

THE JAMBAR

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IT'S EASY BEING GREEN: YSU CELEBRATES RECYCLEMANIA

STORY: SAMANTHA PHILLIPS | SPHILLIPS@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

Organizations across Youngstown State University are teaming up to promote environmental sustainability on campus by educating students about recycling.

The eight-week initiative launched by the YSU Recycling Program, Student Government Association and Geography Club coincides with Recyclemania — a competition the University par-

ticipates in each spring.

The competition includes 400 colleges across North America who report the amount of recycling and trash collected each week. Universities are ranked based on who recycles the most on a per capita basis. Each week, students can check the scoreboard on the Recyclemania website to see how they stack up against other schools.

Dan Kuzma, manag-

er of the YSU recycling program, reports the amount of recyclable and reusable materials on campus diverted from landfills. YSU is currently in 19th place with a 59.5 percent recycle rate.

Kuzma said the competition exists to increase awareness.

“Adding a little friendly competition will hopefully increase it,” Kuzma said. “Since we already have the

recycling programs on campus, it's really easy. Pass up the trash bin and put something in the recycling bin.”

Jayne Catlos, a member of SGA's student life committee, reached out to Kuzma and ended up recruiting Geography Club to participate.

RECYCLEMANIA
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YSU Football Player Charged with Felony Assault

Eric Thompson, YSU Football defensive back, turned himself in to police Monday morning after being charged with felony assault. The assault occurred at a Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity party on Feb. 7 where Thompson allegedly broke a victim's nose in two places.

A warrant for his arrest was issued Friday. Monday morning, Thompson turned himself in. He was arraigned at 1:30 p.m. Thompson's preliminary hearing is scheduled for March 11.

The investigation regarding the assault at APD is still pending.

ETHICS BOWL TEAM PLACES SECOND IN NATION

Youngstown State University's first-ever Ethics Bowl team placed second in a national competition in Reston, Virginia on Sunday.

The Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl is a forensics competition hosted by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics that pits teams against each other to work through ethical dilemmas. This weekend's competition was the organizations 20th.

Thirty-six teams represented their universities at the national tournament culled from about 250 that

competed in regional tournaments. Lindsay Heldreth, Jacob Schriener-Briggs and Tyler Miller-Gordon competed for YSU.

After qualifying for a bracket of eight, the team bested Taylor University — the winner of last year's event — in the quarterfinals. YSU then fell to a team from Whitworth University, a private liberal arts school from Washington state, in the finals.

Schriener-Briggs said Alan Tomhave, professor of philosophy at YSU, approached students about forming a team for this year's

competition.

Schriener-Briggs said this experience was special both because of the success they experienced, and because it has a less cutthroat competitive nature than other forensics competitions.

“I love competitive forensics of all kinds from debate in high school to moot court to ethics bowl,” Schriener-Briggs said. “[Ethics bowl] was much friendlier.”

Miller-Gordon said the focus was more on reaching a solution and having a conversation.

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

PHOTO: JACOB SCHRINER-BRIGGS

Tyler Miller-Gordon, Jacob Schriener-Briggs and Lindsay Heldreth celebrate their second place finish at the 20th Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl in Reston, Virginia on Sunday with YSU philosophy professors Alan Tomhave and Deborah Mower.



