some of our Pete's Pride writing ... all of that might have kept us from falling 5 percent again like we did for two or three years," Tressel said. "So there's no doubt Pete's Pride is going to have had an impact."

Howard Mettee: Longest Serving Professor Reflects on Career

CAITLYN BROWN
cbrown02@student.ysu.edu

Even at a young age, chemistry professor Howard Mettee exhibited an interest in chemistry.

"I always liked chemistry as a kid," Mettee said. "We used to do experiments in our basement. We made our own telescopes, invented acids and things like that."

Mettee is now in his 47th year teaching at Youngstown State University, making him the longest-working professor on campus.

"I've really enjoyed the career such as it's been. I'm very proud of the things that I do here," Mettee said.

Mettee received his bachelor's degree in 1961 from Middlebury College in chemistry, before going on to obtain a masters and PhD from the University of Calgary in 1964.

"There were long nights in Calgary; when you're far north and the days get pretty long," Mettee said. "It's ten or eleven o'clock at night, and you're finishing up some of your last experiments, and you walk outside and it's still light out.

It feels like you're ready to get breakfast and start all over. Those were some of the greatest years."

Mettee currently holds a record at the University of Calgary for obtaining his PhD in just three years.

"Some people may take four to five years, but they told me after two years into my masters degree, that if I stay for one more year, I can get my doctorate degree," he said.

The field of chemistry can present several employment options and after college, Mettee had a decision to make.

"At that time, the question was do you go the academic route, do you go into government labs, do you go to teach somewhere or do you go with a company?" Mettee said.

Mettee decided to go to work at the National Research Council in Ottawa, Canada and worked with scientist Albert Noyes Jr. While working with Noyes,

Mettee published his first paper in the Journal of Chemical Physics.

"It was a great achievement for me because physics was a touch subject for me," he said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOWARD METTEE.
HOWARD METTEE

In 1968, two weeks after the first quarter started, Mettee decided to teach at YSU.

"YSU just started a masters program in chemistry, and I saw it as a take off point for YSU," Mettee said. "It was a great opportunity by teaching and doing research."

Mettee also positively commented on his student work, indicating that they are capable of achieving success.

"One of my students, Steve Little, is chairman of the chemical engineering department at Pitt. Our students are very capable of doing well after YSU. They get a nice platform here — they can go to grad school, or companies," Mettee said. "We've been able to make some things happen here."

Mettee originally planned to only stay at YSU for five years and continue his career elsewhere. He never expected to be in Youngstown for close to 50 years.

"I'm proud that we are able to extend our laboratory facilities and have good research facilities for students to learn and accomplish things," he said.

One of Mettee's most noteworthy accomplishments at YSU was the successful reestablishment of sabbaticals after they were outlawed in Ohio in the '70s.

"Through our negotiating and the help of the Ohio education association, we over turned it. We got the first sabbatical program in the country," he said.

Mettee took his first sabbatical with one of his role models — Nobel Prize winner Melvin Calvin — and then wrote a publication called "Solar Induced Water Splitting."

As of now, Mettee wants to complete a few more experiments before considering retirement. One experiment deals with photon-phonon coupling.

Outside of chemistry, Mettee plays tennis, skis, plays the guitar and remains involved in the Boardman Rotary Club.

"I think it's good to make time outside of just being a professor and get involved in the community," Mettee said.



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JAMBAR STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
Liam Bouquet 330.941.1991

MANAGING EDITOR:
Frank George 330.941.1807

COPY EDITOR:
Jordan McNeil 330.941.3758

NEWS EDITOR:
Graig Graziosi 330.941.1989

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR:
Gabby Fellows 330.941.1913

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITORS:
Alyssa Pawluk 330.941.1989
Justin Wier 330.941.1989

WEB MANAGER:
Gabby Fellows 330.941.1807

DESIGN EDITOR:
Stacy Rubinic 330.941.1807

ASSISTANT DESIGNERS:
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SALES MANAGER:
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COLUMNIST:
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ASSISTANT COPY EDITORS:
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Ashley Smith 330.941.1913
Lauren Foote 330.941.1913
Caitlin Sheridan 330.941.1913

