

Little Cinema, BIG IDEAS

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Youngstown's art junkies and cinephiles will be gaining another attraction beginning in March. The Little Youngstown Cinema is a semi-monthly movie theater that will be screening Criterion Collection and Janus Films projects in various locations downtown.

David Pokrivnak, creator of the Little Youngstown Cinema, got the idea for the cinema after the independent movie theater in Austintown, Ohio closed down.

"I came up with the idea a few years ago. We actually did this a few years ago under the name Little Cedars Theater, because it was in the small room of the old Cedars bar," Pokrivnak said. "Basically, I'm a fan of classic films and art films and there's not really any representation of that in our area anymore, especially since the independent movie theater in Austintown closed down. I just wanted to sort of offer a catalyst for people interested in that sort of thing. There's a lot of small art movement and niche things in Youngstown. It doesn't

take a lot to get things started around here."

Pokrivnak brings all his own supplies to provide downtown Youngstown with films that would otherwise not be available. All of the movies shown are from Pokrivnak's personal collection; one that he says contains "hundreds of movies."

"I have a projector, a projector screen, an audio setup and licensing arrangements for the Criterion Collection and Janus Films. Next month, March, we're going to begin playing movies," he said. "Right now we're moving locations until we find one to permanently use. We're trying to just have a nice artful experience, trying to provide a little more culture to the area."

The theater is something that is enjoyable, but is also a balancing act according to Pokrivnak.

"The theater's a tricky thing to navigate because there's different expectations — from what people have from what this is. For example, we'll get a good strong interest for these events, but sometimes people will get up and walk out halfway through because they're bored. I can see how this sort of thing can't be for everyone," Pokrivnak said. "Classic films have a different taste than modern films.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID POKRIVNAK.

People go into it with mislead expectations. If you're watching a film from 1949, it's not going to give you the same sort of stimuli as a Michael Bay film. As far as the catalogue goes, I'm trying to be pretty eclectic. I'm not go-

ing to pick one genre specifically. The collection offers quite a variety. I'd even like to go as far as saying possibly in the summer screening "RoboCop."

The first movie, "Bande à part," will be shown March

10 at the Rust Belt Tap House at 9 p.m. More information about the Little Youngstown Cinema can be found at www.littleyoungstown.com and at <https://www.facebook.com/TheLittleYoungstownTheater>.

Phi Kappa Phi: A Chapter of Merit

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In August 2014, the Youngstown State University Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, a worldwide academic honor society, received a Chapter of Merit award — an honor that only 24 chapters throughout the nation receive each year.

The YSU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi was formed by the National Phi Kappa Phi Society in 1972, making it the 143rd Phi Kappa Phi chapter in the world.

Ron Shaklee, current president of the YSU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi and director of the Scholars and Honors Program at YSU, said that to be

qualified for the award, each group has to conduct a specific number of meetings per year, induct students at the university as well as "prominent members of the community" and members must achieve academic excellence and provide service to their community.

Shaklee said that for the last several years, the society has consistently won either the Chapter of Merit or Chapter of Excellence award.

"We completed the benchmarks for Chapter of Merit so that put us in. It's not everybody that qualifies. It's the idea that they are trying to generate more on-campus identities for the chapter, and a few kinds of things that mean you are a presence or force to be reckoned with on campus,"

Shaklee said. "We've done this quite a few years in a row in terms of what we've been able to win. It's a challenge sometimes, but we've been able to do it. We are proud of our record."

Christine Cobb, former president of Phi Kappa Phi, expressed her satisfaction with the Chapter of Merit award.

"We are honored and happy to be recognized by National as a Merit Award chapter. It is a testament to the Chapter 143 Board, which exemplify excellence and work so hard at promoting Phi Kappa Phi's ideals and recognize the excellent work of our YSU faculty, staff and students, as well as local community leaders," Cobb said.

Kristi Yazvac and Dianne Pitcairn, two student vice presidents of the society during the award year, both explained what distinguished the 143 Chapter from the other worldwide chapters.

"We get really involved. We try to volunteer as much as we can. We do a book drive every year. We are very selective in the process of choosing members. It's the top 7.5 percent of juniors and 10 percent of seniors, masters and doctoral students that get invited each spring. Those who join

A Question of Confidence

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A motion was made Wednesday night calling for the Youngstown State University Academic Senate to adopt a resolution of no confidence in the leadership of Provost Martin Abraham.

The resolution was brought to the Academic Senate by Michael Jerryson, assistant professor of philosophy and religious studies. The resolution was amended from a similar resolution brought before the Senate in December. The original resolution targeted the administration as a whole as opposed to specifically Provost Abraham.

The resolution read, "Whereas the Interim Provost's actions have caused serious damage to the campus community's trust in the administration's commitment to shared governance, whereas oversight by the Interim Provost was not exercised in a manner that reflects respect for shared governance; therefore, the Youngstown State University Academic Senate has no confidence in the Interim Provost's leadership of the campus."

Issues with Abraham's selection came to public light at the Academic Senate meeting following his installation as provost where President Jim Tressel's actions were debated among gathered faculty.

The resolution offered to the Academic Senate specifically cited the proposed — but now abandoned — effort to reorganize the colleges, as well as the coming changes to the Honors

College, as examples of "damage to the campus."

Howard Mettee, professor of chemistry, spoke against the proposal, claiming aspects of the language were incorrect and that the timing for such a proposal was poor.

"This resolution is untimely and incorrect ... there was consultation [when discussing the potential college reorganization] ... those changes were proposed but not implemented. Now isn't a good time for this. YSU is in a critical state ... we may never [capitalize on recent enrollment gains] if we keep shooting at each other," Mettee said.

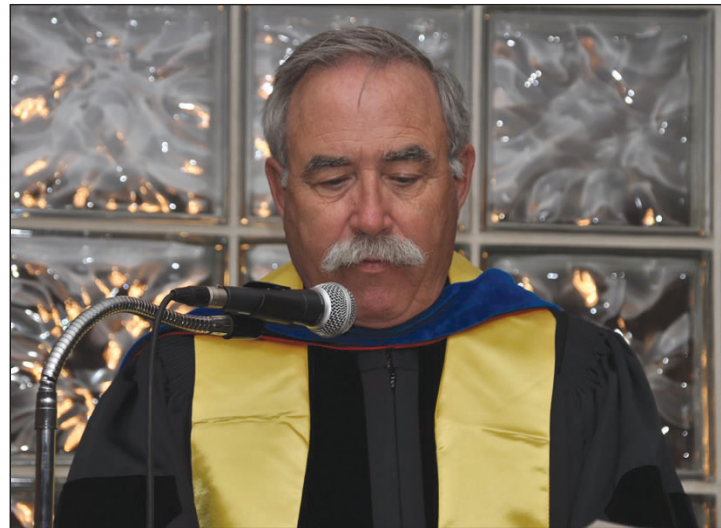
Michael Slavens, president of YSU's Student Government Association, also spoke against the resolution — particularly its claim that the provost did not include student consultation in the changes he implemented/proposed to implement.

"I would completely disagree that [Abraham] hasn't included students ... he's been very receptive to students. We always have his ear," Slavens said.

Jamal Tartir, associate professor of mathematics and statistics, suggested the resolution was too steep a measure to take for the infractions listed.

"Do we really have a vote of no confidence after one mistake?" Tartir said.

Loren Lease, associate professor of sociology, anthropology and gerontology, responded to those defending Abraham by pointing to the language of the document and suggesting that it was not the results of Abraham's



Ron Shaklee

PHOTO COURTESY OF PHI KAPPA PHI.