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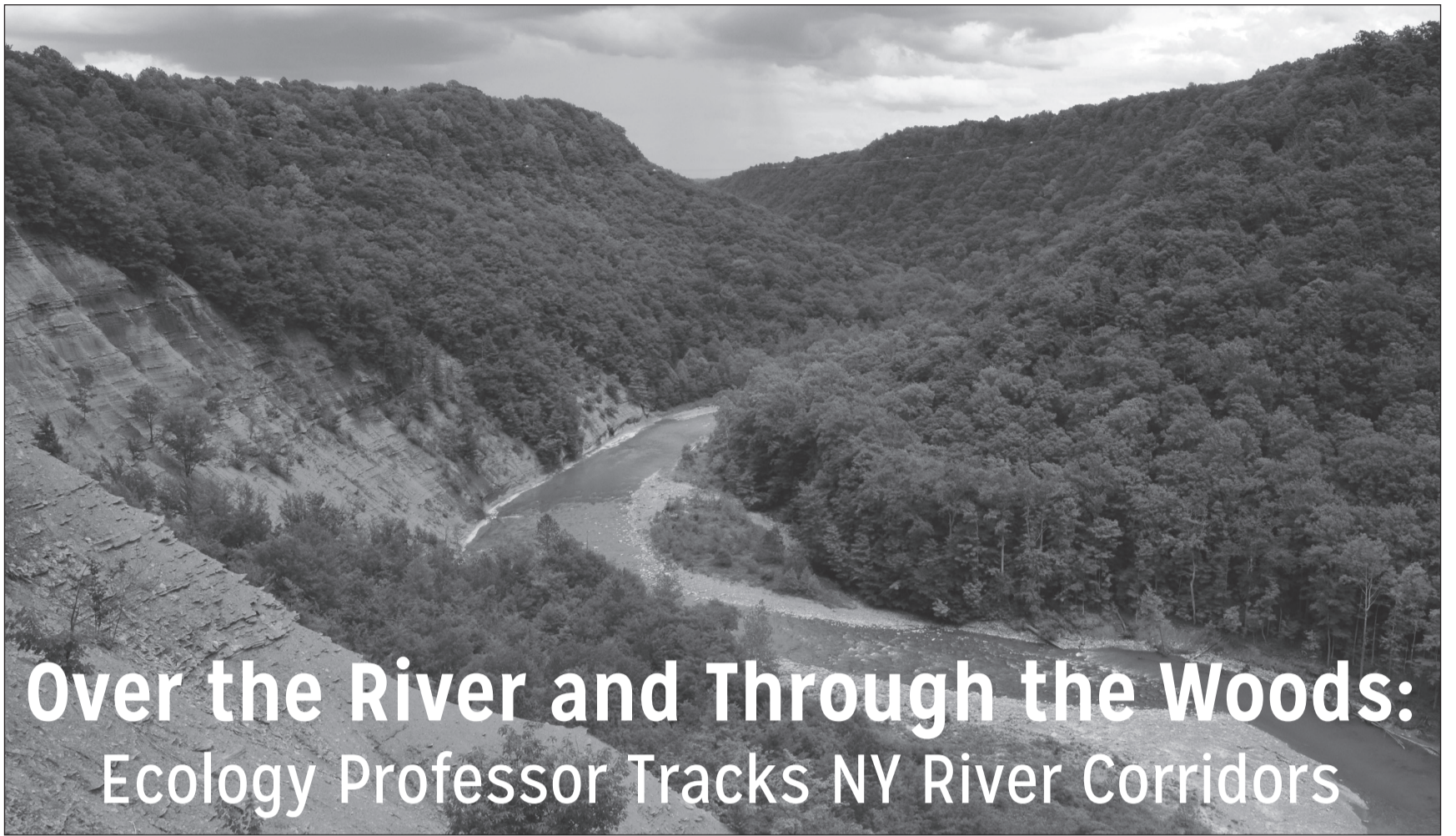


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Over the River and Through the Woods: Ecology Professor Tracks NY River Corridors

The Zoar Valley in Western New York south of Buffalo features an ecologically diverse riparian zone. Professor Diggins has studied the valley for fifteen years.

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

Thomas Diggins, professor in the department of biological sciences, is researching river corridors, specifically looking at the diversity found in forest areas near the riparian zones.

Riparian zones include rivers and the immediate surrounding areas — banks, flood plains, anything within the point of influence of the river ecologically is considered part of the riparian zone.

“Riparian zones are one of the most dynamic ecosystem types because in most cases they are pretty dynamic,” Diggins said. “You can wind up with a series of stages of ecological development.”

The environmental and conservation value of riparian zones is high. Riparian zones are among the most altered of ecosystems because we live among rivers, and we use them for power, water sources and travel.

Diggins has been researching the Zoar Valley in New York near Buffalo for over 15 years.

“Zoar is along a creek called Cattaraugus,” Diggins said. “It is a deep canyon, and a bunch of accidents on how the area was settled, and how it is inaccessible left this one section of

the creek that never got developed or logged. It is a neat example of a highly diverse riparian zone.

“I am specifically looking at something that I have been working on for over 15 years at a place in West New York state near Buffalo called Zoar valley. Zoar is along a creek called Cattaraugus. It is a deep canyon, and a bunch of accidents on how the area was settled, and how it is inaccessible left this one section of the creek that never got developed or logged. It is a neat example of a highly diverse riparian zone.”

Diggins said his interest in the area developed purely out of an environmental and conservation standpoint. He was cataloguing what was there in terms of resources, old growth, new growth and where there was some disturbance.

“When I started going there with some people, there would be areas where the forest would be really young, and areas with great old growth that were 200-plus-years old,” Diggins said. “We actually saw natural evidence of this mosaic of different-aged ecosystems.”

Diggins managed to obtain aerial

surveys from 1929 that documented the entire valley.

“I was reconstructing the history of what was happening,” Diggins said. “And figuring out how much we could link up the maturity age in species composition and structure of the forest community and the land in which they are sitting.”

Diggins published a paper on his findings two years ago. Now he is comparing what he found in the Zoar Valley with the wider body of knowledge on riparian zones around the U.S.

“All river corridors are not created equal, and there are a lot of different viewpoints of certain things,” Diggins said. “For example, looking at year-to-year flood disturbance versus decade-to-decade ecological development in terms of what’s driving community structure.”

Diggins said conserving and restoring riparian zones is a pressing issue in ecology, especially in human-dominated spaces.

“There are a lot of places in which they are trying to renaturalize the flow regime,” Diggins said. “But if we don’t fully understand the nature of

the interplay between environmental dynamics and the ecology of riparian zones ... it will only be part of the restoration, so the better we understand it, the better we can protect what is still intact and repairing what has been altered.”

