



Medical Marijuana Laws are Still Hazy



“... students who are legally authorized Ohio medical marijuana users and are living in university-owned or managed housing may submit a letter with supporting documentation asking to be released from their university housing obligations.”

PHOTO BY GABRIELLE FELLOWS / THE JAMBAR

BY SAMANTHA PHILLIPS

The Youngstown State University Board of Trustees approved a resolution last month stating that YSU will enforce policies prohibiting the use of medical marijuana on campus, despite the state of Ohio legalizing medical marijuana in September 2016.

The Drug-Free Environment Policy was modified by the board to clarify that the

university will still prohibit medical marijuana from being possessed on campus or in dorms.

The December board meeting summary states, “... students who are legally authorized Ohio medical marijuana users and are living in university-owned or -managed housing may submit a letter with supporting documentation asking to be released from their university housing obligations.”

House Bill 523, which legalized medical

marijuana in the Buckeye State, creates a conflict between state and federal law, because federal laws still prohibit using any part of a cannabis plant for medicinal purposes.

Cindy Kravitz, director of Equal Opportunity and Policy Development, explained that the university must follow federal laws to protect its federal funding, and they must establish and enforce clear policies on marijuana.

“If you don’t comply with the Drug-Free

Schools and Communities and Controlled Substances Act, the university could lose all its federal funding, meaning grants, research money and financing,” Kravitz said.

Even in states like Colorado, where marijuana use is liberal, public universities still ban the drug so they can preserve their federal funding, she said.

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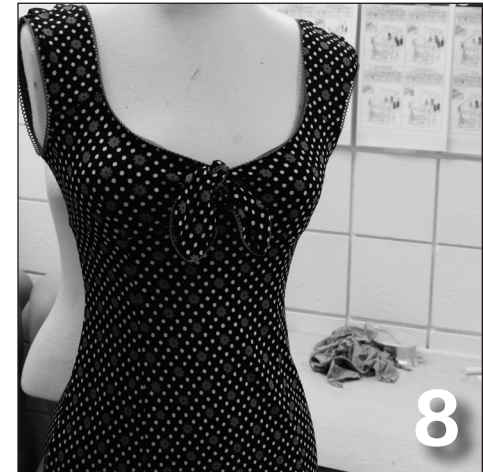
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Renowned Violinist Performs at Purple Cat



PHOTO BY JORDAN UNGER/ THE JAMBAR

BY JORDAN UNGER

Touring musician and songwriter Gaelynn Lea performed at the variety show held by Golden String Radio at the Morley Theater on Tuesday.

Lea won NPR Music's Tiny Desk Contest in 2016, when her original song "Someday We'll Linger in the Sun" was chosen over 6,000 musicians' submissions. Lea is trained in violin, which she said has been her instrument of choice since she was 10 years old.

"I love the sound of it," Lea said. "I love the sound of strings; I like the versatility of what you can make it do and it's just something that I've been playing for a long time."

Golden Strings Radio, a radio station run by adults with disabilities, organized the event with Purple Cat Productions. Lea, an activist and public speaker for disability rights, said she was pleased to perform at the variety show.

"Performing by itself is just about connecting with the audience and helping to create something that they can relate to and that they enjoy," Lea said. "When I get to do things like speaking and disability rights, that's sort of a separate thing for me where I can help hopefully promote rights for people with disabilities."

Purple Cat is a day-time habilitation program for adults with disabilities. Jim Sutman, DJ at Golden String Radio, said the program offers disabled adults jobs in various disciplines, such as cooking, farming and the arts.

"Our philosophy is it's all about choice," Sutman said. "Maybe this year they want to work in a restaurant and next year they want to work on a farm."

Adults involved at Purple Cat are paid at least minimum wage, varying from all ranges of hours depending on the disability case.

The Purple Cat Music Class performed in the va-

riety show as well, where the group played instruments and vocals to original music.

Amy Rigby, the events coordinator and supervisor of Purple Cat Productions, said the performance was the smoothest that they have ever put on, regardless of it being short notice.

"I really quickly thought of everything I do for a play or production and mushed it into one month," Rigby said. "I couldn't have asked for anything better."