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really do value education as much as they can, and that is one of the best reasons that we are one of the best chapters out there," Yazvac said. "I feel very accomplished receiving this award. It makes me feel like YSU is doing the absolute best, not even just for this community, but also for the entire nation. We are one of the best chapters out there, and it looks great for our campus."

Pitcairn — who has helped the society with inductions, grading essays for scholarships and has served as a secretary for the meetings when necessary — agreed, adding that the chapter particularly focuses in on bolstering student achievement.

"Recognizing student academic achievement is Phi Kappa Phi's purpose, and that truly is our focus. What separates YSU's chapter from the others is the level of dedication and cooperation of our executive board members," Pitcairn said. "What great role models the executive board members have been to me as well

as all the other students they interact with on campus."

Pitcairn encouraged students at the university to get involved with Phi Kappa Phi.

"If you are among the top percentage of students who are honored with receiving an invitation to membership this February, I strongly encourage you to accept this honor and be formally recognized for your academic achievements. Our spring banquet is an enjoyable time to celebrate your hard work and accomplishments," Pitcairn said. "Don't let this opportunity slip through the cracks. This invitation is truly a special honor. Bring your family and attend our annual induction ceremony and dinner. This is a beautiful event, and I can assure you it will be an experience you and your parents will never forget."

Yazvac said that currently the society is sponsoring a book drive event that allows anyone to donate used or new books on campus.

actions that were damaging, but Abraham's skirting of campus policy to bring matters of major academic significance before the Academic Senate.

"There was no clear reason why our colleges would be split ... [neither the Board of Trustees nor Abraham] brought the issue to the Senate," Lease said.

Deborah Mower, associate professor of philosophy and religious studies, who ultimately did not support the measure, did echo Lease's remarks concerning the focus of the document.

"This motion is addressing issues of policy ... the question here is 'What is the role of the senate?'" Mower said.

Ray Beiersdorfer, professor of geological and environmental sciences, cited several personal anecdotes, which he said he believes validates a lack of trust in Abraham's authority.

Ultimately, a parliamentary move by Greg Sturuss, the dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, resulted in the Academic Senate calling for a "roll-call vote," in which senators are called by name and must give a vote before the present-assembled senate, as opposed to a secret ballot which those in favor of the resolution supported.

The resolution was defeated, with only three faculty members standing to support the measure.

Jerryson said he believes the move created a hostile environment for faculty in support of the measure.

"We have an exceptionally high number of junior faculty and faculty going up for promotion soon, which makes the environment hostile to those who want to vote honestly without possibly hurting their chances at promotion," Jerryson said. "I'm not disappointed the resolution was rejected but rather by the methods used to reject it.

What we've seen today is how the administration can take power from the faculty even in the main seat of the faculty's power, the senate."

Chet Cooper, Academic Senate chair and professor of biological sciences, believed there was no further exacerbating of the situation.

"The situation was already hostile, as was evident by some of the comments made earlier in the discussion against the provost," Cooper said. "Ultimately, [the move to a roll call vote] was a parliamentary move. That's the way parliamentary actions work ... we're at a point where [faculty and administration] need to quit beating up the institution ... we need to back each other. The more we push people up, the better."

Abraham spoke to the result of the vote and the allegations during the meeting suggesting he devalued the liberal arts and humanities disciplines at YSU.

"So obviously I'm gratified by the vote, disappointed too that we had to even have such a discussion. But clearly there are some who feel like more consultation is needed — I'll take that under advisement. We'll redouble our efforts to consult effectively with the faculty and the students and ensure that all voices amongst the university continue to be heard," Abraham said. "There's no intention to undermine any particular program. All programs are important to the university and the liberal arts and the social sciences. They provide some tremendously valuable activity for all of our students ... regardless of what we do moving forwards, liberal arts and social sciences remain the underpinning of a quality education. And I don't see any way that we can do anything different at the university at Youngstown State."

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4
6:30 P.M. • THE MCDONOUGH MUSEUM OF ART
RECEPTION AND LECTURE FOR VISITING ARTISTS

Kelly Eugene Phelps, associate professor and chair of Art, Xavier University, and Kyle Edward Phelps, associate professor of Art, University of Dayton, Ohio, present a joint lecture on their work, followed by a panel discussion. Their work encompasses the creation of traditional ceramic, sculpture, along with media art. Their research interest includes socio-political representation through the use of visual narratives and the human figure as image and ideal; other topics include race, class, and material meaning and process.



Both earned their BFAs from Ball State University in 1996 and their MFA degrees in in Ceramics from the University of Kentucky.

Co-sponsored by the College of Creative Arts and Communication

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6
6:30 P.M. • GALLERY, KILCAWLEY CENTER
BLACK WOMEN AND THEIR HAIR
A LECTURE ON BLACK WOMEN, HAIR CARE, AND BALDNESS
BY MONICA BEASLEY-MARTIN



Black women value and love their hair and spend considerable time and resources to maintain a variety of styles that accentuate the natural beauty of African hair, fine and bold weaves, as well as dreadlocks. Then there's another style - the bald style, which can come about as a result of either too much chemical treatment, cancer, or a rare condition known as alopecia, which results in the loss of hair because the body is allergic to it. Monica Beasley-Martin was diagnosed with alopecia in her twenties. The resulting baldness led her to write *Bald is Beautiful*. Her lecture, along with Carmelia Williams, will cover care of hair for black women and her book. Monica is an ordained minister and a drama teacher who lives in Youngstown. A book signing will follow the lecture.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12
5:30-6:30 P.M. • THE MCDONOUGH MUSEUM OF ART
LECTURE BY KEYNOTE SPEAKER, DAWOUD BEY



Dawoud Bey is a renowned American photographer, whose work has earned him great recognition and appreciation from professionals, reputable institutions and the general public. His large-scale color portraits focus on adolescents and marginalized subjects, with earliest photographs depicting the style of everyday life in Harlem. His recent Birmingham Project evokes the tragic events of September 15, 1963, where four black girls and two boys were killed in Birmingham, Alabama, in acts of racist violence. Bey began his career in 1975 with a series of photographs, "Harlem, USA," that were exhibited at the Studio Museum, Harlem, in 1979. His art has been exhibited in the Addison Gallery of American Art, The Art Institute of Chicago, the Brooklyn Museum, the Detroit Institute of Arts, and the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University.

Bey studied at the School of Visual Arts in New York from 1977-78, graduated with a BFA in Photography from Empire State College in 1990, and received his MFA from Yale University in 1993. He is a professor of Art and Distinguished College Artist at Columbia College, Chicago.

Co-sponsored by the McDonough Museum of Art

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14
12:00 NOON • THE CHESTNUT ROOM, KILCAWLEY CENTER
THE AFRICAN MARKETPLACE

The African Marketplace brings together vendors and members of the community to celebrate African life in all its intensity. Come to enjoy sampling and purchasing diverse creations and products of African American artists and entrepreneurs. The African Marketplace attracts vendors from Ohio and beyond and enhances social connections of immense cultural value. Musical entertainment will be provided by the talented youthful Harambee dancers, and the Youth Choir of New Bethel Baptist Church in Youngstown.