Diggins and Leah Kaldy, a graduate student, are doing a comparative study between the Zoar and other corridors running from the New York-Pennsylvania border up to Rochester.

“There are a series of creeks there, and they are highly variable,” Diggins said. “Some are even more dynamic than Zoar Valley like Chautauqua Valley, which runs through a huge area of glacial sediments.”

In Zoar Valley, the year-to-year changes in landforms are affecting the ecological community, but some other areas they are researching have ecological communities dictated by flooding.

“We have actually gone the full range,” Diggins said. “We are basically looking at eight or nine river corridors and doing a comparative study.”



Nutrition Interns Help Expand Access to Healthy Food

STORY: **KATIE MONTGOMERY** | KFKMONTGOMERY@GMAIL.COM

According to the United States Department of Agriculture Research Service, buying and preparing healthy meals was a struggle for 14 percent of Americans in 2014. College students in particular fall victim to the joke that Top Ramen constitutes a majority of their diet. While meant to be light hearted, the joke is rooted in the public expectation that twenty-somethings will deal with food insecurity as almost a rite of passage.

Healthy, local eating isn’t easy for people in this area. This is partially due to the general lack of food education, but it’s

also because year-round access to fresh and affordable fruit and vegetables in northeast Ohio is hard due to harsh winters.

Gianna Cioffi, project manager for The Lake to River Project, is working hard to change both of these obstacles for the health of the community.

“[Eating healthy food] is a preventative and proactive way to take hold of your health rather than after the fact,” she said. “Building good habits now [is essential] so that diet-related chronic disease doesn’t set in later.”

In order to improve consumer access to

healthier food, Cioffi helped organize the weekly Northside Farmer’s Market on Madison Avenue and created a website dedicated to selling local products online throughout the week.

“We really want to see a brick-and-mortar [market] open in this area so that people have constant, daily access to fresh fruits and vegetables,” Cioffi says. “It all goes back to strengthening the local food network, but also promoting health and wellness in this area.”

In order to better research and expand the impact of healthy diets

and education, the YSU Health and Nutrition Department assigned three senior interns to work with Cioffi: Jessica Romeo, Allison Shay, and Joanne Starkey.

The interns have helped Cioffi write recipe and grocery lists for Lake to River clients and have also researched local chronic health problems, so they can more clearly define the local need for healthy eating cooperatives.

Romeo, author of the heart-healthy recipes, said one of the biggest obstacles to healthier eating is understanding nutrition and putting the

effort into cooking and shopping. To alleviate these struggles, the interns have focused heavily on creating healthy shopping lists and recipes for people to use.

“People don’t know where to start,” Romeo said. “They don’t know what to do with their vegetables. They need knowledge and opportunity.”

Shay, who wrote recipes with college students in mind, said the experience with Lake to River has been different from anything else she’s done at her previous internships.

“We’ve never done anything like this, really,” she said. “All the stuff we did was clinical based, where this isn’t.”

While writing the recipes was the practical application of food education for the community, the huge number of chronic health problems was what really compelled the interns.

Starkey, the intern assigned to writing vegan recipes, laughed when she began listing Youngstown’s myriad chronic health problems.

“It’s just all really bad and really depressing,” she said. “Depression, heart health, diabetes, obesity — we’re pretty bad overall.”

But the fact that the numbers are depressing makes them important for the future of Lake to

River, Cioffi said.

“That’s going to be a huge asset to our organization because it feeds the work that we’re doing,” she said. “If we’re applying for a grant in the future, we can use those statistics to say ‘Here are the needs of this neighborhood, these are the people that we’re trying to reach, this is why we’re trying to reach them, and these are the outcomes that we hope to see by providing this service in this particular neighborhood.’”

The interns’ work and involvement has been positive for everyone involved, Cioffi said.

“This is an important relationship and partnership that we’ve built,” she said. “[The interns are] adding so much to our program and to our project, and in turn they’re getting experience outside the classroom and building their marketability.”

Romeo said she was just glad to be a part of an organization like Lake to River that is focused on helping people.

“I think it’s great to give people the opportunity to get local, fresh vegetables year-round. It’s an awesome thing and it helps their health,” Romeo said. “Ultimately that’s what everyone cares about, improving the health of our local community.”

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NEWS BRIEF

Noted Oral Historian Speaks at History Across the Humanities Conference at YSU

Alessandro Portelli, world-renowned oral historian and author, will be giving the keynote address at V.W. Starr's History Across the Humanities conference at the Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor. The address, titled "History as Narrative," is at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 25 in the Center, 151 W. Wood St. in Youngstown. It is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Lindsey Fisher at 330-941-1314.

YSU Student Retention Efforts Recognized in Case Study Report

Youngstown State University is commended for improving course completion rates in a case study recently published by Hobsons, a national company that helps students succeed in college. The article records YSU's decision to apply the Starfish student retention program in 2012 to help students succeed in their classes. YSU was among three schools nationally to receive the 2014 Starfish 360 Awards.

