

THE JAMBAR

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COMMUNITY AND CULTURE



Come Together at the
AFRICAN MARKETPLACE

STORY: **LAUREN FOOTE** | LAURENLEONAL@GMAIL.COM | PHOTO: **GRAIG GRAZIOSI**

Members of Youngstown State University and the Youngstown community came together to celebrate the beginning of Black History Month in Kilcawley Center on Saturday by attending the African marketplace.

The marketplace consisted of a variety of vendors selling clothing, food,

jewelry and crafts related to black culture and tradition.

Kimberly Phillips, a well-known Afro-Caribbean dancer, came to Ohio for the first time to perform at the event. She included the crowd and encouraged community members to participate in the performance.

"I am really grateful to do my work here," Phillips said. "My first dance is Ejesa, a dance that the people of Nigeria brought to Cuba. It is a dance for Ashun — the god of love, dance and happiness. The dance is her energy in the physical world."

Tiffany Anderson, director of the

African studies program, organized the event. She was happy to incorporate Phillips into the event.

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SEARCHING FOR YSU'S NEW INTERNATIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

STORY: **GRAIG GRAZIOSI** | GRGRAZIOSI@GMAIL.COM

Finalists for a new associate provost position shared their visions for Youngstown State University's future at open forums last week.

Carrie Wojenski of Sacred Heart University and Nathan Myers of Ashland University — finalists for associate provost for international and global initiatives at Youngstown State University — participated in faculty forums last Tuesday and Thursday, respectively.

The new associate provost will lead the Center for International Studies and Programs, focusing particularly on the recruitment and retention of international students.

Both candidates voiced the need for the CISP to have enough staff in place to serve incoming international students and ensure their experience is positive.

Carrie Wojenski

Wojenski, currently the executive director of global affairs at Sacred Heart University, argued that internationalization was an inevitable reality for the higher education industry.

She evidenced her point by highlighting trends in higher education administration — such as the increase in global focused administration jobs and a retooling of curricula to include an international competency component — and said YSU was already moving toward internationalization.

"It looks like [YSU's administration and faculty] are enthusiastic and poised to enter the new reality of internationalization," Wojenski said. "Internationalization is imperative."

She went on to argue that institutional support for international students — mentoring, language

proficiency, integration issues, etc. — should continue throughout the entirety of an international student's time at YSU.

When asked whether opportunities and funding specifically for minority students hoping to study abroad existed, Wojenski pointed out a number of organizations that focus specifically on underrepresented student demographics.

"DiversityAbroad.com and the [department of education] has a new website dedicated to [study abroad opportunities for under represented student populations] that are specifically targeting diversity," she said. "Some focus on racial diversity, some focus on mobility diversity ... so more so than I've seen in the past, there is funding out there for diversity study abroad experiences."

Wojenski traveled to Samoa for an undergraduate study abroad trip and went on to work in her college's study abroad office. She has been involved directly with students seeking to study abroad in some capacity since her undergraduate studies.

Nathan Myers

Myers was appointed the executive director of international programs at Ashland University in 2011, but first experienced study abroad from an administrative standpoint 11 years ago. A pair of students wanted to study abroad and asked him — at the time a first year professor — to help facilitate their trip.

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EAT, DRINK, THINK YSU DISCUSSES BLACK LIVES MATTER

STORY: JUSTIN WIER | JCWIER@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

More than 50 people crowded into the back room of MVR on Thursday to discuss the Black Lives Matter movement. Youngstown State University's Philosophy and Religious Studies Club hosted the discussion as part of their Eat, Drink and Think series.

Michael Jerryson, professor in the department of philosophy and religious studies, moderated the discussion following an introduction that outlined the injustices black Americans have been subject to over the last 200 years — from slavery to lynchings to Jim Crow to redlining to mass incarceration to the recent police shootings of black Americans that have garnered media attention and spawned the Black Lives Matter movement.

Jerryson asked those gathered to consider three recent events in Ohio: John Crawford III, who was shot while holding a toy gun in a Wal-Mart outside of Dayton; Tamir Rice, who was shot while holding a toy gun in a public park in Cleveland and Samuel DuBose, who was shot by University of Cincinnati police during a traffic stop.

He asked participants whether black lives matter, or if there is legitimacy to the counterargument that all lives matter.

"People think Black Lives Matter means that we think we're the only ones that matter," a student said. "It's we matter too, and people fail to acknowledge that."

Philosophy professor Deborah

Mower — noting that she was playing devil's advocate — asked if, in light of the politicization of the labels, framing it as an issue of universal human rights would make a stronger case for concern.

"If the labels are meant to be affixed to a particular group, would it be a stronger strategy to make it a global argument?" Mower said.

A student suggested that Black Lives Matter and All Lives Matter both damage the issue.

