

THE JAMBAR

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TRESSEL SHARES HIS VISION FOR THE CAMPUS

STORY: JUSTIN WIER | JCWIER@STUDENT.YSU.EDU | PHOTO COURTESY OF: YSU

Youngstown State University will look very different in a few years if the plans laid out by President Jim Tressel on Tuesday come to fruition.

The plans included improvements to three major corridors, four new student-apartment complexes, retail space, a new bookstore, a student success center in Jones Hall and the potential Mahoning Valley Innovation and Commercialization Center.

Tressel said the demographics in the five-county area show a decline in college-aged students. He said that, combined with steadily declining state funding, requires the university to reach outside of the immediate area to continue to thrive.

"To do that, we really believe that they have to have a great first impression as they come to the campus," Tressel said. "They have to feel it's a vibrant place; that there's things to do."

He said this was the driving force behind these projects to improve the aesthetics and activity along the perimeter of campus.

Tressel began by talking about the renovations to Melnick Hall, which houses the YSU Foundation

and WYSU, and the movement of the Honors College to Fok Hall, formerly the Alumni House.

The long-awaited improvements to Wick and Lincoln Avenues are scheduled to begin this summer running through Nov. 1. Wick Avenue will be reduced to three lanes with underground power lines and improved lighting and greenery. Lincoln Avenue will undergo a similar transformation with parking reduced to the south side of the avenue instead of both sides.

Mike Hripko, associate vice president of research, intends to submit a federal grant application on behalf of the university and partners, including Mercy Health and the Western Reserve Transit Authority to make improvements to Fifth Avenue. Tressel said they hope to create a boulevard with retail space connecting Mercy Health to Mill Creek Park.

He mentioned the proposed Enclave student apartment complex, which Tressel said might be pushed to the fall of 2018 because of clearances with the state.

Also announced was a student apartment com-

plex on the corner of Wick and Rayen Avenues, where the St. Vincent DePaul building currently stands. NYO Property Group is undertaking the project, which is intended to be completed for fall of 2017.

Moving over to Fifth Avenue, the developers behind the University Edge apartment complex, opening this fall, will be beginning Phase II of the development, adding a 220-bed unit to be completed by fall 2017. They would also like to construct a retail corridor along Fifth Avenue where Smith Hall currently stands.

"So we'd have a nice little village there with retail," Tressel said. "We think it would be an exciting thing."

He also mentioned the intent to have Barnes and Noble take control of the bookstore this fall with an eye towards building a standalone bookstore at some point in the future.

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PAYO Throws Carnival and Donation Giveaway for Youngstown Children

STORY: JORDAN UNGER | JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
PHOTO COURTESY OF: MEGAN EVANS

Youngstown State University students held a carnival for children at Harding Elementary School last week to deliver donated clothing, food and other resources to impoverished families as the culmination of a year-long collection effort.

PAYO, a service project started last year to raise poverty awareness and help children who live in poverty, orchestrated the event.

Indoor and outdoor activities were organized for the children — face-painting, a chemistry show, a selfie station, corn hole and a petting area with alpacas. YSU volunteers also helped give donations to the families that attended the event.

A variety of YSU organizations came together for the event. Volunteers gave Harding Elementary School families donated books, non-perishable food items, hygiene products and clothing at the carnival.

Nearly 500 children and parents

attended the carnival, and 35 YSU students volunteered. Megan Evans, the president and co-founder of PAYO, said that the turnout was an improvement from the first event.

"Last year we had about 50 people from Harding come to collect donations and about 15 students from YSU who mostly came from the [Student Government Association] and Honors," Evans said. "We have definitely expanded way beyond that with more student organizations coming and bringing their own little touch to everything."

Members from the YSU Student Art Association brought a 5 by 7 foot canvas for the children to paint on. John Elias, a volunteer from SAA, said that their goal was to encourage the kids to be artistic.

"As an artist myself, I think that it is very interesting to promote art to children because it isn't promoted in schooling as much as it should be,"



Tyler Pabst of the American Chemical Society shows Harding Students some hands on chemistry activities.

