

THE JAMBAR

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WIDEOUTS IMPROVE
PAGE 8 | SPORTS



BUILDING A BAJA CAR
PAGE 2 | NEWS



25 YEARS OF DANCE
PAGE 6 | A&E

PARTY ON

PROMOTING SEX-POSITIVE PARTY CULTURE

STORY: **LAUREN FOOTE** | LAURENLEONAL@GMAIL.COM
PHOTO: **LIAM BOUQUET**

As part of sexual health awareness month, Youngstown State University invited Jamie Utt, diversity and inclusion specialist and sexual violence prevention educator, to speak to students.

Danielle Meyer, director of Housing and Residence Life, said Utt has worked to build more inclusive environments where students can live and work more fully as themselves.

"When Jamie's work caught my attention, I knew I had to do everything I could to get him on campus," Meyer said. "We are only beginning our 'No More. Step Up. Speak Up.' campaign to raise sexual assault awareness and prevention here at YSU. I know we are already making great progress."

Utt started his talk by invoking the idea of the perfect party. He said a lot of Americans focus on alcohol and drugs.

"Every single time, within the first

few things that are chosen, it is alcohol related," Utt said. "There is an intimate relationship in the United States with parties and alcohol."

He said people often blame and shame survivors of sexual violence for getting drunk at parties, yet intoxicated people are more likely to commit acts of sexual violence. He said there are also differences in the way we tell men and women to protect themselves against assault.

"Men are given no messaging on how to protect themselves against sexual assault or how to not commit an act of violence," Utt said. "Women are given all kinds of messaging to draw upon."

Utt said this creates three problems: women, as potential victims, are responsible for protecting against sexual violence, it leads to mitigation rather than prevention and the conversation is framed through the lens



Jamie Utt, a sexual assault survivor's advocate, speaks to students in Kilcawley Center's Chestnut Room on Sunday.

of what you shouldn't do.

"Rape culture is talking about what we don't want to see," Utt said. "Sex-positive is offering an alternative. Don't do that, let's do this instead."

He stressed the importance of communication in relationships and offered suggestions like creating yes, no, maybe charts and other ways to make consent sexy and engaging.

"Sometimes making that inquiry during the act can be uncomfortable," Utt said. "However, if you can find creative engaging ways to make consent interesting, then you can always keep the mood going."

He also said people need to be more accommodating and not turn things like rape into jokes.

"That test raped me." You are rhetorically equating failing that test to the pain a survivor suffers during an attack," Utt said. "It is not a joke,

you have to be more creative and think about people when you are using rape in such a joking manner."

Elizabeth Stange, a student and member of the Delta Zeta sorority, said she really enjoyed the event.

"I thought the material was really good for the audience," Stange said. "He made a lot of sense."

He closed the talk by returning to the idea of the perfect party. However, he asked the group to make it a sex-positive party — coming up with ideas to prevent rape instead of mitigating it — challenging the audience to think outside the box.

"My hope is that tonight is not just a thing you sit through," Utt said. "This is not just a conversation that stays in this room. This conversation is one that you take outside of this room, and you discuss it with others and hopefully ... people have amazing parties and also safer parties."



SGA OPENS FOOD PANTRY TO ASSIST STUDENTS

STORY: **GABRIELLE FELLOWS** | GFELLOWS@STUDENT.YSU.EDU | PHOTO: **SCOTT WILLIAMS**

Youngstown State University's Student Government Association is launching a food pantry for students in need beginning on April 20 and running from 3-5 p.m.

The idea for a place where students can receive donated food arose after survey results came in from the Student Union. Every person who took the survey said that either the survey taker or someone they knew had problems acquiring food.

The food pantry will be in Kilcawley Center in the hallway behind Wendy's. Gabriella Gessler, the vice president of SGA, said that the location was decided based on accessibility and convenience, among other things.

"The food pantry will be located in Kilcawley Center so that the access would be very centralized for students," Gessler said. "However, the region within the building is very secluded to provide an additional component of anonymity."

Gessler also said that SGA received support from the Youngstown media in the form of plastic bags for bagging the food and aiding in keeping the food pantry's services discreet.

"Our understanding is that many students

on this campus would not see that bag as anything unique, alleviating any self-consciousness that may have resulted from the carrying of a specifically marked ... bag," Gessler said. SGA partnered with YSU's Association of Professional and Administrative Staff, Chartwells food services and others to make the food pantry a manageable service.

