

THE JAMBAR

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Gabriella Gessler

SGA Starts a New Semester with a New VP

STORY BY: JUSTIN WIER | jwier@student.ysu.edu | Photo Courtesy: Gabriella Gessler

Gabriella Gessler is Student Government Association's new executive vice president for the spring semester, and she's bringing new ideas to the table.

SGA President Ashley Orr appointed Gessler to the position following the resignation of former Executive Vice President Jacob Schriener-Briggs. The appointment was unanimously approved by SGA.

Gessler said she is excited to serve as executive vice president.

"Jacob [Schriener-Briggs] was a brilliant leader, so it's bittersweet, but I'm trying not to see it as filling big shoes," Gessler said.

Gessler said she is looking forward to focusing on the initiatives Orr and Schriener-Briggs developed last semester while also lending a new perspective to the ad-

ministration.

Orr said she chose Gessler because the pair have complementary skillsets.

"Her and I work really well with each other," Orr said. "The way we bounce ideas of one another has always been really effective."

Orr said she has met with Gessler and developed some unique goals for the spring.

"I was asking her what are some of the things that she's passionate about and that she would want to put on her agenda to work on rather than just her inheriting what Jacob [Schriener-Briggs] and I's agenda was," Orr said.

Those new focuses include looking into textbook affordability and student health services that are available on campus.

"Just the thought of

making sure that the university has the medical care and assistance that is needed and is appropriate for the students who stay on campus," Gessler said. "We're definitely digging into it, just even to reassure that we feel that the medical care is there and the needs are met for the students."

Gessler has spent the last year and a half serving as SGA's vice president for student life. In that time she worked with student activities to begin the student organization spotlight initiative, which promoted a new student organization each week.

"That definitely developed our communication relationship with organizations," Gessler said.

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TEDX SPEAKER SERIES

NAYEF ZARROUR: LEARNING THE POWER OF PERSPECTIVE

STORY:LAUREN FOOTE | laurenleona@student.ysu.edu | PHOTO: NAYEF ZARROUR

Nayef Zarrou is a 29-year-old Youngstown native who spent most of his teenage years living in Youngstown, Lebanon and Brazil. The Youngstown State University graduate said travel has shaped his perspective and changed the way he views the world.

Zarrou works as a financial consultant and entrepreneur, which continues the theme of travel in his life, this time between New York,

Chicago and Los Angeles. He has recently settled in New York.

He operates a hedge fund, teaches acrobatics and yoga, works with the homeless and tries to be involved in Jewish, Muslim, Israeli and Arabic communities.

Zarrou was invited to participate in TEDx Youngstown because of an interaction with an Israeli woman he shared on Instagram.

While living in LA, he approached a neighbor

with an Israeli flag on their porch.

"I wanted to interact with this person because I love challenging the barriers that are found in the Israeli, Muslim and Arabic communities in a non-combative way," Zarrou said.

When Zarrou revealed that he was Arabic the woman stepped away from him and asked if she should be scared of him.

"[She said] she was told that all Muslims and

Arabs hate the Israelis and the Jews and they want us dead," Zarrou said. "After some more talking, the next day she came to my house and brought over her crystals and wanted to get to know me better."

This desire arose from an experience Zarrou had in 2006. He had spent most of the year in Brazil, and arrived in Lebanon a few weeks before war broke out.

TED X PAGE3

Steelant Named Dean of STEM



Wim Steelant

STORY:GABRIELLE FELLOWS | gfellows@student.ysu.edu | PHOTO:JUSTIN WIER

Last month, the Board of Trustees appointed Wim Steelant dean of the College of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Steelant currently serves as vice president of research and dean of science at St. Thomas University in Florida. He will take over for Interim Dean Gregg Sturris on March 15.

Martin Abraham, provost of YSU, said Steelant's overall experience helped him stand out.

"I also especially liked his diverse background," Abraham said. "He ac-

tually has degrees from three different departments in our college: biology, chemical engineering and chemistry. So he understands interdisciplinary research and the challenges associated with working in multidisciplinary teams."

Abraham added that Steelant emphasized the importance of developing and strengthening relationships between the University and the community.

