

Tonoli Talk

7

Rebirth of Vinyl

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## YOUNGSTOWN SCORING STAGE: MAKING MOVIE MUSIC



These photos were taken during the production of "Crushed," a never-before-released Australian film.

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In late 2014, the Youngstown Scoring Stage, professionals who produce orchestral recordings for films and other mediums, scored the soundtrack to a never-before-released Australian feature film, "Crushed."

The Youngstown Scoring Stage, founded on April 20, 2013, is composed of 110 on-call orchestral players, along with a full-time staff of musi-

cal engineers, directors, concert masters, recordists and conductors. The Scoring Stage operates out of Stambaugh Auditorium in Youngstown.

Todd Maki, the director of the Scoring Stage, said that the group focuses on producing quality orchestral recordings for composers at a reasonable rate, while still remaining competitive.

"Our main wheelhouse is recording and producing the soundtrack for their music that [composers] write. We've had nine or 10 sessions so far. We are trying to be a competitive alternative for other compos-

ers that would not be able to afford \$40,000," Maki said. "The first goal is to get [music] to the orchestra. The second goal is to record the orchestra playing it, and then the third goal is to get all those tracks back over to the client."

Maki said that Aaron Kenny, a multi-award winning composer from Australia, composed the soundtrack to "Crushed." He then contacted the Youngstown Scoring Stage about recording.

The recording was composed in two recording sessions, where 35 to 40 min-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MEGAN RIAKOS.

utes of music were recorded in three-hour blocks. Due to scheduling, the track, led by Kenny along with the Scoring Stage, was recorded in two days. Maki expressed his excitement about the scoring.

"It was probably the most exhilarating thing I've ever experienced. The people who

were there — sometimes we'll open [recording sessions] up to the public — they cast that energy to something being created for the first time on a massive scale," Maki said. "It's almost a shame because it's

**SCORE**  
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## REFERENDUM

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Responsible Ohio, a political action committee, is mounting a campaign to put a constitutional amendment legalizing marijuana use in the state of Ohio on the ballot this fall.

Lydia Bolander, a spokesperson for Responsible Ohio, is optimistic about the campaign's prospects.

"We are confident Ohio voters will have the chance to vote on our amendment in November 2015," Bolander said.

Assuming the petition is successful, Responsible Ohio will mount an information campaign in the fall leading up to the election.

"We're going to have a thorough, thoughtful conversation with voters about why our proposal will make Ohio safer and bring much-needed revenue to our communities. We believe that people will agree with our proposal," Bolander said.

The group has yet to release the actual text of the amendment, but has said it will establish a marijuana control commission, five testing facilities, ten regulated growing facilities and over 1,100 licensed retail stores. All pot products would be subject to a 15 percent tax, with an exemption for not-for-profit dispensaries that will provide cannabis to medical patients at cost.

The amendment would not allow citizens of Ohio to grow their own weed. This, along with the limited number of growing facilities, has led some to claim Responsible Ohio's plan would constitute a monopoly.

Bolander said these limitations are for regulatory purposes and to assure ethical practices.

"One of our top goals from the beginning has been to smother the black market and replace it with a better, safer market. The only way to do that successfully is to limit the supply of marijuana so it can be tightly regulated from seed to sale," Bolander said. "Our amendment does not address home growing, so if the General Assembly chose to change that law,

**REFERENDUM**  
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## To Close a College: What Does it Take to Shut Down Campus?

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If social media is to be believed, a number of Youngstown State University students weren't happy that school was still in session yesterday.

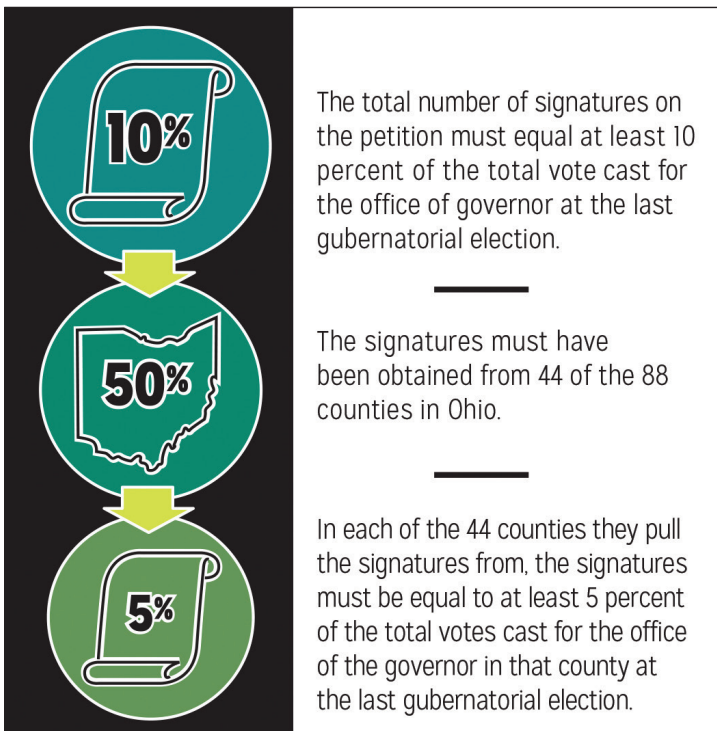
It is not uncommon to log onto Facebook, Twitter, Yik Yak, et cetera on particularly snowy days and find college students expressing their dissatisfaction with having to traverse a snowbound campus. The unlikely event of YSU closing for inclement weather is such a talking point for students that it has become a joke on social media, with some students posting memes and photos to illustrate the conditions on campus they find most egregious.

Compounding the issue, at 1 p.m. the city of Youngstown issued a city-wide snow emergency "until further notice," which essentially prohibits all parking on city streets unless certain conditions are met. The parking ban's purpose is to allow emergency vehicles to pass unhindered through the streets, but the news, after being disseminated by YSU's emergency alert system, has been used as further ammunition for students critical of the school's decision to stay open despite the emergency only affecting city parking off campus.

Ron Cole, YSU's public information officer, explained the various working parts that must come together to decide whether or not to keep the campus open.

"Ultimately it's [President Tressel] who makes that decision," Cole said. "Obviously there's a lot of input that goes into it from various individuals on campus including our facilities department, who has to assess the ability for most people to get here and for people once they're here to have parking lots that are clean and safe and sidewalks as well that are clean and safe. [Administrators and staff] are in contact with folks from the National Weather Service, local counties' road crews and things of that sort to make that assessment."