Student Government also met with nutritionists at YSU and interns at the Andrews Recreation and Wellness Center to make sure the food that was going out to students was nutritionally balanced and wholesome.

Ashley Orr, president of SGA, said the organization wants to continue to offer the food pantry for students in the future but is still undecided on when the dates and times will be.

"We hope to have a fall launch of the food pantry with more partnerships and maybe some Youngstown media coverage within the first few weeks of the [new] semester," Orr said.

The pantry is currently only offered to YSU students. Those who wish to take food from the pantry are required to bring their YSU ID. In the future,

SGA is looking to purchase a card reader to make this process easier for everyone involved.

Students who needed food from the pantry would swipe their ID so the reader could grab their YSU ID number, the date and the time that the card was swiped.

That information would be shared with Karla Krodel, the director of Metro Credit, and from there, shared to YSU's credit-based outreach program, who would then find the amount of unique students the pantry is assisting per month.

Since the food pantry is considered a short-term solution to a larger problem with acquiring food, students who are frequent visitors to the pantry may be contacted by SGA and informed about different community and government aid programs or assistance.

As for the remainder of the current semester, the food pantry will be held on Wednesdays from 3-5 p.m. and Fridays from noon to 2 p.m.

Next semester's hours will be determined based on the availability of the space the pantry is housed in and the schedule of those manning it.



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BAJA TEAM GEARS UP FOR COMPETITION

STORY: SAMANTHA PHILLIPS | SPHILLIPS@STUDENT.YSU.EDU | PHOTO COURTESY OF: ALEX LINCOLN

The Youngstown State University chapter of the Society for Automotive Engineers will be competing at a Mini-Baja competition, sponsored by SAE, at the Tennessee Technological University from April 14-17.

Teams from across the nation will compete alongside international teams from Canada, Brazil and Japan. They are tasked with designing and manufacturing a small, single-person off-road vehicle. Ten engineering students have been working on YSU's vehicle since November.

"We put it through a series of tests [at the competition]," Nick Ammeen, a member of the team, said. "We try to make this thing last as long as it can. It's quite fun."

There is a day of individual events and a four-hour endurance race on the final day. The vehicle must pass many tests, including the endurance race, a chain pull, an uphill climb, a mud bog and non-performance tests,

such as safety and design analyses.

Last year, the team finished 32nd overall at the competition in Alabama. Ammeen said they are improving every year.

"You take what you learn from previous years and build upon it," Ammeen said. "We've been at a disadvantage because there are schools that have been doing this for 20 years non-stop ... We're trying to catch back up and get up to speed."

Kyle Hogan, another participant, said all students are welcome to compete as long as they belong to SAE.

YSU's team has received funding from Student Government Association, who funded their trip, Hovis Tire Pros, who donated tires, Youngstown Oxygen and Welding Supply, Penguin Powersports and Regal Tool and Die.

"Some companies donate a lot of stuff," Hogan said. "A lot of the steel is donated, but a lot of stuff we have to fundraise for. We spend a lot of

time fundraising."

Ammeen said being a part of the team requires long hours and dedication, but it's fun, and you get to connect with potential future employers.

"There's a lot of companies that really look at this on your resume and a lot of companies that sponsor this event," Ammeen said. "They hire specifically people who participate in these events, and they even hire on site at the competition."

Sponsors include Cummins, Caterpillar, Honda and John Deere. Hogan said he secured a job with Honda specifically, because they liked the work he did on the Baja team, and it helped him obtain an internship last summer as well.

"I've liked cars my whole life pretty much," Hogan said. "I used to live too far away to do it, but when I moved closer, I immediately started doing this, because it's a really good learning opportunity."

While the rules forbid professors from helping students with the project, Ben Saltgiver, another team member, said they have gotten support from the engineering department and the college as a whole, as well as the dean and the provost.

"They've done a wonderful job," Saltgiver said.

He said being on the team gives students a chance to get hand-on experience with fabrication.

"One thing I've learned is ... theoretical is quite different from reality," he said.

He said the things they learn in the classroom transfer to their work.

"Because YSU is blue collar, we do have a lot of professors with industry experience," Saltgiver said. "They bring that directly into the classroom, so when we finally went to design these parts and the rest of it, we felt like we were ready to tackle the challenge."