"Instead of searching for an answer or solution, they start looking for someone to blame for the problem," the student said.

But others insisted that the focus on black lives is necessary because it is black lives that are at risk.

Jerryson said the movement is not founded solely on historical neglect of black lives, but the continued neglect in the present.

"White privilege is not gone people," Jerryson said. "It's still here."

Tiffany Anderson, director of the department of Africana studies, said it's important not to point fingers in debates surrounding these issues.

"I do not believe that we should point fingers," Anderson said. "I believe that white people are survivors of slavery just as I am a survivor of slavery."

She said the problems exist on a systemic level and aren't directly tied to racism on the individual level.

"Those things will exist without any-

one being a racist," Anderson said. "In order to rid ourselves of racism and white privilege, we have to dismantle the system."

Jerryson highlighted the way our society sees whiteness as normal. Noting that when movies feature black heroes, they are referred to as black movies. This doesn't occur with white movies.

Another student said while Black Lives Matter may not be the most strategic way to approach the issue, trying to make the movement universal could unintentionally whitewash it.

"To take it from their hands and transform it to all lives matter like this isn't a matter of race. This is a matter of humanity," she said. "Well, it is a matter of race."

Jerryson noted that people who are uncomfortable with the issue often refuse to say race and use the word ethnicity instead, but people who were enslaved often don't know what country they came from.

"Ethnicity is something that black Americans can't claim as part of their identity," Jerryson said.

Another participant said there is a fear white people have. The student who claimed labels impede progress responded by saying that racially charged movements amplify this fear.

Yet, Mower said it sounded like people were suggesting that the issue needs to be politicized.

"It's not enough to make this an issue of human rights," Mower said. "The

best strategy, in order to make people to attend to this issue, is to use this slogan."

The conversation then shifted to how the movement can get people to listen, make them care and move the conversation forward.

A student said people need to realize it costs money to oppress people — to maintain things like the prison-industrial complex.

"Just because it's called Black Lives Matter doesn't mean it doesn't benefit you because you're white," she said.

Jerryson asked whether it would help to have a Black Lives Matter chapter or movement in Youngstown. The same student said too many problems in the community need to be addressed for us to reach the point where that would be effective.

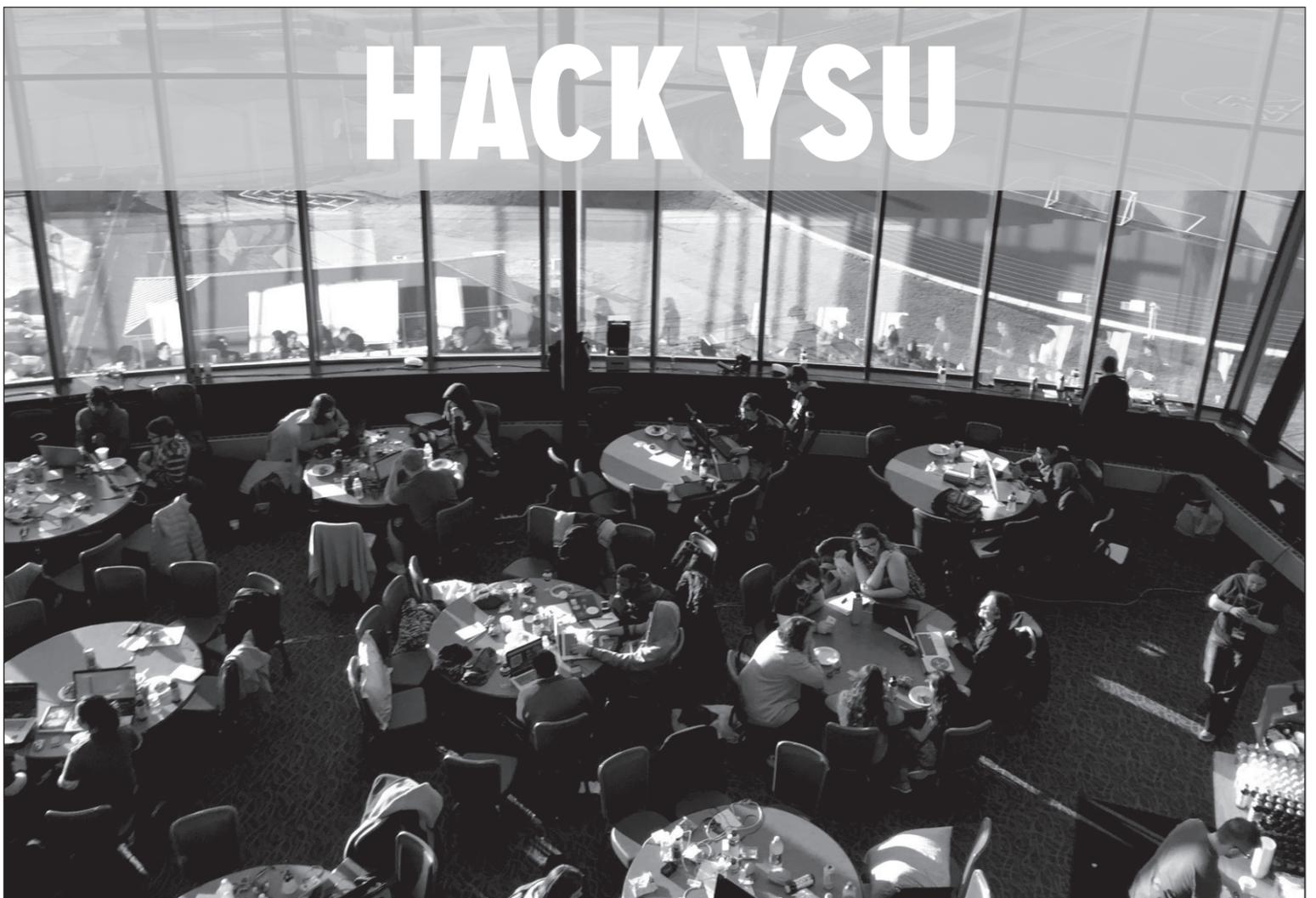
"Having a movement without a community is pointless because it won't stick to anything," she said.