JAMBAR STAFF

BUSINESS MANAGER:
Megan Shargo 330.941.3094

ADVISER:
Mary Beth Earnhardt 330.941.3095

EMAIL thejambar@gmail.com
FAX 330.941.2322



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NEWS BRIEFS

Former Spy Valerie Plame Gives Feb. 25 Skeggs Lecture

Plame was a covert CIA operations officer in 2003 when senior White House and State Department officials revealed her secret status to several national journalists, which resulted in her name being published in a national newspaper. She later wrote "Fair Game: My Life as a Spy, My Betrayal by the White House" — published in Oct. 2007. A movie entitled "Fair Game" was released as a major motion picture in 2010. The lecture starts at 7 p.m. in Stambaugh Auditorium, with a book signing following at 8 p.m.

YSU's Online MBA Named One of Nation's Best

Youngstown State University's online Master of Business Administration program has been recognized by the Affordable Colleges Foundation as one of the nation's best for 2014-15. The Foundation was founded in 2011, and bases its list on student-faculty ratio, percentage of faculty with a PhD, number of online MBA options, number of MBAs conferred and tuition. The Program in YSU's WCBA is ranked 21 out of 68, placing YSU in the top third nationally.

Dana School of Music Hosts Jan. 29 Piano Recital

Bliss Hall will open its doors for a guest artist recital — featuring pianist Maira Liliestedt. The recital begins at 7:30 p.m., with parking available in the Wick Avenue deck for a nominal fee. Liliestedt received her bachelor's music degree in piano from Bowling Green State University, and master of music and doctor of musical arts degrees from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. She is currently an associate professor of music at the University of Mount Union.

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is interested in saying 'Well OK, we'll make part-time faculty members eligible to run for any full-time slot.' I think they need a separate category."

Zupanic expressed his support for the amendment.

"I think whatever university can have the best integration of their part-time faculty with the university has got a leg up on retaining and attracting students, and so having a little bit of flow into the Academic Senate, only one member, is a good way to start that," he said.

State University. Their mission, however, is to serve the university. Chunn said she believes there may be certain advantages to their status.

"Us being separate, we can make decisions and have the ability to do things that a state institution may not be able to," Chunn said. "We don't have the same regulations when it comes to investing that the state mandates for the university."

McFadden is fully committed to embracing the foundation's larger role as the university's sole fundraiser.

"At the foundation, my responsibilities are a little more expanded," McFadden said.

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"Certainly there is administrating at the foundation. I work with our board of trustees and our various committees to help maintain the foundation and expand our mission. But at the core, Paul McFadden is a fundraiser. Every day and every way I'm fundraising."

The foundation is responsible for many of the scholarships that YSU students rely on as well as various other funding. They have provided more than \$7 million in scholarships for the 2014-2015 academic year.

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2015-2016 Financial Aid Awareness Week

Stop by one of our tables for information on financial aid for the 2015-2016 academic year. The priority deadline to complete the online Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the YSU Institutional Aid Application is **February 15, 2015.**

Please join us for our third annual Financial Aid Night on campus. Students and parents are invited to participate in this great opportunity to learn the basics about applying for financial aid. Our professional financial aid counselors will be on hand to assist with online applications. Register online for the event at www.yсу.edu/finaid/night. It is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 28, 2015 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the Kilcawley Center Chestnut room.**

The following is a list of dates and times when staff from the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships will be available to distribute forms and answer questions:

Monday, January 26, 2015	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 27, 2015	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, January 28, 2015	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 29, 2015	10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

*All dates are in the Kilcawley Center - 1st floor across from the bank

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Goodwill: Youngstown Native Musician



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAM GOODWILL.

ALEXIS RUFENER
 arufener@student.yosu.edu

When local musician Sam Buonavolonta — Italian for “goodwill” — was in high school, he discovered his passion for music. That passion has grown into recording music and touring from Youngstown to the Mid-Atlantic.

“I started experimenting with writing and recording music when I was in high school. From my late teens to the present I’ve always had a job,” Buonavolonta said. “I think there are a lot of people in the art community that have different ways of balancing the pursuits [of] their passions and keeping their electric turned on.”

The alternative soul mixed with electronic rock group brings a different sound to the Youngstown community.