YSUSCAPE HOLDS THIRD TASTE OF YOUNGSTOWN EVENT

STORY: LAUREN FOOTE | LAURENLEONAL@GMAIL.COM | PHOTO COURTESY OF: NICK CHRETIEN

The third annual Taste of Youngstown is scheduled to take place from 5 to 9 p.m. at the M Gallery on Saturday.

YSUScape, a student led organization that collaborates with the community to revitalize and beautify the area, started the event in 2014.

"Taste of Youngstown is YSUScape's way of showcasing all of our favorite local restaurants

and businesses," Nick Chretien, president of YSUScape, said. "We offer our guests samples of our favorite local food, and the chance to win many awesome raffle items."

This year's event will feature Avalon Downtown, The Federal, V2, One Hot Cookie, the Royal Oaks, Kravitz Delicatessen and Catullo's Prime Meats.

"This is our primary

fundraiser of the year to fund continued efforts in the community," Chretien said.

Morgen Reamer, YSUScape's vice president of fundraising, planned the event.

"This year I'm hoping for a great turnout, which we have been fortunate enough to have received from the community the past two years," Reamer said.

She said events like

Taste of Youngstown are a critical part of the group's mission.

"The dollars our organization raises at events like this goes directly towards our projects in the community," Reamer said. "The more we raise, the bigger the impact YSU students are able to have in the community."

The event has grown over the years. Last year, 125 people at-

tended the event, and they are expecting more than 200 at this year's gathering.

Their first event funded a mural project on the side of the former R&S Foods building at the corner of Elm Street and Madison Avenue. This year's event is not tied to a specific project.

"This year, our group really focused in on the Wick Park neighborhood and workdays that

help clean up and board vacant properties in the neighborhood," Chretien said. "This year we will use the funds raised at Taste of Youngstown to continue our workdays."

Tickets for the event cost \$10 for students and \$15 for members of the community and are available at the door or online at <https://squaresup.com/store/ysuscape>.

NEWS BRIEFS

YSU Steel Bridge Team Tops Regional Contest, Advances to Nationals in Utah

Youngstown State University had a team of six civil engineering students compete in the Ohio Valley Student Conference Steel Bridge Competition. The team defeated 13 other teams and won first place moving on to the national competition. All of the teams came from Ohio, Kentucky and Pennsylvania. During the competition, teams design, fabricate, construct and test 21 to 22 foot steel structures that meet specifications set by ASCE and the American Institute of Steel Construction. The national competition will be held in Utah later this spring.

Vanderbilt Professor Presents at Anthropology Colloquium

The Youngstown State University's Anthropology Colloquium will be hosting a presentation by Edward Fischer. He is part of the department of anthropology at Vanderbilt University. The presentation, "German Eggs, Guatemalan Coffee and the Anthropology of Wellbeing," is based off of Fischer's book, "The Good Life: Aspiration, Dignity and the Anthropology of Wellbeing." The presentation is Thursday, April 14 in DeBartolo Hall room 132 at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Matt O'Mansky, associate professor and chair of the department of sociology, anthropology and gerontology at 330-941-1688.