Jocelyne Kollay Linsalata Donates \$1 Million to YSU

Jocelyne Kollay Linsalata, Youngstown native and two-time graduate of YSU, is donating \$1 million to her alma mater. The donation will go towards initiatives to improve student success at YSU and also to continue a scholarship endowment that Linsalata created at the YSU Foundation in 2003. Linsalata credits her parents and Youngstown State University for leading her to where she is today.

RECYCLEMANIA FRONT

"[Kuzma] told me about Recyclemania, which is something that is done every year, but student groups don't get involved," Catlos said. "I brought this back to my committee ... and said we need to get some student groups [involved]." She said to further their agenda of creating an environmentally sustainable campus, SGA will be getting involved as well.

"We'll be sending students out on campus, like a little environmentalist army I guess, to encourage good habits," Catlos said.

James MacGregor, SGA vice president for student life, said they will have a green table in Kilcawley on the 24th, which will serve as an educational booth.

"[We] hope to make students realize that they can recycle things they often throw away like empty pizza boxes," MacGregor said. "This is what we want to promote, a general awareness. You can recycle most things."

Catlos said they also

want to educate students on how to recycle properly. Throwing a bottle with liquid in it into a recycling bin contaminates the entire bag and everything has to be thrown away.

Kuzma has taken a creative approach to promotion, starting a campaign called "Get Caught Green Handed." If Kuzma sees someone recycling or doing something environmentally friendly, such as using a reusable water bottle, he surprises them with a five-dollar bill or a coupon donated from local eateries.

"My idea is that as one person I might not be able to reach all 13,000 students on campus," Kuzma said. "But through word of mouth ... if you surprise somebody they'll make mention of it, especially through social media."

Getting involved with Recyclemania, educating students about recycling and participating in Get Caught Green Handed is the first step for SGA. The next step is to hold a drive for students to recycle things on campus that aren't paper or plastic,



PHOTO: SCOTT WILLIAMS

perhaps batteries or old notebooks.

"During finals week, we want to say, 'Here, we don't care if you have stacks of paper. We'll take it,'" MacGregor said.

It's the continuation of efforts that began with establishing water bottle refill stations, which SGA President Ashley Orr began two years ago.

"She's [Orr] been doing this for a long time, but now we want to give it a title," MacGregor said.

Kuzma said he tries to make Recyclemania more fun and exciting every year, and the support of student organizations expands the scope of what we can

accomplish.

"It benefits the campus, it benefits the community, the Mahoning Valley," Kuzma said. "It's not just environmental benefits. We're supporting the economic infrastructure that exists with recycling in the community."

MacGregor said he hopes the initiative will leave a lasting impression on campus.

"SGA is focusing on ... showing that we encompass every aspect of what it takes to have a successful college career and keeping the campus environment friendly," MacGregor said. "We hope to push this, and that future SGA bodies keep it going."



Present your scholarship at QUEST 2016

Tuesday April 5, 2016 **Kilcawley Center, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

QUEST is a University sponsored forum for undergraduate and graduate students to present their scholarship to the University community.

QUEST provides opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students to

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QUEST welcomes scholarship in all forms – scientific findings, musical scores, engineering designs and analyses, panel discussions, poetry readings, dance performances, honors and senior theses, study abroad experiences, and more.

Submissions and registrations accepted until Friday, March 18, 2016 (5:00 PM).

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ETHICS BOWL FRONT

Miller-Gordon said the focus was more on reaching a solution and having a conversation.

"It was especially enjoyable for me, because it was more of what I'm like as a person, because I'm a more amiable person," Miller-Gordon said.

Miller-Gordon said the preparation with professors from the philosophy department prepared them for the competition.

"We got to work closely [with] and really explore the minds of different faculty members," Miller-Gordon said.

Heldreth said it was fun to compete with other people from her major who share the same interests while putting things she's learned to use.

"Just being able to take all that I've been taught through the philosophy department and apply that in a forensics competition," Heldreth said. "It was a good experience."

All the students said they were excited to represent YSU and thankful for the time faculty members spent with them.

Schriner-Briggs said he also enjoyed working with professors and friends he has made during his time as a philosophy student.

"It was cool to see kind of my whole academic experience at YSU culminate in this particular tournament," Schriner-Briggs said. "And to have the experience of the success that we did was like the cherry on top."

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JUICY J



Southern hip hop artist Juicy J performed a midnight set on Thursday evening in Beeghly Center on Youngstown State University's campus as part of the Penguin Nights Student Experience series.

Juicy J — preceded by his entourage — took the stage at 1 a.m. to perform for a crowd of approximately 600 students. Seating was provided for attendees, but shortly after the music began nearly all members of the crowd left their seats and rushed to the front of the stage.