In 2009, Buonavolonta released his freshmen EP titled “Stampede” — which received a lot of good feedback and reviews from listeners and new fans.

In 2011, Sam Goodwill grew to a two-member group, adding musician Dennis Thomas to the mix.

In 2012, the band released a full-length vinyl, “History.” Since 2013, Sam Goodwill toured with Richard Elmsworth, part of Gil’s Mantera Party Dream, and Bob Young from Signature Event.

“We don’t have a record label per se, but I’ve been working with The Epiphysis Foundation for a few years. At the moment, they play more of a managerial/booking agency

role,” Buonavolonta said. “No contracts, it’s more of a community of people who enjoy each others music, everyone trying to help everyone out.”

The Epiphysis Foundation is an organization that helps aspiring artists and groups get their music out and establish connections.

Many artists want their voices heard from the small town of Youngstown, and this band is no exception.

“I’m proud to be based in Youngstown. I don’t think it’s hard to make music here. The bands that I’ve always looked up to were touring bands so, in the beginning, if I set out to do anything it was to adopt their mentality and hit the road as much as possible,” Buonavolonta said. “In my experience, being from Youngstown makes it easy to tour, we’re in fairly close proximity to

plenty of great national venues/scenes and we have pretty amazing support to come home to when we play in town.”

Among other venues that the band has performed at, he recently performed at Suzie’s Dogs and Drafts with Trojan Horse in January.

Bradley Miller, event coordinator at Suzie’s, and other co-workers were “excited and flattered” to hear that Sam Goodwill and his band mates expressed interest in performing at their establishment.

“There’s a lot of energy on stage; sometimes it’s fun energy, sometimes it’s emotional, sometimes it’s nervous energy,” Buonavolonta said. “For better or worse, I try to live in whatever is happening.”

Throughout the years that Buonavolonta has been writing music, he has found that

there are certain difficulties that musicians face from working and maintaining relationships with friends, family and other personal things.

“Of course, I think they’re probably similar to most other artists/working bands. Writing, traveling, balancing personal life stuff, all of that has inherent struggle,” Buonavolonta said. “It’s important to approach it constructively and not dwell on or define your situation by it. A lot of things are perpetually evolving that factor in, like my ability to play the instruments, my taste in music, the people in my life, my voice, my world view, these are things that affect song writing and there are plenty others I’m sure.”

To learn more about Sam Goodwill and their music go to www.samgoodwill.com or find them on Facebook.

Bob Dylan’s Other Talent Comes to Youngstown

SCOTT WILLIAMS
 srwilliams03@student.yosu.edu

An exhibition of a dozen pastel portraits by world renowned singer/songwriter Bob Dylan will open May 17 at the Butler Institute of American Art in Youngstown. The portraits will remain on view until July 12.

Kathryn Earnhart, director of public relations for the Butler Art Institute, said this display is a rare catch for Butler.

“These portraits have rarely been displayed. The fact that he’s going to share them with a museum is unique. He hasn’t done that,” she said. “They are more drawing-like than actual paintings. We are going to show these pieces in our pastel gallery. The people in the portraits are not famous people; they’re just people that are in his life. They are real people who live somewhere in his world.”

At age 73, Dylan has written over 500 songs, recorded 46 albums and has 110 million record sales to his name. Rocco Criazzo, professor of the popular class Rock and Roll to Rock at Youngstown State University, spoke toward Dylan’s tremendous popularity.

“Bob Dylan is the Tiger Woods of folk music. He is more popular than the genre. People that would never think to turn the TV on to watch golf will put the TV on just to watch Tiger Woods play. Dylan does that to folk music,” he said. “He created a larger audience than the genre did itself. He turned folk fans into rock fans as well. Dylan has the impact of opening up the song writing pallet for rock musicians.”

Criazzo said these portraits will draw a crowd because of the artist’s name.

“Am I going to want to go see Bob Dylan’s art because it is good art or because Bob Dylan did it? Probably because I want to see how well Bob Dylan paints,” Criazzo said. “It’s always interesting when someone who is popular for one thing is good at doing something else as well.”

Earnhart said this display shows Dylan’s creative spirit extends beyond the parameters of a singer and a writer.