**CLOSE COLLEGE**  
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## WCBA Maintains AACSB Accreditation

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Youngstown State University's Williamson College of Business Administration maintained its extended accreditation from The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, after first receiving it in the year 2000 and then again in 2011.

The AACSB, which has 716 members in 48 countries, originally re-evaluated its business program every 10 years, only recently changing to a 5-year re-evaluation process.

Christine Clements, senior vice president of accreditation and member services at AACSB, said the re-accreditation evaluation process changed in 2003 to ensure programs upheld the AACSB standards on a continuous basis.

"We have a strong focus on continuous improvement and are committed to making sure programs are constantly improving while maintaining accreditation," Clements said. "We found that if we wait 10 years to re-evaluate programs, sometimes schools forget about the standards, quality and importance of having the AACSB accreditation. We are able to more frequently stand back and assess our programs and make sure they are maintaining the quality of the AACSB standards."

Betty Jo Licata, dean of the WCBA, expressed satisfaction over the college's AACSB accreditation.

"Accreditation recognizes the excellence of our programs, the rigor of the curriculum, the professional preparation of our students and the accomplishments and impact of our faculty," Licata said.

Maintaining this accreditation allows the WCBA to remain in the top 5 percent among all business schools in the world, and in the top 30 percent in the United States. Licata attributes maintaining the accreditation to faculty.

"We are driven by providing our students with a high quality education, developing programs that meet the needs of business, conducting research with impact and contributing to the economic success of the Valley," Licata said.

Clarence Williams, recent WCBA graduate, positively commented on the education he has received at YSU.

"YSU's WCBA program offers a rigorous curriculum, but the staff does an [A-plus] job in making sure each and every student has the skills and knowledge we need to ensure we are prepared for the business world, and I am without a question going to continue with the program to receive my MBA," Williams said.

The WCBA inducts members into two honors societies — Beta Gamma Sigma and Beta Alpha Psi — which are only available to AACSB accredited schools.

## Wife of Beheaded Journalist 'Proud' He Conveyed Tragedy of War

**ISABEL REYNOLDS  
MAIKO TAKA-  
HASHI**

**Bloomberg News  
(TNS)**

TOKYO — The wife of journalist Kenji Goto said she was proud of her husband's passion for conveying the "tragedies of war" after his beheading by Islamic State.

"My family and I are devastated by the news of Kenji's death," Rinko wrote in a statement published by the Rory Peck Trust, a U.K. group that supports freelance journalists. "I remain extremely proud of my husband who reported the plight of people in conflict areas."

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said Sunday that a video showing Goto's murder was likely to be genuine. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was defiant after the extremist group said it would target Japan because of its attempts to help countries contending with the group, and pledged to increase humanitarian aid to the Middle East.

Goto's death comes a week after Islamic State killed fellow Japanese captive Haruna Yukawa. The militants issued a series of threats against the pair, starting on Jan. 20, days after Abe pledged \$200 million in aid to nations fighting the group.

After initially seeking a ransom, the militants switched their demand. They pledged to kill Goto and Jordanian pilot Moath al-Kasassbeh unless

Jordan released a failed suicide bomber on death row.

The video, released early Sunday Japan time, didn't mention the fate of Al-Kasassbeh, who was captured in Syria on Dec. 24 after his plane crashed in Syria on a bombing raid against Islamic State.

The group had set a deadline of Jan. 29 for Jordan to turn over Sajida al-Rishawi, an Iraqi woman whose suicide belt failed to detonate during an attack on hotels in Amman in 2005 that killed dozens. Jordan said it was willing to free Al-Rishawi if Islamic State provided evidence the pilot was alive and included in the swap for Goto.

Jordan never received that proof and the failed suicide bomber remains in jail. The Jordanian government is still willing to release Al-Rishawi in "return for our son and our hero," Minister of State for Media Affairs Mohammad Momani said Sunday.

"Jordan did not spare any effort to preserve the life of the Japanese hostage and secure his release," Momani said in a statement. "Jordan was in constant coordination with Japan. Islamic State rejected all attempts by specialized agencies to release the hostage, which proves its insistence on terrorism and killing."

President Barack Obama condemned the "heinous murder" of Goto in an e-mailed statement. "Our thoughts are with Mr. Goto's family and loved ones," Obama said, noting that in his reporting, Goto "courageously sought to convey the plight of the Syrian people to the outside world."

"We stand today in solidarity with Prime Minister Abe and the Japanese people in denouncing this barbaric act," Obama said.

The killing of Goto, a week after the group killed Yukawa, a self-styled security consultant, brings a tragic end to the almost two-week crisis.

Yukawa was murdered after Japan failed to pay the \$200 million ransom initially demanded by the group, a sum that matched Abe's aid pledge on Jan. 17. In Sunday's video, Islamic State said the aid offer was a "reckless decision to take part in an unwinnable war."

The hostage standoff gripped both Japan and Jordan, with loved ones and friends of Goto and Al-Kasassbeh taking to the streets in Tokyo and Amman.

"It was his passion to highlight the effects on ordinary people, especially through the eyes of children, and to inform the rest of us of the tragedies of war," Goto's wife Rinko added in her statement.

Goto, who had two daughters with Rinko, was captured by Islamic State after traveling to Syria in October.

"Kenji, why did you die? You always cared about the world and you were a friend of justice," Goto's mother, Junko Ishido, said as she held a large photograph of her son in front of television cameras.

# Obama Budget Would Tax Offshore Trillions, Rebuild Infrastructure

**ANITA KUMAR  
KEVIN G. HALL  
MCCATCHY**

**Washington Bureau  
(TNS)**

President Barack Obama will propose a \$3.99 trillion federal budget Monday that would tax trillions of dollars kept offshore by U.S. business and use the proceeds to help finance the rebuilding of roads, bridges and mass transit at home.

The proposals are among the highlights of a budget Obama will use to urge a fundamental shift of the nation's wealth, taxing the wealthy to help the poor and middle class, who have stagnated even as the economy has rebounded.