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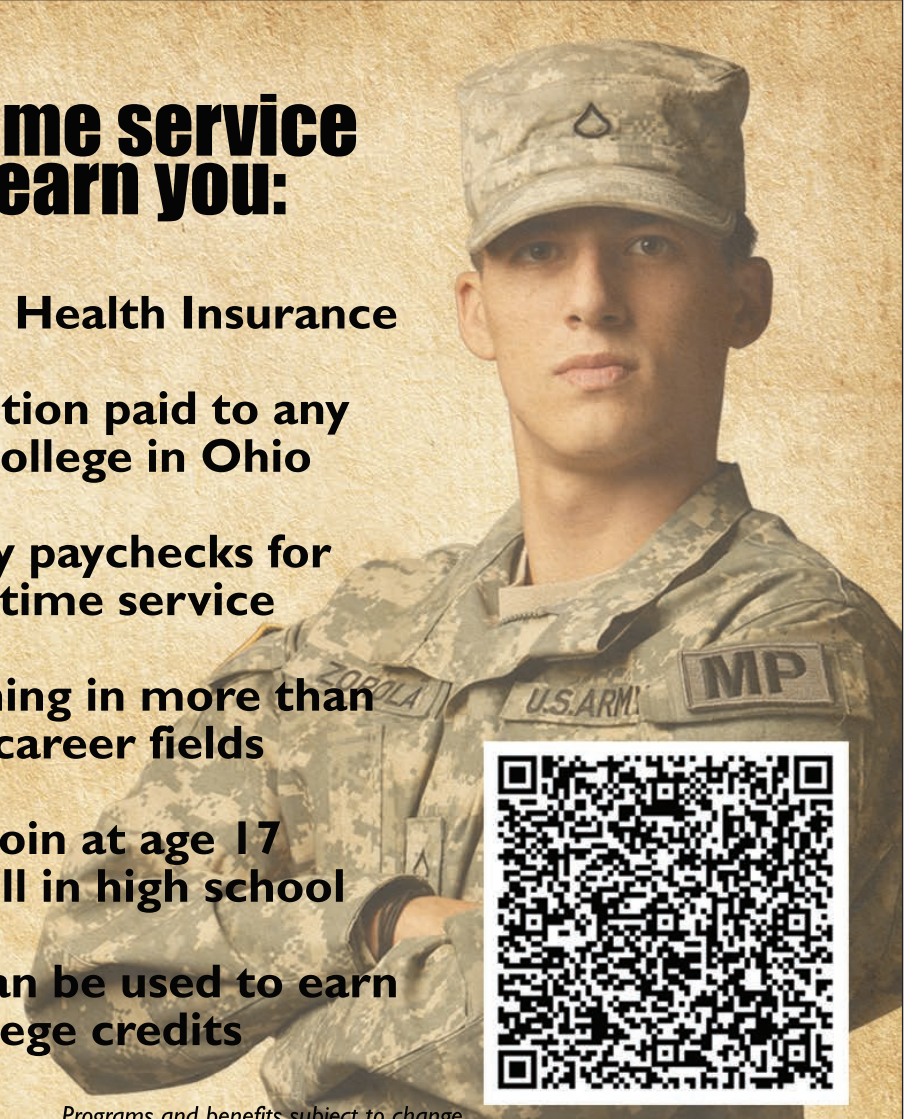
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YSU Dance Ensemble Celebrates 25 Years

STORY: **AMANDA LEHNERD** | ARLEHNERD@STUDENT.YSU.EDU
 PHOTO COURTESY OF: **YSU DANCE ENSEMBLE**

Youngstown State University's 25th Annual Dance Ensemble performance opens April 14th and runs until the 16th.

Under the direction of Christine Cobb, the performance will showcase 12 student choreographers and YSU alumna Stephanie Tirdel, who danced professionally in Pittsburgh from 2004 to 2011.

"Throughout the years, the program has grown, and the expectations of the dancers have as well," Cobb said. "When Dance Ensemble began, almost everyone who tried out made it. Now that the program has grown, the standards have raised."

YSU's Dance Ensemble has been preparing for the 25th annual performance since September 2015 when try-outs were held. Many of the seniors in dance ensemble choreograph dances for the performance.

Alana Lesnansky is an honors student at YSU, a senior choreographer and has been participating in Dance Ensemble since her freshman year at YSU.

"I choreographed the final number of the show," Lesnansky said. "It's titled 'A Night On Broadway' and is a musical theater piece showcasing three popular numbers."

The multiple performances

will include a diverse selection of dances with a special performance April 16 at 2 p.m. called "60x60."

"It's free and open to the public. It's 60, one-minute pieces, choreographed by alumni and students," Lesnansky said. "Also after the Saturday show at 7:30, there is a structured improvisation featuring both the current cast and the alumni."

According to Lesnansky, there are a variety of numbers in the show itself, everything from belly dancing to modern to musical theater.

Becky VanVoorhis, an YSU senior choreographer for Dance Ensemble, has choreographed a modern piece that

was performed at the American College Dance Festival in Michigan and another modern duet co-choreographed with senior Olivia Bartie.

"I have choreographed a jazz dance and co-choreographed the modern dance with Bartie," VanVoorhis said. "Also, I choreographed a Holocaust piece that we preformed last year and will be performing again in the 25th annual performance."

Adult tickets are \$16. Special rate tickets are \$8 for non-YSU students, YSU faculty and staff with valid ID, senior citizens, Penguin Club members and groups of eight or more. YSU student tickets are free with valid ID.

