

THE JAMBAR

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Police responded to two assault complaints at Tau Kappa Epsilon (above) and Alpha Phi Delta (below) during parties early on the morning of Feb. 7.



FRATERNITIES TAKE STEPS TO IMPROVE SECURITY, RELATIONS FOLLOWING VIOLENCE

STORY: GRAIG GRAZIOSI | GRGRAZIOSI@STUDENT.YSU.EDU
PHOTOS: GABRIELLE FELLOWS

Following a pair of violent confrontations allegedly between Youngstown State University football players and fraternity members, leaders of the fraternities have taken steps to improve their security and reputation.

YSU's Inter-Fraternity Council is pursuing legislation that would ask YSU Parking Services to discontinue shuttle stops at their fraternity houses.

The fraternities requesting to have their addresses removed from the route are Alpha Phi Delta, Sigma Chi, Sigma Tau Gamma, Tau Kappa Epsilon and Sigma Alpha Epsilon.

The IFC explains their decision in the document, stating:

"Though a goal to promote student safety is of paramount importance, the opposite is resulting from these shuttle

stops. Individuals wishing to enter ... fraternity houses are being turned away, leading to confrontations that place both fraternity members and the individuals in question in danger. Moreover, once individuals are turned away, the Shuttle has usually vacated the area ... [leaving them] stranded without transportation or welcoming abode."

Danny O'Connell, director of parking services, doesn't see a practical way to honor the request due to the way the night shuttle operates.

"We drop off at requested locations at night primarily as a safety issue ... we don't have a specific route for the late night, we're just taking people home," O'Connell said. "We're kind of ... a little bit between a rock and a hard place. I understand not wanting people let off at

the [fraternity] house, but to not drop people off where they live puts a whole different factor on it. If someone's going home alone at 2:30 in the morning, I'd rather drop them off than have them hike."

Sigma Tau Gamma also sent representatives to attend the February meeting of the Wick Park Neighborhood Association. Though their fraternity house was not involved in any of the Feb. 6-7 violence, representatives discussed the need for increased security with the WPNA members. STG committed to have members present at all future WPNA meetings and will offer a tour of their fraternity house to WPNA members following the March meeting.

FRATERNITY VIOLENCE
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FROM YSU TO NEOMED

STORY: SAMANTHA PHILLIPS | SPHILLIPS@STUDENT.YSU.EDU | PHOTO COURTESY: ERINN COE



Youngstown State University has recently announced the BaccMed program — which will offer students the most effective route to the prestigious Northeast Ohio Medical University.

By enrolling in this program or YSU's BS/MD, medical students can equip themselves with the knowledge and experience they will need to be promising candidates upon graduation.

Erinn Coe is one such student.

Coe grew up in the Youngstown area. She graduated from Springfield High School and immediately enrolled at Youngstown State University. In 2015, she graduated from YSU from the Combined Science program. She now

attends NEOMED.

Coe entered NEOMED last September. Although NEOMED's focus is on graduating primary care physicians, Coe is leaning towards becoming a surgeon.

"Specifically, I'm pretty interested in orthopedics. I actually have an orthopedic condition, and my dad had two full hip replacements," Coe said.

She said being around her family as they went through the process of surgery and recovery piqued her interest in the medical field.

"It was pretty cool to experience all that first hand, so that's what got me interested in it," Coe said. "I'm definitely open to looking at other kinds of surgery, and even if surgery didn't work out, something like internal medicine would be interesting."

Considering NEOMED's focus on primary care, Coe independently shadowed her family physician while at YSU.

"I figured it's something I should see if I'm interested in or not. I shadowed him for a few weeks," Coe said. "It was a really cool experience, and it's awesome that there's people out

there who want to do it because it's a necessary [job], but it solidified my decision not to do primary care."

Coe said it's beneficial for students to enroll in the BaccMed program to shadow physicians and specialists.

"It gives people the opportunity to shadow and do whatever they need to do to make sure it's what they want to do," Coe said.

One of NEOMED's goals is to retain the students they graduate in the northeast Ohio area to serve their communities.