PHOTOS: BILLY LUDT



McDonough Celebrates 25 Years with Mad About the Arts

STORY: AMANDA LEHNERD | ARLEHNERD@GMAIL.COM

Administrators and the community at large raised a toast to mark 25 years of existence for the John J. McDonough Museum of Modern Art.

The McDonough hosted its 21st annual Mad About the Arts event Friday night. The event showcased Youngstown State University's Jazz Ensemble along with many local food vendors.

Mad About the Arts benefits the McDonough Museum of Art, YSU's Center for Contemporary Ideas, Art, Education and Community along with WYSU 88.5 FM, the Valley's listener-supported public radio station.

YSU's Jazz Ensemble has been performing at Mad About the Arts for the past four years. The ensemble, founded in 1969, has earned honors and awards for big band and small group competitions.

Students performing in Jazz Ensemble range from first-year freshman to second year graduate students.

Ensemble director Kent Engelhardt explained that to prepare for Mad About the Arts the students had to learn 20 different pieces of music.

"Our students don't always have the opportunity to do big band jazz music within their four years in the program," Engelhardt said. "I told the students

we were going to learn 20 pieces of music, so we are prepared to play what music best fits the crowd attending."

According to Engelhardt, he has observed the crowd that attends Mad About the Arts for the past four years and has come to learn that some are an older crowd that really appreciates the art of traditional big band jazz music.

Not only did the Jazz Ensemble play music, featured singer and clarinet major Jordan Mastrangelo performed.

"Mastrangelo had come to me a couple years ago and asked me if there would ever be an opportunity for her to sing," Engelhardt said. "I felt this would be the perfect opportunity to have her sing a few tunes and let the audience relate to the song and get attached to the lyric."

Mad About the Arts is a large supporter of the YSU Jazz Ensemble. Each year they contribute funds to the Jazz Visitors Fund. The Jazz Visitors Fund was established by Harry Meshel in 2011 to help bring regional and national touring musicians to YSU.

"The Jazz Visitors Fund allows us to bring professional jazz musicians from the region and all

over the country here to YSU," Engelhardt said. "We have had people from New York and Chicago come in and play for the students and teach the students while they are here."

The evening not only consisted of music from the YSU Jazz Ensemble, there was an array of food and wine vendors spread across the halls of the McDonough Museum of Art.

Firstyear attendee Cheryl Green had heard about the event from her friend Natalie Scott.

"I have listened to Scott talk about what a great event Mad About the Arts is for years, and I decided that I wanted to experience it for myself," Green said. "I was really excited to have a chance to see the YSU Jazz Ensemble perform and be able to try food from many local vendors."

After the Jazz Ensemble cleared the floor, The Sensations, a local band, began to set up to play dance music for the remainder of the night. Two YSU Alumni Michael and Marilyn Reichert have attended the event every year since it began.

"We always come to the event. We look forward to the music and food and socialization it provides every year," The Reichert's said. "We love to support the local art community and YSU."

EDITORIAL

BITING OFF MORE THAN THEY CAN CHEW

APPLE'S BATTLE WITH THE GOVERNMENT

Addresses, social security numbers, credit card information and bank statements are all unceremoniously stored on the 94 million operating iPhones of the American people.

Users trust that their information is safe with Apple Inc.'s security, and to this point, they've been largely correct.

But Apple is currently in a heated court battle with the United States Justice Department over the access to the iPhone of Syed Rizwan Farook, one of the gunmen in the San Bernardino shootings.

The government wants Apple to grant them access to the phone by giving the FBI unlimited tries to guess Farook's password. Farook had his

phone set up in a certain way, so that after 10 wrong attempts at his passcode the phone would delete all of its data, which could possibly be crucial to finding more Islamic radicalists.

Apple is refusing to unlock the phone due to security reasons, claiming that the encryption for one iPhone is the same as all of the iPhones. Unlocking one in this manner would open a Pandora's box — not only to government officials, but possibly to skilled hackers.

While the government is in place to keep the American people safe, the opening of this one iPhone has the potential to be detrimental if the information got in the wrong hands — or if the government wanted to use it

to monitor certain phones for trigger words, Google searches and downloads.

It's not like public monitoring hasn't happened before or doesn't continue to happen. The Patriot Act that allowed wiretapping in 2001 still stands and was actually expanded in 2011 by President Obama.

In 2013, Edward Snowden tipped off journalists that the N.S.A tapped into Google and Yahoo's fiber optic wires that transmit data outside of the U.S.

These cases are known to Apple, and the company has decided to take a stand. Not because they think the information held on Farook's phone couldn't be important — Apple al-

ready gave the F.B.I. Farook's iCloud information — but because unlocking one could unlock them all.

All 94 million of them in America and countless others around the globe.

Cyber terrorists can also use the new encryption information to make un-hackable channels of communication that they can use to plan attacks.

Apple's decision to resist unlocking the iPhone is being backed by other major names in technology including Google, Twitter and WhatsApp.

Normally it is consumer groups who rally corporations to stand up for their rights. Now the corporations are leading the charge, and it is all but imperative we support their fight for our rights.