Others said we need to find ways to make the issue personal to people who don't feel personally connected to it, perhaps by employing experiential learning.

Mower closed the discussion by saying she would like to see SGA support a Black Lives Matter event at YSU with many university organizations participating.

The Philosophy and Religious Studies Club holds Eat, Drink and Think events on a monthly basis.

HACK YSU



STORY: JEFF BASH | JMBASH@STUDENT.YSU.EDU | PHOTO: JEFF BASH

This weekend the Youngstown Business Incubator hosted Youngstown State University's second Hackathon. Hack YSU, a YSU student organization, invited over 150 students from local colleges, who specialize in hardware and software development, as well as coding, to participate in the event.

Joe Duncko, the Hack YSU student coordinator, was the originator of the Hack YSU event and has attended a number of hackathons at other universities.

"YSU Hackathon is a chance for students to build their portfolios and gain marketability with major companies," Duncko said.

Duncko doesn't work alone. His co-coordinator Judah Maendel is following in Duncko's footsteps and branching out to help the organization grow.

"This is an excellent chance for students to learn

something new," Maendel said. "It's also very important for networking for individuals to branch out and make friends."

Students worked on a multitude of projects. One of those projects was a self-automated snow blower built by Sean Meditz and Jeremy Hammond as their senior project.

"You know me and Jeremy don't have a lot of experience in programming, and the mentors the program offers have been helpful," Meditz said.

Also present was Chris Palmer, who was working unassisted to build a special Python powered music algorithm program.

"These events are really fun and exciting for creating unique works," Palmer said.

Matt Young and Anthony Ungarino were using an

Oculus Rift virtual reality headset to simulate a boxing match.

"We have been up all night going through the motions and figuring out ways to improve the graphics," Young said.

Aaron Phifer, another participant, tinkered with his Lego robot that will eventually be capable of using complex algorithms to play a game of Connect Four against a human opponent.

"When the algorithms are complete, this machine will be able to detect my moves and play as my opponent," Phifer said.

Hack YSU was held in the DeBartolo Stadium Club at Stambaugh Stadium. The convention was attended by a little over 150 people and took place over 36 hours.



PHOTO: GRAIG GRAZIOSI

AFRICAN MARKETPLACE FRONT

"She made culture accessible to people," Anderson said. "We are trying to create this multiculturalism this month, and she made that possible. I liked that she tried to have everyone included in the dance and have them learn the dance with her."

Harambee of Youngstown — showcasing students of Youngstown city schools — also performed dances focused on welcome, happiness and coming together.

Lynette Miller, coordinator of Harambee, said she was excited to have her group participate.

"This event opens up our tour. Harambee (let's all pull together) is based on the principles we practice. It is all rooted on the principles of Kwanzaa," Miller said. "This group has been in existence for 35 years."

Guests commented that this year's celebration was the best attended in years. There were more than 40 vendors present, and Anderson said more than 200 people were in attendance.

"I was very pleased with the attendance, pleased to see that people came because they heard about the event in different ways," Anderson said. "People came because they heard about it, and they seemed to enjoy themselves."

The Art of Freshness with Carla and Larry Brown make traditional dolls that cover household air fresheners.

"I have been making these dolls for 20 years," Carla Brown said. "I am a crafty girl and the Lord gave me the inspiration to move these forward."