Although Coe initially thought it would be ideal to move away after graduation, she has decided that she would rather work in the Youngstown area, so she can be closer to her family.

Coe said, even with classes, she is involved in the NEOMED community. She's a member of the Christian Medical Association — a group that provides a network to Christian medical professionals and students — along with some other clubs and interest groups.

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THE JAMBAR ADVERTISING



Penguin Alert Increases Communication Between Students and Police

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

The Youngstown State University Police Department is changing providers for its mass notification system to alert students to security issues, weather emergencies and class cancellations.

John Beshara, chief of police for the YSU PD, was supportive of the new system.

"The new provider will be more expedient and beneficial to students signing up," Beshara said. "You can also add up to two additional phone numbers."

Beshara said good

communication helps to keep students safe.

"Everything we have is for the convenience and protection of students," Beshara said.

The chief mentioned that the current crime rate at YSU is low and that the hard work of their department in coordination with student cooperation has helped keep it that way.

The new system has improved reliability, which has been an issue with previous providers. Beshara encourages students to sign up for the texting, but also

to share alerts via social media.

Despite multiple emails being sent out by Ron Cole over the past few weeks, some students are still unaware of the changes.

Bryce Saunders, a political science student, was just made aware of the program.

"I heard very little of it, but now since I'm aware of it, I'm going to sign up," Saunders said.

Saunders said the previous program was beneficial. It allowed students to receive information that would

keep them safe.

Social media plays a huge role in how the police contact students or vice versa. Their website contains multiple ways to reach out and share information, as well as the ability to see crime statistics for campus. The department is also active on Twitter.

Other methods have been less effective. The university put call boxes outside of Williamson Hall that directly link students to the 911 call center and campus policy, but Beshara said the rate of use is near zero,

perhaps because of YSU's low crime rates.

Beshara said they are trying to stay up-to-date with current modes of communication.

"I think in the age we live in, we are always searching for a cutting edge way to help keep students aware and safe," Beshara said.

Mahmoud Yacoub, a psychology student, was concerned about the advertisement methods YSU had chosen.

"I like the current system," Yacoub said. "So I am certain the new Penguin Alert system will

be great, but perhaps they could advertise on the main page or somewhere everyone is going to get a glimpse of the new system."

Savannah Bowman, a combined science major, was happy with the alert system and its advertisement.

"I feel that YSU's mass alert system has been very helpful," Bowman said. "I mean, I got emails, texts and I knew not to go out yesterday in the extreme weather because of it."

YSU Research Looks at Using Stem Cells to Help Heal Wounds

STORY: LAUREN FOOTE | LAURENLEONA.1@GMAIL.COM

Diana Fagan and Mark Womble are working in collaboration with other professors to determine whether stem cells can be used to improve repair of muscles following surgery.

Fagan and Womble are working alongside YSU professors Johanna Krontiris-Litowitz, Hazel Marie, Yong Zhang and the surgical research division at St. Elizabeth Health Center. The group encom-

passes the departments of biological sciences, mechanical and industrial engineering and computer science and information systems.

Fagan's lab is harvesting and culturing stem cells from bone marrow to be implanted in rabbits or rats following surgery. They are also examining wound tissues to determine collagen deposits at the site of the wound.

Krontiris-Libowitz's lab will examine the

chemical characteristics of the collagen produced at the wound site, while Marie's lab will test the tensile strength of the resulting scar.

Zhang is analyzing the tissue using videography and comparing those results to the tensile analysis performed by Marie.

Fagan was approached by Jeremy Heffner at St. Elizabeth to investigate improvements in surgical methods to prevent recurring

herniation following surgery.

Womble said abdominal muscles are important for rotating the body, which creates a problem.

"In human surgeries, when those muscles contract they are pulling on the wound site, and they tend to have a potential to open up to any kind of motion," Womble said.

Fagan said the goal of the research is to make the tissue heal stronger so that it doesn't tear.

"Our hope is to lay a foundation for the development of products that promote wound healing," Fagan said.