STEMPAGE3



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NEWS 2

Why Counting Mass Shootings is a Bad Way to Understand Gun Violence in America

LEO BECKETT, PROPUBLICA

According to articles this week across the Internet, there has been an average of one mass shooting every day in the United States: 355 so far this year. It's a jarring statistic, and one that has gone viral in the wake of this week's massacre in San Bernardino, California. But there are two problems with the number: It doesn't actually provide a clear estimate of how often the country has seen shooting rampages like the one in San Bernardino. And it obscures the broader reality of gun violence in America. Counting "mass shootings" is notoriously complicated and contested, since there is no standard definition of what they are. Is it best to count shootings that injure or kill a certain number of people? Or

should the definition focus more narrowly on attacks in which the motivation of the shooter "appears to be indiscriminate killing"? Mother Jones, which has been tracking mass shootings since 2012, has counted just four mass shootings this year, and a total of 73 since 1982, as Mother Jones editor Mark Follman has noted in *The New York Times*. In 2014, the FBI released its own count of "active shooter" incidents, focusing on events where law enforcement and citizens may have the chance to intervene and change the outcome of the ongoing shooting. It tallied a total of 160 of these events from 2000 to 2013—including high-profile shootings at Virginia Tech, Fort Hood, and Sandy Hook

Elementary School—with an average of 11 per year. The "355 mass shootings this year" that has been rocketing around the Internet comes from a crowdsourced Reddit initiative that gathers media reports of shootings in which four or more people were shot. The Reddit count includes many incidents that Mother Jones, the FBI, and others leave out: for instance, a home robbery, a drive-by shooting, and a gang fight. The Reddit project's organizers suggest this broader approach does a better job of capturing the burden of gun violence—including the suffering and costs of treating people who are shot and survive. "The most obscene incidents of gun violence usually do not make

the mainstream news at all," the project's introduction says, citing a nightclub shooting in Tennessee in which 18 people were shot and only one person killed. "We believe the media does a disservice to mass shooting victims by virtually ignoring them unless large numbers are killed." Yet bundling together all incidents in which four people or more people are shot doesn't capture the bigger picture. As ProPublica detailed last week, gun murder in America is largely a story of race and geography. Half of all gun murder victims are black men. The gun murder rate for black Americans is dramatically higher than it is for white Americans. And the burden of violence tends to be concentrat-

ed in certain neighborhoods of certain cities. Reddit's Mass Shooting Tracker does not include any breakdown by race. In response to questions about the group's numbers, one project organizer, GhostofAlyeska, wrote, "Our intent is not to analyze the causes or cures for gun violence, but simply to expose the available data. We're volunteers working from a reddit community, nothing more." The Reddit project cites 462 people killed under its broad definition of mass shootings. The number of gun homicides of black men killed in 2013, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: 5,798. Baltimore alone has seen a total of 316 total homicides so far this year—the vast majority

of them shooting deaths of black victims, according to the Baltimore Sun's homicide map. The city's homicide rate is now at a record high. The Reddit tracker captures eight of those deaths. San Bernardino has two entries in this year's Mass Shooting Tracker: yesterday's attack, and a nightclub shooting reportedly linked to gang violence. The area has long struggled with poverty, gangs, and homicide. "My son was shot to death with an AK-47. My nephew was murdered and his body was burned and buried," San Bernardino resident Marisa Hernandez told *Vice News* on Wednesday. "This type of mass shootings happens everyday here to our kids and nobody stops it, nobody does anything."



Concept art for a new student housing complex approved by the Board of Trustees last month. The 1.8-acre complex will sit on the corner of Wick and Lincoln Avenues.

Second Student Apartment Approved by Trustees This Year

STORY: SAMANTHA PHILLIPS | sphillips@student.yosu.edu | PHOTO COURTESY OF LRC REALTY

A new apartment-style housing and retail facility on the corner of Wick and Lincoln Avenues — tentatively called "The Enclave" — is scheduled to be open to students in fall 2017.

The Board of Trustees approved leasing 1.8 acres to LRC Realty, who will develop and manage the five-story complex.