This was the fourth public performance for Purple Cat Productions. Sutman said they perform once per year, typically the performances being plays.

"We do anything that the Youngstown Playhouse would do at a slower pace," Sutman said.

Previous performances have been play productions, including Alice in Wonderland and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. Rigby said she started Purple Cat Productions in 2013.

"I started small just to see what we could do and because they were so talented and they could do everything that I threw at them ... I was like, 'Oh my gosh, can we get the Playhouse?' and we did," Rigby said.

Purple Cat Productions had a full house when they performed at the Playhouse. Rigby said she is proud of how far the performers have come and challenges them to excel even further.

"There are some [performers] that wouldn't get up in front of an audience in a million, trillion years, let alone get up in front of a spotlight," Rigby said. "I'm almost crying every time I put on a production."

Sutman said the performances are a great way for people in Purple Cat to express themselves.

"Somebody with a disability may not be able to tell you their philosophy, so you really find out a lot about what they're doing through their art," Sutman said.

MARAJUANA FRONT

Carole Weimer, board member, said other public universities are dealing with the conflicting legislations as well. She said she is concerned that students might wrongfully think people can smoke marijuana for medicinal reasons before getting a prescription.

"Because it's a new law, there will be challenges in interpreting it," she said. "We have to make sure it's enforced appropriately. ... We can't have people standing outside Kilcawley smoking

weed."

Another conflict is that although HB 523 legalized medical marijuana in Ohio, there is no legal way to access the drug. Under the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act, it is illegal to grow cannabis or transport it from other states, and there are no licensed medical marijuana dispensaries in Ohio.

It may be another year until patients in Ohio can access medical marijuana, which makes possessing the drug at YSU illegal, according to Cleveland.com.

Weimer said when doctors begin prescribing medical mar-

ijuana to patients, YSU's policy will allow students to ingest the edibles or oils at home, but they still must steer clear of having it on campus or in dorms.

"That would probably affect students living on campus," she said. "They can't have it in their possession and use it on campus, because it's still federally prohibited."

Public Ohio universities are reluctant to establish policies that allow medicinal marijuana because there have been no cases to set a precedent since the law is new.

Kelly Beers, director of Stu-

dent Code of Conduct, said the law gives someone who is caught possessing marijuana an affirmative defense in court.

"Legalized marijuana has never really been 'allowed' under federal law, but HB 523 gives someone in possession a positive defense," she said. "But we can't supersede the federal law."


Students caught possessing, using or distributing marijuana for medicinal reasons will be punished under the federal law. Beers said the punishment will depend on how much marijuana the student has and how the police handle the case. Punish-

ments range from probation to expulsion.

Some students, such as Hannah Jefferson, a literature major, said she doesn't see a problem with prohibiting smoking the drug on campus because it could affect other people, but she thinks it should be allowed in some forms.

"As far as edibles, pills or other forms go, it's not the school's business," she said.

Jefferson said she is concerned because she believes the prohibition could lead to banning prescriptions like antidepressants, which can also be abused.



Mean Memes and Cyberbullying

PHOTO BY ALYSSA PFLUG / THE JAMBAR

BY JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ

With social media at an all-time high, there is access to tons of funny pictures, videos and posts. But when does innocent joking turn into online bullying?

The definition of a meme is “a humorous image, video, piece of text, etc., that is copied and spread rapidly by Internet users.”

Many times these pictures and videos use an individual as the source of the joke, poking fun at that person’s physical flaws or appearance.

So is it overreacting to think these “jokes” are a form of bullying?

In 2016 Lizzie Velasquez, who suffers from a rare congenital disease that prevents her from gaining weight, wrote a statement on her Instagram page after becoming the face of a viral meme naming her “the ugliest woman in the world.”

Velasquez wrote, “Yes, it’s very late at night as I type this, but I do so as a reminder that the innocent people that are being put in these memes are probably up just as late, scrolling through Facebook and feeling something that I wouldn’t wish on my worst enemy.”

Velasquez has channeled the negativity she has received from others toward motivational speaking and is now an anti-bullying advocate.