They began using 1 million stem cells but have reduced the number in order to be able to move the research to a human model.

"Human models are not inbred like the rats are, so you have to get the stem cell sample from the same person," Fagan said. "They wanted to know the minimum dose that would get a positive effect."

They put the stem cells into a piece of col-

lagen tape inserted in the wound, which acts like a sponge.

They are examining the optimal growth conditions to help the cells bind to various mesh materials used in hernia surgeries.

Once they remove the tissue post surgery, Womble uses a staining technique to determine the strength.

"We can look at which wound healed better, stem cell or no stem cell," Womble said. "We can see the difference in collagen development depending on the amount of stem cells that we used."

Fagan said the technique has been effective.

"[The stem cells] definitely sped up the process of healing and made it stronger, even stronger than original tissue," Fagan said.

They began the studies using a rabbit model, but in order to reduce costs and increase reproducibility, they have been using rats. Rabbits also required working at an outside lab.

Budget cuts have also

reduced the frequency with which the surgeons come to the lab.

Fagan said the students helping with the research are learning a diverse range of skills including growing bacteria cells in culture, growing viruses and doing DNA and protein analyses.

"They learn a lot of techniques that they can move into other fields," Fagan said

Marta Burak is one of the graduate students working in Womble's lab.

"This project is very interesting. I have already learned some essential techniques," Burak said. "I hope we will get some good results and will be able to pursue it further."

The work was supported by four St. Elizabeth grants, a national grant and a YSU grant and has resulted in four publications, one paper in preparation, one international abstract and presentation, four national abstracts and presentations, five masters theses and one thesis in progress.

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NEWS BRIEF

Air Force Research Engineer Featured at Annual YSU Women in STEM Career Workshop and Lecture

There will be an Air Force Research Engineer at Youngstown State University's Women in STEM Career Workshop and Lecture. Rachel Abrahams, Air Force Research Engineer, is the keynote speaker for the 19th annual Edward W. Powers Women in STEM Career Workshop and Stem Lecture Series. This workshop gives young women in grades 6th through 12th a chance to see the career opportunities in STEM. The event will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 5. The workshop is free and lunch is provided. For more information, visit www.ysu.edu/WIS.

Musicologist Lecture Focuses on Jean-Luc Godard's Films

Michael Baumgartner, assistant professor of musicology at Cleveland State University, will be giving a lecture on Friday, Feb. 26, at 4 p.m. The lecture is free and open to the public, but there is a fee to park in the Wick Avenue deck. The lecture is being hosted by the YSU's Dana School of Music. The lecture will focus on the early films by Jean-Luc from 1960 to about 1966. These movies reflect on Hollywood cinema in the '40s and '50s. For more information, email Ewelina Boczkowska at eboczkowska@ysu.edu.

FRATERNITY VIOLENCE FRONT

Fraternity members attended WPNA meetings with some regularity in the past, but their presence declined in recent years. Jacob Schriner-Briggs, president of Sigma Tau Gamma, wants his fraternity to increase their visibility and transparency in the neighborhood.

"I think there's been a drop in communications between the Beta Gamma chapter and the Wick Park association ... I think it was just a matter of wanting to put faces to names and be more active participants in the community because we're a part of it," Schriner-Briggs said. "When you're part of a community there is some responsibility you take on as a member, so it's just us acknowledging that responsibility."

The original version of the following story was posted online on Feb. 11.

Witnesses claimed two Youngstown State University football players were involved in a series of assaults that took place at two fraternity houses in the early morning of Feb. 7 ac-

ording to police reports.

Two members of YSU Greek life were injured in the assaults.

YSU Police were dispatched to investigate a "large fight" on 253 Park Ave., the address of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity house. On Monday, Youngstown Police Department officers spoke to a student who claimed he was assaulted an hour later at 45 Indiana Ave., the address of the Alpha Phi Delta fraternity house.

A YSU alumnus and member of TKE told police he was punched in the face by a YSU football player, resulting in a broken nose in two places. **Note: Updated 02/17/16**

The student was driven to the hospital by friends and received five stitches over his eye.