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17
7:00 P.M. • OHIO ROOM, KILCAWLEY CENTER
LECTURE BY DR. OKAKAPIO DOKOTUM

Dr. OkakaOpio Dokotum, associate professor of Literature and Film at Kyambogo University, Kampala, Uganda, presents "Debunking the Myth of Africa, the Dark Continent." Dr. Dokotum is a poet, playwright and filmmaker. His scholarly research is on literature, film adaptation theory and the re-imaging of African literary scholarship through film adaptation studies. His publications include *Butterfly Dance, A Poetry Collection, and Atim Goes to the Village*. He is currently a Fulbright African Research Scholar at Northern Illinois University.



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23
7:00 P.M. • THE OHIO ROOM, KILCAWLEY CENTER
THE MISSING LINK BY THE BONDAGE BUSTERS

Docudrama by the Bondage Busters, a youth group in Youngstown dedicated to the education and empowerment of African American youth. The group will showcase their activities that includes creative media drama on stage. Bondage Busters is led by Pastor Charles Hudson, a native of Youngstown who founded the group in 1989 in Crenshaw, California. Pastor Hudson teaches and supervises more than 100 kids at Luther's Lutheran Church in Youngstown. He targets gangs and other groups within city limits that draw children into a life of criminal behavior. Pastor Hudson and his assistants conduct counseling sessions, G.E.D. classes, athletic activities, and spiritual education. Pastor Hudson has received commendations for his outstanding work from Patrick Ungaro, former mayor of Youngstown, Randall Wellington, former police chief of Youngstown, and Ben McGee, former superintendent of the Youngstown City Schools.



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25
6:30 P.M. • JONES ROOM, KILCAWLEY CENTER,
PANEL DISCUSSION: "WHAT IS WRONG WITH OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM?"

What do the following people have in common and what do they continue to say about our criminal justice system: Emmitt Till, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and Tamir Rice and John Crawford III? Has over-criminalization and the jury system failed to deliver justice to victims of law enforcement? Panelists include members of YSU's Department of Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement and community leaders who will address the issues of law enforcement and race, and suggest ways of improvement. Members of the audience will be able share their experiences.



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**Youngstown
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Quality Education To-Go: Online MBA Ranks in Top Third

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Youngstown State University has recently been ranked 21 of 68 on a list of the best online Masters of Business Administration programs by Affordable Colleges Online.

The organization assessed over 500 online MBA programs based on the following criteria: accreditation standings from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business; faculty with actual business and management expertise; low student-faculty ratios; and affordability.

The online MBA program at YSU was implemented in fall of 2013, and the first round of graduates are expected this summer. This is the program's second year appearing on the list.

Patrick Bateman, assistant professor in the Williamson College of Business Administration's management de-

partment, attributes the high rank to the program's constant updates, revisions and care, as well as the flexibility granted for students with nontraditional schedules.

"The [program is a] product of much time, analysis and work. . . . In the fall 2014, a revised Williamson MBA program was introduced on campus and online," Bateman said. "In fact, we more than revised the Williamson MBA program; we re-invented it. Our focus is on the needs of working professionals [and] providing value through quality knowledge that will lead to career advancement and success. But we also considered the importance of timely and flexible delivery for working professionals. Courses are now offered in business-friendly, concentrated formats. The program is accredited by AACSB International, a mark of excellence that less than 5 percent of all business schools worldwide have earned."

Betty Jo Licata, dean of the WCBA, recognizes that

business students tend to come from a variety of backgrounds and work experiences, and believes the online MBA meets the special needs of those students.

"If they have professional experience or managerial work experience and they have a strong undergraduate grade point average, we will consider waiving the standardized tests for requirement for admission," Licata said. "We're interested in broadening the diversity of work experience that our MBA students have. The majority of our students are people who work full time and go to school part time, so almost everyone in the program is employed full time." The online program's success is reinforced by a recent drastic rise in enrollment.

"Our overall MBA enrollments for this year, this spring, are up 40 percent from last spring. That's a pretty significant increase," Licata said. "I think [the rise in enrollment] is twofold. To some extent the online enrollment has gone up be-

cause it provides the greatest convenience for people and enables them to get through the program faster if they combine it with the on-campus courses. Another one of the main reasons that the enrollments have gone up, is that we've got a pretty innovative program."

Millie Rodriguez, the director of distance learning, said the program is still expanding.

"We are always finding ways to enhance the course experience for our students," she said. "Thanks to great faculty and our Instructional Design and Development Center, we are putting out courses that have a better structure and are more media rich. While this will always be a point of continuous improvement, it is one that will keep our program competitive and up-to-date."

The structure of the courses is a way this program has recently been updated.

"While our program tuition and fee structure has not changed, we did implement a new course structure

and sequence that seems to be appealing to our prospective student population," Rodriguez said. "Under the new course structure most of the courses are two credits and allow a student to take less credits overall."

Bateman said that the college, of course, does not simply strive for success for rankings.

"I would encourage anyone accessing a program to look beyond rankings of programs, and really spend time focusing on what the education will enable them to do, and the faculty involved," Bateman said. "Both on campus and online, the Williamson MBA program is designed to develop a core set of capabilities needed to be successful in the workplace: leadership, decision making, managing and strategic thinking. All of which are developed and delivered by faculty trained at top-tier institutions, such as Purdue University, SUNY-Buffalo, University of Illinois, University of Pittsburgh and University of Washington."



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NEWS BRIEFS

Students Applying for FAFSA Encouraged to File Before Feb. 15

The Mahoning Valley College Access Program (MVCAP) and Youngstown State University are working together to get students to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the Feb. 15 priority deadline. Lita Willis, executive director of MVCAP, said that too many students wait too long. The application is available here: <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>. The U.S. Department of Education has also produced a "How to Fill Out the FAFSA" video on YouTube.

The Nonprofit Leadership Summer Honors Internship Program

Organizations that wish to apply for the 2015 Nonprofit Leadership Summer Honors Internship Program at Youngstown State University should do so by Friday, Feb. 13. The internship program is part of the Center for Nonprofit Leadership in YSU's Williamson College of Business Administration. The program is being funded by the Raymond John Wean Foundation, in the form of a grant worth \$50,020. The internship is full time at 40 hours per week and is 12 weeks long. It is available to 10 YSU students who are from a qualified nonprofit or public sector organization. Students will earn at least \$10 an hour and will run from Monday, May 18 to Friday, Aug. 7. All regional nonprofit and public sector organizations interested in receiving a full-time co-funded intern for summer 2015 are encouraged to apply. A copy of the application is available at www.yosu.edu/wcba.

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The Game of Hope Classic Returns

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On Feb. 8, Youngstown State University's Beeghly Center will house the 11th annual Game of Hope Classic at 3 p.m.

The Game of Hope Classic, sponsored by the Hope Foundation of the Mahoning Valley, is one of the foundation's largest fundraisers that feature a basketball game among various local public figures. The Hope Foundation is an organization devoted to providing financial and volunteer support to agencies serving local, chronically ill children.

John Gocala Jr, a Boardman police officer, and Felix Wright, former national football player for the Cleveland Browns and Minnesota Vikings, will coach the game.

Anthony Spano, the founder and executive director of the Hope Foundation, said that he is happy with the support he has received from the univer-

sity over the years.

"YSU has always been our partner in really bringing this event to the forefront as well as really supporting us with facilities and a variety of other set up situations," Spano said.

Spano added that he is pleased with the support the game has received from the community.

"The event has really grown every year and is a staple in the community," he said. "If it wasn't for our volunteers, the community and our partners, this event wouldn't be where it is today."

The nonprofit Hope Foundation relies entirely on volunteers for its staff and support. Tonia Freeze, a volunteer of the past four years, encouraged members of the community to attend the game.