Elias said.

The American Chemistry Association had YSU students perform a chemistry show at the carnival for the kids in attendance.

Samantha Mock, the secretary of YSU's American Chemistry Association, said she enjoyed promoting her interests to the children at Harding. "I am a chemistry major and I

love science, so sharing it with little kids and getting them interested at a young age is very important for me," Mock said. "We always need more scientists in the world."

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YSU Muzzled for Straight Pride Flyer Fiasco

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

Youngstown State University was awarded a 2016 Jefferson Muzzle for directing the removal of “straight pride week” posters from campus last year.

This is the 25th year the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression has presented the dubious honors. They decided to bestow all 50 upon colleges and universities this year in response to what the press release termed “an epidemic of anti-speech activity” on American campuses in 2015.

“Never in our 25 years of awarding Jefferson Muzzles have we observed such a concentration of anti-speech

activity as we saw last year on college campuses across the country,” Josh Wheeler, director of the Thomas Jefferson Center, said in a press release.

Clay Hansen, assistant director of the Thomas Jefferson Center, said the awards are intended to be gentle nudges or tongue-in-cheek reminders that serious infringements of the first amendment happen.

He said the emails showing that Jack Fahy, former vice president of Student Affairs, and Carrie Anderson, assistant director of Student Activities, told student leaders to remove the flyers was an interesting example

of university-initiated censorship.

“We frequently see students handling this themselves,” Hansen said. “It’s rare to see the university get involved and encourage that kind of behavior.”

Hansen acknowledged that many of the students awarded muzzles this year have legitimate concerns and grievances, but the Thomas Jefferson Center has issues with the means by which they went about expressing them.

“It’s this idea that the proper response isn’t dialogue or exposing these bad ideas for what they are, but simply shoving them away into a dark corner where

they can fester,” Hansen said.

He said bad ideas are disproven through dialogue, which doesn’t happen when they are taken from public view. He referenced a quote from a Supreme Court justice Louis Brandeis, claiming that the best response to speech we don’t like is more speech.

“It gets difficult at the fringes where you start getting into this speech that is ugly and offensive and hateful,” Hansen said. “But when it gets tough is when the school really needs to prove that commitment [to free expression].”

The press release mentioned the University of Missouri pro-

fessor attempting to prevent coverage of a public protest, the University of Tulsa suspending a student over comments someone else made on his Facebook page and threatening student journalists for covering the story and Northwestern University instituting prior review of a faculty bioethics journal based on a single article.

Hansen said the limiting of free expression across the academy came about rather suddenly and the origins aren’t entirely clear.

“There is a sense that a lot of students are viewing this sort of hateful speech not just as an expression of ideas, but almost as a

sort of violence against them,” Hansen said. “So there’s a tendency to internalize this speech more, and I think that can lead to calls for it to be removed.”

He also said many of the incidents were spearheaded by minority communities, who many feel as if they’ve tried speaking and tried making their voices heard but don’t feel like others are listening.

“It doesn’t help that college administrators are so willing to go along with this idea of excluding undesirable speech from the campus environment,” Hansen said.



Shipka Speaker Talks About Misquoting Jesus

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

Bart Ehrman, professor at the University of North Carolina, delivered a lecture entitled “Misquoting Jesus: Scribes Who Changed the Scriptures and Readers Who May Never Know” at Youngstown State University last week.

The event was presented by the department of philosophy and religious studies as part of the Thomas and Albert Shipka Speaker Series.

Ehrman said people should be skeptical of what they read in the New Testament of the Bible. He argued that the text is inaccurate because the original words have been lost in translation.

The Gospel of Mark, Ehrman said, was originally written in Greek, while Jesus spoke Aramaic. He expressed concern that the meaning of Jesus’s words could have been altered. He also pointed out that the book was

written 40 years after Jesus is believed to have died and doubted the accuracy of the author’s memory.

He also raised concerns about the early life of the book; Ehrman said early copies of the Bible were handwritten — if errors were made in one manuscript, they would be passed onto the next.