According to the police report, the injured student claims a number of uninvited individuals showed up at the APD house and — after being ejected from the party — attempted to force their way back into the party. One of the intruders was identified in the report as a YSU football player.

While barricading the door, the student was allegedly struck in the face by the YSU football play-

er. Shortly thereafter, the student reported hearing a firearm discharge several shots into the air from the street.

According to the report, the injured student was intoxicated at the time of the events.

A separate police report of the incident confirms that responding officers heard gunshots as they approached the APD house. **Note: Updated 02/17/16**

YSU PD turned the investigation over to city police. They are investigating the two assaults as separate incidents. The YSU PD report concerning the fight at TKE includes the name of the student injured and the football player named by the Youngstown Police Department in their report concerning the APD assault.

According to Ron Cole, the university's public information officer, university officials have met with leaders of the Greek organizations to discuss the incidents.

Greek adviser Carrie Anderson asked Jambar reporters to leave an Interfraternity Council meeting on Tuesday and did not respond to questioning when contacted by telephone Thursday afternoon.

FROM YSU TO NEOMED FRONT

Diana Fagan, professor of immunology and microbiology, said students who want to follow Coe's path to NEOMED would benefit most from the BaccMed.

"We have an excellent curriculum. When they changed the Medical College Admissions Test in 2015, we did a lot of canvassing of the students out at NEOMED to find out what courses they thought helped them and which ones didn't and completely revised our curriculum ... We also revised it to put Biochem earlier, because the MCAT requires Biochem now, and also to make sure that sociology and psychology were required, because those are

also in the MCAT now. So we've revised our curriculum to support that.

"The BaccMed program will prepare you the best out of any degree you can get for the MCAT and NEOMED. Because we used what we learned in the BS/MD program to develop the curriculum for that program," Fagan said.

Fagan advised prospective students for the program to plan their time precisely, so they aren't rushing at the last minute.

"Anyone who enters the BS/MD program or the BaccMed program is smart enough to do well. If they're not doing well, it's because they aren't managing their time well," she said. "It's also possible that some of these students are so smart that they

get through high school without truly being challenged."

Coe's advice for YSU students who want to enroll in Baccmed and NEOMED is to maintain their confidence.

"It's a challenging program, and so many people who go into it are coming from high school, where they were the smartest person in their class. It's difficult sometimes when you're with other extremely intelligent people to remain confident in yourself and your abilities," she said. "I think it's important for people in the program to know they're there, because they deserve it, and they're capable. You just have to remember what you're working towards and let that motivate you."

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Upcoming On-Campus Events at YSU

STORY: BILLY LUDT | wrludt@student.ysu.edu | PHOTO COURTESY OF: UNIVERSITY THEATER

Penguin Nights is wrapping up its concert series with a midnight performance from prominent southern rap artist Juicy J on Thursday evening in Beeghly Center. A founding member of the Memphis, Tennessee rap group Three 6 Mafia, Juicy J took on a solo career in 2009.

He has collaborated with noted artists Nicki Minaj, Katy Perry, Lil Wayne, 2 Chainz and Wiz Khalifa.

Tickets for the Juicy J performance will be available for purchase until 11:30 p.m. on Thursday. They are \$20 and sold at the YSU Information Center in Kilcawley Center. Tickets are available only to Youngstown State University Students.

Seventeenth century French play "Tartuffe," by Molière, is University Theater's latest production, opening on Feb. 26 at Bliss Hall's Spotlight Arena Theater.

The comedic period piece features period costuming and dialogue in

verse. According to the press release, 17th century audiences were warned that viewing "Tartuffe" was a mortal sin due to the title character's false piety. Matthew Mazuroski, assistant professor in the department of theater and dance, directs this production.

Performances on Friday and Saturday begin at 7:30 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Sunday. The show will run two weekends, from Feb. 26 to 28 and March 4 to 6. Tickets are available for purchase at the University Theater Box Office, or at www.ysu.tix.com.