.....THE..... JAMBAR COLUMN FIGHTING STAGE FRIGHT

STORY: JORDAN MCNEIL
JEMCNEIL@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

I suffer from some pretty intense stage fright. I've never really enjoyed the whole public speaking or performing thing, despite the fact that I actually did quite a few musically-related performances throughout my childhood. But no matter how many times I've been on a stage or in front of a microphone, each new time I have to get in front of a crowd it is like a first time. I get shaky, nauseated, feeling the whole time like I may just keel over at any point.

It was especially bad last semester at the Jenny Magazine Issue 9 premiere. That was my first time actually being in charge of an event, and that added pressure to the fact that I had to speak in front of a roomful of people multiple times made me extremely ready to just pass out at the mic. But I didn't, thankfully. And about halfway through the night, the shakes left, and I felt much more comfortable talking to the attendees.

This didn't stop me, however, from feeling all nervous when I was asked later, months in advance, to participate in the Lit Youngstown reading on Sunday. Just the thought of it — being in front of people I don't know, sharing my work aloud — made the stage fright kick in, even though I was sitting at my computer at home.

I briefly thought about declining, coming up with a reason that I couldn't do it, just so I wouldn't have to experience that stage fright. But some friends encouraged me to accept — as a writer, readings are a good thing to participate in and, most importantly,

how was I ever going to get over my fear if I just run away from it all the time?

Unfortunately — or maybe it was just a tiny bit fortunately, if I'm being honest with myself — I didn't get the chance to fight through the shaky hands and weak knees while sharing a piece of mine that I particularly enjoy. I came down with the flu this weekend, so instead of attending Lit Youngstown's event, I spent my time alternating between sleeping and lying in bed watching cute goat videos in an attempt to distract myself from how miserable I was feeling.

Maybe I was just a little bit relieved that I had a reason to cancel, even though I still felt horrible having to do so. I had really worked myself into a frenzy with anticipating my stage fright for this reading that I actually had a couple attacks of my stage fright anxiety weeks in advance, whenever I remembered that it was approaching. Worrying about it always makes it worse, but I haven't yet mastered the ability to stop myself from a worry spiral about anything quite yet.

Despite my minor relief though, I still plan on accepting public reading invites when they present themselves. Occasionally, you do have to face your fears to overcome them; they're never going to go away if all you do is hide under a blanket from them. Sometimes you just have to step up to the microphone, grip the side of the podium to combat your shaking and speak to the crowd.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A recent editorial in *The Jambar* draws attention to the absence of ethnic studies at Youngstown State University. The title: "Teach Black History More Than One Month a Year." The editorial speaks to an unfortunate absence in our academic curriculum. As we move from Black History month to Women's History month, this shift in focus provides us with an opportunity to reflect more on these needs and the way in which education can make a difference, not just for ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, able-ness, and so forth, but a more pressing and larger issue: diversity.

Diversity is the umbrella term for all social markers, such as ethnicity, race, gender, and sexual orientation. Diversity is not about studying how people have different customs, languages, or diets. Rather, it is about the ways in which difference has provided some people with privileges in our society and some without.

Over the last decade, many universities and colleges across the country have passed new diversity requirements. One of the more recent universities to stand behind this is the University of California — Los Angeles (UCLA). They require all their students to pass one course that addresses diversity. They explain that one of their goals by this is:

To teach undergraduates to better understand the perspective of others whose histories, experiences, cultures, and social conditions may differ. Frames of difference include but are not limited to race,

ethnicity, socioeconomic class, gender, sexual orientation, religion, disability, age, language, nationality, citizenship status, and place of origin.

More academic attention to diversity is needed at YSU. Currently, the only diversity requirements we have on campus are found within the general education umbrella called Social and Personal Awareness (SPA). Students may take a course that addresses "domestic diversity," or they may take other classes that build on personal awareness, such as nutrition. Under the current model, there is no diversity requirement.

College and university administrations are not against the idea of diversity; however, a common justification for not having the requirement is that there is no space for it. This rationale is one of the main culprits of our decline in general education standards, which has suffered for over a decade.

Gradually, colleges and universities have chipped away at the foundations from which they rose. What used to be the foundation of education—the development of critical thought, reading, writing, and speaking skills, the learning from various areas of academics, which made our country's graduates competitive and innovative in the global market — has now become a nuisance or burden to many. Some see general education as a luxury that colleges and universities can no longer afford to maintain.

Recently, I heard an engineering professor justify why

he avoids grade inflation. He explained that he did not want to drive over a faulty bridge one day because he had passed an engineering student who had not understood the fundamentals of engineering. In this instance, the professor made an important correlation between the fundamentals learned at YSU and real-world consequences that we, as citizens, will experience.

The same correlation applies to passing courses in other areas such as ethics — or in passing courses on diversity.