The ground floor will have 15,000 square feet of retail space that they hope to fill with vendors such as Chipotle, Arby's or Panda Express. The remaining four stories will house one, two and four bedroom apartments.

Neal McNally, vice president for finance and administration,

said Youngstown State University will do everything they can to keep the project on schedule.

"We are very excited to have this type of interest in the university and the community," he said.

McNally said LRC Realty has experience developing student-housing complexes, including one at the University of Akron.

"The success of the Akron facility gives us confidence in the firm's ability to build, operate and manage student-housing facilities such as this one," McNally said. "I think the Akron success had some impact on our decision to go forth with LRC." LRC Realty will begin

development as early as spring 2016, so it can be open and operational by fall 2017.

McNally said the ability to meet those deadlines depends on the timeliness with which documentation is provided to the state.

"The state of Ohio will require [that] because it is partially on state property," McNally said. "We can help the developer with that, you know, try to cut through some of the red tape in Columbus, but it's largely going to fall on the developers."

Kevin Fallon, senior vice president of development at LRC Realty, said they are working on the site plan.

Currently, the estimat-

ed cost of construction is around \$10 million. LRC Realty will finance the development and operation of the complex. YSU will receive money for leasing the property.

Fallon said the housing complex will feature amenities such as Wi-Fi, a fitness center, studying lounges and an activity room with TVs and gaming stations.

"We are looking at tanning beds. We are looking at a courtyard facility, which would have outdoor grilling opportunities and seating," Fallon said.

He added that many students in Akron take advantage of the free tanning beds at their facility.

The cost for students to live at The Enclave is expected to be in line with University Edge, the University Court-yard apartments and the Flats at Wick. The location will allow students to walk to class, as well as downtown.

Eddie Howard, vice president of student experience, said the proximity to the school is important and can attract students who want to live near campus. He said there is an increasing demand for student housing.

"[University Edge] already has over 30 students leased for next year ... and I think folks are going to gravitate to living in the new facility," Howard said.

"There are going to be more and more folks who are looking for apartment-style housing as opposed to living at a traditional residence hall ... [and] students who don't live on campus may choose to live on campus as a result of how attractive the property is."

He said YSU wants to make sure that students are provided with quality accommodations.

"We really try to work on helping students understand that we see residential living, regardless of where students live, as creating an environment that's going to get more students engaged and involved and excited about being at YSU," Howard said.

NEWS

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NEWS BRIEFS

Abrahams Donate for Scholarship in Memory of Parents

Martin and Nancy Abraham have donated \$50,000 to Youngstown State University to create a scholarship in memory of their parents. The Herbert S. and Agnes T. Wallis Scholarship is in honor of Nancy Abraham's parents, and the Sam E. and Barbara Abraham Memorial Scholarship is in honor of Provost Martin Abraham's parents. For more information, call the YSU Foundation at 330-941-3211.

YSU Awarded for Commitment of Employee Health

The Healthy Ohio-Healthy Worksite Gold Level Award has been awarded to Youngstown State University for its commitment to employee health. The only other university to be awarded the Gold Level Award is Ohio State University. Other winners include Mount Carmel Health System, Mercy Medical Center, Nationwide Children's Hospital and America Showa Inc. The award will be presented Jan. 20, 2016 at 12:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency-Columbus.

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TED X FRONT

"At 19 years old, having the experience of helping people through wreckage, trying to survive, trying to find survivors is a powerful experience," Zarrour said.

Zarrour fled Lebanon to Syria for a week, bouncing around from place to place because he didn't want to burden anyone.

"Two hours after I left Syria, my house got hit," Zarrour said. "One of my cousins was killed, most of my family was badly injured. I just remembered I had so much hate in my heart, especially towards the Jewish people and the Israelis," Zarrour said.

Following that experience, he returned to the United States. Zarrour said that through his anger and pain arose a desire to understand the Jewish community and the Israelis. He wanted to understand how the war could have happened.

"I kept seeking out people of Jewish and Israeli decent. What was fascinating to me, when I was asking questions like: how can you justify killing, how could you justify this, they in return would ask this question word for word to me," Zarrour said.

He said he realized that both groups see the other as their persecutors because they want peace.