Adult tickets are \$16, and special rate tickets are \$8. Tickets to the play are free to YSU students with valid student identification.

The Dana Young Artist Concert, conducted by Stephen Gage, is Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m. at Stambaugh Auditorium.

There will be performances by third year music education major

Jeremy Leishman, fourth year music education major Dominic DeLaurentis and harp performance major Rebecca Pfingstl.

Graduate and upper division undergraduate students in Dana School of Music competed in November for the opportunity to land a spot in these solo performances.

Tickets for the event are \$6 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens and students and free to YSU students with valid student identification.

The Dana School of Music is hosting the 10th Annual Wind & Percussion Invitational at Stambaugh Auditorium on Feb. 26 at 7:00 p.m.

The night will have performances by local high schools groups from Poland Seminary Wind Ensemble conducted by YSU alumni Nicholas Olesko and Jeffrey Hvizdos and The Mason High School Wind Symphony, as well as the YSU Percussion Ensemble and YSU Wind Ensemble.

Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$5 for senior citizens and students and free for YSU students with valid student identification.

The John J. McDonough Museum of Art is celebrating its 25-year anniversary with the annual Mad About the Arts benefit event on Friday Feb. 19.

The event runs from 7 to 10 p.m. starting off the evening with a performance by the YSU Jazz Ensemble. Administrators will raise a toast to honor the anniversary at 8:15 p.m. followed by a dance with music by The Sensations.

Admission to Mad About the Arts is \$80 per ticket or \$65 for WYSU and McDonough Museum Members, YSU Faculty, staff, students or fine arts alumni. They are available for purchase by calling WYSU at 330-941-1777 or online at www.wysu.org/madaboutthearts.

FEBRUARY SNOWSTORM

FOLLOWING TUESDAY'S SNOWSTORM, STUDENTS BUILT SNOWMEN, CONSTRUCTED IGLOOS AND PUT A NEW FACE ON THE ROCK WHILE THE GROUNDS CREW WORKED TO CLEAR PATHWAYS ACROSS CAMPUS.



PHOTOS: JUSTIN WIER

..... EDITORIAL

Teach Black History

More Than One Month a Year

Youngstown State University has struggled to recruit, retain and graduate minority students. If that sentence sounds familiar, it was the headline to a story we ran last spring. But it's true. In 2013-14, minority retention was more than 17 percent lower than overall retention. Six-year graduation rates for minority students entering in 2008 were less than 15 percent, less than half the university-wide rate of 33.3 percent.

Efforts need to be made to improve these numbers, and the administration has said making those efforts is a priority. One avenue they could pursue is engaging students on a curricular level.

In a recent working paper published by the National Bureau of Economic Research, two economists at Stanford looked at the impact ethnic studies courses have on students' GPAs and attendance rates at San Francisco high schools.

The results were staggering. Assignment to the course increased ninth grade students' attendance rates by 21 percent and GPAs by 1.4 grade points compared to students who weren't assigned to the course.

"These surprisingly large effects ... suggest that culturally relevant teaching, when implemented in a supportive, high-fidelity context can provide effective support to at-risk students," the authors stated.

This is one study in one school district, and there are significant differences between high schools and colleges, but it suggests that if you engage students at a curricular level

Where ethnic studies could really make a difference is in the University's general education requirements. A look through the various knowledge domains reveals only a few classes that qualify as ethnic studies. The two Introduction to Africana Studies courses offered this semester are at capacity, suggesting that there

is enough demand to accommodate more sections. Students we've talked to have suggested they get something from these courses they don't get from other courses offered at the University.

When interviewing students for an article in progress, one commented that she had been learning about white history for years, but the curriculum ignored the contribution of her people.

"How do you disregard every aspect of humanity except your own?" the student asked. "It is inhumane. You are educating people to think that the world is only me." YSU is currently developing a first-year-experience course with hopes that the mandatory course will improve retention rates. This is an opportune moment for the general education committee to consider incorporating an ethnic studies component to the course. That, along with a greater focus on ethnic studies classes in the social and personal awareness knowledge domain could make students feel more invested in their education during their first year or two at YSU.