Do we want to live in a world in which people have not honed the basic skills to understand difference and privilege? Sadly, we live in such a society; we have witnessed the costs with the Islamophobic rhetoric in our politics, our Ohio legislature with the absence of laws to protect transgender persons, and in the streets of Ferguson.

Although we do not have a diversity requirement at YSU, we have many courses that address diversity. For example, there are classes in Africana Studies, Religious Studies, Sociology, Women and Gender Studies specifically designed to expand your awareness of societal differences and privileges. These courses are important to a college education and to our society at large. We have been building faulty societal bridges for decades.

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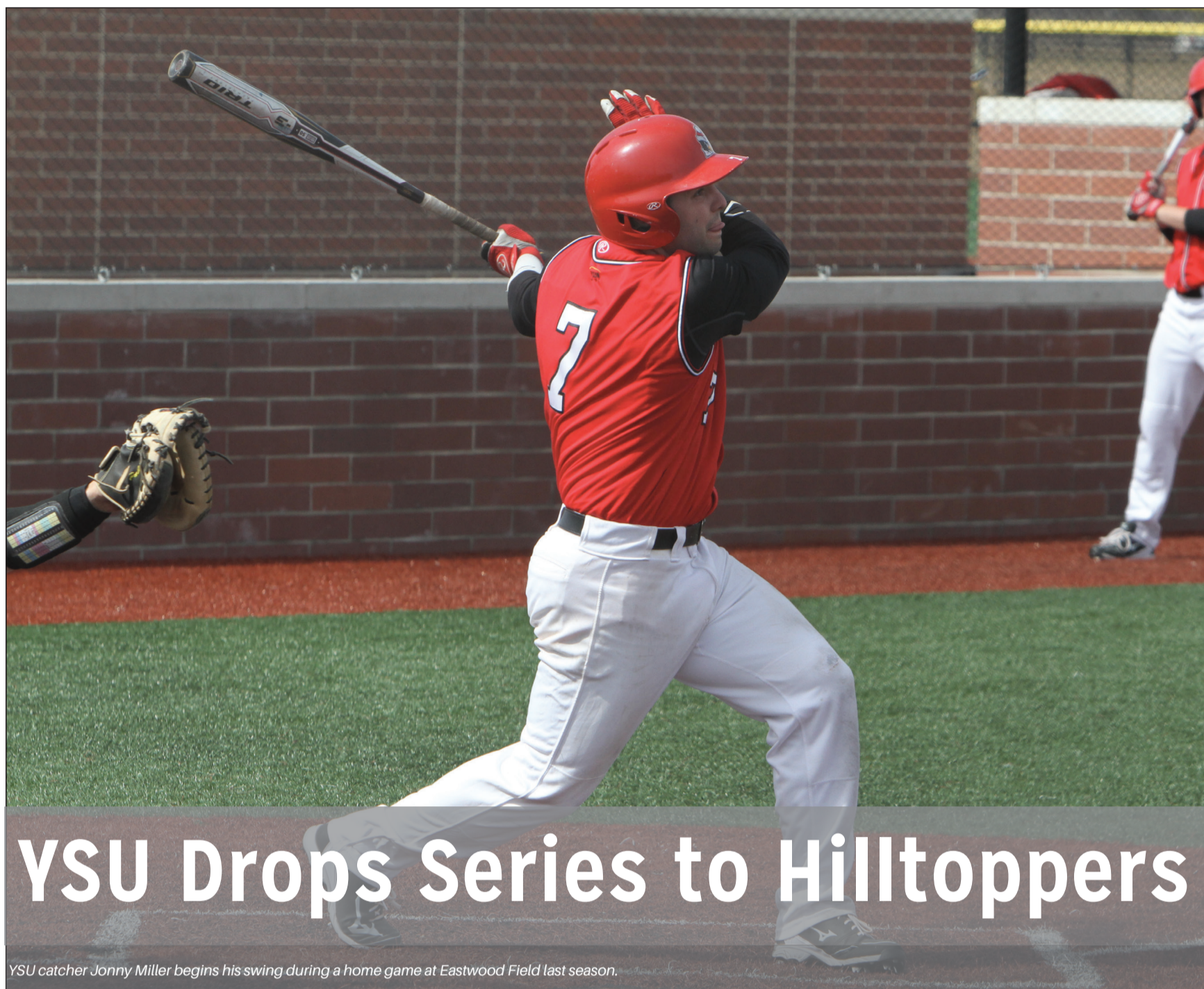
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YSU Drops Series to Hilltoppers

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

STORY: DAN HINER | DHINERJR@GMAIL.COM | PHOTO COURTESY OF: RON STEVENS

The Youngstown State University baseball team opened its season on Friday at Western Kentucky University. The Penguins were picked to finish fifth in the Horizon League this season, but YSU didn't get off to a strong start offensively.