Anderson said the process of picking vendors was difficult.

"I had community leaders meeting with me all last week," Anderson said. "I had people calling to

work with international students would earn money for an account set aside specifically to help fund their own study abroad experiences. He claimed the program was successful at Ashland University and helped foster student cultural exchanges both at home and abroad.

visited countries to try to corner the market.

"Brazil and Indonesia are both going to be very important in the next 10 to 15 years," Myers said. "At the risk of sounding crazy — and it's too early to start engaging, but it's one to have your eye on — [we should recruit from] Iran. The second the United States opens an embassy in Iran ... I think there's going to be a huge push from that country."

Robert Eckhart, a third finalist, visited the campus on Jan. 29.

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"Being a bit naive I said, 'Absolutely, it won't be a problem.' Famous last words. It was a very big problem," Myers said.

From that point on, Myers worked towards making study abroad experiences possible for students.

Myers suggested potentially adding a program called "Ambassadors to the CISP," wherein national students who choose to

work with international students would earn money for an account set aside specifically to help fund their own study abroad experiences. He claimed the program was successful at Ashland University and helped foster student cultural exchanges both at home and abroad.

When asked how he would help increase international student enrollment, Myers suggested that — alongside the current outreach to countries that regularly send large amounts of students abroad — YSU focus on lesser

visited countries to try to corner the market.

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Lariccia School Offers Free Tax Preparation

Youngstown State University's Lariccia School of Accounting and Finance is providing trained business students and professional volunteers to offer the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. VITA offers income tax preparation and e-filing at no charge to the Youngstown community and hands-on experience to skilled business students. The program is on Saturdays through April 9. Taxpayers should bring their Social Security card, photo ID, healthcare verification form(s), W-2 Forms from all employers, 1099 Forms, a copy of last year's tax return and other relevant information about income expenses. Please call 330-941-3084 for more information.

YSU Bridges Out of Poverty Student Union Presents Poverty Simulation

The Youngstown State University Bridges Out of Poverty Student Union presents a Poverty Simulation from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Friday Feb. 12 in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center. The event instructs the attendees on what it's like to live in poverty. For more information, please email jmoconnell@ysu.edu or call 330-941-2449.



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Mike Styles

An Evening of Hip Hop at The Federal

STORY: **JEFF BASH** | JMBASH@STUDENT.YSU.EDU | PHOTO: **JEFF BASH**

The Federal Building in downtown Youngstown was alive with the sounds of beats, rhymes and positive lyrics on Feb. 4, showcasing two local hip-hop artists.

YSU student organization Penguin Productions booked Mike Styles, a hip-hop artist and Youngstown State University graduate, to perform at The Federal, supported by Jamal Fareed, current YSU student and hip-hop artist.

Styles sat comfortably, sipping a whiskey with an orange peel before the show, accompanied by his entourage. He spoke of creating memories for his fans, the kind he felt his father had passed on to him as a young man.

“My father was my personal inspiration, he listened to so many artists with no particular favoritism, and this inspired me [to] broaden my horizons for musical inspiration,” Styles said.

Styles went on to talk about having a 60-minute professional set instead of a 20-minute set, and how this helped him bring to fruition his creativity for the evening’s performance. His main credit was given to

Penguin Productions in their abundance of support and advertisement from the previous weeks.

“You know, Penguin Productions has really treated me well, they even gave me water bottles and clean white towels for the performance,” Styles said.

Styles hinted that the idea behind his performance for this evening wasn’t just about him. It was the deep connection he felt to his fans and his desire to inspire them.

“When you’re chasing your dreams, don’t ever give up. Whenever you get knocked down, you get back up and keep working harder towards your dreams.” Styles said.

Fareed and his band expressed their excitement to open for Mike Styles.

“Hip Hop has been in disarray, and we are bringing back the substance of Hip Hop,” Fareed said.

Fareed’s growing local popularity with the community has grown since the release of his newest album, “SJ: The Revolution.” Fareed talked about his growing experience and his connection to his fans.

“It’s important to be honest and uplift everyone

who hears our music,” Fareed said. “I am really grateful of Penguin Productions, and this opportunity to open for Mike Styles. It’s a very humbling experience.”

Speaking on his musical inspiration, Fareed cited the ‘70s and ‘60s funk groups Parliament Funkadelic and Earth, Wind & Fire. But on the subject of his personal motivators, he said that would be his grandfather.

“My grandfather was a business owner, and he taught me a lot about integrity,” Fareed said.

As the shows started, the Federal and Penguin Productions staffs were very accommodating and beneficial socially to the artists. Amidst the changing lights at the foot of the stage was Penguin Productions’ Mollie Crowe, a photographer and coordinator for last year’s Federal Frenzy.