Parking is available in the M1 Wick Avenue parking deck for a nominal fee.

Cobb has high admirations for her students and alumni who have worked hard to make the performance possible.

"I am very proud of our students' hard work, both as dancers and choreographers, and I am so excited about having alumni return to interface with our current students," Cobb said. "It is truly a celebration of the legacy left by those who came before, and those who carry on the Dance Ensemble tradition in the years to come."

PINK HOSTS CLOTHING DRIVE, ANNOUNCES NEW YSU CLOTHING LINE

JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR:
BRITTANY WENNER
 PHOTO: **BRITTANY WENNER**



Rebecca Banks, Victoria's Secret PINK Youngstown State University representative and Rookery Radio host, teamed up for a clothing drive in Kilcawley Center on Friday.

The drive was designed to be a competition between student organizations to see which organization could donate the most clothing. The group that donated the most items would win a privatized meet-up with the PINK representatives, where 15 brand new t-back bras would be raffled off to the organization.

PINK also gave away lanyards, pins, pens, body mists and other PINK items to students that took a picture at the event and posted it to social media using the hashtag "gimmegoodvibes." The win-

ner of the photo contest received a \$50 PINK gift card.

Four student organizations donated clothes to the drive — Psi Chi, Alpha Omicron Pi, Delta Zeta and Phi Sigma Rho. Delta Zeta donated 34 items, Phi Sigma Rho donated 43 items and Alpha Omicron Pi donated 213 items. The winner was Psi Chi, who won by donating a total of 237 items.

The event on Friday was the last event for the spring semester, but PINK at YSU is expected to have more events on campus in the fall during Welcome Week.

PINK at YSU is required to host an annual philanthropic event, where they gather clothes and donate what they receive to local charities. However, Sarah Jones,

a PINK representative and business major at YSU, says PINK isn't registered as its own student organization on campus.

"We have to team up with other student organizations to come on campus [and host events]," Jones said.

Banks had the PINK at YSU representatives on her show, Love&Music YSU Edition, on Saturday from noon to 3 p.m. to help spread the word about their involvement on campus.

PINK at YSU has been hosting events on campus for a couple years and has gained a lot more attention on social media by getting involved with the students on campus. The PINK at YSU Instagram and Snapchat often offer chances to win items or gift

cards by participating in various giveaways.

Natalie Lombardo and Bailey Choma are also PINK representatives that took part in the event.

Lombardo, Choma, Jones and other PINK representatives said a big surprise is coming to YSU in the near future.

"We worked so hard to pitch Youngstown State being included in the PINK Collegiate Collection clothing line with all other major universities across the country," PINK at YSU said in an email. "With the help of President Tressel and PINK's willingness to experiment, we have been notified that YSU will, in fact, be included in the collection."

Jones said that PINK at

YSU was contacted by the company, and that a line for YSU will be launching in November in time for the holiday season. Representatives will also be meeting with merchants from PINK next week to further discuss the new line.

Rachel Davis, a YSU student who attended the PINK event, said that the new YSU PINK clothing line is something her and a lot of other girls are looking forward to.

"There are a lot of girls who wear [the] PINK brand, and I know we would all be happy to sport YSU in our PINK clothes," Davis said.

YSU will be part of the exclusive line in Ohio, and more details on the line will become available as November approaches.

YO!

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.

EDITORIAL:

Food for Thought

The Student Government Association's pilot run of a food pantry exclusively for Youngstown State University students in need is a move in the right direction for the university.

YSU is a school that many find themselves going to because of its affordability. That doesn't mean that living on one's own as a student at an inexpensive university is necessarily inexpensive, especially for those who may be inexperienced handling their own finances.

For many students, this is their first venture away from home and their first time managing their own money. Factoring in school loan payments, the cost of books, possible car payments or rent and other expenses, students can find themselves unable to purchase nutritious food on their own.

This doesn't mean

that they won't ever be able to purchase wholesome food in their collegiate career, but it can be more difficult than usual at times to fill up the shelves in their first apartment or home.

SGA's food pantry allows these students to pick up free, nutritious food by using their YSU ID. Students will acquire the food in a discreet location and will be carrying the food in bags donated from YSU's bookstore. SGA said their goal was to make this process as simple and anonymous as possible.

Students that visit the pantry often will be given information about specific community or government assistance plans to further help put food on the table.