Ehrman showed the audience a page from a copy of the book of Mark dating from 220 C.E. The page, which was dotted with holes, is one of the better-preserved pages of the manuscript.

“The only way you would know how many mistakes there are is if you had the original to compare this copy to,” he said. “But we don’t have the original; what we have is this. You can see there’s a problem here about knowing what was in the original New Testament.”

He said there are no originals with which to compare existing copies.

An English theologian named John Mill examined 100 manuscripts when publishing an edition of the Greek New Testament in 1701. Ehrman said he found 30,000 differences. He said this supports his arguments that the texts are unreliable, while noting that the majority of differences were minor.

“The good news is that the vast majority of those differences are unimportant, insignificant, immaterial and matter for nothing more than to show that scribes in the ancient world could spell no better than students can today,” he said.

He said it’s harder to detect passages that were added than it is to detect passages that were left out. Ehrman has problems with this. He said modern versions note places that are in-

tionally added stories, but many have been portrayed in movies like *The Passion of the Christ*, so people believe them to be true.

“Many people are more committed to the Bible than they are knowledgeable about the Bible,” Ehrman said.

He pointed to the story about Jesus saving a woman from being stoned, asking the person who hasn’t sinned to cast the first stone. He said this was added to the original text of the Bible.

“Is the text of the New Testament reliable?” Ehrman said. “We can’t be 100 percent certain.”

He said this may not be a problem for most people, but it should be a problem for someone who believes every word as it was originally written in the text.

“The reality is, we can’t know every word that is written,” Ehrman said.

NEWS BRIEFS

English Festival Features Newberry Award-Winning Author

The winner of the 2016 Newberry Medal is the featured speaker for the 38th annual Youngstown State University English Festival. Matt de la Pena will be talking with students in grades seven through 12 from over 175 schools throughout the area. He is the author of three of the books on the English Festival book list — “I Will Save You,” “A Nation’s Hope: The Story of Joe Lewis” and “We Were Here.”

Professor Establishes “88 Hearts” Scholarship for Piano Students

There is a new scholarship for piano students attending Youngstown State University. The scholarship was setup by Caroline Oltmanns, professor at the Dana School of Music, and will be administered by the YSU Foundation. The name of the scholarship comes from the 88 keys on a piano. Students applying for the scholarship must be enrolled in the Dana School of Music and working towards a Bachelor of Music or B.A. in Applied Music and majoring or minoring in piano.

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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.

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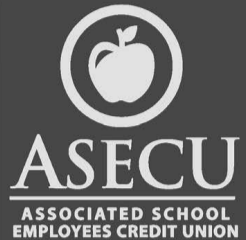
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CAMPUS VISION FRONT

"We think we can really increase and enhance the bookstore's capabilities," Tressel said.

He also formalized plans for a student success center in Jones Hall that would connect the building's third floor to the library's third floor via a 6,800 square foot walkway.

"One of the things that keeps coming up [among alumni] is that Jones Hall to them was the flagship," Tressel said. "They can always talk about what floor they were on when they studied for

this test or when they met their girlfriend."

Tressel said they want to create a one-stop support center with peer mentors, academic advisers, mental health counseling and the Center for Student Progress. This would free up space in Kilcawley Center and allow for a potential new student center in the future.

"Our student center is a little bit aged," Tressel said. "[This] will free us up to get a little bit creative."

The final major project mentioned by Tressel was the Mahoning Valley Innovation and Commercialization Center,

which would provide a laboratory for YSU, Eastern Gateway Community College, OH! Wow, Youngstown Business Incubator, local public schools and other entities. Potential funding for the project would arrive with the next state capital budget in 2018.

"We've got to prove to the state that the confidence they had in our idea, we can back up with our fundraising," Tressel said.

Other projects included a wall commemorating winners of the YSU heritage award to the north of the basketball and volleyball courts near Elm Street and a facelift coming to the Wick Avenue parking deck this summer.

PAYO FRONT

In addition, students from the Bridges Out of Poverty Student Union, the American Dental Association, Ice Hockey Club, the Honors College and SGA volunteered at the carnival.

PAYO has collected donations on campus at planned events since September. Evans said that the carnival was a success due to these promotions.