“I love what I do,” Crowe said. “Mike is a really humble and laid back guy.”

Penguin Productions next event in their artist series is Tennessee rockers Behold the Brave with Figurehead at The SOAP Gallery on Feb. 25.

A New View on Literature in Youngstown

STORY: **AMANDA LEHNERD** | ARLEHNERD@GMAIL.COM

Lit Youngstown is a nonprofit literary arts organization that was founded by Karen Shubert in 2015. The main focus of the organization is the traditional literary arts influence in Youngstown.

Shubert is the one of the founding co-directors and the creator of Lit Youngstown. She wanted to create a place for people in our community to be able to share their literary art and connect with accredited writers.

“Even though there is so much incredible writing going on at a university, most people don’t get to stay there,” Shubert said. “Many people miss the connection they have with the literary community, and they want the feedback and want to hear some really great visiting writers, and they want to have the chance to tell everyone they had a story or book published or just to be encouraged.”

Kris Harrington, a Lit Youngstown founding co-director and a Youngstown State University English professor, has been involved with the organization

since its conception.

“We have been an organization for a little over a year, and we just received our nonprofit status in November,” Harrington said. “There are three co-directors of the organization: Karen Shubert, Liz Hill and myself.”

The three founding co-directors all have individual passion projects that stem from the organization.

“Shubert is involved in readings at the Jewish community center once a month,” Harrington said. “Hill is running a storytelling project with The National Council of Negro Women. The African-American women who have lived in Youngstown can submit their stories to be put in a book.”

Harrington is project coordinator for the “Strand Project” that takes place at Selah Dessert Theatre in Struthers. Auditions are being held March 1 at 7 p.m., where anyone over the age of 17 can audition.

“We have collected individual dramatic monologues from writers all over

the country,” Harrington said. “We have received more than 100 entries, and we had to cut it down to 19 to be able to create a full-length theatrical production.”

Along with personal projects, Lit Youngstown provides a prose and poetry reading at Suzie’s Dogs and Drafts the first Wednesday of every month.

“Typically, we have a featured reader, then we have an hour of open microphone; where YSU Students can sign up and share their work, and the emcee is always someone in the community with an interest in what the theme is,” Harrington said.

Each spring, summer and fall the organization offers workshop classes taught by skilled writers and scholars for writers and readers of all ages and experience levels.

“This year all of the teachers are professors from YSU. This offers professors the chance to teach their dream class at an affordable price with less of a time commitment,” Shubert said.

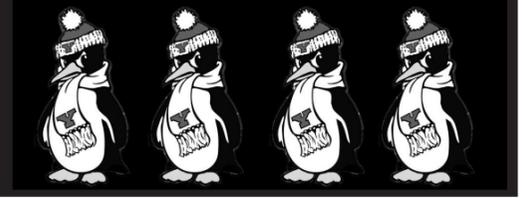
Christopher Barzak, novelist and YSU professor, will be teaching a one-day workshop “The Business of Writing” in May.

“The workshop deals not with writing itself, but what a writer must know in order to get their writing published,” Barzak said. “I’ll be talking about query letters to agents, how to submit to magazines and journals and what to expect from a relationship with an acquiring editor at a publishing house.”

The organization is starting a new project called “Word Made Visible” and is in the process of writing an Ohio arts council grant.

“We are going to pair writers with artists, and they are going to collaborate a creative work of art that is inspired by a piece of writing,” said Shubert. “We will solicit writing that has a very strong visual component to create a new form of visual art.”

EDITORIAL



A Tale of Two Panthers

The Broncos' defense confused Cam Newton and wrote a storybook ending for Peyton Manning's career last night, but the most lasting image from Super Bowl 50 is likely to be a woman — dressed in a militaristic twist on Michael Jackson's own Super Bowl ensemble — marching onto the field flanked by a phalanx of backup dancers outfitted in uniforms inspired by those of the Black Panther Party.

Twenty-four hours prior to the Super Bowl, Beyoncé dropped the video for "Formation" — the most striking political statement of her career.

The song and video manage to create a decadent mix of high and low culture. She rocks Givenchy dresses, but

she also keeps hot sauce in her bag (swag). She dances in New Orleans plantation houses, but it also features wig shops. I have money, she seems to be saying, but I haven't forgotten where I came from.

The line about Red Lobster — which she somehow managed to make sexy — has gone viral, but the most striking effect is created by a series of images towards the end of the video.

The video depicts a black child in a hoodie dancing in front of a line of cops decked out in riot gear. As he finishes dancing, the cops put their hands up in surrender. The next shot pans across graffiti reading "stop shooting us," which cuts to Beyoncé lying atop a police

cruiser becoming submerged in flood waters. The shotgun houses in the background evoke memories of Hurricane Katrina.