"We both wanted peace, and we all wanted this violence resolved," Zarrour said. "The difference between the two groups is that the Israelis and the Jews wanted peace for themselves. The Arabs and Muslims only wanted peace for themselves. No one wanted collective peace."

Zarrour said he wants to help bridge the gap between the cultures, to help people change their hearts and help people.

"I am glad I went through this experience because it made me the person that I am today. No matter how hard or difficult a day I might have had, I realize it is not a bad day," Zarrour

said. "I know what a bad day is like; I have lived it."

He said his TED talk will focus on developing empathy when the world presents you with hate.

"What were the thought processes that were going through my mind during those events that helped me develop empathy? I want to talk about how through traumatic, significant events that can make us develop hate, we can shift that and become empathetic," Zarrour said.

Zarrour said it saddens him to see close-mindedness and ignorance in the community around issues like LGBTQ rights, racism and culture in general.

"I am very confident in putting myself out there and being a target," Zarrour said. "I am comfortable telling people about being a refugee due to a conflict. I want to attack this hatred in Youngstown and address it and maybe open people's minds."

He said he's had the experience of a refugee.

"I don't know the years-on-end experience because I was lucky enough to have my family get me out, but I have tasted enough of it to say, 'Wow, I can probably change things and perspectives a little bit,'" Zarrour said.

Zarrour said he strives to better Arab-Israeli relations through empathetic, safe communication and culturally conscious actions.

"I want people to walk away from this TED talk with three things: how to develop empathy after a traumatic experience, belief that they can change something and how to get about getting involved," Zarrour said. "One person can make a change. I want people to walk away from this understanding that."

He said he and 11 other people will be wearing T-shirts he created stating "I am the change."

"We cannot rely on other people to be the change; we have to be the change and make a difference," Zarrour said.

STEM PAGE 3

Steelant said the strong connection between the College of STEM and the community was a major factor in his decision to apply.

"UNITED WE'RE STRONG, ALONE WE'RE NOTHING."

"I was involved with the kids from kindergarten on [at my previous job] to show them that science was very awesome," Steelant said. "That is similar to what I see in Youngstown."

He was also impressed by YSU President Jim Tressel's engagement with local leaders.

"The president drives the community. He goes to schools and engages the community and local industry and gives opportunities to students to do internships," Steel-

lant said. "It blew me away; it's tremendous."

Joseph Mosca, dean of the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services, served as chair of the search committee that selected finalists for the STEM dean position.

The committee was comprised of faculty, students, staff and community members as well as a member of the Board of Trustees.

The committee conducted multiple Skype interviews to narrow the search down to three candidates who visited campus. Mosca said they were impressed by Steelant.

"I believe he has a good understanding of the complexity and diverse needs of disciplines in the STEM College,"

SGA FRONT

She also said it was extremely exciting to work with Orr and Schriener-Briggs to create a seat on SGA for international students.

"That was a huge passion of mine, and after ... speaking with the students it was very apparent the need to kind of break down a barrier for them," Gessler said. "They are some of the most brilliant students on campus, so we would just hate to withhold them from truly getting every resource they could from the university."

Both Orr and Gessler said the transition has been seamless and they don't anticipate SGA experiencing any growing pains.

"I definitely feel comfortable because I feel the leaders that I work with have done a wonderful job transitioning everything for me," Gessler said.

Orr said SGA will open the spring semester discussing the use of SGA's expanded budget with a focus on making the appropriations process easier for groups that go through it several times.

"Gabi [Gessler] and I have already sat down along with the entire SGA executive and laid out our goals for the use of the larger funds and how we best get that distributed to student organizations," Orr said.

They will also continue pursuing student discounts through the use of a statewide letter that leverages student populations at state universities in an attempt to receive discounts from larger companies, work on integrating student suggestions regarding a first-year-experience course now that Academic Senate has approved its inclusion in the University's curriculum next fall and hold a mental health training and efficacy day on March 25.

In addition to those — and the new initiatives Gessler developed alongside Orr — SGA is working to open a food pantry on campus and planning the transition to next year's SGA leadership.

"Spring will hopefully be just as productive if not more productive than fall," Orr said.