“People like Dylan have been blessed with the creative spirit. They’re twice blessed. They’re a singer and a painter. There always are these celebrity type people, famous people, who have some-

thing else that they’re less known for. They’re just creative people,” Earnhart said.

The Butler was able to get these portraits with the help of another talented singer whose art hangs from the museum’s walls.

“Paintings come to us in different ways. Sometimes the artist approaches us and they’re interested in having a show here, sometimes a gallery that represents an artist will approach us, or sometimes we approach an artist ourselves,” Earnhart said. “This particular one came to us through John Mellencamp because he was so impressed with the Butler Art, and Bob Dylan is one of his friends. Mellencamp talked to him about it and told him that this is something he should consider doing. So, Dylan’s manager got in touch with the museum and said that if we are interested in doing the show, they were also interested.”

Earnhart said she hopes this collection will draw a new crowd to visit the Butler to view the new exhibit, as well as take the time to view others that are on display year round.

“We hope a lot of people will come to see this,” she said. “The Butler Art is free. Just walk in the front door.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS HAKKENS. “BOB DYLAN PERFORMING IN ROTTERDAM, JUNE 23 1978.” CC-BY-SA.

We are open every day except Monday, and we have free parking. It’s a great opportunity for people who have never

been here before. Hopefully, they will think this is interesting to them and they’ll want to come back.”

‘Picturing People’ in Youngstown

GABRIELLE FELLOWS
 gabbymfellows@gmail.com

David Edward Smikle, also known as Dawoud Bey, has an exhibit of his life’s photographs being displayed in the McDonough Museum. “Picturing People” is a collection that ranges from photos of people on the street to formal studio pictures taken over Bey’s career.

Bey’s main focus is street photography, capturing people in their native environments and

telling a story using only people and their surroundings. Street photography of this sort has been recently popularized by the famous “Humans of New York” blog and has reached as close to home as the newly formed “Humans of Youngstown” photo collection.

“If you’re not part of the solution, you’re part of the problem,” is Bey’s main attitude towards his work. Growing up in New York City’s Jamaica, Queens neighborhood, Bey was influenced by life in one of the nation’s most infamous neighborhoods. His collection “Harlem, USA” (1975-1979) was one that portrayed the struggle and humanity of living

through poverty. Bey claims that his “interest in young people has to do with the fact that they are the arbiters of style in the community; their appearance speaks most strongly of how a community of people defines themselves at a particular historical moment.”

He took this as a direction for the years following. His photo sets were of high school children of multiple backgrounds and class photographs of teenagers with statements attached to the piece.

Bey’s work has been visiting multiple museums throughout the country and will be staying in Youngstown until March 7.

EDITORIAL

CAN TRESSEL CAPITALIZE ON POSITIVE ENROLLMENT NUMBERS?

After a rough few years for Youngstown State University, it looks like there may finally be some good news.

YSU's enrollment decreased this semester. That's the good news.

To be more specific, the good news is that enrollment decreased less than what was expected. YSU's administration was prepared — and budgeted for — a 6.3 percent decrease in enrollment, a number that mirrored the decrease percentage of 2014's fall enrollment. In a pleasant turn of events, enrollment only declined 4 percent for the spring semester.

While no one wants to see enrollment declines, a decline in declines is a decline worth noting.

To be fair, this semester's numbers may be a fluke. Come fall, we may see a sharp decline in enrollment yet again. Assuming this isn't a fluke, though, it may be a sign that the pendulum is finally beginning to swing in the opposite direction when it comes to enrollment.

There are several factors that may be playing into the change.

First, YSU may be — and, if numbers are to be believed, is likely — benefitting from an action former YSU President Randy Dunn made: hiring Gary Swegan to oversee enrollment and recruitment endeavors.

While a bloated administra-

tive staff is often a battle cry for those who want to see change at the university — one that in some ways certainly seems legitimate — the addition of Swegan to the YSU community seems to be paying off. Crash Day attendance has been generally on the rise, and Swegan's track record of attracting high caliber students is likely at least partially responsible for YSU's fall semester boasting the most academically impressive freshman class in the university's history.