"I think that it's a great game, and I think that it's a great, fun family day for people to come together and watch some of the great men and women in our community play basketball," Freeze said.

The event will provide food, as well as feature various games and a dance squad for entertain-

ment before the game.

The kid's fun zone, containing an inflatable house and mascot for younger audiences, was implemented into the event last year. Spano said that he believes its addition is appropriate for the event.

"Last year was the first year of the kid's zone," Spano said. "It was a brand new event. Our focus is kids. Why not bring kids to the event itself?"

Freeze was in charge of organizing the kid's zone for this year's event. Even though it was a step-up for her in terms of responsibility at the foundation, she found it a rewarding experience.

"It's a big adjustment," Freeze said. "It's a lot more involved, but I like it. I love it. It's what I like to do, and it's a great charity, and I wouldn't change it for the world."

The foundation will also be receiving a \$5,000 check from The Gibson Agency as part of their Giving Campaign at a ceremony held during the event.

Tickets for the event are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children ages 12 and under.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEATHER SUZUKI.

The health pre-professional honor society, Alpha Epsilon Delta, will be hosting their third annual Health Professional Alumni Dinner on Feb. 18. The dinner will be from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Ohio Room of Kilcawley Center. All YSU students, both in and out of health and human service majors, are invited to attend the dinner to learn more about the field of healthcare and health sciences.

Heather Suzuki, an executive officer of the honor society, said various successful alumni will be speaking at the event and even more alumni will be available to answer students' questions after.

"It is kind of just an inspirational event," she said. "Thinking about other people's struggle and what they have had to overcome to get where they are."

Tickets are being sold in Kilcawley Center on Feb. 9, 10, 11 and 12 for \$10. Alternatively, students can call Suzuki at 330-941-0778 to purchase tickets, or for more information. Pictured above are members of the honor society at last year's dinner.

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McClatchy Foreign Staff
(TNS)

IRBIL, Iraq — Jordan executed two prisoners early Wednesday morning to avenge the burning alive of a Jordanian fighter pilot in a move that seemed likely to thrust the usually peaceful country into the front lines of the battle against the Islamic State.

Jordanian state television said one of the executed prisoners was Sajida al-Rishawi, the 44-year-old Iraqi woman whose release the Islamic State had demanded in return for the life of a Japanese hostage killed last week. The other was Ziad al-Karbouli, a jihadist who once worked with Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the founder of al-Qaida in Iraq, the organization that was the precursor to the Islamic State.

Government spokesman Mohammed al-Momani announced in Amman that two prisoners had been executed at dawn. Both al-Karbouli and al-Rishawi had been in prison for nearly a decade.

Jordan had announced that it would move quickly to avenge the murder of Lt. Muath al-Kaseasbeh whose horrific execution was made public Tuesday by an Islamic State video that showed him being led to a cage in the desert, doused with gasoline and set alight.

“While the military forces mourn the martyr, they emphasize his blood will not be shed in vain. Our punishment and revenge will be as huge as the loss of the Jordanians,” Mamdouh al-Ameri, a government spokesman, said in a statement read on Jordanian TV.

What other steps the Jordanian government might take were uncertain, but officials suggested that they would move rapidly to crack down on the group’s sympathizers and that other measures were likely, including stepping up the country’s role in the U.S.-led military coalition against the Islamic State.

The prospect of an all-out offensive against the Islamic State inside Jordan could prove unsettling to a country that has prided itself on remaining largely outside the line of fire in the region’s many wars. Even during the U.S. occupation of Iraq, Jordan remained largely free of violence, with the notable exception of a series of suicide bombings in 2005.

Al-Qaida in Iraq was the precursor of the Islamic

State, which now has designs to establish a caliphate that would stretch from Iraq to the Mediterranean and take in what is known as Greater Syria — which includes the modern nations of Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Jordan.

Several experts said that by burning the Jordanian pilot to death, the Islamic State was demonstrating a new level of barbarity intended to convey several messages — a more open hostility to the Jordanians, who in addition to participating in air raids on Islamic State targets in Syria have also encouraged anti-Islamic State activists to travel to Syria to fight; to reinforce its reputation as the globe’s most barbaric terrorist group; and to enhance its efforts to recruit sympathizers from across the world.

“To my mind, the key thing about this — in much the same way it was with the decapitations — is that they are telling everyone that they are the meanest, most brutal group on Earth and that message has resonated with potential recruits who view ISIS as the real deal,” said Daniel Benjamin, a former State Department counterterrorism coordinator and now the director of Dartmouth University’s John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding. “This is ISIS self-presentation at its grisly best.”

At 22 minutes the lengthiest execution video the Islamic State has yet produced, the video opened with al-Kaseasbeh, dressed in the same orange jumpsuit as previous Islamic State victims, being led to a cage. Then a lone jihadi douses him with a liquid, presumably gasoline, from a jerry can as other militants look on. A trail of liquid is poured across the desert sand and ignited. The camera follows the flames as they near al-Kaseasbeh, and the video remains focused on him as he burns, standing stoically, until his body crumbles into a heap.

Jordan state television said Tuesday night that Jordanian authorities believe al-Kaseasbeh’s killing was filmed nearly a month ago, and that that was why the Islamic State refused to provide proof that al-Kaseasbeh was still alive during recent negotiations. That belief was consistent with tweets from rebel activists opposed to the Syrian government who posted on Jan. 8 that the pilot had been executed.

Jordan’s King Abdullah and Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh were in Washington meeting with Secretary of State John Kerry just moments before the video was made public. There was no hint that any of the men knew of the death as they exchanged pleas-

antries during a signing ceremony marking increased U.S. assistance — from \$660 million to \$1 billion — to help Jordan cope with the Syrian refugee crisis and rising energy costs.

Immediately after the ceremony, however, the video hit the Internet, and statements of condemnation and condolences began flowing from the Obama administration to Jordan. The president called it “one more indication of the viciousness and barbarity of this organization.”

The White House in a statement condemned the killing, even as it said U.S. authorities were attempting to verify the video. “We stand in solidarity with the government of Jordan and the Jordanian people,” the statement said.

President Barack Obama briefly addressed the killing during a forum on the Affordable Care Act at the White House. “This organization is only interested in death and destruction,” he said, referring to the Islamic State.

Al-Kaseasbeh’s execution is likely to raise tensions in Jordan, where his family had demanded the government engage in negotiations for his release in an increasingly bizarre series of demands and counter demands that included a \$200 million ransom for two Japanese hostages who’ve since been executed and a demand for the release of al-Rishawi, who’d been on Jordan’s death row since 2005 for her part in a series of bombings that killed at least 57 people in Amman.