Mosca said. "I anticipate that his strong sense of enthusiasm and positive nature will contribute to his success as dean."

Steelant said he is going to approach the situation by listening first, seeing what could be improved and collaborating with students and staff to improve the college as a team.

"Coming in [to this department] and saying that everything is broken is a big mistake," Steelant said. "I'm not coming in with guns blazing."

He said he wants to talk with the provost, his fellow deans and the professors, chairs, department heads and students about their experiences.

"I think my first step is listening. Let's listen to what those hopes, dreams and disappointments are and figure out as a team what we can make changes to," Steelant said. "It's not me

coming in and changing things drastically; it's a team effort."

He also said a major focus will be improving the quality of the students' education — with an emphasis on communication.

"United we're strong, alone we're nothing. I can't do anything without my faculty and without the students' wishes," Steelant said. "I usually have open door policy so that faculty and students can come in and chat."

He also stressed the importance of internships in strengthening a student's education.

"I want to help the students gain value with their degree," Steelant said. "Send them away to internships, set them up with local businesses, give them the best opportunity to gain experience so that when they graduate their degree is really powerful."

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First Meeting of the Artists

OPEN FORUM FOR ARTISTS HELD IN YOUNGSTOWN

STORY: BILLY LUDT | WLUDT@STUDENT.YSU.EDU | PHOTO BY: GABBY FELLOWS

Artists from Youngstown and bordering county communities gathered at the SOAP Gallery in downtown Youngstown on Jan. 6 to incite collaboration and discuss the future of the arts in the area.

Tony Nicholas, photographer and executive director of the Artists of the Rustbelt, emphasized a divide between local art communities, despite short travel times.

He illustrated the separation of disjointed art communities, suggesting there is an invisible wall; stopping people from Youngstown from traveling to Trumbull and Sharon to partake in art events.

"We are so close in proximity that we should be nurturing each other," Nicholas said. "It's almost the same clear wall between YSU and downtown."

These short distances between communities raised the idea of a regional art walks, utilizing public transit to ship participants between the communities.

"The word for me to chew on is 'collaborate,'" Nicholas said.

A point was raised to have gallery owners promote their peers' events through social media and maintain similar gallery hours in order to bring more clientele in.

Adam Gregory is the director of the Fine Arts Council of Trumbull County. He spoke about the Fine Art Council's collaboration with county government. The city and the art council have an agreement that a certain amount of wall space in buildings must be occupied by art.

"Warren can't go it alone; Youngstown can't go it alone," Gregory said.

It was suggested that the art community in Youngstown has the potential to garner appeal for tourism in the city, as it has been exercised in larger cities, like Cleveland.

Daniel Rauschenbach is the primary owner of the SOAP Gallery and acted as

a mediator for the art discussion.

"There is so much going on in this community that it has spanned beyond just this region," he said. "I think that's the cool thing, that we're able to be very mobile around here. If we're able to make that a tangible outlet, like, fliers, or anything like that —progressively what that could lead into is art walks regionally that could draw in other bigger communities."

The discussion was brought back several times to the idea of an arts community calendar, listing all arts-related events in Youngstown and surrounding cities. Audience members discussing the theoretical facets of the calendar stated that it would ideally have the option to view a master calendar of all events and can also be narrowed down by community.

Johanna George, director of the M Gallery, located on the first floor of the Erie Terminal Building, discussed the lack of interest in the arts in the sub-

urbs of Youngstown.

"How do we get the suburbs, or the people that are interested in art, but don't know," George said.

Chris Yambar, local artists and comic creator, finished out the discussion.

"If there's anything I can tell you, it's that this night makes me very happy," he said. "You'll realize that you'll have a future right here in this room. The power in this room right now is everything you need to build every bridge necessary between you and the public. We cannot afford to hide and take on this isolation theology that has plagued us for so long."

"This town is happening; this area is happening. You can't go back in time, but you can really look forward in a way that you're making history. Make it right. When we get our acts together, you'll get the money," Yambar said.

The next arts open forum will be held on Feb. 3 at the SOAP Gallery from 7 to 9 p.m.