Beyond Swegan's efforts and that of alumni organizations like the YSU Foundation, Pete's Pride and various others, another potential draw to students enrolling at YSU may be the big man in Tod Hall.

Regardless of whether picking a college because the president is a storied college football coach is right or wrong, it can't be ignored that having Jim Tressel at the university helm is likely a contributing factor to some students' decisions to attend YSU.

Tressel can't turn the university around on his name alone, and if his first year as president has shown anything, he's well aware of that fact.

Let's not dance around the facts. Tressel has ruffled some feathers in his first year as president. The method by which Martin Abraham was

selected for provost was one that was criticized by many faculty members as a disregard of shared authority on the campus, and a vocal group of University Scholars both past and present have voiced displeasure at the administration's plans to limit the amount of full tuition and board scholarships awarded per year, instead opting to use the money to grow the newly created Honors College.

That being said, Tressel has also set the groundwork for capitalizing on a swing in enrollment.

Tressel's most persistent campaign since his installation as president has focused on increasing enrollment, recruitment and retention. There is nothing particularly novel about this, as that is generally the goal of every higher education administration across the nation.

What is commendable is that there have already been concrete steps taken towards addressing the problems that plague so many campuses nationwide.

Taking a page out of the University of Akron's playbook, the administration has hired a third party company, Royall & Company, that specializes in higher education recruitment to come in and boost YSU's incoming students. While the numbers have yet to come in, Tressel has expressed confidence that the company's involvement

will bolster enrollment as they did at the University of Akron. The Pete's Pride program, another idea Tressel adopted from his time at Akron, is an alumni program that asks alumni to volunteer their time and presence in recruitment campaigns rather than simply asking for more money.

Love it or hate it, the Honors College may also enhance YSU's attractiveness to prospective students who might not have considered the university without the offer of a scholarship. While a lack of full tuition and board scholarships may also turn off some students with multiple offers from various colleges, it stands to reason that offering more money to more students will bring in higher numbers. Time will tell.

Each of these endeavors, however, is built towards a larger goal of the university administration: attracting nonregional students.

While the easy and cynical read of this campaign is to say "Well of course they want out-of-state students, they have to pay more," there is legitimacy to this plan of action beyond ringing dollars out of non-Ohioans. It is no secret that Youngstown is one of the fastest shrinking cities in America. While Youngstown is an exceptional example of a location hemor-

rhaging population, we are a part of a larger diaspora of individuals leaving the Rust Belt.

The Washington Post recently reported that while the Northeastern United States had a slight population growth due to births and immigration, there was a net loss of population due to residents moving.

What this means is that there are simply fewer students to go around.

When one part of a lake has been fished dry, anglers must move to another, and colleges are no different. While we reach out to students in western New York, it is no doubt that colleges in western New York are reaching out to Ohioans. In order to survive, YSU has to cast a net wider and further and do so with more intention than in previous years.

YSU has a lot of issues to work out. Relations between the administration and the faculty and staff have improved little since the fall, arguments surrounding athletic spending versus academic spending still rage and budgetary concerns still have departments up against the wall.

At least this spring, it can be said that there's a real, verifiable glimmer of hope shining through the slowing of decline in enrollment.

The administration has a plan. Let's hope it pans out.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I love YSU football. I love cheering for a team that represents Youngstown, my hometown, the place that I love more than any other. I take pride in the fact that we play in the toughest FCS conference there is. I have followed YSU football through victories and losses, through rain and shine, through white-out conditions that make it impossible to do more than cheer when the faint silhouettes move roughly in the right direction somewhere out there in the blizzard. I have been there at games where we packed the stadium and at games where I could count the student section on one hand.

When we hired Pelini, I was excited. He was a Youngstown guy, coming home to make things right at YSU. With him, we would be able to make playoffs, win big games and put Youngstown on the map again. Like everyone else, I listened to the tape of him speaking to his team, and it made me uncomfortable, but I rationalized it away. It was just locker room talk. He wasn't insulting women, he was just using words. Everything was fine; football is allowed to be a little rough around the edges. That's what I told myself, anyway.