"This budget shows what we can do if we invest in America's future and commit to an economy that rewards hard work, generates rising incomes, and allows everyone to share in the prosperity of a growing America," the budget will say. "It lays out a strategy to strengthen our middle

class and help America's hard-working families get ahead in a time of relentless economic and technological change."

The proposed budget for the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1 includes a long list of spending and tax increases, many of which have been offered in the past but rejected by Congress. This year's plan is expected to be no different in a newly Republican-controlled Congress, where lawmakers will propose their own budget this spring.

"It seems to be more of the same policies that have resulted in the lowest, slowest economic recovery out of an economic downturn in the history of the country — more taxes, more spending, more borrowing," House Budget Committee Chairman Tom Price, R-Ga. said on "Fox News Sunday."

While all but certain to die in Congress, Obama's budget could provide Democrats with a platform in the 2016 elections for the White House and Congress. His proposals would help more than 44 million households

with an average benefit of \$600 per household, according to the White House.

One proposal will be the six-year, \$478 billion infrastructure program focused on roads, bridges and transit systems.

About half, \$238 billion would come from a one-time 14 percent tax on the roughly \$2 trillion that U.S. companies have offshore, senior administration officials said Sunday.

The other half of the money — \$240 billion — would come from the federal Highway Trust Fund, which is financed with a gasoline tax.

Finding money to pay for the nation's crumbling infrastructure has been debated with little success for years. Washington has occasionally debated "tax holidays" for companies to voluntarily repatriate offshore earnings at lower tax rates than the current maximum corporate tax rate of 35 percent. Obama opposes such programs and his plan would be mandatory.

"Republicans believe that we should be building our in-

frastructure. The question's how we should pay for it," Obama said in an interview with NBC. "That's a negotiation we should have."

The Obama budget will urge Congress to throw out spending caps adopted in 2011, and allow a 7 percent increase in spending that's not already on autopilot such as Social Security and Medicare.

Obama will propose increasing military spending by \$38 billion, to \$561 billion for fiscal year 2016.

Included: The "necessary resources to degrade and ultimately defeat" the Islamic State terrorists in Iraq and Syria.

Money to provide "political, economic, and military support to NATO allies and partner states in Europe" to push back against Russian aggression.

\$14 billion to "strengthen U.S. cybersecurity defenses and ... more rapidly protect American citizens, systems, and information from cyber threats."

\$1 billion to promote "prosperity, security and good governance" in Central

America.

Obama will also propose increase domestic spending by \$37 billion next year, to \$530 billion.

Obama is proposing tax increases on the wealthy totaling \$320 billion over 10 years, atop those last year, which will total about \$600 billion over the next decade. About \$210 billion would come from the higher taxes on the estates and investment income of the wealthy, and \$110 billion from fees on finance and Wall Street.

He is also proposing \$640 billion in increases on the wealthy recycled from an earlier plan.

In addition, he will propose closing a tax loophole on corporate jets and eliminating a provision allowing hedge-fund and private-equity profits to be taxed at a lower rate, the officials said.

However, Obama's plan relies on tax increases and legislation that are unlikely to get through the Republican Congress.

(Lesley Clark and William Douglas contributed to this report.)

The YSU Grounds Department, which maintains the grounds and campus facilities, plays a major role in assessing the viability of holding classes during periods of inclement weather. According to John Hyden, the facilities office executive director, workers were out as early as 2 a.m. this morning prepping the campus for students. As for the slick conditions some students experience early in the morning, Hyden explained that early morning instances of heavy snow and ice formation are nearly impossible to completely clean up before students arrive.

"The worst thing that can happen is an early morning blast," Hyden said. "If we get hit at 6 a.m., it's nearly impossible to get the entire campus cleaned up before the first classes start."

Another factor affecting the campus preparations is the number of actual workers available to prep sidewalks, building entrances and parking lots across the 140-acre campus.

"I have 10 guys today, two of which are working afternoon shifts only, and a handful of student employees doing sidewalks and building entrances, for the entire campus," Hyden said. "Compared to other areas, like downtown,

I'd say the crew here does an amazing job getting YSU cleaned up on time for classes."

In determining whether or not cancellation should be considered, the grounds department monitors a weather forecasting system that specifically reports on YSU's zip code as well as police and government weather advisories.

"Sometimes a cancellation would be obvious. If we had 18 inches of snow overnight, I'd pick up the phone and tell Tressel there's no way we can have the campus ready and we'd need to cancel. But that's not common," Hyden said. "Now, today the city of Youngstown issued a snow emergency, but that's essentially just a parking ban. If a travel emergency was issued by the city or police in any of the three counties we serve — one that makes it illegal to drive unless there's an emergency — then we'd cancel."

Cole further explained the significance the range of locations that both faculty and students commute from to get to campus plays into the process of deciding a cancellation.

"Part of what's factored in is that we have people coming from all around. We have to consider the weather conditions

from a pretty wide geographical area," Cole said. "We have people who work here, go to school here, coming from [areas like] Pittsburgh or Cleveland on a daily basis we have to consider."

Another consideration that may be overlooked by students in regards to class cancellation is that students — and taxpayers — pay for the college to operate, prompting those in charge of cancelling the school to do everything possible to keep classes open despite poor weather conditions.

"Obviously safety is the primary and biggest consideration, but the other thing to consider is that in our situation we have students who have paid tuition to attend school here, so we think it's important if it's safe or we can make it safe — since we do live in northeast Ohio and get weather here — that we try our best to make the campus as safe and accessible as possible so we can hold classes as planned," Cole said.

Hyden echoed Cole's remarks, suggesting students may benefit from a shift in perspective when considering the implications of cancelling YSU.

"You can't compare YSU with a K-12 school. This isn't K-12. It's a business. Students are paying to be

here, so we need to provide that service to the best of our ability. ... If you work at a business, you're expected to go in unless there's a disaster," Hyden said. "Plus, if we were to shut down the campus, that means we shut down the campus. Basketball games, campus activities, campus events — those all get cancelled too. So it's a lot to consider."

One of the major complaints from students during instances of dangerous weather is centered on the potential for students to lose points in their classes if they choose not to drive due to safety concerns. Hyden agrees that there should be a better system in place for dealing with such instances that wouldn't force the entire campus to close.