This pantry, even in its early stages, is a huge success for the university.

According to the 2014 US Census Bureau,

Youngstown has a poverty rate of over 37.4 percent and only 11.5 percent of those who reside in Youngstown over the age of 25 have a Bachelor's degree or higher.

The pantry allows students that are trying to better themselves in less-than-perfect circumstances get assistance with an added veil of secrecy, something that many other food services in the area don't offer to the degree that this pantry does.

Students that are trying to obtain a degree need to worry about passing classes, not picking up an extra shift at work as a way to make sure they eat that week.

If YSU can help in any way to get students to graduate, even if it's as simple as supplying food while they're working on bettering themselves, it's a win.

Movie picks

Chicago Tribune

Minneapolis Star Tribune

Philadelphia Inquirer

PG 13 **Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice**

★★★

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R **10 Cloverfield Lane**

★★★

★★★

★★★

R **Deadpool**

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PG **Zootopia**

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PG 13 **The Divergent Series: Allegiant**

★★★

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R **The Boss**

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PG 13 **Midnight Special**

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Tribune News Service

YO! MAGAZINE

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Exercise Your Right to Better Productivity

GINO DIGUILIO | GRDIGUILIO@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

When it comes to the end of the semester, productivity in schoolwork is normally something I struggle deeply with. The last minute all-nighters, overwhelming feelings of never finishing or even just the well-known thoughts of giving up all things are experiences I could say all college students have had in our lives at least once a semester. I know I have had my fair share.

But to my surprise, I have yet to feel overwhelmed by the daunting tasks of school this time around. Honestly, I have been much busier with a full load of courses and a long never ending to-do list, so I was surprised at this revelation. Immediately I panicked as I thought to myself, "well maybe I have something due soon and just don't remember, or should I try to get ahead on my studying for finals?" I came to the conclusion that nothing has changed for me this

semester. Except for one small thing.

I have gone and worked out at the gym and brought my physical health to the forefront. I've noticed that ever since that lifestyle change I have been a happier person, less stressed, and my overall productivity has improved! I did some research to figure out why exactly I was feeling different. Supposedly, when you exercise, your brain releases serotonin that helps you feel better and improves your state of mind, making the stresses of work easier to handle.

Makes sense, right? And being the cliché man that I am, I cannot go without bringing up the obviously most important information a movie had ever taught me. Elle Woods from the movie "Legally Blonde" said, "Exercise gives you endorphins. Endorphins make you happy. Happy people just don't shoot their hus-

bands. They just don't." Now the whole killing your husband has no context for us, but the endorphins part I can totally vouch for!

I encourage everyone to try their best to squeeze a workout into their day. No, you don't have to go to the gym to get a workout in. You will be able to receive those endorphins to make you happy and the serotonin to keep you focused with a small dose of working out at home. Trust me, I am the worst procrastinator of all time. If you ever listen to my advice, now would be the time.

Go workout. It's worth it. It helps clear your mind by making you focus on the task at hand, allows you to increase mental stability and makes your overall physical health increase. It is also a great feeling knowing you can check off your workout from your to-do list.

JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the first summer session. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. The first copy of The Jambar is free. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.

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The editorial board that writes our editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, the managing editor, the copy editor and the news editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles. They draw on the opinions of the entire writing staff and do not reflect the opinions of any individual staff member. The Jambar's business manager and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

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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.

'A Great Opportunity'

YSU Wide Receivers Begin to Improve Before Spring Game

STORY: JEFF BROWN | JRBROWN02@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

PHOTO: DAN HINER

The battle for Youngstown State University starting quarterback has received much attention this off-season, but perhaps the most important factor to whoever the starting quarterback will be is the wide receivers he will be throwing to.

Last year's top two leading receivers Andre Stubbs and Andrew Williams have graduated, and this leaves the Penguins with a big hole to fill at the receiver spot. Stubbs was the Penguins' leading receiver a year ago with 38 catches for 479 yards and three touchdowns. Williams was a constant deep threat for the Penguins who finished last season with 33 catches 575 yards and five touchdowns. He was much more effective during his junior season, however, leading the Penguins with 54 catches for 976 and six touchdowns.

T'vavius Harvin and Darien Townsend are the top candidates to take over as the main targets in the passing game this season.