Then I heard about us hiring some new guy, a guy from Nebraska with some odd views. I'd never heard of him before, so I went and looked him up. As I read through the first few results I found on Google, I felt my heart sinking. This Ron Brown guy wasn't just a little rough around the edges; he wasn't just using a few off-color words — he was directly, deliberately attacking an entire group of peo-

ple. He was using his position of football glory to tell kids that they would burn in hell for the way they were born. He compared consensual acts between adults to the molestation of children. He actively evangelized for a brand of Christianity that represents the absolute worst that religion has to offer.

If these were simply views he held in private, or offered up only when asked, I would be uncomfortable, but I would strive to be tolerant. Not toward the ideas, which are hateful, but toward the person who holds them. That's not what Ron Brown does though. He has made it very clear that he sees evangelizing as a core part of his purpose for being involved in football at all. His actions have made these ideas a matter of public concern. He does not simply wish to hold his views and discuss them among his family and friends — he wants to push his ideology of hate on the rest of the world by any means at his disposal.

Ron Brown's association with YSU is an embarrassment to the school, the city and the fans of the team. The pride I have felt for a team that represents our history, our toughness and our ability to hang on through tough times cannot coexist with the disgust I feel towards this individual and his ideology of hate. As painful as it is to admit, I cannot call myself a fan until Ron Brown is removed from his association with the team.

Tom Goldthwait
YSU Student

As executive leaders of Youngstown State University's Student Government Association, we observe the hiring of assistant football coach Ron Brown with certain trepidations.

It is undoubtedly true that under the First Amendment individuals are free to hold their own views and beliefs, and we wholly respect the rights of Coach Brown in such regards. However, we likewise stand firmly behind the importance of the implications generated by the Establishment Clause — that the separation of church and state must not be jeopardized, and that while acting in an official capacity as a representative of Youngstown State, Coach Brown must carefully tailor his words and actions so as to avoid blending his official duties as a public employee with a desire to proselytize and promulgate his religious convictions.

Both YSU and Coach Brown must be diligent in assuring that this University remain a welcoming place for all students, regardless of their religious beliefs and sexual orientation, and avoid situations in which those fundamental provisions, espoused in both Youngstown State's mission statement and the Constitution of the United States, are undermined.

Michael Slavens
Jacob Schriener-Briggs

STANK
PAGE 1

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, 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.

A theory to start. But not necessarily concrete, and I doubted a simple exposed cover would cause a several foot long strip of snow to melt unnaturally fast. Taking his advice, I reached out to the grounds department to see if any of the people who keep the university's gears greased and spinning had any idea as to the source of the odor.

Later that day, David Ewing, the associate director of the grounds department, contacted me.

"I have no idea. ... This is the first I've really heard anything about it. I'm not really up around that area that much," Ewing said.

No answers there, but it did reveal an interesting bit of information; if the associate director of the grounds department had only just heard about the funk after my inquiry, it stands to reason that there has never been any official complaints to the department about the smell.

How could that be? Was it possible that the good doc-

tor and myself simply shared a particular neurosis about this smell that everyone else ignored? I refused to believe that. Besides, Ewing had given me another suggestion: talk to a civil engineer.

Taking his advice, I called City Hall and spoke with Kedar Bhide, the construction engineer for the city of Youngstown and a part-time faculty member in the YSU School of Engineering Technology. I doubted he would know the particular cause of the invasive stench on campus, so instead I inquired as to whether he had any ideas as to what could give off enough heat to melt snow and enough stink to warrant me making this many calls.

"I'd have the wastewater department look into it, it likely has something to do with the sewers. I could send over some guys and have them look into it if you'd like," Bhide said.

Accepting his offer to send some people to look at the issue — you're welcome Cush-

wa students — I was passed along to another authority.

In each explanation I received that wasn't a straight "I don't know," sewage was always involved. In some way, shape or form, it is very likely the Cushwa Mystery Scent has something to do with human excrement. And, if Hartman is correct, we have been tolerating that for over 10 years.

I talked to two more experts — Mike Lyon, from the Youngstown Waste Water Treatment Plant, and Tony Vercellino, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering — and received the same response from both: they didn't know what it was, but they'd check it out.

All it took was a few calls and I had two city maintenance departments and a civil engineer from STEM looking into the problem.