"If you aren't comfortable driving, then you shouldn't drive. The problem some students run into though is that they're worried professors will knock points off them for not showing up to class," Hyden said. "I think we need a policy that considers honest students who really would have to face dangerous driving situations due to where they live to take some of that pressure off them. Obviously that could be abused, but it's worth considering for the sake of student safety."

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**Dawoud Bey • Keynote Speaker**  
Thursday, February 12, 5:30-6:30pm

YSU's African American History Month Keynote Speaker Dawoud Bey will lecture in the McDonough Galleries. The event, co-sponsored by the Africana Studies Program, McDonough Museum of Art and the Department of Art's Distinguished Artist Lecture Series, will be followed by a reception.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

**CollegeCompare.com Ranks YSU in Top 10 Best Universities in Ohio**

A new ranking list released in January lists Youngstown State University 10th in the best colleges and universities in Ohio. This list is composed of schools that offer four-year degrees in Ohio, and is based on five areas: student life, technology, spirituality, diversity and academic life.

**Dana School of Music Auditions Set for February**

The Dana School of Music's audition days will be held on Feb. 14 and 28 for students who want to attend the school. They will begin at 8:30 a.m. in Bliss Hall. To pre-register, call 330-941-3636.

**Twin Brothers Present on Ceramics in Honor of African American History Month**

On Wednesday Feb. 4 at 6:30, Kelly and Kyle Phelps will be presenting a joint lecture on their ceramic work in the McDonough Museum of Art. Before this, from 1 to 3:50 p.m., they will lead a workshop in Bliss Hall, Room 1059.

like we hold a concert for no people. They're beautiful and then we have to shut down. It's always a bitter sweet moment."

Kenny, who has also scored the soundtrack to the short film "Moth" and assisted on the soundtracks for films like "Happy Feet 2" and the recent ABC television show "Galavant," said his experience in Youngstown with the Scoring Stage was a good one.

"It was really positive. Whenever you are working, sometimes there is always the sense of the unexpected, you never know what is going to happen, and I've never been to Ohio before. I was also a little nervous because it was my first feature-length project as opposed to just a short film, but when I got to Youngstown, it was completely relaxed and professional, and everything was ready to go and all set up," Kenny said. "That's what really makes it nice and relaxing, so that I can worry about the music itself and what we're recording."

"Crushed" is a mystery thriller set in a vineyard in Mudgee, Australia. After a young woman — portrayed by Sarah Bishop — receives news of her father's death in her family's winery, she returns home to find that the death was no accident and her mother is the prime suspect.

Kenny explained how the soundtrack fit with the theme surrounding the thriller.

"The score is the emotional heart of the film. It's there to help support and resonate what's actually on the screen, and also to get into the subtext of the scene and what's going on with everything," Kenny said. "With 'Crushed,' it was getting to the heart of the loss of a close family member, but also this tension that arises from conflicts within the family, external conflicts like the different suspects of the murder and internal conflicts of the main character."

Megan Riakos, the director and producer of "Crushed," said that this was her first time writing a feature film. Her inspiration for the film was based on her interest of the American short film thriller, "The Staircase," as well as the New Zealand miniseries "Top

of the Lake" — a crime drama based in a small town.

"So I've made a whole lot of short films, probably around a dozen. Some of them are narrative shorts, music video clips, corporate videos and mini documentaries. This is the first full-length feature that I've done. Before that, the longest short I had made was 21 minutes," Riakos said. "I thought 'OK, what kind of film would I be able to direct?' and I specifically set out to make a genre film. Thrillers are something that I can explore. A lot of relationships and humanity begin a thriller, which is an interesting and exciting format, and then I looked at those films and responded to them."

Kenny said that he attended the Australian Film Television Radio School with Riakos, in Sydney, Australia and was impressed with her work. He had previously scored a short film of hers — a drama set in the late 1920s to early 1930s — and also worked with her on a psychological horror.

"She'd written this feature film ['Crushed'] and was in the process of getting it made on an Indie Budget, ... and I was really impressed by the quality of work as well as a lot of them were emerging professionals. They had already been working on many different professional films, or television shows, but never as the primary crew member, whether it's the cinematographer, the editor or, in my case, the composer," Kenny said. "This was a really good chance for us to show that we can make a feature film for ourselves to a higher degree of quality."

The shooting of the film started in December 2013 and was not finished until some time in February 2014. It is approximately 111 minutes long as of now.

Riakos said her goal is to attend film festivals around the world.

"The plan of attack is just to kind of get into film festivals in the U.S. and around the world, and see whether or not we have interest from distributors. It's about having a bit of strategy releasing the film, and depending on how we go at festivals and things like that and whether or not we get picked up, will deter-

mine how wide we release at a cinema level," she said. "It might just be we have a few targeted screenings and maybe if we can get any of the other people involved in the film. If we have screenings like that, we find it's easier to get an audience. Then we would definitely be doing a DVD and download online. That probably won't happen until mid to late this year."

Riakos said that only about 400 people have seen the whole film during the screening process and most were impressed with the work of Kenny and the Youngstown Scoring Stage.

"What they are doing is really good. Creating jobs and creating space for musicians in Youngstown, and giving us an opportunity. We would not be able to afford to pay for an orchestra in New York, or Sydney, or in Los Angeles. We would not have been able to get the sound if it weren't for the collaboration of those guys," Riakos said. "I think they did a great job, and we got a lot of nice responses like when we did the screening. Almost everyone said 'Oh my god. That music was amazing. It made the film.' It's a thriller. If you don't have good music, it's not scary."

The Youngstown Scoring Stage has scored the soundtracks to a variety of films from the climactic fight scene of "The Last Straw," a high school comedy, to two scenes from the drama film "Sand Castles," to the opening scene for "A Dog for Christmas."

"It's been quite a diverse range. We've had anything from horror films to the war period film to comedies to drama. Every score is so completely different, and the music of each composer is so different," Maki said. "We are still developing who we are as far as how we work. We've had the interesting problem of having to turn down a lot of the workers who weren't ready for it. The work is definitely out there. We'll have one session a day and that will last anywhere from two to four hours."

"Crushed" can be found on Kickstarter for those interested in supporting the project.

REFERENDUM  
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they would have the authority to do so."

Paul Sracic, chair of the political science department at Youngstown State University, said he's not convinced the group will even be able to get the amendment on the ballot.