For an artist who in the past was accused of not being political, it's hard to be more political than that.

Coordinated with the release of the video was news that TIDAL — the music streaming service owned by Beyoncé's husband, Jay-Z — donated \$1.5 million to Black Lives Matter and related causes.

Protest music is nothing new. Public Enemy and Rage Against the Machine are recent examples that received a considerable amount of acclaim. But it is difficult to find an analogue to such an overt political statement at

an event like the Super Bowl.

The Black Panther imagery is particularly poignant, especially considering the Super Bowl took place in San Francisco. The Black Panthers originated across the Bay from Levi Stadium in Oakland. They began as citizens concerned about police brutality in their community. They would follow the police armed with loaded assault rifles and monitor their interactions with citizens.

It ended up leading to the perverse outcome of California Republicans pushing for stricter gun control laws.

Given that the Party was founded in response to the murder by police of an unarmed black man, it is particu-

larly resonant at a time when such killings are frequently in the news.

Last Thursday, Youngstown State University's Philosophy and Religious Studies Club held an event discussing the Black Lives Matter movement. Much of the discussion focused on how this message could better reach people and get them to listen, with the implication being that the movement is currently ineffective.

A student suggested the fact that students had gathered together to discuss matters of race is proof the movement is working. These are conversations that were not occurring in America a decade ago.

There was a failure to address injustices in black communities as if

racism had been left behind in the civil rights era.

In that context, it's hard not to be impressed by one of the biggest stars in the world, in the most widely-viewed musical performance of the year, singing "OK ladies, let's get in formation" with an army of Black Panthers behind her.

Unlike Public Enemy and Rage Against the Machine before her, who began as protest acts and were barred from events like the Super Bowl, Beyoncé is leveraging her existing fame to inject politics into what is basically a secular commercial holiday.

It's impressive.

Climate's Toil and Trouble

STORY: CYNTHIA BARNETT | LOS ANGELES TIMES (TNS)

In late August 1589, a dozen of the fittest ships in the Danish fleet set across a tempestuous North Sea to carry a 14-year-old princess bride to her new husband and new home. King James VI of Scotland had seen Anna of Denmark only in a miniature portrait before arranging a marriage by proxy in her country. Following her wedding-sans-groom in a palace by the sea, Anna boarded the ship of Danish Admiral Peter Munch to travel to her Scottish kingdom.

They met typical storms until close to Scotland, when an extraordinary gale flew at them from the coast. Twice they came with-

in sight of the cliffs of home, and twice a phalanx of rain and winds pushed them back, ultimately all the way to Norway. Munch found the conditions uncommonly fierce, even for the North Sea. So much so, he thought, "there must be more in the matter than the common perversity of winds and weather." Munch blamed witches for conjuring the storms.

As he attempted his third approach, a yet-worse squall roiled up, battering the ship that carried Anna. They limped to a Norwegian sound to await King James's rescue mission. James had been skeptical of the witch hysteria sweeping Europe. But

as he tried to reach his bride, his ships, too, were tossed in freak storms. Once united, he and Anna had to wait out icy conditions for half a year before they could attempt a return journey, on which they faced more "unnatural weather." By the time they arrived in Edinburgh in May 1590, James was as convinced as Munch that witches had brewed the worst weather in memory to keep his queen from ascending her throne.

An aging midwife would burn for the squalls. She was among thousands of accused witches executed for conjuring storms during the climate havoc known as the Little Ice Age. Between 1300 and 1850, deadly winters and alternating acute rains and droughts ruined crops for season upon season, contributing to famines and many other miseries. The extremes evoke our own time, as severe weather rises with global warming. But there's a cruelly poignant difference. Our irrational ancestors blamed innocent people for the crisis. Our irrational contemporaries pretend that people are blameless, our work on climate change futile. The two are equally dangerous.

Many assume that witch hunts were caused by religious and socio-political turmoil. German historian Wolfgang Behringer argues that they were born of climate turmoil too. He has tracked the rise of witchcraft prosecutions in the 14th century to the rise of the Little Ice Age, with criminal proceedings reaching their peak during the worst years of the climate extremes, in the decades before and after 1600.

STORMY TIMES
Frequently suffering misfortune themselves, accused witches — around 80 percent women, and often poor and elderly — were

scapegoated for the ills of the age, from infertility to the deaths of children. That they were also blamed for frightening weather is clear in artwork and news bulletins. A German woodcut from 1486 shows a sorceress conjuring enormous chunks of hail; a frontispiece from a 1489 pamphlet called *Weather Magic* depicts two hags at a tall caldron, as a storm bursts overhead; a German pamphlet from 1580 details 114 executions of witches who had mainly confessed to instigating crop-destroying thunderstorms.