"By having at least one thing happen every month, it allowed people

to recognize the name PAYO," Evans said.

Volunteers at the carnival said that the response from the Harding students was generally positive. Ashley Orr, the co-founder of PAYO and president of SGA, said the carnival felt like Christmas morning to her.

"They're all smiles, and it's really rewarding," Orr said.

Harding families were given tickets upon entry to collect donations from the giveaway. In Harding Elementary School's cafeteria, tables were set up with more than 1,000 books, 600 nonperishable goods, 350 hygiene products and clothes from PAYO's

collections.

Orr said that the children would stop at the book table to read their new books.

"They were supposed to be moving on, but they were reading it," Orr said. "It is really nice to see them happy with something they are getting."

Evans said she would like to see the event expand further next year.

"Right now we are just impacting one elementary school, and it would be great if we could impact every single [Youngstown] elementary school," Evans said. "Ideally, my dream for next year, I would like to partner with YSU as an entire entity."

Evans hopes that PAYO can conduct a larger carnival in downtown Youngstown in the future. It would be a dream come true for Evans to involve the restaurants downtown and all YSU organizations.

The Harding Elementary School faculty were also proud of the carnival's success. Kelly Swiger, the assistant vice principal of Harding and Evans' consultant at the school, said the YSU team did a phenomenal job.

"It is unbelievably organized," Swiger said. "When I walked in to see all of the parents and families, it just brings you to tears."



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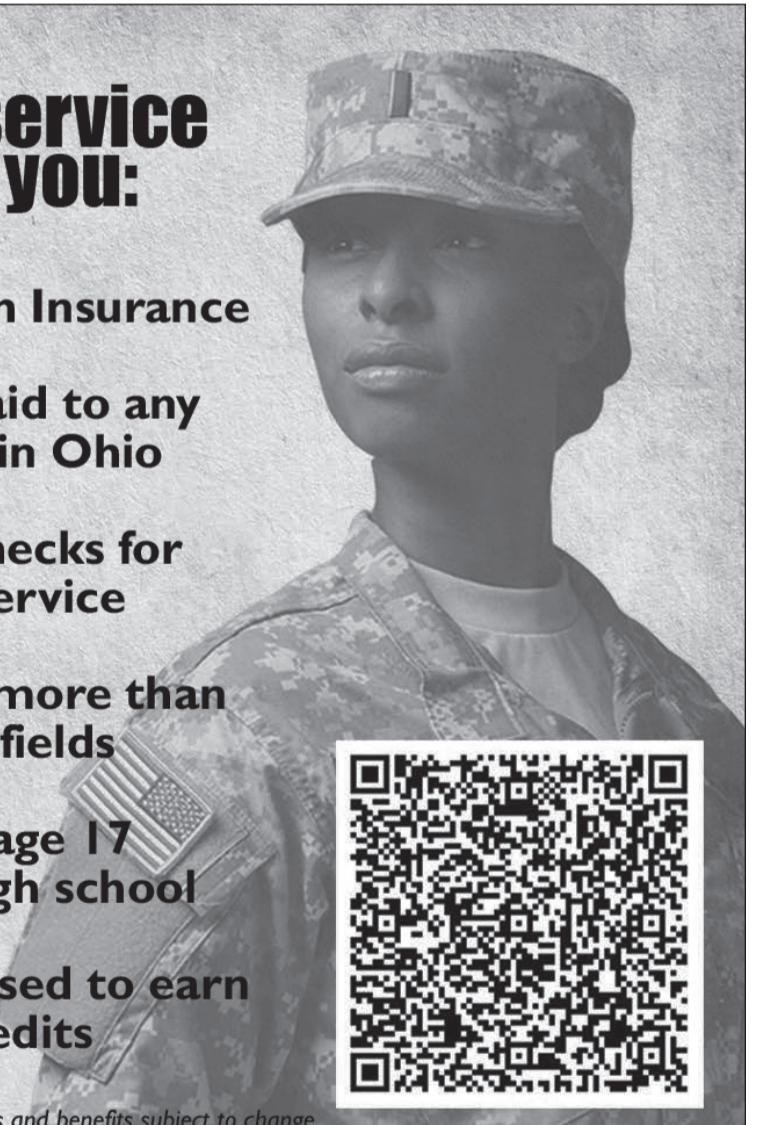
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The Bees Trees Prepare for Their Next Tour

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 PHOTO COURTESY OF: **PAUL GRILLI**

The Bees Trees, a rock and soul band from Youngstown, will be going on tour from July until early August in support of their new EP "Roots."