Grade 7-12 Students Showcase Artwork in Scholastic Exhibition

STORY: ASHLEY CUSTER | AKCUSTER@STUDENT.YSU.EDU | PHOTO BY: GABBY FELLOWS

Youngstown State University will be hosting the 2016 Northeast Ohio Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition on Jan. 8-28 in Bliss Hall's second floor Judith Rae Solomon Gallery and the fourth floor art department.

The Northeastern Ohio Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition program, founded in 1927, has reviewed the works of around 13 million teenagers, which included the likes of pop artist Andy Warhol and actor Robert Redford, making it the largest annual art competition in America.

Samuel Adu-Poku, professor and coordinator of undergraduate and graduate art education programs at YSU, believes the exhibition provides students with the opportunity to express their creative talents.

"They showcase their successes to their teachers, parents, families, community and the nation at-large, thereby sustaining their interest in art," he said.

It is designed to bring student artwork to the public. The exhibition encourages students' creativity and provides them with the opportunity to interact with their generation of artists



The exhibition showcases artwork from students, grades 7-12, from Ashtabula, Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull counties.

"At this age when art programs are being marginalized in many K-12 schools, the Scholastic art show presents a positive message to parents, the community and school authorities about the value of the art programs and the need

to promote it as part of core school curricula," Adu-Poku said.

For students who plan to pursue a degree in fine arts, it enables them to affirm their artistic capabilities in relation with peers from other institutions and build on their confidence and competitiveness.

"For high school students interested in pursuing a college degree in fine art, their

participation provides an incentive for building on their creative talents and preparing admission portfolios to attract the attention of YSU Department of Art," Adu-Poku said.

The Scholastic Art Awards high school ceremony will be held at 12:00 p.m. and the junior high ceremony at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 16 in Bliss Hall's Ford Theater. Students will receive awards for

their work.

A panel of judges will select works from 560 student's entries to receive honorable mention, silver and gold keys and five nominations for the prestigious American Visions Awards. The American Visions Award and Gold Key finalists will be sent to New York City, where they will compete for awards and possible scholarships with other student entries from across the nation.

"Since the Scholastic Art Show typically brings between 500 to 600 students and their parents to YSU campus on the opening event, it offers an opportunity for promoting not only the Scholastic event but also our art programs and our state-of-the-art facilities to prospective students and our guests," Adu-Poku said.

He feels that it is a step in the right direction for YSU, as it is typically viewed as an urban university.

"It is an essential community outreach and a strategic effort by the Department of Art to maintain partnerships and collaborate with art teachers and local schools in Mahoning, Columbiana, Trumbull and Ashtabula counties in promoting visual art education," he said.

OPINION 5

EDITORIAL

A Problem with Authority

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK THE JAMBAR

Americans have always had a problem with authority.

Even before Americans were Americans, there was a sneering dislike of those who told us how to act. The Pilgrim Fathers of the Plymouth colony exchanged relative comfort and civilization for potential starvation and death just to keep their religious congregation from being assimilated into the English state religion. The American Revolution is one of the most influential and important revolutions in modern history. The counter-culture of the 1970's — the rebellion to the rebellion — was centered around San Francisco, California.

Americans don't like being told what to do, sometimes to our detriment.

A recent Gallup poll suggests that even in America's most precious bastions of tribalism — our political parties — dissent and rebellion may be stirring.

According to the poll, 42 percent of Americans consider themselves political independents. Of the remainder, 29 percent consider themselves Democrats and 26 percent identify as Republicans. This is the fifth year in a row that at least 40 percent of the population has considered

themselves political independents.

With the overall public sentiment of exhaustion and frustration around congressional gridlock and the historic distrust and disillusionment with politics, a flight from the traditional centers of power isn't surprising.

Since 2011, we've seen the rise of the Occupy movement, a nationwide backlash against the police and the birth of BlackLivesMatter, students protesting for reform at a variety of higher education institutions and the veneration of those who make it their business to undermine the powers that be. John Stewart left the Daily Show and only needs three miracles before being canonized. Presidential candidates Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders are essentially anti-candidates. They are the embodiments of public backlash.