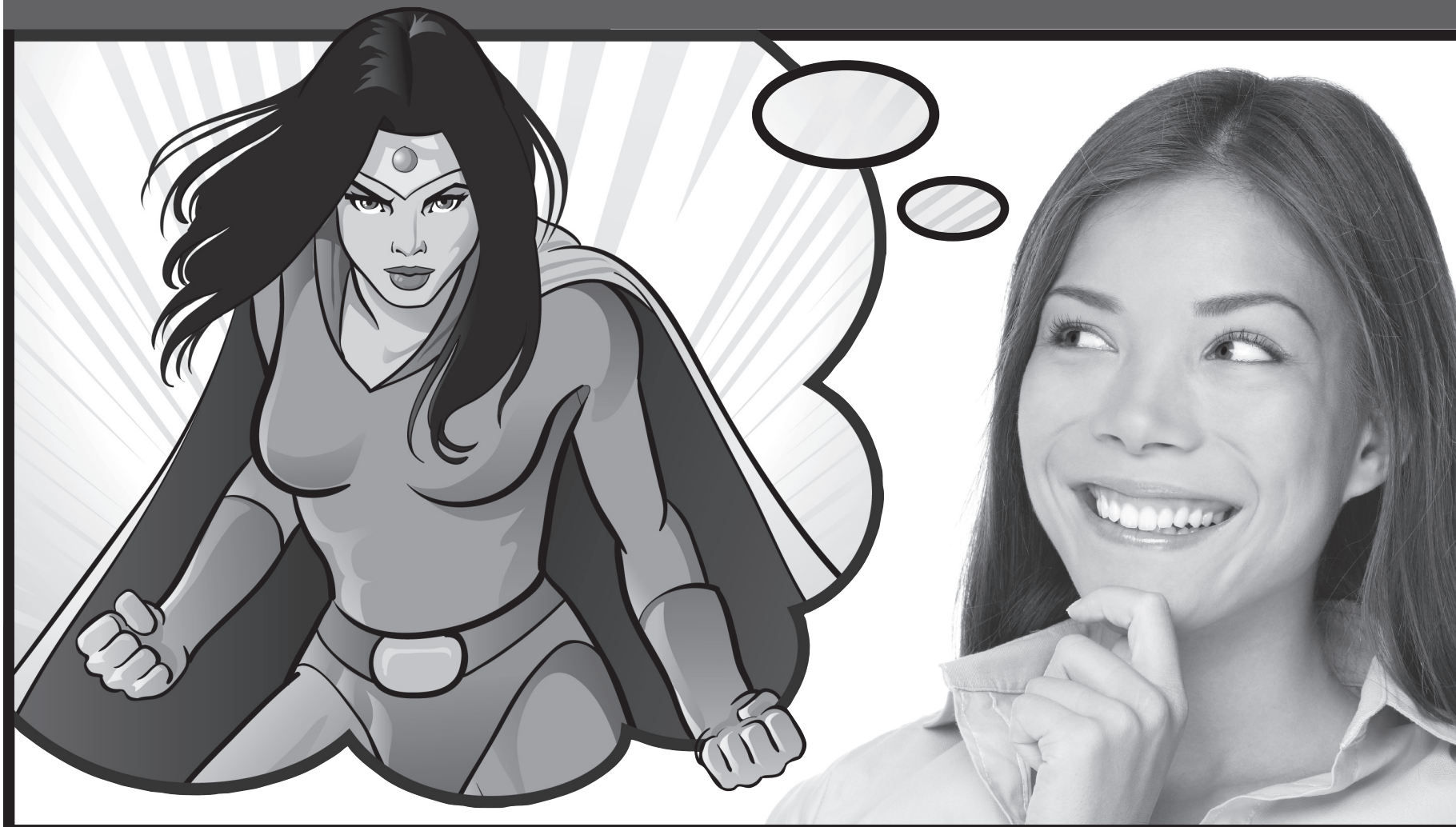
The fate of al-Kaseasbeh, whose plane crashed during a bombing run over Raqqa, Syria, in late December, had come to the fore only two weeks ago when one of the Japanese hostages, freelance journalist Kenji Goto, warned in an audio statement from the Islamic State that al-Kaseasbeh would be killed if the Jordanians didn’t released al-Rishawi for Goto.

Jordan immediately expressed a willingness to swap al-Rishawi for al-Kaseasbeh if evidence the pilot was still alive was provided, but the Islamic State counteroffer was that al-Rishawi be delivered by sundown last Thursday to an Islamic State-controlled border crossing with Turkey or both Goto and al-Kaseasbeh would die.

Jordan continued to press for negotiations through both tribal channels and public statements, but on Saturday, a video of Goto being killed was posted on jihadist websites.

Al-Kaseasbeh’s fate was unknown until the release of the video on Tuesday evening local time.

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Black History Month Tradition Lives on at YSU



Photo of the Civil Rights March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom taken on Oct. 28, 1963.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES.

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In honor of Black History Month, Housing and Residence Life at Youngstown State University will hold its annual Black Heritage Festival — a series of events that educate students and faculty about African American history.

For the past five years, The Black Heritage Festival has only lasted one to two days, but has been extended to last through all of the month.

The first event this year was the Trivia and Prize Wheel, where anyone at the university could compete with one another answering questions that ranged

from African American Civil War History to present day African American leaders and other culture.

The event started yesterday at 10 a.m. and lasted until 2 p.m.

Those who answered correctly were allowed to spin a wheel and receive prizes like a T-shirt or \$5 in Pete's Points.

Ashley Jones, residential education graduate assistant, explained that the event grew to fit more activities that were not able to be implemented last year.

"We made the switch from Black Heritage Festival to Black History Month for a few reasons. One being that we found that we were not able to fit all of the programs we hoped to do within the one day. Last year, we expanded Black Heritage Festival to two days and still felt

that we could have had more programs if we had more time," Jones said. "This year, we decided to expand even further to hold programs throughout the entire month. Along with being able to offer more programs, we also felt that this gave us more opportunity to collaborate with community and campus partners for events throughout the month."

Jones explained that the purpose of the event is to educate everyone at the university about important black historians and the events that they faced.

"The purpose is to educate students about prominent figures and events throughout African American history," Jones said. "I think that there's really so much that we can celebrate and learn about and bring to the students around here. I think

that there are so many things presently that we can talk about with different artists and different literature and also the past history and significant figures."

Jones added that the event allows Housing and Residence Life to educate students and faculty in other ways than just print to spread the information.

"I think that YSU strives to educate its students about various cultures through many different mediums," Jones said. "Through our Black History Month programming, we are able to bring students information through many avenues."

Victoria Bankhead and Macey Nortey, residential education graduate assistants, along with the help of Jones, planned the programs for this month's events.

Last year, Nortey took the

stage not only to perform her favorite poem by Maya Angelou, but to also overcome a fear that she had.

"Last year at the open mic night, I conquered my fears and read one of my poems to a group of strangers and some of my close friends," Nortey said. "[I] had the pleasure of being the emcee, which allowed me to keep the flow going and give our crowd updates on the rest of the Black History Month events."

Students or faculty that missed the chance to answer trivia questions will have another opportunity to learn more about Black History through an open mic night that will be happening on Feb. 19 in The Hub of Kilcawley Center.

My Fluffy Valentine

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While walking through Kilcawley Center, Youngstown State University students and faculty might notice the table with dog treats and pictures of adoptable animals outside the Hub that has been set up since Monday.

"My Fluffy Valentine" is a charity drive collecting items and money for the animals at the Animal Charities Humane Society located in Boardman. The drive will accept numerous items including animal treats and foods, collars, cat litter and blankets — just to name a few. My Fluffy Valentine also encourages animal adoptions.

A table will be set up for donations and information until Friday afternoon in Kilcawley Center. This charity drive helps ACHS deal with the 300-500 animals that they have annually.

Shay Bolash, executive director of ACHS in Boardman, expressed that My Fluffy Val-

entine contributes a lot to the animals.

"It's always a good boost for our animals," Bolash said. "We always get a lot of toys, which is great because they go through toys like crazy."

My Fluffy Valentine was started by Jason Cooke, a current graduate student at YSU. Cooke used to be the president of the Humane Society until he left 4 months ago to expand his horizons. Currently he works with local charities around several nearby counties.

"I go about advocating, educating and transporting," Cooke said. "If it's for the animals, I'll do it."