YSU (1-2) lost the first game of the season 5-3. The Penguins held a 3-2 lead in the bottom of the seventh inning, but the Hilltoppers scored three runs in the bottom of the seventh

to take a 5-3 lead. Billy Salem, the YSU second baseman and University of Akron transfer, hit 3-4 with a RBI. YSU first baseman Andrew Kendrick finished 1-4 with a RBI and catcher Jonny Miller hit 1-3 with a RBI.

YSU rebounded in the second game of the series. The Penguins won the first game of a doubleheader on Saturday after winning 8-7 in extra innings. Western Kentucky had a 5-3 lead in the seventh inning,

but YSU outfielder Nico Padovan drove in two runs that tied the game at 5-5 in the top of the seventh. Kendrick drove in Padovan with a single to right field to give the Penguins a 6-5 lead later that inning.

Western Kentucky (2-1) tied the game at 7-7 in the bottom of the eighth inning after pinch hitter Harrison Scanlon singled to centerfield, scoring third baseman Danny Hudzina.

But YSU designated

hitter Gerrad Rohan drove in the game-winning run in the top of the 10th inning. Gerrad Rohan singled to right field and drove in Salem from second base, giving the Penguins their first win of the season.

The Penguins were unable to keep the offense going in the second game of Saturday's doubleheader. YSU lost the rubber match 11-1 on Saturday night.

The Hilltoppers took a 3-0 lead in the bottom of the third inning

and never looked back. Western Kentucky added several more runs to take a 7-0 lead until the Penguins were able to get their only run on the board. Salem grounded out to first base, driving in Anthony Rohan on the fielder's choice.

YSU pitcher Collin Floyd pitched 3.1 innings and allowed five runs on six hits. The bullpen threw the last 4.2 innings. Reliever Will Jamieson was the only reliever to allow a run in the third game.

He threw one inning and allowed two runs in the sixth inning.

Salem and Gerrad Rohan combined to hit .385 with five RBIs in the Western Kentucky series.

The Penguins' next series will be against Fresno State University on Feb. 26. The Bulldogs are 3-0 this season with three wins over Creighton University.

PRESS BOX PERSPECTIVE

The Case Against Chief Wahoo

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

We're less than a week away from the Cleveland Indians opening spring training play with the first of a three-game series versus the Cincinnati Reds.

Around this time every year, the debate over whether or not Chief Wahoo, the Indians' animated logo, is racially insensitive heats up. Especially now, since the team's training complex is located in Goodyear, Arizona, near the Ak-Chin Indian Community in Phoenix.

Over the past several years, various news articles have been published on the subject

matter with a piece written by the editorial board of The Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The editorial, written in February 2014, called for the Indians organization to discontinue the use of the Chief Wahoo logo. As per the editorial, "the caricature represents a racially insensitive stereotype of native Americans."

Yet, here we are in 2016, and the Indians still use Chief Wahoo as a team logo, but less often. You'd be more likely to find a piece of Indians merchandise that has the block-C as the team's logo than you would find using

Chief Wahoo.

Pickets of Indians Opening Day festivities at the Progressive Field gates in Cleveland by Native Americans have become a yearly event. Every year, there's renewed interest by Native American groups to try to get the Indians organization to expel the Wahoo logo and Indians name from the franchise.

Last year, Cleveland City Councilman Zack Reed may have provided the biggest charge against the Wahoo character. In a story from WOIO's Cleveland 19 News regarding an April 2015 council meeting, Councilman

Reed was quoted as saying, "The Indians are going to continue to feel the pressure. Those individuals want to continue to have that Wahoo are going to continue to feel the pressure until they realize that it's bad."

Several years ago, I took the stance of, "Chief Wahoo is not insensitive and should stay put as part of the Indians logo," but now, I take a different stance. I now realize that the Chief Wahoo animation is offensive.

I side with Councilman Reed here. He's right. What the Indians organization has been saying over the years

is that the Chief Wahoo logo is inoffensive, because it's a cartoon. They don't realize that there are people who are loudly disagreeing with them. It's sad that they don't care.

With political correctness being the way that it is in this day and age, the very notion of having a mascot like Chief Wahoo in 2016 is baffling. Many have seen the outcry over the Washington Redskins name and logo in recent years, and they haven't changed the name or logo either.

Native Americans have a proud heritage and camaraderie between one another,

and the idea that a professional baseball team would disgracefully dishonor Native American heritage with a cartoon is just inappropriate and terrible.

The team should change its name and logo to something acceptable. One that is symbolic with the city of Cleveland.

Still, the team might not entertain any idea of changing the team name and continue to have Chief Wahoo as its logo. As a politically correct society, it's time to realize that Native Americans are people.

Horizon League Conference Standings Women's Basketball

School	Conference		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
1 Green Bay	13	1	23	3
2 Wright State	10	4	20	7
3 Milwaukee	9	5	15	10
4 Detroit	9	6	13	13
5 Northern Kentucky	8	6	16	9
6 Youngstown State	7	7	16	9
7 Oakland	6	9	14	12
8 Valparaiso	4	11	8	18
9 Cleveland State	3	11	6	18
10 UIC	3	12	12	14