The Bees Trees is frontman Liam Jones on vocals and guitar, Doug Brandt on bass, Ryan Jones (no relation) on drums and Mitch Lawrence on saxophone, flute, backing vocals and keyboard. Dave Humphries, the band's fifth member, plays percussion and provides extra backing vocals at larger shows.

Ryan Jones, Doug Brandt and Liam Jones are Youngstown State University students. The band has spent the last month booking dates in eastern states in the U.S.

The tour will visit West Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

"Nothing too big; nothing too small," Liam Jones said.

The tour will lead up to one of The Bees Trees' mainstay festivals, Fusion Fest at the B&O Station in Youngstown on Aug. 13. Prior to that, Liam Jones said they're playing an important date in Cleveland opening for experimental funk group, EGi, July 22 at the Beachland Ballroom.

"We're gaining new ground, and we plan to continue gaining new ground," he said.

"Roots" was released on Christmas.

"There's less solos, and it's more about the song-writing," Liam Jones said.

Liam Jones said he writes songs for The Bees Trees, providing a lyrical structure. As the song-writing process progresses, each band member adds to a song until it's fully realized.

"The band started in July of 2011 but has seen quite a few lineup changes to get to the position we are in now," Liam Jones said. "We have gone through four drummers and three bassists to get to

the current lineup."

The Bees Trees will also be at Earlybird Music Festival at Nelson Ledges Quarry Park on April 30, which is about 30 minutes from Youngstown. Their set is at 4:30 p.m. before the Cleveland reggae rock group Tropicadelic and legendary guitarist Buckethead.

"We continue to evolve and enchant listeners. Delivering a dynamic fusion of melodies that highlights a wide range of musical influences including jazz, roots rock, reggae and Blues," Liam Jones said. "The Bees Trees delivers its unique sounds to an eclectic audience frequently performing in a variety of venues from taverns to music festivals and theaters. Our sound meshes various musical genres and appeals to an audience of all ages and styles."

"Roots" is available for purchase on iTunes and CD Baby.



PHOTO: **SCOTT WILLIAMS**

Louis Zona, the director of the Butler Art Institute of American Art, received the Youngstown State University Heritage Award on April 12. The Heritage Award is given to YSU faculty members who have given a great deal to the university by the 16-member Heritage Award Committee. Zona recently retired from his position as an art professor at YSU.

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.

Invest in What's Here

On Tuesday, Youngstown State University was hit with a bit of irony, and one student's car was hit with a bit more than that.

President Jim Tressel laid out his fantastic vision for the future of campus Tuesday morning, and later that afternoon a large piece of concrete in the Lincoln Avenue parking deck fell, damaging one car and totaling another. It appears that the parking deck the university has discussed demolishing since 2009 has grown tired of waiting.

While Tressel and the YSU Foundation are hitting up donors for millions of dollars to build 6,800 square foot space portals between Jones Hall and Maag Library, the incredible amount of maintenance the university has deferred on existing buildings is creating serious safety concerns.

We don't intend to completely dismiss Tressel's vision. Improvements to Wick and Lincoln avenues are long overdue. The collaborative manufacturing space seems like a legitimate asset, if a costly one. The new student-apartment complexes, bookstore and retail space will be privately funded in accordance with Gov. John Kasich's plan to make Youngstown the country's first completely privatized city.

But that damned space portal. Tressel estimated the YSU Foundation would need to raise \$9-10 million to fund its construction. Sure, initiatives related to retention and student success are spread

all over campus, and it would be nice if they were consolidated, but there has to be a better, cheaper, less aesthetically offensive way to achieve that.