My Fluffy Valentine began 5 years ago. Betsy Brooks, who was the coordinator at the Emerging Leaders Program at the time, worked with Cooke, who is still part of the program today.

This year's charity drive was organized by Cooke and Christina Yovick, a graduate assistant at ELP.

"We did [the charity drive] during the winter months because there are a lot of animals that are left out in the cold and abused and neglected. They tend to have a lot of dogs [at Animal Charities] around this time of year," Cooke said.



PHOTO BY LIAM BOUQUET/THE JAMBAR.

Students contribute the most to the charity drive, although external and faculty donations are accepted. Three years ago, the charity drive collected about 1,000 pounds of pet food and \$800 in cash. The charity drive's average collection is usually 800 pounds of food.

"A lot of departments will get together, instead of just one faculty member, and bring it

[the donations] all in at once," Cooke said.

Since the Emerging Leaders Program is at YSU, many students volunteer to raise awareness and sit at the My Fluffy Valentine table.

Robert Zuckett, a student who started volunteering for ELP in September 2014, has been helping at the charity drive. "Any work through the ELP

is work that I'm pretty much happy to do," he said.

My Fluffy Valentine helps ELP members in many ways.

"It helps [the members of the ELP] get exposure to people and exposure to different walks of life," Zuckett said. "ACHS contributes [to the community] by being the liaison between helping animals off the streets and into a comfortable home."

Art Student on the Rise

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The late Henry Ford famously said in his 1922 autobiography "My Life and Work," "Failure is simply the opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently."

Eric Ostrander, a senior graphic and interface design art student on his third time around at Youngstown State University, would definitely agree.

"After coming back this final time, my focus is way stronger now than it was from when I started," Ostrander said.

Being undecided the first

time around and running into a few life hurdles and roadblocks during his second try at YSU, Ostrander decided he had to finally finish what he started. He returned to YSU back in 2012.

At age 28, Ostrander is the eldest of three siblings and is the first to attend YSU; he expects to graduate fall of 2015. He said his artistic talent might be derived from his mother, who is also a talented painter.

"I remember her repainting statues at home and she would paint our faces for Halloween when we were younger," he said. "She's a perfectionist when it comes to things like that."

He first realized his talent when he was just a young boy. When he first moved to

Ohio, he was eager to join the advanced art class at Joshua Dixon Elementary School in Columbiana. He would draw everyday in a notebook until he had enough work to show his teacher that he was good enough to be involved in the advanced art class.

At YSU, Ostrander still demonstrates his commitment to art by maintaining Dean's List, as well as President's List, awards since his return. He is also president of the American Institute of Graphic Arts organization, which allows him to share his work and network.

"I knew I was going to do something with art because it's my passion," Ostrander said.

He sits on the board of advisers at Columbiana County

Career & Tech Center in Lisbon, offering feedback and helping students with capstone projects. He also helps incoming YSU freshmen and sophomores get acclimated to the art program.

He is eager to make connections, and he keeps those connections, which allows him to stand out among the other artists in the department. It's that same eagerness that his professor Michelle Nelson said allows him to have an edge on the competition. She spoke highly of Ostrander.

"He's a genuine person; he's articulate, and that's not something that comes naturally. A lot of art students are shy, but he presents himself in a clear way," she said. "With students here, you a lot of

times get creative and talented but you don't get involved, and he is very involved."

Ostrander's pride and excitement for his art is immediately apparent. He finds his muse in music or just letting go and the ideas just seem to flow. He said the most exciting part for him seems to be learning new things and turning a client's vision into reality.

Ostrander does some freelance work for local churches in his free time. After his fall 2015 graduation, he has the opportunity to work with another YSU graduate in Nashville, Tennessee who has worked with country music stars like Taylor Swift and Lady Antebellum, but he said he is keeping his options open.

Pulling a Houdini

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One minute they are there; they are texting you back in a timely manner, calling you late at night and goofily smiling at you from across the room. The next minute? Nothing. Literally, not figuratively, nothing. There is no goodbye and there is no this-isn't-working-out line. They've disappeared. They have pulled a complete Houdini.

A few months ago I was pretty content hanging out with a friend of mine. We texted often and hung out on the weekends. Then it happened, along with a blow to my ego. He disappeared, seemingly, off the face of the Earth. My texts went unanswered; I didn't see him when I went out anymore. I was ghosted.

"Ghosting," the act of disappearing in a phantom-like fashion from someone you are seeing, is prevalent in today's dating culture," Sara O'Brien said in "And Then I Never Heard From Him Again: The Awful Rise of Ghosting," published on March 24, 2014 on thedatereport.com.

If you have been ghosted you know how annoying it is to have someone stop speaking to you out of nowhere — and with no explanation. And if you are the person doing it to someone else? I hate you. O'Brien described this act in today's society as "juvenile," and "objectively terrible behavior."

My ghost came back six months later, with the sorry excuse and apologetic tone that he was just "busy with work."

"Oh? For five months?" I responded. I laughed him off, what a joke that was. I would've appreciated an adult explanation because that's what we all are anyways, right? Adults?

Beyond this childish act — not being brave enough to explain why you're going to not talk to someone anymore — it is important to remember that ghosting can happen at any

point within the relationship — time is not a factor.

"Ghosting can happen after a one-date rendezvous or months of seeing each other — no one is safe from this juvenile phenomenon," O'Brien said.

In "In Defense of Ghosting" published on The Wire, also in March 2014, Alexander Abad-Santos critiques those who seem to be surprised in any way by ghosting.

"No person who has gone on dates in the last six years is genuinely confused about the message that ghosting sends," Abad-Santos said. "We live [in] an age where we can listen to whatever songs we want at any moment, get in touch with anyone at any second. ... If someone you're interested in isn't answering your texts within five minutes, they are either dead, at a movie (and still have manners), or just don't want to date you."

This instant form of communication and contact we are in with one another is taken for granted. I broke my phone and had to wait two days to be in constant, instant contact with my friends, and it was absolute torture. However, just as convenient as this quick form of communicating with one another is, it is just as easy to stop the communication abruptly and, because of the dependency on constant contact, it is all the more shocking.

Often we say that we just want a reason for the sudden cut of communication. But is that really why we are upset? How upset can you really be from being ghosted by someone you weren't even entirely in a relationship with?

"At the heart of it, ghosting is as clear as any other form of rejection," Abad-Santos said. "The reason we complain about it is because we wanted a different outcome."

It's not the fact that we got no explanation, but that we are let down by the game we venture into when we show interest in someone. It's sad, and it's infuriating. Certainly the ghoster doesn't come out looking great in the process, but it is a risk we take — and perhaps karma for never texting your disaster date back.

EDITORIAL

A Damning Silence on Rob Brown

Last week, The Jambar received three letters to the editor from a student, SGA representatives and a YSU chair and professor. Yes, you heard that right. The Jambar received three whole letters in a single week and, potentially more revolutionary, all the letters were in reference to the same controversy — gasp. So what exactly has lit a fire under the collective ass of the YSU community? The hiring of Ron Brown as the new YSU assistant coach.

Dwarfing the locker room controversy that surrounded Pelini's introduction into the university, Ron Brown is known for somewhat neolithic views on the homosexual community and a love of expressing those beliefs publicly; an evangelical Christian who was known to preach to his team. He has also told the Associated Press, "that based on the Bible, homosexuality, the lifestyle of homosexuality, is a sin." It isn't exactly surprising that he stirred up some controversy on college campuses.