"I think it's an open question about whether they're going to succeed. I don't even know if it's a 50/50 chance that they'll succeed at that stage," Sracic said. "I actually think you might be able to argue that getting it approved if it's on the ballot might be easier than actually getting it on the ballot. Because voting is anonymous. So it's one thing for someone to go into a booth and anonymously vote for an amendment. It's another thing for someone to put their name on a petition."

The amendment process requires petitioners gather over 300,000 signatures and they need to obtain the signatures in

at least half of the counties in Ohio.

The fact that there isn't a general election this year could also play into the outcome if the initiative makes it on the ballot.

"I think it has a better chance of succeeding in a year of a general election because of the sort of turnout you get. It's true that you can maybe sneak something in, and voters aren't very motivated overall maybe to show up during an off-year election. So maybe those that are in favor of legalization will get out to the polls," Sracic said. "But there's also the chance that it'll generate backlash, and the people that really oppose this are going to show up and vote against it. And since you're dealing with smaller numbers, a small group that's opposed to it might have more of an effect during an off-year."

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Smoke rises from the site where a tanker truck that was supplying gas in front of a hospital exploded on Jan. 29 2015 in Mexico City. At least three people were killed and at least 54 others injured Thursday morning in a powerful gas tank truck explosion outside a maternity and children's hospital in Mexico City, local government said. (Xinhua/Zuma Press/TNS).

## CHINA WARNS OBAMA AGAINST MEETING DALAI LAMA AT PRAYER BREAKFAST

**TING SHI**  
Bloomberg News  
(TNS)

HONG KONG — China warned President Barack Obama to avoid appearing with the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama later this week at a prayer meeting, saying it amounted to unwanted meddling.

“We strongly oppose any country using the Tibetan matter to interfere in China’s internal affairs,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei told reporters at a regular briefing on Monday in Beijing. “We strongly oppose any state leader to meet with the Dalai Lama in any manner.”

Calling Tibet one of China’s core interests, Hong urged the U.S. to “honor its promises on the Tibetan issues” and “properly handle relevant matters.”

Hong’s message comes amid news reports that Obama and the Dalai Lama will appear at the annual National Prayer Breakfast on Feb. 5 in Washington. Obama will address the gathering of policy makers and spiritual leaders about the importance of religious freedom, according to a CNN report last week.

The White House has declined to say whether the two will meet at the event. It would be the first time that the U.S. president and the Tibetan spiritual leader have appeared at the same public event.

The Dalai Lama has lived in northern India since fleeing in 1959 from China’s military takeover of the region. China accuses him of waging a campaign for independence, while the spiritual leader says he is seeking autonomy for Tibet.

Tibet and its spiritual leader have been a thorn in the side of Sino-U.S. relations, with Beijing’s leaders calling the Dalai Lama “a wolf in sheep’s clothing” who wants to split Tibet from China.

Obama and the Dalai Lama previously have met privately, most recently in February 2014 in the Map Room of the White House, triggering Chinese protests.

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# The Rebirth of Vinyl Records



PHOTO BY LIAM BOUQUET/THE JAMBAR.

**SCOTT WILLIAMS**  
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Last month, The Wall Street Journal proclaimed the “Biggest Musical Comeback of 2014” was not the rebirth of a singer/songwriter, but instead was the rebirth of the vinyl record.

Jeff Burke, owner of the Record Connection on Route 422 in Niles, said he hasn’t seen a resurgence of vinyl quite like this in some time.

“I never thought records would come back,” Burke said. “I’ve owned this store for 34 years, and I can certainly tell you, however small, [vinyl] is making a comeback. It is bringing in new customers and is driving sales of both new and used.”

Burke claimed the year 2014 was the small shop’s strongest year of the 2000s. While he

said he is hopeful this trend will continue, he is not certain.

“The kids get a new record player and their friends get jealous and go out and get a record player. A lot of it is fad, I believe, at this point. I’m not thoroughly convinced that it is here to stay,” Burke said. “A good example of why I believe this is because the industry only produced 9.2 million new record sales last year. They can’t track used records, however. So, the industry only sold 9.2 million. There were bands in the 1970s selling 19 to 20 million easily, so it is still very small. It’s kind of a niche.”

Holly Lacusky, a Youngstown State University alumna, said vinyls offer something distinct from other audio devices.

“I still play vinyl while cleaning around the house,” she said. “Nothing beats the character and the texture of the sounds.”

Burke said he couldn’t agree more.

“Vinyl is the best fidelity that you could possibly get — bar none. You got that needle trapped right down in that groove — you’re not going to get a better sound,” he said. “To me, that is the way music was meant to be recorded and heard.”

These two are not alone as The Wall Street Journal reports a 49 percent increase in vinyl sales from 2013 to 2014. It’s a new generation of buyers who are just being introduced to this method of entertainment.

Burke observed that the bulk of their business is from younger people.

“We are seeing age groups as young as 13 to maybe 30 years old. Those are strong buyers right now; however, I wish they had more money, and they could be even stronger buyers,” Burke said. “There are still collectors, then you have your casual buyers, but the predominant buyer now is young females for the first time ever, that I know of,

in the history of the business. I never would have guessed.”

One event that helps push business for vinyl records and independent record stores is “Record Store Day,” which falls on the third Saturday of April.

Record Store Day was conceived in 2007 at a gathering of independent record store owners and employees as a way to celebrate and spread the word about the unique culture surrounding nearly 1400 independently-owned record stores in the U.S. and thousands of similar stores internationally. Special vinyl, CD and various promotional products are released exclusively for the day. Hundreds of artists in the United States and in various countries across the globe make special appearances and performances to celebrate the day.

A store participating in Record Store Day is defined as “a stand-alone brick and mortar retailer whose main primary busi-

ness is a physical store location with a product line consisting of at least 50 percent music retail. The company must not be publicly traded, and their ownership must be at least 70 percent located in the state of operation.”

“Independent Record Store Day is really helping out. The third Saturday in April is now our biggest day of the year,” Burke said. “It is exciting for somebody who has been doing this as long as I have to see the amount of people pouring in the store that day.”

One of the draws of records, other than playing them, is collecting them.

“Building up my library of albums has been a joy. You can always show them off and they make great conversation pieces,” Burke said. “I have between 5,000 and 6,000 records in my personal collection. Stop on in and give it a shot. What do you have to lose? Come see what this is all about.”