Even outside the news rebellion is in the air. Making a Murderer — a Netflix documentary examining the case of a poten-

tially wrongly accused criminal suffering at the hands of an allegedly corrupt legal system — has captivated not only the public, but celebrities and the news media, prompting a number of follow up stories and even a dead-on-arrival White House petition to free the subject of the film from prison.

The dissent isn't just a liberal phenomenon. The Tea Party was borne of inter-party rebellion among the Republicans. The Cliven Bundy standoff and the still developing standoff in Oregon with Bundy's relatives are extreme examples of borderline-armed revolt against the government. As mass shootings grow in number and publicity and the gun control debate continues to ramp up, private citizen militia movements are gaining popularity. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, militias in the U.S. have grown by a third.

While some of voters are abandoning their identities as Republicans and Democrats, it seems at least some have done so not to move toward the center, but closer to the fringe.

“Even outside the news rebellion is in the air.”



TheJambar.com

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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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New Year's Resolutions

JORDAN MCNEIL | jemcneil@student.ysu.edu

New Year's resolutions have always seemed like a joke to me. I'm sure everyone has heard the punch line about the increase of gym memberships bought in the beginning of January only to be discarded by the end of the month. I've never been serious with them myself, as I knew I would never follow through. The only time I made a resolution that I can remember is for 2015, where I decided that I would resolve to run more.

Now, this was one of the cheapest, vaguest resolutions I could make because I don't run, period. Therefore, if I went for a run just one day out of the year, I would've succeeded. Key words there are "would have" seeing as, you guessed it, I managed to fail to follow through

on that easy resolution. My guess as to why so many people fail their New Year's resolutions is the fact that, in general, people can be resistant to change, and change is work. It's easy to become complacent with how things are if there's no urgent reason to change, if nothing comes along to startle you into thinking that maybe it's time to take a chance to change seriously.

A few days before Christmas, I decided that I would enact another semi-vague New Year's resolution for 2016: to write more, more often than I did last year. As I made the resolution, I figured it would end up similarly as the year before, but I thought I'd at least attempt it.

Then, on Christmas,

Matt, a recent graduate of the MFA program, passed away. I didn't really know him, but a lot of my friends did, and the loss felt in our writing community was great. He was young, and it was so unexpected. One of the many saddening things about all of this is the fact that he was a talented writer, and now we'll no longer get to read new works by him.

A little later, I read a book I had picked up previously titled "The Opposite of Loneliness." It's a collection of short fiction and essays by Marina Keegan, another young, talented writer whose life ended suddenly and too soon. Also included in the collection were a couple notes from family and one of Marina's professors, talking about her

talent and her loss.

With the combination of these events with the New Year, I had an extremely sobering realization that time is not a guaranteed commodity. If I want to get all the stories and ideas in my head written and published, then I can't keep putting it off until tomorrow. Because there may not be a tomorrow.

I've written before about how there's no such thing about being too young or it being too late to follow your dreams. I'm going to add to that. If you know what your dream is, start working on it now. Make it your New Year's resolution and then work toward it every day from here on out. There's no reason to put it off until tomorrow.

SPORTS 6



The Next Great Penguin Guard?

The Horizon League names Cameron Morse the Co-Player of the Week. This is the first time he has received the reward.

STORY: Dan Hiner | DHINER@GOOGLE.COM | PHOTO BY: DAN HINER

During the 2014-15 season, Cameron Morse, a Youngstown State University guard, was sitting toward the bottom of the Penguin depth chart and only played in three of the teams' first 15 games during his freshman year.

He didn't start seeing consistent playing time until Jan. 11, 2015, but in limited playing time, he averaged six points and one rebound per game.

This season, Morse is considered YSU's best offensive weapon. Morse is averaging 18.1 points per game, including a 44-point game on Saturday against the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

"I'm very comfortable in the starting lineup. Before, Brett Frantz was starting before me but he was giving me tips. Coach was giving me confidence. Coming into the game, I had the confidence to do what I do best," Morse said

after YSU's game against Green Bay.

He currently ranks second in the Horizon League in scoring and his 48.9 field goal percentage ranks tenth.