If Jones Hall's appeal is that it looks like something out of Harry Potter, is attaching the bridge of the Star Trek Enterprise to its third floor the best way of maintaining that charm?

Still, the sheer scope of the plethora of projects Tressel outlined is overwhelming. He seemed overwhelmed, rushing from one project to the next sometimes not even stopping to complete sentences. The projects he gave fundraising estimates for require upwards of \$37 million over the next couple years, so Paul McFadden at YSU Foundation and Mike Hripko, associate vice president of Research, have their work cut out for them.

But we need to consider the opportunity costs. A collaborative manufacturing center would be a good thing, but so would lots of other things that could be done with \$20 million in foundation money and \$10 million in state funding. The crumbling parking deck is proof that we are incapable of maintaining our existing infrastructure, let alone adding to it.

If we reach out to the community and try to obtain nearly \$40 million over the next couple years to fund space portals and commercial corridors, will that make donors less likely to invest in scholarships and students in the future? Let's remember

why these buildings exist.

This trend isn't new. It began at private universities, and now it's moving to state institutions. Harvard University's annual report assessing the 2012 fiscal year warned of "rapid, disorienting change" — which accurately encapsulates Tressel's vision — and noted a "disconnect between ever-increasing aspirations and universities' ability to generate new resources to finance them."

The costs, it was determined, were passed on to students in the form of higher tuition. Even if donors fund the construction of these buildings, someone has to maintain them.

Shiny new buildings appeal to us, but we need to make sure things are in order before we expand. If we can gather together \$40 million over two years, is it better spent constructing spaceships of student success or improving conditions for the adjunct faculty students spend so much of their time with?

Repairing parking decks and improving conditions for faculty may not look great on administrative resumes, but maybe they would go farther towards fulfilling the university's mission to bring knowledge to the Valley.

Perhaps we're being overly cautious. Call us Chicken Little, but in the Lincoln Avenue parking deck, the sky really is falling.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Youngstown gives you mornings like nowhere else—if you live above the Elm Street Bridge. We all wake up and dreamily stumble to our feet, traipse through door after door, then emerge outside. Good morning, April! Minds at this point settle onto two thoughts: an excruciatingly detailed mental map of your bed and food, like pancakes. Somehow, the early morning scramble to class does not settle into a relaxing ritual, even after knocking out two-thirds of a semester.

Once outside, though, we have committed. We win! Right? A few seconds pass and small new friends begin to appear on our skin to take on the day right by our side, and everywhere else. Goosebumps! We find our lower limb moving back and forth quicker than usual, but our body moves in every other direction. Boy, does shivering makes me walk fast! Spring beauty and vitality seem to be late

to the party. Trees and blossoming flowers speckle our path, but we need something more.

Until, that is, we descend upon the Elm Street Bridge. Grey skies and the loud or soft pitter-patter of spread-out footsteps hit our senses. Who knows how many folks decided to embark on the day's journey? All I know is, time and time again, I find myself looking up at the sky while I walk. The wind wreaks its bitter vengeance instantly. Wait. Why am I cold in April? Is that snow? Why did I get out of bed?

Now, I set my gaze upon the Watson and Tressel Training Site, colloquially known as the Watts Center. Big, red and bold, the larger-than-life Y affixed to the building's façade seizes my attention. Why? Y. Why? Y. Why Y? Hm...

Granted, I do not intend for a morning in Youngstown to appear fraught with existential crises and misery, but on a cold day in April, positivity does not come a dime a dozen. Maybe a dime for every dozen dozens.

Still, I ask myself "why?" as a force of habit during this routine walk. If you have not looked at the sky, look. If you have not thought about the Y, think. If you have not taken this walk — even if it is out of your way, take it. You need to know why you are here! More than you need your warm bed or fantasies of food. More than you need a minute of small talk or cramming.

That is how I began to realize why I am here. Outdoors dare not wage its cold against me now. In my mind, the cold fades. I reflect upon my time

at YSU. Flashes of memories over hundreds of days from hundreds of angles hit me, like my perspectives of the "Y-in-the-Sky."