## We Lack Steel, but Not Pig Iron



PHOTO BY BILLY LUDT/THE JAMBAR.

**BILLY LUDT**  
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Walking along the Iowan flatlands, Jim Villani sticks his thumb out toward passing cars. A semi-truck comes to a halt and Villani enters the vehicle.

That was the summer of 1973. After graduating from Youngstown State University, Villani was headed to California. He intended on going to graduate school there.

The traditional folk tune, “Rock Island Line,” enters the airwaves. The countryside passes by, and the singer, in their rendition, details their haul — cows, pigs, sheep and mules. The chorus comes and goes, and the next verse graces Villani’s ears: “Well I fooled you, I fooled you. I got pig iron, I got pig iron, I got old pig iron.”

“Yeah,” Villani says. “That’s what I’m going to call my company.”

Thus the Pig Iron Press

found its name.

On Sept. 19, 1973, the Pig Iron Press was born. Villani operated out of the bedroom and basement of his Boardman, suburban home. Two years later, the steel industry collapsed.

Initially, he published journals titled “Pig Iron,” a collection of submissions from various authors and poets. “Pig Iron” published annually for 20 years.

The term pig iron, Villani explained, comes from farmers who discovered that iron ore could be melted. Observing a boiling cauldron of iron, the farmers had no clue what to do with it. So, they poured it into the sand.

The trickling, cooling iron ore stretched outward. A farmer remarked that the iron resembled a suckling piglet.

The Pig Iron Press originally published poetry, fiction and other literary works. As time has passed, the Press has taken on other niche projects, such as a chiropractic textbook.

“I’m pretty much a one-man operation,” Villani said.

In 1993, Villani purchased a commercial building on North Phelps Street. After 20 years of operating out of his home, Villani moved the Pig Iron Press to downtown Youngstown.

“The press wanted to grow, but it couldn’t because it was too constrained in the house,” Villani said.

Two years ago Villani opened up Lost Pages, a used bookstore. Shelves upon shelves of books line the walls and wooden floors of the store alongside pictures and figurines of pigs. A set of stairs leads up to a loft filled with more books, records and magazines.

Owning and operating an independent publishing company was an idea Villani concocted while working at the campus publications.

“It was a relatively easy thing to do,” he said. “I could still do all kinds of other stuff. I said, ‘I could do this on my own — I could find some financing

somewhere.’”

Villani caught wind of a gathering of small, independent publishing companies at Vanderbilt University.

He attended the event, met a lot of people and was convinced of the viability of his venture. Villani discovered that people were doing this all around the country.

“That’s basically what got me thinking you didn’t have to be a part of an institution to do this kind of activity,” he said.

The first book published by Pig Iron Press was “Angry Candy,” by John Pauker in 1976. “Angry Candy” is a long form satirical poem, criticizing consumerism.

“It was a great statement — clever and accurate and witty and entertaining,” Villani said.

The most famous work published by Pig Iron Press is “Still Another Pelican in the Breadbox,” by Kenneth Patchen. Patchen was one of the originators of the beat movement, and considered the first poet to read

poetry with a jazz accompaniment.

Villani has taught composition at various educational institutions — often taking up residency for weeks at a time — and holds workshops in his workspace on Phelps Street.

Aside from his publishing work, Villani writes poetry and prose. When it comes to poetry, Villani emulates Walt Whitman and T.S. Eliot’s imagery. As for prose, he looks to postmodern writers for inspiration, citing Tom Wolfe and Joan Didion.

Villani holds positions at a state and local level in the Green Party as a central committee person. His shop is adorned with Green Party and he often holds local meetings in the workspace above.

“There’s room for a lot more interaction between the Green Party and the student body at YSU,” Villani said.

A week from today, Villani will be hosting his monthly poetry reading at the McKelvey Gallery in the Knox Building.

## EDITORIAL

## Election For \$ale

Perhaps your jaw drops when you hear the staggering amount of money the Coca-Cola Company spent on one 60-second Super Bowl ad — roughly \$9 million.

Now multiply that number by 100, and you'll get the approximate amount of money the Koch brothers plan to spend during the 2016 election.

At an invite-only meeting held last week for billionaire conservative donors, oil tycoons Charles and David Koch announced that they will spend \$889 million to back republican candidates in 2016.

Less than a month before the Koch brothers' announcement, Mitt Romney decided that he would not be launching another campaign for the presidency — a decision that came just after

mega donor William Oberdorf emailed a group of republicans explaining that he wouldn't back a third Romney run.

It's no secret; there's a lot of money in American politics, more now than at any other time in history. And it's not just wealthy individuals making large political contributions; it's businesses, too. In the late nineteenth century, U.S. courts acknowledged that a business is simply a collection of individuals and therefore established a concept known as corporate personhood, which extended some constitutional rights — otherwise granted only to individual people — to businesses. Originally intended to protect individuals while they performed corporate jobs from lawsuits, corporate personhood not only allowed

businesses to sue, but also allowed others to sue businesses as opposed to business owners.

In recent years, the treating of corporations as people has gone too far. In 2010, the Supreme Court's decision on Citizens United held that corporations have First Amendment rights, allowing these institutions to give unconstrained sums of money to political campaigns.

Though an argument for stricter campaign finance laws is not a particularly novel call to action, it's an important one that remains relevant, especially as we approach the 2016 election season.

Simply put, the nation's wealthiest have the biggest political influence. While everyone has the right to speak freely and voice an opinion,

the donations of the super rich inflate the value of their speech while diluting the value of the common man's speech. This phenomenon puts the very values that this country was founded upon at risk — it severely compromises the health of our democracy, taking the power from the people and placing it squarely into the hands of rich people and thriving corporations.

It's not as though the super elite are selflessly donating their money to politicians. Instead, they expect a return on what they consider an investment.

Some argue that the political investments the Koch brothers made during the 2014 midterm election have already paid off. In response to the newly conservative Senate's approval of a Key-

stone pipeline project, *New Republic Magazine* wrote, "Just one month into the new Congress, and already the Kochs' fossil fuel interests — which include oil pipelines and refineries — have neatly aligned with Republican priorities."

As we question current campaign finances, we encourage our readers to ask themselves the following questions: when was the last time you sent an email that scared a politician out of a race? When have you been able to push a personal agenda through congress?