In the end, the mystery of the Cushwa Stank turned out like a Discovery Channel documentary; we raised a lot of questions, and answered none of them.

Men's Tennis Resumes Season After Three-Month Break

DREW ZUHOSKY
atzuhosky@ysu.edu

The Youngstown State University men's tennis team resumed play on Jan. 18 after a three-month season break. The Penguins played away, against Ohio State University — resulting in a 7-0 loss to the fifth-ranked Buckeyes.

Head coach Mickael Sopel sat down recently to discuss the team.

"I'm excited to see how this team comes together," Sopel said. "We only have two seniors on our team this year: Dawoud Kabli and Silviu Mistreanu. It's part of what we have to deal with in college."

Sopel talked about how a three-month hiatus between matches affected the club.

"It's a challenge to get those guys back after the break, and make sure we get them back on the right track," he said. "They came back and were really sharp and ready to go because they worked really hard on the break at home."

Sopel isn't looking too far ahead on the calendar just yet.

"I'm not concerned about conference matches right now," he said. "They don't count until March. We have a chance to win out-of-conference matches to get up to speed."

Sopel took time out to discuss how much the team's

upperclassmen have stepped up and taken the younger players under their wing.

"I have Dawoud and Silviu and Hugo [Morth], who came as a transfer," he said. "Dawoud and Silviu have brought their leadership to the team and have done a good job on that, taking the freshmen under their leadership and motivating them. They've been making my job easier."

When asked about forthcoming competition, Sopel has two Horizon League foes marked on his calendar — the Cleveland State University Vikings and the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay Phoenix.

"You're always excited to play the top two teams in your conference," he said. "Cleveland State and Green Bay are the two matches I'm looking forward to."

Dawoud Kabli recounted how exciting it was to play Duquesne University last Friday evening at home, despite the match's result.

"It was fun to go out and have our first home match of the season, especially being a senior," Kabli said. "We didn't come away with the win, but it was good to see everyone compete very hard."

Kabli said he knows that when YSU plays against the likes of Northern Illinois University and Michigan State University, the Penguins' odds are stacked against them.



PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION.

Youngstown State University senior tennis player Dawoud Kabli attempts a backhand during the men's tennis team's last match against Duquesne University on Jan. 23. Kabli won his match against Adam Blasinsky 6-2 and 7-5.

"We're not always favored to win those matches, but that just gives us the motivation to go out and play the best that we can play," he said.

Kabli said he's looking forward to one upcoming match in particular, and it's

the team's next one on Saturday afternoon versus the Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne Mastodons, citing the team's previous history with them.

"We've had a lot of competitive matches against

them, and we know each other's teams quite well," he said. "It's always been a fun, competitive battle."

First serve of Saturday's match against IPFW is slated for just after 2 p.m. in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Rebuilding YSU Baseball: Part Two

Changing perception, climbing the sand dune and finding consistency



PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION.

The YSU baseball team (pictured above) played three NCAA Regional games last spring after winning the Horizon League tournament. The Penguins fell to Indiana before defeating Indiana State, 5-2. YSU was then eliminated by Stanford.

STEVE WILAJ
scwilaj@student.ysu.edu

LAST SPRING, THE YSU BASEBALL TEAM WON A CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP AND AN NCAA TOURNAMENT GAME IN AN INCREDIBLE TWO-WEEK LATE-SEASON STRETCH. NOW, THE PROGRAM IS ON THE RISE AGAIN. AS YSU IS SET TO BEGIN ITS 2015 SEASON ON FEB. 13, THE JAMBAR TELLS A TWO-PART STORY OF THE REBUILDING OF PENGUINS BASEBALL. PART ONE (WHICH APPEARED IN TUESDAY'S ISSUE OF THE JAMBAR) COVERED THE 2014 POSTSEASON RUN AND DETAILED HOW HEAD COACH STEVE GILLISPIE LANDED AT YSU IN 2012. HERE'S PART TWO.

The YSU Baseball program finally completed step one of its rebuilding process during the improbable 2014 postseason run. It took more than two years, but when the Penguins arrived in Bloomington, Indiana for their NCAA Regional on May 31, head coach Steve Gillispie realized a change in his team's attitude.