Though YSU's athletics department has remained tight-lipped about the whole affair and an official announcement has been made, Ron Brown himself has confirmed his role as the new assistant coach. He is, apparently, currently working on campus.

But this editorial isn't about denouncing this man's views and their latent threat to YSU, something the letters to the editor accomplished already, but it is about YSU's response to the obvious controversy. Or, should we say, their lack of response.

This whole turgid affair is representative of a noxious trend that can be identified out of this incident.

The YSU administration and Board of Trustees' methodology, in recent memory, has been to act almost entirely unilaterally and with apparent impressive disregard for the opinion of the community.

Despite the letters to the

editor, incendiary debates appearing on social media and a recent vote of 'no confidence' in the Academic Senate against the provost, we are not going to pretend that the majority of the student body is wracked with indignant rage over this hiring — we aren't even sure if a majority know about it. It isn't the number of voices involved in the controversy; it's about the nature of the controversy. There have been valid concerns of possible discrimination; and, fundamentally, this is a concern that could involve conflicting rights — of free speech and the separation of church and state.

That isn't a situation where you put your hands over your ears and scream "LALALA" until everyone shuts up and goes home; it isn't an issue where you let responses and assurances trickle out slowly.

This is the brand of controversy that you tackle head-on. This is the type of controversy where you are happy to answer our calls because you want to assure worried students and professors that there will be no discrimination or state-sponsored evangelizing allowed at your university.

Even if this response was a simple decoy to silence naysayers, at least it is something. Silence is so much worse. It tells concerned parties that the issue is not worth your time, and, by extension, the individual presenting the problem is not worth your time.

And this isn't an isolated incident. Last year, during the selection process for President Tressel, the Board of Trustees was the only entity represented on the search committee. Though this is not unusual at other universities, it is an odd break from the YSU tradition to include Board members, professors and students on the search committee.

Then, on the same day that the YSU faculty union, YSU-OEA, was to vote on the tentative contract, YSU decided to fire Coach Eric Wolford. Part

of Wolford's contract stipulated that he receive a buyout of \$100,000 upon dismissal unless he received a job within the next year. Wolford ended up receiving a job with the 49ers, and the sum of his salary there will reduce the sum of his buyout.

Nonetheless, the faculty knew one thing when he was removed — there was a possibility that YSU was paying \$100,000 on athletics in the midst of accusations that YSU was more concerned with athletics than academics. It is pure foolishness to make this decision on the day of an important vote during an extremely contentious faculty negotiation.

No wonder that in every interview with Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez, YSU-OEA's chief negotiator and a professor at YSU, he says the same thing: YSU is depriving faculty of shared governance of the university. In addition, the total weight of the YSU community's opinion seems to be diminishing.

If acting unilaterally is going to be the flavor of the next few years, you could at least capitulate to one demand and be more transparent with these decisions. Give us some warning of your intentions so it at least feels like our opinions could potentially have an impact — not just cannon fire after the battle has long been decided for us. Don't get us wrong, this isn't really enough, but at least, "no legacy is so rich as honesty."

We hope that YSU just has an image problem, and they care deeply about the opinion of the YSU community; they remain silent or obstinate only because they have a masterwork plan that we plebeians could simply not understand.

To everyone looking in, though, it sure seems that YSU's head doesn't much care about the opinion of the rest of its body.

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.

GEOFFREY MOHAN
Los Angeles Times
(TNS)

Chronic cocaine use alters brain circuits that help us learn from mistakes, a new study suggests.

The study, published online Tuesday in the Journal of Neuroscience, could offer a biological marker for the cycle of destructive decisions that many addicts exhibit.

Researchers measured EEG signals from a region of the mid-brain that has been associated with how the brain manages errors in reward prediction. Neurons there release and absorb more dopamine when things go better or worse than expected, and less when events meet expectations.

That proportional feedback helps explain why we're so pleasantly surprised at unexpected rewards, so sorely disappointed at unforeseen penalties, and relatively blasé about the "predictable" outcomes in between.

"The brain learns from it — whether you should go ahead with this experience the next time or you should stay away from it," said the study's lead researcher, Muhammad Parvaz, a cognitive neuroscientist at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York.

Among chronic users, said Parvaz, "the worse-than-expected response was not there."

Researchers compared a range of EEG signals among people who don't use cocaine with those from two chronic-use groups: one that tested positive for cocaine use within the past 72 hours and one that had tested negative.

All 75 participants played a computerized game in which they guessed which of four doors hid prizes. The trials offered randomly different odds of winning, from 1 in 4 up to 3 in 4, that were flashed onscreen for milliseconds before subjects made their choice.

Subjects also had to report whether they thought they had made the right or wrong prediction before they could see the result. A correct choice, marked by a green upward arrow, meant they had earned 60 cents, while a red downward arrow signaled they had lost 30 cents.

As expected, the feedback signal from nonusers was greater for unpredicted outcomes than for predicted ones.

Across both groups of chronic users, however, EEG readings showed no significant difference between expected and unexpected losses. Their management of negative reward error prediction was impaired.

This could explain why addicts will return to drugs despite the negative impacts of incarceration and loss of money, friends and family, according to the researchers. "They don't learn from it," Parvaz said. "They go

back to the drug."

Indeed, those who tested positive for recent cocaine use had relatively normal feedback for positive reward prediction error, according to the study.

"We think this is in line with self-medication hypothesis — that people who are chronically addicted to the drug need it to normalize some part of their neuro-processes," Parvaz said.

Those who had not tested positive for recent cocaine use showed the worst of both worlds: impaired positive and negative feedback. That's consistent with the known chemistry of cocaine use — it tamps down production of dopamine, leaving the neurons unresponsive to just about everything but the drug.

That may explain why it's hard for abstaining users to respond to incentives to quit, and easy for them to relapse, the researchers suggested.

There are some limits to what can be drawn from the study data, however. Signals from other circuits that could be acting in tandem were not analyzed, the researchers said. And setup of the probabilities resulted in fewer unpredicted losses when chances of winning were just 1 in 4, and fewer unpredicted wins when those chances were 3 in 4.

Some researchers also have argued that the prediction of salience, not of reward, drives the measured feedback, as one study comparing reactions to pain and monetary reward seems to suggest.

Defense is the Key:

YSU SOFTBALL LOOKS TO CONTINUE SUCCESS

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Coming off a 30-24 season, the Youngstown State University softball team will look to continue its success this season. The Penguins will have a roster that features the Horizon League Co-Player of the Year, the Freshman Player of the Year and 13 underclassmen.

Head coach Brian Campbell is prepared to get his team back out there and ready to play. With the first game of the season right around the corner, Campbell has confidence in this year's roster. The team has seven freshmen that will look to contribute early in the starting lineup.

"We do have some freshman right now that will be in our starting lineup that have developed to the college game," Campbell said.

Coach Campbell doesn't have any concerns with the young players in his lineup. Returning starters from last season will look to pass on their knowledge to the new faces on the roster. Infielder Miranda Castiglione, Co-Player of the Year and Horizon League First-Teamer; outfielder Sarah Dowd, previous Freshman Player of the Year; and senior pitcher Kayla Haslett will all be great assets to the team's success this year.