This helps not only those students, but also the university as a whole. Better retention rates mean more revenue from tuition.

Offering a robust ethnic studies curriculum goes beyond mere political correctness. If the empirical study conducted at Stanford is any indication, aligning instruction with students' cultural experiences appears to have a substantial effect on their performance.

“

HOW DO YOU DISREGARD EVERY ASPECT OF HUMANITY EXCEPT YOUR OWN?

”

it will increase retention, and thus graduation.

Among YSU's current offerings there are what could be termed ethnic studies classes in the history department and the department of philosophy and religious studies, but they are primarily upper-level classes that only students in those majors have access to.

is enough demand to accommodate more sections. Students we've talked to have suggested they get something from these courses they don't get from other courses offered at the University.

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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.

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THE JAMBAR COLUMN

My Pseudo-identity CRISIS

STORY: GINO DIGUILIO | GRDIGUILIO@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

This past week, I realized something that I thought I had completely under control. I am an extremely insecure, at times angry and judgmental person. I can finally admit that to myself. It is this weird sort of pseudo-identity crisis if you will.

At this point in my life, I think it's safe to say that I wholeheartedly believed that I knew myself and that I was comfortable with myself — as do most people. When you consider yourself an adult, you should know who you are, what you stand for and how you want to live your life. But to my newly found crisis, I don't think I knew that this insecure part of my mind was still alive and kicking.

I thought that I had created this unique brand for myself, and that confidence was something that came easy to me. I knew that I was proud to be who I am and that to the general public, it was easy to see that, but to be completely honest, that is not true now that I think about it. In a lot of ways, the public has been getting a different side of who I really am than what I see in myself. But up until last week, there

must have been a time that I was able to convince myself that who I was will be OK, and I ran with it.

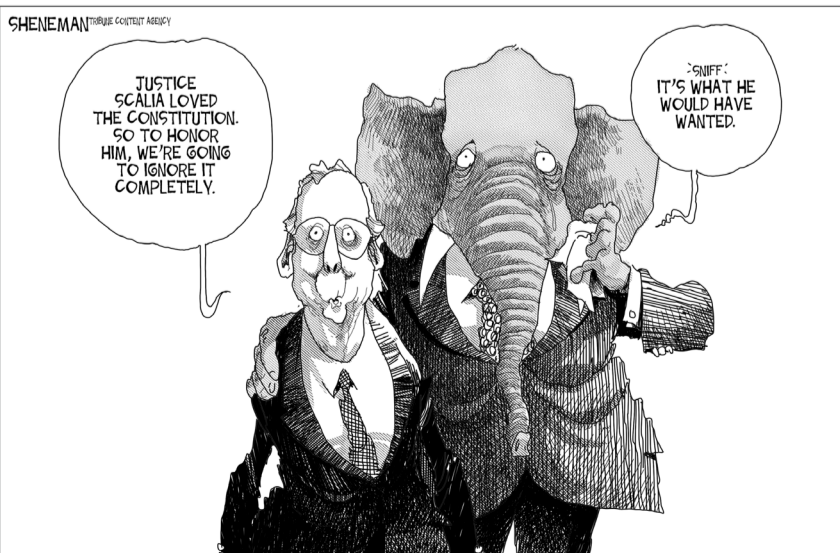
However, on an interpersonal level, I am extremely insecure and judgmental. For example, if I am defending my beliefs and my moral values in the general public, I have absolutely no problem with doing that. Screw what others think, and let me live my life. On the flip side, sitting down with a friend or family member talking about the 'exact' same topic, I will get this overwhelming feeling of fear. Fear that they will not accept me for my individual thoughts, or that my views are making them unhappy. I crave that feeling of acceptance, and without it I become very insecure about myself. I pride myself in the public sector that I don't take people's comments or ideas about me to heart. But lately, I honestly have realized that I do; regardless of how many years I have repressed the thought.