Paranoia often rumbled from hungry stomachs: Villagers harangued reluctant local courts and prince-bishops to do something about the foul weather by rounding up storm-makers. But the events in Scotland debunk the notion that witch mania rose from the desperate and uneducated. There, the zeal for witch-hunting came straight from the top — from the same King James who gave us the King James Bible.

So convinced was James that the tempests of 1589 and 1590 were the result of a plot to keep Princess Anna from becoming queen, he personally took part in the investigation, interrogations and trials of those believed to have worked with Satan to conjure the storms.

In the University of Glasgow's Special Collections, a 1591 pamphlet called *Newes from Scotland* tells the story, at least from James's point of view: The tract depicts a storm ravaging the King's ship, with women huddled around a boiling caldron on shore. It describes the torture of a maid-servant, who endured graphic agonies before she finally named a ringleader, Agnes Sampson, a renowned midwife and healer.

After unspeakable

tortures, Sampson finally confessed to conjuring the storms that had hindered the union of James and Anna. She told James that Satan considered him "the greatest enemy hee hath in the world" and wanted to see him drowned by storm. No words could have rung so true to the self-important king. Sampson was only one of many innocents who paid the price. Seventy people were implicated in the case; not all their fates are known. She was among several burned at the stake.

Europe's witch hunts and trials did not trail off entirely until the 18th-century Enlightenment, which also gave rise to the notion of evidence — in both the courts and the pursuit of science.

Today, scientific evidence makes clear that Earth's current warming cannot be explained by a decrease in solar activity or other natural causes thought to have triggered the Little Ice Age. The resounding consensus is that human activities since the Industrial Revolution adding CO₂ and other heat-trapping gases to the atmosphere are responsible for rising global temperature. Climate models predict extreme weather events will surge with the thermostat. Super El Niño events like the one sending lashing rains to California could double. Meteorological research has found certain tropical cyclones, along with droughts and heat waves, substantially more likely in a warming world.

Yet many American leaders reject these predictions. The deniers include not only several of the presidential candidates now in the news, but governors of coastal Gulf states with the most to lose from tropical storms; governors of Great Plains states most vulnerable to drought; the chair-

man of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; the chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology; and many others in Congress and state capitols.

A study this month in the journal *Global Environmental Change* reveals not only that climate denial remains robust, but the extent to which our leaders are systematically influenced by a small number of think tanks that have upped their anti-science messaging — from policy papers to speeches to press releases — exponentially. The 19 industry-funded groups produced 16,028 of these contrarian documents between 1998 and 2013. (A content analysis found that in addition to disputing the science, they frequently questioned the integrity of specific climate scientists — modern-day witch hunts alleging mathematical and other "tricks.")

While we no longer burn people at the stake for outlier weather, there is little question that sowing scientific denial with the intent to halt progress on warming will condemn the most vulnerable. A new World Bank report predicts that climate change will push more than 100 million people in the poorest regions of the world back into poverty over the next 15 years. The poor will suffer the most from natural disasters and the health impacts of climate change, from famine to floods to Dengue Fever.

What we have that King James lacked is the science to help us understand our changing climate and take action to protect all life. If we fail to act on what we know, our descendants will one day look back at us with the same head-shaking disbelief we express for King James and his imaginary witches.

JAMBAR POLICY

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YSU Tries to Snap Losing Streak Against CSU

Jerry Slocum, the head coach of the Youngstown State University men's basketball, walks off the court during a YSU game at the Beeghly Center.

STORY: DAN HINER | DHINERJR@GMAIL.COM | PHOTO: DAN HINER

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team has found itself on another three-game losing streak and looking for answers before the end of YSU's four-game home stand.

YSU will host Cleveland State University on Thursday. The Penguins beat the Vikings 70-55 in the first meeting at Quicken Loans Arena on Jan. 24. YSU played strong defense holding Cleveland State to 35.3 percent from the field and 27.8 percent from behind the 3-point line.

YSU forward Matt Donlan led the Penguins in scoring with 16 points, but all his points were scored in the first half. YSU guards Cameron Morse and Francisco Santiago were able to pick up the slack in the second half. Morse and Santiago combined to score 15 of the Penguins' 35 points

in the second half.

"Obviously Cleveland State's gonna come in with energy. They're a great defensive basketball team, and they really get up and pressure you hard," YSU head coach Jerry Slocum said. "I'm sure they don't want to lose to us twice in a year. I'm sure it will be a hard-fought, emotional game. That'll be a game that I'm sure they'll be ready for."

After losing 94-92 to the University of Detroit Mercy, Slocum said the team is trying to find a way to get back on track heading into the final two games of the current home stand.