The time is now to place limits on monetary campaign contributions because it's not right that a handful of billionaires can pay for a substantial voice in government, while the rest of us can only cast a single vote.

## TV Review: 'A Place to Call Home' Charms Like an Australian 'Downton Abbey'

**CARY DARLING**  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram  
TNS

"Downton Abbey," now in the middle of its fifth season in the U.S., hits that sumptuous sweet spot for those who relish seeing how the Edwardian 1 percent coped with their luxuriant lives.

It follows in that grand tradition of the American fascination with such other British period series as "Upstairs, Downstairs" and "Brideshead Revisited," which similarly whipped viewers on this side of the Atlantic into a froth of Anglophilia.

Australia, though, doesn't want to be left out of this tea party, bringing the addictive, binge-worthy "A Place to Call Home" to the festivities. The first season, which aired in Australia in 2013, is now available for streaming in the U.S. through Acorn TV, a site devoted to British (and now Australian) television.

A big, brawny blend of traditional Aussie soaps, melo-

dramatic Hollywood films from the '50s and high-toned British drama, "A Place to Call Home" is perfect for American "Downton" fans itching for their next TV fix.

Unlike "Downton," "Home" is set in the early '50s, giving it a hint of the massive cultural shifts of the mid-20th century that were lurking around the corner.

Yet, like its English counterparts, "A Place to Call Home" revolves around an aristocratic family, the Blighs. At the head is widowed grandmother Elizabeth (a fantastic Noni Hazlehurst) who runs her New South Wales country estate/sheep ranch — Ash Park (derisively called "Cash Park" by one character) — like a well-heeled boot camp.

Everyone bows to her wishes, including debonair middle-aged son George (Brett Climo), entitled grandson James (David Berry), giddy granddaughter Anna (Abby Earl) and James' new British wife, Olivia (Arianwen Parkes-Lockwood), whom he met while attending university in England.

Of course, everyone in the nearby village of Inverness, from the town doctor Jack Duncan (Craig Hall) to the town gossip Doris (Deborah Kennedy), seems to be in her thrall.

Lives are turned upside-down when nurse Sarah Adams (a riveting Marta Dusseldorp) arrives in town with the force of an Outback thunderstorm.

An Australian who has lived in Europe for the previous 20 years — including through the horrors of World War II after converting to Judaism — she's tight-lipped about her experiences and what may have happened to her. One thing's for sure: Sarah has little use for the established order and will butt heads with Elizabeth, unearthing long-guarded Bligh family secrets in the process.

On top of that, and much to Elizabeth's chagrin, George is totally and absolutely smitten.

Not only is "A Place to Call Home" an absorbing, if sometimes sudsy, family drama, it's also a peek into a time when Australia was Great Britain

with a sunburn, with a largely Anglo-Irish population where the local Jews and Italians were seen as, if not threats, then certainly outsiders.

It was an era when all things English — whether an upcoming visit from the queen or atomic testing at Emu Field — were treated as treasures.

At the same time, George — who lost his wife when the Japanese bombed the Australian city of Darwin in 1942 — is being wooed by politicians (including the prime minister) to host a Japanese business delegation. While Inverness remains a hotbed of anti-Japanese sentiment, an Australian future of Toyotas and Sonys beckons.

Show creator Bevan Lee has been quoted as saying he wanted to make a "compelling melodrama about love and loss set against the social change of the 1950s."

He does it not only with story but the well-curated music, as the soundtrack ranges from Nat King Cole's "Mona Lisa" to Hank Williams' "Your Cheatin' Heart." (Not to mention those clothes! Those

cars!)

While the plot machinations get to be a bit much by the end of Season 1 — there's probably at least one too many big reveals — "A Place to Call Home" remains compulsively watchable television.

In Australia, the series' cancellation by the Seven broadcast network after the second season — it said production costs were too high — generated enough noisy fan outrage to induce the cable-TV Soho network to pick it up for two more seasons.

Once Americans open the door to this "Home," they likely will understand why.

**"A PLACE TO CALL HOME"**  
4 out of 5 stars

The first season is available for streaming now at [www.acorn.tv](http://www.acorn.tv). The site offers a free month and costs \$4.99 per month or \$49.99 per year subsequently. The first-season DVD will be released in the U.S. on March 3, and the second season will be available for streaming in April.

## 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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## Unwritten Classroom Rules

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Many of us are prone to hating the know-it-all in class. I've even written about it, previously. But what about the active participant who isn't exactly a know-it-all? Are we really able to tell the difference? And should we deal with them the same way we deal with the infamous know-it-all?

Often, we hate the active participant because who really wants to hear the same person answer all the questions, constantly one-upping you throughout the 50 minute span of your class three days a week?

If you are the active participant, do you feel the eyes of hatred burning into the back of your head, wishing you ill will and perhaps a muzzle? What are you really supposed to do in class? What are the unspoken rules of classroom etiquette in college?

First and foremost let's make sure you realize why you are in college and, more importantly, in that class — you are there to learn. You should, theoretically, be there to get the most for your tu-

ition dollars. And rather than impress your fellow students with your stony expression and unimpressed demeanor, maybe you should engage with the teacher. Lectures and class discussions are for your benefit, not theirs.

In "The Twenty-Three Unwritten Rules of College Etiquette," published in July 2010 on Education.com, Robert Miller breaks down the rules of the syllabus students should follow to get the most out of their education.

"A large part of the learning experience in college is what students teach each other, both inside and outside of class," Miller said. "Don't assume that the people who are talking actually know more than you do. In all likelihood, they are just more confident."

Beyond participating with the educator to get the most out of their education, those participating in the classroom are actually tools in your education as well. Sometimes I've found it's even easier to learn from what a peer says rather than a professor because it is more broken down into language that I can understand.

Miller noted the importance of not monopolizing the

discussion — for that would be a characteristic of the infamous and hated know-it-all that doesn't actually know it all — but participating diligently, adding to the classroom learning environment.

Ending his article are helpful hints on how to maximize the potential of your classroom time. Miller said in addition to remaining an active discussion participant, it is also important to be a good listener so your comments and banter furthering your experience does not hinder another's, hinder your own or hinder the teaching practices of your professor.