For instance, a memory arises me from two years ago. After half a semester of merrily mixing chemicals, my lab group enlisted a third member. I had seen him before: he worked at a campus restaurant. But I knew chemistry like the back of that Cafaro House door that I would miss dearly whenever I left for class. My program focuses on the sciences. Who needs help from someone random on campus? I did. Over one experiment, he provided insights as to the best setup of the glassware and burner in our apparatus that I never had considered, making the experimental measurements monumentally easier. More importantly, he changed my worldview, though he would never know this.

Just last week, the volunteer fair drew in the Youngstown masses with a call to action ... and perhaps free tie-dye shirts. Giddy best describes my demeanor at the event. My ears, vibrating with the frequency of the passion that each table's host displayed, floated my body around the room. And though I had not finished my rounds at the end of the event, National Volunteer Week follows this week and volunteerism never ends!

able to look at that Y and know your why.

Hari Iyer

To read the rest of this letter visit TheJambar.Com

THE JAMBAR COLUMN

Best Years of Our Lives

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

The spring semester is quickly coming to a close. Studying for finals, finishing end of semester projects and putting final touches on papers is consuming our time. With everyone living daily lives with a long to-do list these last few days of the semester, it's hard to remember not to wish these days away.

Recently, I was told that my college years will be the best years of my life, and to be quite honest, I brushed it off, knowing deep down that I wouldn't wish these hectic days on anyone. But when you think about it, it's

completely true! As high school students, we hope and wish for the days of being in college and living our lives, living in a futuristic fantasy of "adulthood" and freedom. This comes to be even truer when it comes to college. We base almost a fifth of our lives so far to learning as much as we can about a hopeful job that we want to have for the rest of our lives. Concentrating on the future so much makes us forget to live in the present.

Yes, everyone has a crazy life, working multiple jobs, having to attend classes, finishing

homework and studying, but is that really hard? We as a collegiate society have yet to understand the benefits of staying in the umbrella of freedom that college provides. The real world is scary. It isn't fun all the time, and responsibilities stack up immensely without warning the minute you enter into it. There really is no going back.

Don't wish these days away. Savor every last minute of them from the minute you wake up, to the minute you go to bed at 3 a.m. It will be worth it.

While you are sitting in your last two weeks

of classes, studying for upcoming finals and pushing until the very end, just take a few seconds out of your day and appreciate your life as it is. Right now, you most likely are on the brink of entering the real world. As much as you think the grass will be greener on the other side, it may not always be. Live in the present and appreciate all of the opportunities and great times you have in the palm of your hand. In the real world, those may or may not always be there.

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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YOUR SIDE POLICY

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.



Panthers Offense Maul Penguins

Youngstown State University's Andrew Kendrick records a putout at first base.

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

The Youngstown State University baseball team got off to a rough start against the University of Pittsburgh on Wednesday night, and things only got worse for the Penguins as they fell 17-5.

Pitt (18-14, 8-9 in the Atlantic Coast Conference) jumped out to a 6-2 lead in the top of the second inning and never looked back.

With two outs in the second inning, the Panthers combined for six runs on six hits in the second. Pitt right fielder hit a two-run triple to take the lead. Afterwards, the Panthers strung together six straight hits to keep the inning alive.

YSU (7-23, 2-9 in the Horizon League) responded in the bottom of the second inning. YSU designated hitter Andrew Kendrick started the inning with a leadoff double down the leftfield line. First baseman Gerrad Rohan followed Kendrick with a

double of his own down the leftfield line to cut the lead to 6-1. Rohan later scored on a pass ball to cut the lead to 6-2.

The Penguins got the bats going again in the bottom of the third inning. With runners on first and second, Kendrick singled into right field to drive in Web Charles.

Later in the third inning, Rohan grounded into a fielder's choice, but second baseman Billy Salem scored from third base on the play.

The Panthers tacked on another two runs in the top of the fourth inning to extend their lead to 9-4. With two outs, Manny Pazos hit a RBI double to right center field to score Nick Yarnall.