Morse has played the majority of the season on the Penguin bench but has started the last five games. Since entering the starting lineup, Morse has averaged 26.2 points per game.

Some of his success could be attributed to the loss of senior Bobby Hain. The senior forward suffered a broken foot during the Penguins' 87-78 loss to Notre Dame on Dec. 21, and while YSU head coach, Jerry Slocum, doesn't want to make any guarantees, it looks as if the Penguins' star will not return this season.

Since Hain's injury, Morse has been the centerpiece of the offense. The team has adopted an up-tempo offense that allows players like Morse to get the ball

in the open court before the defense is back in position.

Point guard Francisco Santiago said Morse's abilities go beyond his scoring. Morse has the ability to take over the responsibility of a point guard and run the offense depending on the defense's strategy.

"It's real nice because it takes the pressure off me. I know sometimes I get a little bit on the same side, and I throw it to him because I know what he's capable of and it takes pressure off of me. On Saturday, we were getting double-teamed — he could bring it up and Cam, he could run the offense. He's a more than willing passer but he's capable of scoring. All five guys on defense have to be on their P's and Q's and that's what opens [opportunities] up for other guys."

Santiago said he enjoys playing with

Morse because he's a player that can create his own shot.

"He has the ability to make difficult shots. You look at guys and you say 'oh, that's not a really a good shot', but for Cam it is. He's able to get his shot off. He just needs a little bit of room and he gets it over the top, and he's a real good shooter.

"When he gets into the lane, he's really good at drawing contact. He doesn't avoid the contact, he goes into it, and that's how he gets into the line. If they don't want to foul him, he gets the layup. He could pretty much score from anywhere on the floor. When we get him the ball, we know he could pretty much score from anywhere on the court."

YSU Learning From Loss to Green Bay

STORY: Dan Hiner | DHINER@GOOGLE.COM | PHOTO BY: DAN

The Youngstown State University women's basketball team is coming off a 68-60 loss to the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay on Saturday night.

After the game, YSU head coach John Barnes was disappointed with his team's ability to execute plays. The Penguins had a nine-point lead over the Phoenix in the second quarter, but a slow start in the second half put YSU in a hole that the Penguins couldn't overcome.

Now that a couple days have passed, Barnes said he's had an opportunity to go over the film and he's proud of the way his players were able to keep pace with the Phoenix, one of the top mid-major teams in the

nation.

"I'm happy with the team and how hard we played," Barnes said. "[We] stuck right there with one of the best programs historically in the Midwest and mid-majors, but obviously still disappointed we couldn't find a way to pull out a win."

Barnes said the team would have to use the loss as a learning experience and continue to improve as the season progresses. With a full week until their next game, Barnes intends to spend practice time going over the minute details that the Penguins need to improve upon.

"We're just going to go back and refocus on the fundamentals on the little details," Barnes

said. "Sometimes those get away from you when you can't do the drill work that you normally do when you have time to do it. So we're really going to focus on those little details."

"We learned a lot from the last two games. [The University of Wisconsin] Milwaukee did a great job pushing us to the edge and Green Bay, we had to raise our level, and your mistakes and the things that you're not good at really show brightly when you go against a team like Green Bay."

YSU forward Kelsea Newman echoed Barnes' thoughts on practice during this week. She said the team will review the film of the Green Bay game and make adjust-



Youngstown State University guard Alison Smolinski defends a University of Wisconsin-Green Bay shooter at the 3-point line on Saturday. YSU is 3-1 in Horizon League play this season.

ments with the coaching staff.

"I thought that we could take a lot away from that game," Newman said. "We're definitely going to watch the film and we're going to look at the good things, look at the bad things, look what we could have improved on and having a week until our next game, I think that's really

good for us. We'll be able to take that game and look at what we could do to get better for the next one."

The next game for the Penguins will take place on Saturday at Cleveland State University. The Vikings are 3-11 this season and 0-4 in Horizon League play.

Newman said YSU can't overlook Cleveland

State because the games between the Penguins and the Vikings are usually tough matchups.

"They're always a big rival. Being so close, they're always a good game to play and both teams are going to come out with a lot of energy — just intensity," Newman said. "It will be a good way to see how we come back from the last game."