What I am trying to get at is, if you feel that you know everything about yourself and that you have things figured out,

the reality of it is, you probably don't. No way around it. Your brain works in wonderful ways, and it has the undeniable ability to create a fake personality and fade the insecurities that you've repressed for your entire life. It isn't a bad thing. It is just something that needs to be worked on. I am here with you and am working on it at the moment.

My personal pseudo-identity crisis is in full force. But what I am learning about myself is something that I can use to further my life journey. Everyone's will be different as well. So yes, I am very insecure and hide it with fake confidence. I am an angry and judgmental person that hides and copes with it using comedy or humor. I want to be able to get past those things and not 'have' to use coping methods or hide a part of myself.

At some point in life, you will learn something about yourself, and it will be an eye opener. That is fine. Welcome it with open arms and create a better self.



YO! MAGAZINE

The Jambar's semesterly features publication, is looking for YSU students to contribute.

If you're interested in writing, send an email to: yomagazine2@gmail.com.



Depth is Key for Baseball Team's Success

YSU catcher Jonny Miller begins his swing during a home game at Eastwood Field last season.

STORY: **JEFF BROWN** | JRBROWN02@STUDENT.YSU.EDU | PHOTO COURTESY OF: **RON STEVENS**

The Youngstown State University baseball team has finished near the bottom of the Horizon League for the past two seasons, including a Horizon League tournament run that produced a conference championship and a NCAA tournament appearance in 2014.

The Penguins followed up their run with a 16-34 season a year ago. This year's Penguins baseball team could finally see some of the positive effects of that 2014 post season run.

Head coach Steve Gillispie is bringing in one of his best recruiting classes, which includes 12 freshmen. The class is led by Kyle Benyo, an outfielder who was a First-Team All-Conference player at Austin-town Fitch High School

his junior season. Benyo transferred to IMG Academy in Florida for his senior year where he had a .361 batting average and 15 RBIs.

Baseball America has projected Benyo to be the Horizon League Freshman of the year.

The team also benefits from the return of closer Kevin Yarabinec, who sat out a majority of 2015 due to injury. Yarabinec was a key part of the Penguins NCAA tournament run and was named Horizon League Freshman of the Year finishing the season with five saves and a 2.2 ERA in 2014.

"Getting Kevin Yarabinec back from injury, and the time he missed a year ago really gives us stability and depth in the bullpen," Gillispie said.

The additions of the

freshmen and the return of Yarabinec give the Penguins possibly the best depth in the Gillispie coaching era.

"Of the four years I've been here, it's the best depth that we've had on the mound and position player wise," Gillispie said. "I think we will be in a position where we can keep guys fresher. Really, we ran into some times last year where guys were just tired."

Two new additions to the roster come from the University of Akron. Senior infielders Billy Salem and Gerrad Rohan transferred to YSU after Akron dissolved its baseball program in July. Salem hit .260 with one homerun and 19 RBIs in 2015, and Rohan hit .294 and drove in 28 RBIs last season.

"They bring us a lot of leadership and experience, which is great for us having a young team. Billy [Salem] and 'G' [Gerrad Rohan] bring some life to our team," YSU catcher Jonny Walker said.

The Penguins will need this depth to replace one of their best position players from a year ago in outfielder Frank Califano. The Chicago White Sox drafted Califano in the 19th round during the 2015 MLB Draft.

Califano was a First-Team All-Horizon Leaguer a season ago with a .362 batting average, with 18 RBIs and 19 stolen bases.

"He's a different type of player. He could change a game with his legs without really driving a ball," Gillispie said. "I don't know that

we have that same type of guy. A strength for us offensively in replacing him will be one through nine in the [batting] order on most days. We'll be a lot deeper lineup than what we've had in the past couple of years."

The depth of this year's lineup will allow for Gillispie to get creative with his lineups throughout the season. Gillispie said he would even like to get shortstop Shane Willoughby some time on the mound, but he will still play majority of the time at short.