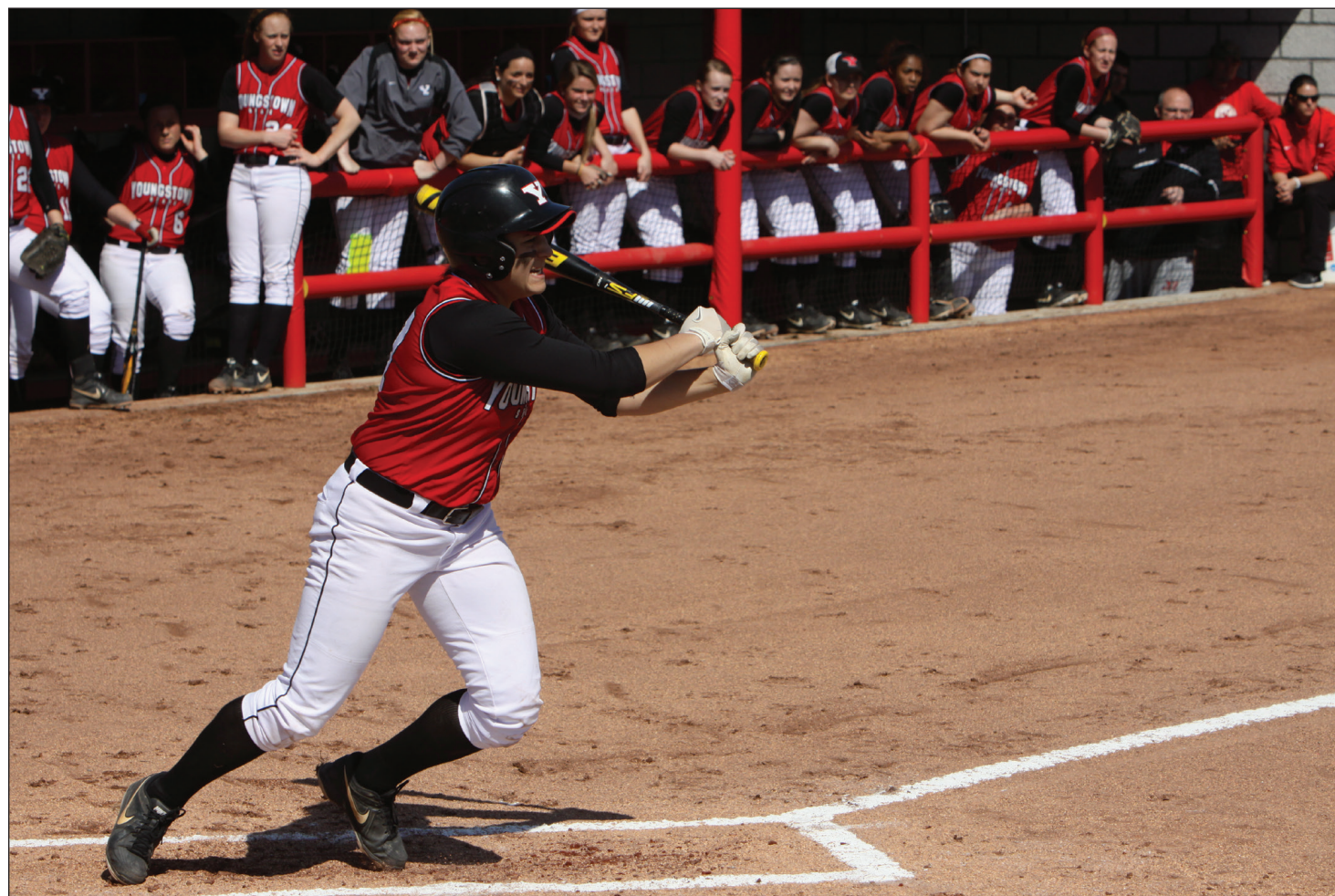


PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

Junior infielder Miranda Castiglione was named the Horizon League Player of the Year last season. Castiglione led the softball team with a .395 batting average. Her average was sixth in YSU's single season list.

The Penguins will focus on putting more pressure on opposing team's defenses this season. Campbell has faith that the speed and hitting will be able to set their team apart from the others.

"We have some young ladies that can hit the long ball, but our main focus is more on base running and putting the ball into play," he said.

When asked about the team's new lineup, Castiglione was very eager to get back out on the field and into the swing of spring.

"I am excited; I think it's going to be a lot different than last year. We have a lot different aspects of the game to offer," Castiglione said. "We are really going to have to capitalize on our speed and get the runs across and also hold tight on our defense. Defense is going to be a big factor this year in all the games we play and in getting the job done."

The Penguins are excited about the speed that the freshman will bring on both offense and defense.

The team will look to use its speed on the base paths as a way to produce runs early on.

"I think a lot of the freshmen, if not all of them, are fast. We weren't as fast last year, but I think it's going to be really important and come in handy," Castiglione said. "We have a lot of different lineups we can go with. I think no matter who is on the field or in the dugout, we are going to be a strong unit this year and we can go pretty far."

When asked about being co-player of the Horizon

League last year and any added pressure from trying to perform at the same level as last year, Castiglione was very modest about the award.

"The award really humbled me, but I dropped it at the end of the season and I am approaching the new season with a new slate," she said.

The YSU softball team kick-starts their season on Friday, Feb. 6 against University of Maryland Eastern Shore during the Campbell Tournament in Buies Creek, North Carolina.

Viktoria Orosz Shines For Swim Team

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Youngstown State University swimmer Viktoria Orosz is having one of the best freshman seasons in school history, despite the difficult challenges of being an international student.

Orosz came to Youngstown last year from her home country of Hungary where she was already an accomplished swimmer in the backstroke and freestyle events.

"It was a big change for me," she said. "At home we had different training plans and everything was different."

Orosz was not on Matt Anderson's,

YSU swimming and diving head coach, radar until she reached out to him. After watching some tapes, he decided to make her the offer.

"Interestingly enough, she found us," Anderson said. "A lot of the international kids will go through a recruiting service, but with her case, she bypassed that whole thing and just said 'I'm going to do it myself.'"

Anderson said that the hard part of the transition for international students is the language gap.

"It's always a challenge for freshmen in general, but especially for the international freshmen. She came in and needed some work on her English and it's improved a lot over the past year. That's helped her a lot, so she's a lot more confident just in general being here," Anderson said. "She didn't really know what was going on and she had trouble under-

standing people, but always in the pool she was ready to go."

As Coach Anderson said, Orosz was always ready in the pool. She has already set school records in the 200-, 500-, 1,000- and 1,650-yard freestyle so far this season and has her eyes set on the Horizon League Championship in the 200-yard free style — which is a goal that her and Anderson set before the season.

The early success should come as no surprise as Orosz had multiple appearances in the Hungarian National Championship and was awarded Swimmer of the Year in her age group five times from 2008-2013.

"It helped a lot, that I have a lot of competition," she said. "We have really good swimmers."

Although she was already an accomplished swimmer, both Orosz and Anderson did not expect her to have this good

of a start to her career at YSU.

"We sat down at the beginning of the year for her to potentially break some school records by the end of the year. Then she shows up at the second meet of the year and starts setting them right there," Anderson said. "It's been a much faster progression than we expected and it's been really exciting, seeing what she's capable of."

Anderson said that Orosz is only going to get better and has high expectations for her during her time at YSU.

"I think that she's got a really good shot of achieving her goal of winning the 200 this year, and really is just going to get better from there. She's someone who's got a great work ethic," Anderson said. "She earns everything that she gets and I don't see any reason that she isn't going to continue to get better as she goes through."



PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

Freshman swimmer Viktoria Orosz could potentially win the Horizon League Championship in the 200-yard freestyle. Her best time was 1:50.01 at the Magnus Invitational back in November 2014.