In the top of the fifth inning, Pitt second baseman David Yanni hit a two-run double to right center field to increase the Panthers' lead to 13-4.

Later in the inning, Frank Maldonado hit a RBI single up the middle. Charles Leblanc hit a two-run single to centerfield to drive in Jacob Wright and Pazos.

Pitt added some insurance runs in the final innings, and the Penguins were unable to make their way back into the game.

The Penguins will host Wright State University in the first of a three-game series. YSU will play four Horizon League games over the weekend. YSU will host another doubleheader against Oakland University on Saturday.

First pitch of game one of the Wright State series is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Friday. The first pitch of the Oakland series is scheduled for 1 p.m. on Saturday. All four games will be played at Eastwood Field.

PRESSBOX PERSPECTIVE:

Postseason Action Aplenty

DREW ZUHOSKY | DTUHOSKY@STUDENT.YSU.EDU

It's late April, and it's also a great time to be a sports fan. Baseball season is a few weeks deep, the NFL Draft is a week away, but more importantly, the NBA and Stanley Cup Playoffs are each in full swing.

As a sports fan, it's exciting to switch back and forth between the playoff games in both leagues.

By now, the conference quarterfinals in the NBA are a few games in, with the winners of those series not being known until later this weekend or early next week at the earliest, due to the staggered schedule of the NBA Playoffs in the early rounds.

For example, Game 2 of the Detroit Pistons vs. Cleveland Cavaliers series was held in Cleveland last night with Games 3 and 4 being held Friday and Sunday in Auburn Hills, Michigan. The latest a first round series can end is May 1.

This is contingent on any of the four series scheduled to wrap up next Sunday extending to and needing Game 7 — ditto for the four playoff series scheduled to play Game 7 next Saturday. Last year the first round only had one series, the San Antonio Spurs vs. the Los Angeles Clippers, go to a Game 7.

Meanwhile in the Stanley Cup Playoffs, the pro-

gression of the match-ups is quicker. We're already assured of two quarterfinals series, the Florida Panthers vs. the New York Islanders and the Pittsburgh Penguins vs. the New York Rangers, extending to at least Game 5 in the Eastern Conference bracket.

With the faster progression of the hockey postseason, Game 7's in the quarterfinals (if needed) will be played early next week, with the Anaheim Ducks vs. Nashville Predators series potentially having Game 7 this coming Wednesday.

Even more interestingly, this year's Stanley Cup Playoffs is the first time since 1970 that all playoff teams hail from American cities. Last year, five of the NHL's Canadian teams clinched playoff berths.

However, there's a huge discrepancy when it comes to the playoff television ratings in the NBA and NHL.

Game 6 of the Stanley Cup Finals last season between the Tampa Bay Lightning and Chicago Blackhawks on NBC, despite being the third-highest-rated Game 6 of a Stanley Cup Finals in 20 years, only brought in 8 million viewers June 15.

On June 16, ABC's telecast of Game 6 of the Cavs/Warriors NBA Finals was screened by 23.2

million viewers, almost triple the audience for the Stanley Cup.

Then again, the issue of television ratings doesn't matter to most viewers.

This is one of the most exciting times of the year. On a given night, LeBron James could hit the game-winning bucket in Cleveland to give the Cavs a series win or Steph Curry could score 30 points before halftime for the Warriors.

At the same time in the NHL, Sidney Crosby may score a crucial goal on a power play for the Penguins or the Detroit Red Wings might be eliminated from the playoffs after an overtime loss. The craziness just doesn't end no matter which playoff series you might be watching.

The NBA Playoffs is dramatic, exciting stuff. It's like having March Madness all over again for two months!

The Stanley Cup Playoffs is equally exciting. I like seeing the high-intensity drama unfold on the ice every year. Nothing beats that.

With that in mind, keep watching the NBA and Stanley Cup Playoffs. By June, two more champs will be crowned.

Youngstown State University students had a chance to test out the new sand volleyball court outside of Kilcawley Center since the weather improved. The construction finished in November before the fall semester ended. Several groups of students have used it over the past week.

PHOTO: DAN HINER