Harvin started in eight of 11 games last year but finished with only 22

catches for 279 yards and two touchdowns.

"I see this as a great opportunity for me as the only guy really coming back with experience," Harvin said. "I'm really looking forward to this year."

Harvin also spent last year as a kick returner, but said he would like to start returning punts as well this year. Harvin said punt returning was a strength in high school. Harvin had five returns for 60 yards last season.

Townsend, on the other hand, does not have as much experience as Harvin. While Townsend did play in all 11 games a year ago, he did not provide much of a spark for the Penguins — catching nine passes for 99 yards.

Townsend, a junior, didn't play much because of the depth the Penguins had at receiver last season. He said he had to adjust to taking more of a leadership role this season.

"It's really been fun taking on a leadership role along with 'Te' [Harvin]. Just competing with the first string guys and [defensive backs] we have they're making us a lot better,"



Townsend said.

While it may have taken the rest of the receivers a while to understand the offense and contribute, Harvin said the other receivers are starting to catch on.

"It's been a little frustrating at times," Harvin said. "Getting into spring ball was probably the most frustrating, but they came along and now they know their plays and don't have to second guess themselves."

Townsend said if this year's quarterback for YSU is going to have any success, it will be key for the young and inexperienced group of receivers to progress quickly.

"We just need to do the right things," Townsend said. "We need to achieve what we need to do on every play and just focus play-by-play and we'll be good as a receiving corp. We got a long way to go though."

PRESSBOX PERSPECTIVE:

Should Opening Day Be *Later*?

DREW ZUHOSKY | DTUHOSKY@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

A week and a half ago, Major League Baseball began its 2016 season, but under conditions that weren't ideal in some parts of the country.

Consider April 4, Opening Day, where the first game of the season was pushed back by 24 hours because of the weather.

That morning, the New York Yankees elected to postpone their home opener against the Houston Astros scheduled for 1:05 p.m. to April 5 after the forecast called for a chilly and rainy day.

Conditions weren't much better in Cleveland, either. At just past 2:00 p.m. on April 5, with gates already open at Progressive Field and crowds waiting in line to enter the stadium for the Indians' home opener versus the Boston Red Sox, the team decided that the game would be rained out until the next afternoon because of the unfavorable forecast.

Even for the series finale, the Indians and Red Sox were due to play at Progressive Field but about an hour and a half prior to the game's 6:10 p.m. first pitch, the game was postponed, not because of rain, but also the threat of snow.

As far as the Indians rainout goes, the organiza-

tion should have called the game earlier. It's not a good idea to postpone when you've got a crowd waiting in line to go into the ballpark, because there's not much chance that those in line would be able to hear the announcement of a postponement.

Starting the MLB season in early April (or in some years, late March) is a risk that the Big Leagues have been taking for years now.

When you consider that in northern cities it can still snow as late as April, which was the case two years ago when the Detroit Tigers postponed an April 15 home game versus the Indians because of snow or when the Indians postponed an April 10, 2012 home game against the Chicago White Sox due to snow, MLB is taking a huge risk with an early start.

Let's go back to 1995 for a moment. That year, after the infamous 1994 MLB strike canceled the rest of the previous season, including the playoffs and 1994 World Series, the season began a few weeks later than normal, on April 25.

Due to the 232-day strike, the 1995 season, which was slated to begin in early April with re-

placement players, was trimmed down to a 144-game slate.

Though the circumstances for the later start weren't what MLB had in mind, it worked. With a late April start to the season, teams in colder cities avoided having rained or snowed out games because of chilly weather.

With the recent postponements, and since two teams lost Opening Day because of cold weather this year, I think MLB should seriously consider a later Opening Day.

To start, MLB would have to cut the length of the regular season down to about 140 to 150 games with Opening Day taking place in mid to late April, around April 17 or so.

By cutting down on the number of games and having a later Opening Day, this increases the chance of the postseason ending before the start of November. Last year's postseason ended in the early morning hours of Nov. 2.

A measure like this would obviously require MLB and its owners to have a vote. If baseball ever decides to introduce this measure, I think it would pass.