"Work hard and keep on preaching the things that we've preached everyday in terms of intensity," Slocum said. "I would love to say to you that there's a formula for that ... there's no formula no matter what level your

at — whether it's our game, a Super Bowl game or high school game. You can't guarantee those kinds of issues. All you can do is practice hard and prepare your guys. That's what we'll do."

The Penguins have struggled on defense all season. YSU is ninth in the Horizon League, allowing 83 points per game. Freshman forward Devin Haygood has been inserted into the starting lineup. Haygood is replacing injured center Sidney Umude, and Slocum said Haygood will provide more consistency on defense from the power forward position.

YSU guard Brett Frantz said the team is going to change its defense heading into this week's games.

"If we're gonna be playing more man-to-man defense, than we're gonna need to know our defensive

positioning off the ball," Frantz said. "Everyone hugs their man and in man-to-man defense you need to be on the help side. When the ball goes into the post ... we're working on trapping — we need to know our slides off the trap and be able to be in the right spots, and we could help each other and play as a team on defense."

Frantz said the Penguins might not change their game plan heading into Thursday's game. He said YSU was able to win the first game at Quicken Loans Arena, so they might stick to the same strategy.

"When we played Cleveland State down at 'the Q' we played a really good game," Frantz said. "So I think we need to use the same game plan that we used the last time we played them, and we'll be all right."

A Family Affair

The Rohan Cousins Play Together for the First Time at YSU

STORY: DAN HINER | DHINERJR@GMAIL.COM | PHOTO: CORY MCCRAE

On July 11, Gerrad Rohan received an email that changed his life and his collegiate baseball career. The University of Akron notified that they had discontinued its baseball program and left the North Lima, Ohio native with nowhere to play.

"The first thought after I found out ... I was kinda shocked. It kinda came out of nowhere," Gerrad Rohan said. "I started scrambling; I called my parents and told them I needed to find somewhere to go. It's my last year. Initially I wanted to stay around the area. Before talking to any schools, I was thinking either here [YSU] or Kent State [University] just so I could be close to home."

When word reached Anthony Rohan, Gerrad Rohan's cousin and outfielder on the Youngstown State University baseball team, he reached out to YSU head coach Steve Gillispie to find a roster spot.

"I actually found out from Gerrad's dad. I got a call on a Saturday in the end of July," Anthony Rohan said. "My first reaction was to call 'Coach G' [Steve Gillispie] and tell him 'Akron just cut their program. I know you remember my cousin ... he played great against us. I think he would be a great fit if we have any spots left,'" Anthony Rohan said. "I remember him saying 'We'd love to have him, but we have a couple spots left, and we offered it to

two people already. If they turn it down we'll throw some money his way."

Anthony and Gerrad Rohan are "pretty much brothers" that have taken different paths during their baseball careers.

Anthony Rohan, a graduate of Ursuline High School, was a talented baseball player but injuries were a roadblock during his high school career. He tore his hamstrings three times between his sophomore and senior seasons.

Anthony Rohan was redshirted his freshman season at YSU as a result of his hamstring injuries. The coaching staff wanted him to take a year off from his playing career to recover fully.

Anthony Rohan played in 15 games last season as a redshirt-freshman. He sat behind a senior laden group of outfielders that included 2015 Chicago White Sox draftee Frank Califano.

Gerrad Rohan, on the other hand, began his career at Akron in 2012. He played 18 games as a freshman and recorded his first collegiate hit as a pinch hitter against YSU at Eastwood Field.

After being redshirted his junior season, Gerrad Rohan had his best season at Akron. His .294 batting average was second on the team and his 28 RBIs ranked third.

For the Rohan family, baseball has become a way of life.

Gerrad Rohan's father played

at YSU from 1973-1975, Gerrad Rohan's brother, George Rohan, played at the University of Findlay and his other brother Greg Rohan played at Kent State University and played at the Triple-A level before injuries ended his minor league baseball career.

Even though they grew up together, this season will be the first time Gerrad and Anthony Rohan play on the same team.

"We all felt bad for 'G' [Gerrad] because it was his last year at Akron. It stinks to leave all your friends and go to a new school," Anthony Rohan said. "From a selfish standpoint, I never got a chance to play with 'G'."

Gerrad Rohan said he has thought about playing with his cousin, but the reality of it probably won't dawn on him until his return to Eastwood Field during YSU's first home game.

"I was really excited. He's like my best friend; he's like a brother to me," Gerrad Rohan said. "Since we're from the area and we have a really big family, I was really excited for all our family to come out to all the games at Eastwood [Field]."

"I don't think I'll process that until our first home game — until we have everybody there watching us. I definitely have thought about it a lot ... I couldn't think of anybody better to be a teammate with."



Youngstown State University baseball players Anthony Rohan (top) and Gerrad Rohan (bottom) take time during practice for their interviews.