I admit that I have been prone to hate the outspoken guy sitting a few rows in front of me, bantering with the teacher about the subject in the reading that I neglected to do. I don't think I hated him for his knowledge, but out of jealousy that he possessed this intellect and charisma that I lacked over the subject I neglected to study. So maybe it isn't the best approach to sneer at the active participant for getting the most education for their money. Maybe you should even listen to them every now and again — you may learn something on the way.

## How to Build a Better Program

### Jason Neal Brings Baseball Recruits to YSU



Jason Neal, assistant coach and recruiting coordinator, oversaw the recruitment of 16 of the players on the 2014 Horizon League Champion roster. The YSU baseball team recently received seven commitments for the 2016 season.

**DAN HINER**  
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Imagine being a high school baseball recruit — receiving letters for scholarships, attending meetings with coaches and visiting colleges to try to find out which program is best for you.

If the Youngstown State University baseball team was recruiting you, then you would have crossed paths with recruiting coordinator Jason Neal.

Neal, who is also the assistant coach, joined the program back in 2013 when head coach

Steve Gillispie took over the program.

The YSU baseball team has focused its recruiting out west during the past couple years. No one from the coaching staff is from around this area. Neal said that the coaching staff tried to stay in areas where they recruited in the past.

“In the first class, maybe class and a half, we stuck to the areas that we knew and that we were strong until we knew the lay of the land,” Neal said. “As far as any kind of challenges with the local guys, I think a lot of it is about changing the perception with Youngstown State and YSU baseball.”

The baseball team currently has eight players on the

team from California. Neal attributes the team’s ability to recruit to the team’s up-to-date facilities and the lack of programs on the west coast.

“From our experience, it hasn’t been difficult,” he said. “A lot of times, there are so many players out there and not enough Division I schools — there’s a lack of opportunity. So, if they see an opportunity to come out here and compete at the highest level, they’re all for it. Players want nice facilities, we got great facilities in Eastwood Field and the WATTS. They want to be able to play in a nice facility and a nice area and that’s something we could give them.”

While the team has focused out of state in previous years,

the program will start to recruit local players. Now that the coaching staff has started to form contacts in the Mahoning Valley, the Penguins will try to build a fence around the local high schools.

“We’re trying to take care of our backyard,” Neal said. “If there is somebody in the area who we feel can help us win a championship and take the program to the next level, we will absolutely do whatever we can to keep them here. We have nine guys either signed or committed right now, and six of them are from the state of Ohio or western PA.”

Neal, along with the rest of the coaching staff, has put an emphasis on building a connection with the community

and changing the perception of the program. With the help of youth camps and appearances at local ballparks like Cene Park, the coaches hope the program will attract young players to the program at a young age.

“We want young men that want to grow up and play at YSU,” he said. “We want them to come to school here and know everything the school has to offer. That is one of the reasons we started the youth camps a lot — starting at a young age and getting the parents and kids excited about kind of what we’re doing, reaching out and being seen in the community. We want them to be excited about possibly being able to play at YSU.”

## YSU and Wright State Battle for Second Place

**DAN HINER**  
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The Youngstown State University women’s basketball team got back with an 87-64 win against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Jan. 31.

Now the Penguins will travel to Wright State University on Feb. 5. The Raiders are 16-5, 5-2 in Horizon League play. A win against WSU would put the Penguins in a tie with the Raiders for second place in the conference.

YSU held on to win the first meeting 75-70 against WSU back on Jan. 22. With the score tied at 48 halfway through the second half, the Penguins were able to pull away after guard Indiya Benjamin scored 11 points in the final 7:35 of the game.

The Penguins will have to contend with Horizon League scoring leader, WSU point guard Tay’ler Mingo. She’s averaging 23.4 points, 5.1 assists and 3.7 steals per game. Mingo scored 30 points against YSU during the first meeting between the two teams on Jan. 22.

“We’re trying to run their stuff and get ready for what they do. We pretty much focused our whole defense on her [Mingo] last time and she had 30,” head coach John Barnes said. “So I don’t know what we’re going to do differently, but we’re going to try a few different things to try to get that number down a little bit.”

Defense is always a key to the Penguins’ success. WSU is first in the conference in scoring, averaging 78.3 points per game. Barnes and the rest of the coaching staff will have to create a game plan to slow down the

Raiders’ high-powered offense.

“You can go one of two ways: let her get hers and try to stop everybody else or try to really stop her and have some of the other players score when they normally don’t score that many,” Barnes said. “It all depends on the night too. They have good players around her. They just put up 108 points against Oakland [University] in their last game. It’s going to be a challenge.”

Senior forwards Latisha Walker and Heidi Schlegel will need to come up big for the Penguins in the post. WSU is one of the best teams in the conference at rebounding — the Raiders are second in the conference in rebounding margin, 6.8 per game. WSU’s Tayler Stanton is second in the conference in rebounds, averaging 10.8 per game.

After the YSU’s win against UWM in the last game, the Pen-

guins are confident they can win heading into the Nutter Center. Barnes said the team is well rested and ready to play on Thursday.

“Mentally, we’re prepared,” Barnes said. “We believe we

can beat them because we already have, obviously. We know it’s going to be a different situation on their home floor, but we’re going to go in there with confidence and aggressive and give it our best.”



Latisha Walker (34) scored five points and seven rebounds during YSU’s previous game against the Wright State University Raiders on Jan. 22. Walker held WSU starting forward Tayler Stanton to nine points and nine rebounds.

### SPORTS BRIEFS

#### DJ Cole Moves Up Career Assist List

YSU men’s point guard recorded his 393rd career assist during the Penguins’ Feb. 1 loss to the University of Oakland. Cole moved into fifth place on the YSU men’s basketball career assist list. Cole is averaging five assists per game, second in the Horizon League.

#### Women’s Tennis Beats IPFW, Loses to Ball State

YSU women’s tennis team beat Indiana University-Purdue Fort Wayne on Feb. 1 5-2 and went 2-1 in during doubles competition. Later that day the Penguins dropped their contest against Ball State University 4-3 and finished 2-1 in doubles play.

#### Shiley and Neu Shine at SPIRE Midwest Invitational

Jennifer Shiley won the 400m dash at the SPIRE Midwest Invitational. Shiley finished with a time of 57.64, barely beating out second place by 0.04 seconds. Conner Neu won the weight toss with a throw of 19.99 meters.