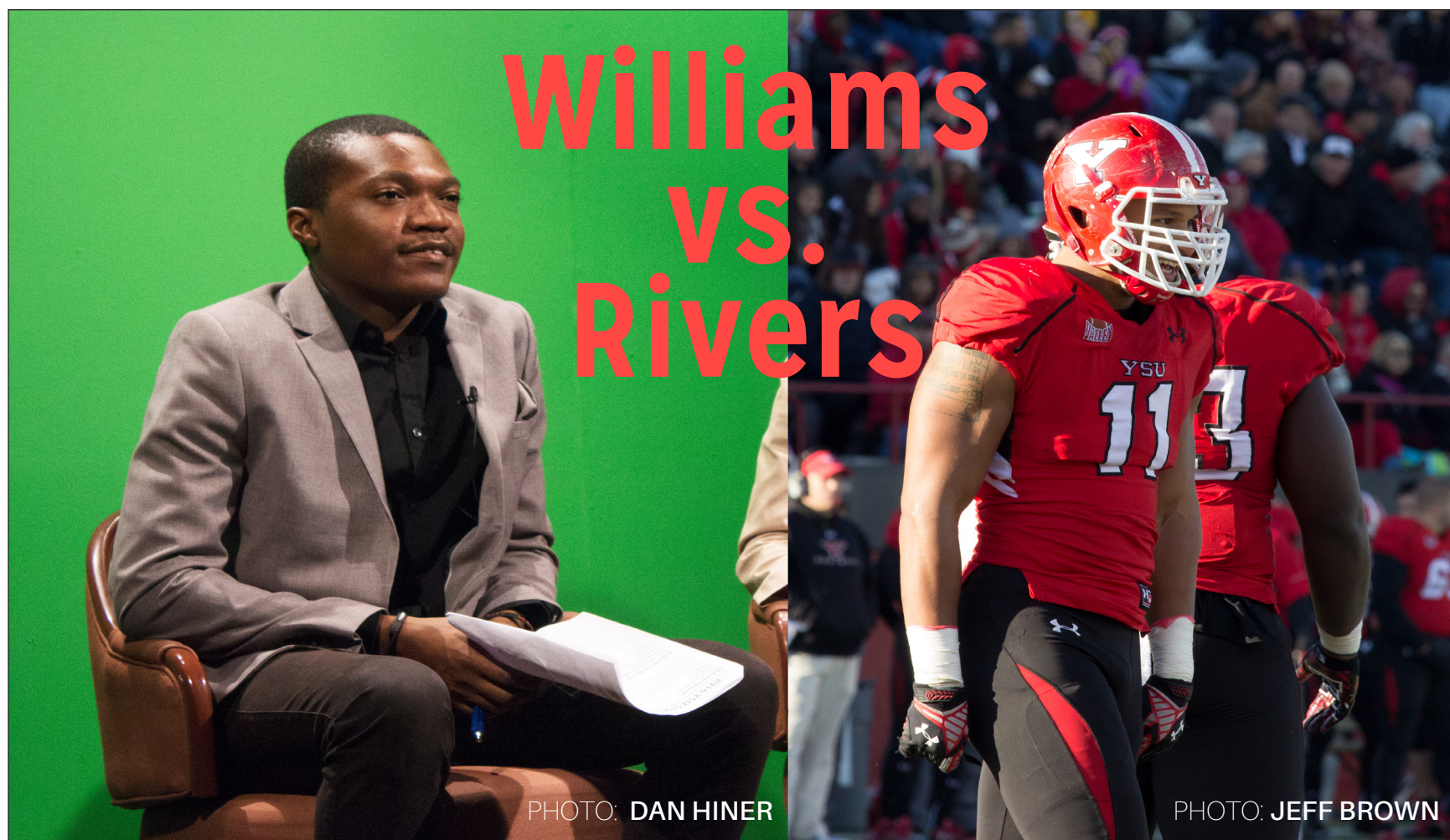


PHOTO: DAN HINER

PHOTO: JEFF BROWN

Lincoln Williams, host of *The Penguin Rundown*, will compete in the "Oklahoma Drill" against Youngstown State University defensive end Derek Rivers. Despite being in pads, Williams will try to survive being tackled by Rivers. This isn't the first skills competition Williams has competed in for the Rundown. Earlier in the year, Williams challenged YSU shooting guard Matt Donlan to a 3-point shooting completion.

The drill can be seen on *The Penguin Rundown* and interviews with Williams and others can be seen on *The Jambar* YouTube channel next week. The event is open to the public, and the doors to the Watson and Tressel Training Site open at 6 p.m. on Thursday.