"We realized we could hang with some of the best teams in the country," said Alex Larivee,

a sophomore outfielder. "It definitely made us feel like we belong out here in Division I."

And that's exactly how Gillispie wanted them to react.

The 50-year-old coach admitted that changing the program's internal "loser" perception was tougher than he expected. It was a feeling that lingered through a 14-43 2013 campaign as well as a 12-36 2014 regular season.

So he knew that the adjustment was crucial in moving forward.

"With the lack of success recently, we needed to change it to 'We are a quality program,'" Gillispie said. "I think our players looked at [making the NCAA Regional] as validation that they are a talented team."

Step two of the rebuilding process — which was to improve recruiting — was no easy task either.

MAKING THE SALE

Initially, Gillispie and his staff of Jason Neal and Kevin Smallcomb jumped right into the fire. Simply put, in the beginning in the summer of 2012, they tried to sell a struggling YSU baseball program to the

Midwest's top players.

"We felt we had the things in place to recruit," Gillispie said. "But sometimes it was like running up a sand dune. You're working, working and working. And then with every step you kind of slide back a little bit as you try to move up that sand."

Often being rejected, this forced Gillispie and his staff to recruit smarter. They concluded that to be successful, they had to exhaust connections, pick their spots and dig deep.

Smallcomb, a West Coast native with numerous connections, hit California particularly hard, as this season's roster features eight players from the Golden State.

"He just made me feel like it would be a good fit playing across the country," said Larivee, a Sacramento native. "Even though the weather isn't the best, he sold me on the facilities and playing time."

Meanwhile, Neal and Gillispie dove into western Pennsylvania while continuing to chip away locally.

Although Gillispie found it tough recruiting Ohio's top players — competing with Ohio State University, Kent State University and the University of Akron

among others — it wasn't his first rodeo. Not only did he recruit three eventual First-Team All-Americans to Nebraska in the early 1990s, but also his scouting position with the Philadelphia Phillies in the late 1990s gave him even more credibility.

"That helped in learning how to project what kids would turn into," Gillispie said. "Then I also think helping a lot of kids move on to professional baseball in all the places I've been — that's a positive when you're trying to recruit."

Freshman pitcher Nathan Neiderhiser of western Pennsylvania, who committed to the Penguins in the fall of 2013, was swayed by Gillispie's recruiting savvy.

"The main attraction here was the coaching staff," he said. "I saw what Coach G did at Jacksonville State and I believe in what he's done here so far."

As for recruiting locally, it's another aspect on the rise for YSU baseball. While just one newcomer to the 2015 roster hails from the Buckeye State (outfielder Alex Core), four of the seven players that signed National Letters of Intent to join the Penguins in the fall of 2015 are from Ohio.

"It's a matter of finding those kids out there that want to take that step with us and be part of something that we're building," Gillispie said. "It ended up, initially, that there were several guys coming in from far off. But we've been able to break down the door a bit with more local kids."

NO FLUKE

As Neiderhiser tracked the 2014 NCAA Tournament last spring with two fellow high school teammates — one committed to play baseball at Penn State University, the other at the University of Pittsburgh — the future Penguin couldn't resist boasting.

"I was able to talk to the guys and say, 'Hey my team is going to a Regional, where's yours at?'" Neiderhiser said. "Seeing how well they did, it definitely made me smile."

It's a big difference for a YSU program that hasn't had much to smile about in over a decade.

"It's come unbelievably far," Kevin Hix, senior infielder, said. "We're headed in the right direction."

And it showed for those 13 consecutive days last spring.

"Winning the Horizon League tourney and an [NCAA] Regional game opened a lot of eyes," sophomore pitcher Jeremy Quinlan said. "Before, people would just look past us. Now I think you can't do that since we did some damage last year."

Not even three years in, Gillispie happily admits the rebuilding process came along quicker than expected. And no doubt, it was significantly boosted by last season's tremendous late-May run.

Now, the Penguins' next goal is simple: Prove their hot 2014 ending was not a fluke.

"We definitely need to establish a consistency that we can compete for a championship every year," Gillispie said. "We want it to be a thing where there's day-in day-out, year-in year-out respect for the program. Just keep building."