"Now that we have depth on the infield we can use him on the mound. That's a 90 mile-per-hour arm that's never pitched here," Gillispie said. "Defensively he could play for anybody in the

country and in my opinion he's the best defensive shortstop in our league."

Gillispie said Willoughby will make relief appearances late in games. Walker said Willoughby has looked comfortable on the mound in practice.

"I talked to him plenty of times and he's always been really comfortable on the mound," Walker said. "He's got great stuff, so I don't think it will be a big deal for us — with him being comfortable there."

YSU opens their season Friday with a three game series against Western Kentucky University.

Additional reporting by Dan Hiner.

PRESS BOX PERSPECTIVE

WHY I LOVE SPRING TRAINING

STORY: **DREW ZUHOSKY** | ZTZUHOSKY@STUDENT.YSU.EDU
GRAPHIC: **DAN HINER**

It's the middle of February, and we're basically in a dead zone when it comes to sports. The NFL's done until next August, and the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Championship is still a month away with the March Madness beginning four weeks from today.

Fear not, because that dead zone is soon to end with pitchers and catchers from all Major League Baseball teams arriving at spring training camps this week. Games and the regular season won't be long now.

I'll admit it, spring training baseball is one of my guilty pleasures every year, and it's be-

cause you see things you don't normally see in the regular season.

A spring training game operates much like a normal game in the regular season, but with a few variations like the frequent substitution of players from a team's lineup. Usually, veteran players will only get one or two at-bats in a preseason game with minor league prospects getting the majority of plate appearances.

Additionally, you'll see more pitchers on the mound for both teams in spring training, particularly in the earlier preseason games. It's common for managers to use several pitchers in a game for the early

part of the exhibition season.

You might see the starting pitcher only work until the end of the second inning with a few relievers pitching the third, fourth and fifth innings of a game, while minor league pitchers may pitch late in the game.

Also, sometimes in spring training you could have teams playing against college programs in exhibition games. The Arizona Diamondbacks will open spring training this season with an exhibition versus The University of Arizona baseball program on March 1. That same day the Miami Marlins open up the

preseason versus The University of Miami.

One drawback to spring training is the lack of televised games on the local level. In the regular season, every team's game is aired either locally or nationally most nights. While in spring training, only a few get shown on TV.

In the case of the Cleveland Indians, SportsTime Ohio, who holds the rights for local Indians broadcasts, is scheduled to air eight preseason games this year including the first three of the exhibition schedule against the Cincinnati Reds from March 1-3.

With the advent of MLB Network, spring

training games are more common on TV these days. Every day during the preseason, MLB Network will air several ballgames from Florida and Arizona either live or on tape delay.

During spring training, I'll stop the remote on MLB Network frequently to see who's playing and watch a few innings.

Another drawback to spring training is the lack of night games on the schedule. Think about it: These guys are acclimated to playing games at 7 in the evening most days. In spring training, you're out there at 10 or 11 a.m. getting ready for a game

with a 1:05 first pitch time like it's a Sunday matinee.

Night games are rare in spring training with teams playing one or two 7:05 p.m. games at most.

At the core, I like spring training because it's fun and entertaining. You get to see the players out on the field having a good time not having to be concerned with divisional standings and what the rival team's doing in another game.

With that in mind, let's play ball!

Horizon League Conference Standings Women's Basketball

| School | Conference | | Overall | |
|---------------------------|------------|----------|-----------|----------|
| | W | L | W | L |
| 1 Green Bay | 11 | 1 | 21 | 3 |
| 2 Wright State | 9 | 3 | 19 | 6 |
| 3 Detroit | 8 | 5 | 12 | 12 |
| 4 Milwaukee | 7 | 5 | 13 | 10 |
| 5 Youngstown State | 7 | 6 | 16 | 8 |
| 6 Northern Kentucky | 6 | 6 | 14 | 9 |
| 7 Oakland | 6 | 7 | 14 | 10 |
| 8 Valparaiso | 4 | 9 | 8 | 16 |
| 9 UIC | 3 | 10 | 12 | 12 |
| 10 Cleveland State | 2 | 11 | 5 | 18 |