She went on to write, “At the time you might find it hilarious, but the human in the photo is probably feeling the exact opposite.”

Dr. Ann Jaronski, the director of Student Counseling at Youngstown State University, said she has talked

to many students who have experienced bullying at a younger age and still live with the effects.

According to Dr. Jaronski, bullying in the classroom and behind a screen in an adolescent’s life can lead to low self-esteem, poor self-concepts and can even impact a student’s grades and interpersonal relationships.

Teens are not the only ones to experience cyberbullying. Adults experience cyberbullying as well, commonly referred to as cyber harassment or cyber stalking.

Brandy Vela was only 18 years old when she shot and killed herself in front of her parents after being harassed online. The harassment didn’t end there, the bullying continued after her death.

A fake Facebook profile was made using Vela’s name and image. Family and friends added the Facebook page thinking it was a memorial, but were quickly shown otherwise.

According to CNN, the person behind the page created cruel statuses and memes. One meme was a picture of Vela with the caption, “My face when you shoot yourself in front of your family.”

Since these posts are traceable, the culprits behind it will face criminal charges.

Tara Sydney, a coordinator at the Center for Student Progress, said there are state laws against harassment that could apply to online bullying.

According to Sydney, there is a certain criteria used to define bullying.

“It has to be deliberate, it has to be repetitive, something that keeps happening over and over again,” Sydney said. “Also, there is an imbalance of power.”

Under the Ohio revised code, “menacing by stalking” is considered a first degree misdemeanor or a fourth degree

felony depending on the charge. Menacing by stalking consists of knowingly causing another person to believe you will physically harm them or knowingly causing another person mental distress.

If you are a victim of harassment or cyberbullying, it may seem there is no escaping it. In today’s cyber-centric world, the ability to share a post or photo is not only endless but timeless.

“If you get bullied at school or work it stops there – you can leave for a little bit and have some freedom, but online is 24-hours a day, nonstop,” Sydney said.

Still, there are ways to cope with it.

Jaronski has several recommendations for coping with bullying, such as blocking the person online and talking to a trusted friend.

Brian Wells, Senior Academic Advisor at YSU, said he has deleted social media friends in the past after seeing their cruel posts. He even feels deleting social media completely can sometimes be a good thing.

“Getting rid of social media can help you avoid the effects of bullying,” Wells said.

Wells is an anti-bullying advocate and the lead coordinator for the YSU Safe Zone, a program designed to help combat bullying and harassment on campus.

“We as people need to not be afraid to say ‘this isn’t cool,’” Wells said. “We need to speak up.”

If you are being bullied or harassed, there are people who want to help. Talk to your family, friends or reach out to a YSU counselor in the office of counseling services located in Jones Hall.



A Star Among Us YSU Student Lands Another Minor Role in a Major Film

PHOTO BY JORDAN UNGER / THE JAMBAR

BY JORDAN UNGER

A Youngstown State University student hit the big screen on Friday, appearing in the horror film “The Bye Bye Man.”

Laura Hughes, a communications major, plays a character in the film. She has been an extra in eight other films, but this was the first major film where she played a featured role.

“This is the longest screen time that I’ve ever had,” Hughes said.

Going in, Hughes said she knew nothing about “The Bye Bye Man” aside from the title.

“You have to kind of piece it together on your own, especially me going in as an extra and getting a featured part, I had to figure out a storyline of some sort to get into character,” she said.

Hughes appears in eight scenes of the film and said it’s unbelievable how many times a scene has to be filmed before moving on to the next.

“The first scene of ‘The Bye Bye Man’ that I was in was

a party scene,” Hughes said. “They switched it up, but I was in that room for a hundred different scenes.”

This has been the case in all films Hughes has acted in, including her portrayal as a zombie in “Night of the Living Dead: Rebirth.”

“I had to eat some guy’s leg for like three hours,” Hughes said. “It’s insane the amount of times they record stuff just because of one little tiny thing in the background.”

Hughes began appearing as an extra in films when she was 15 years old. The films varied in size, from low-budget independent films to massive productions such as “Fast and Furious 8.”

“In the first movie I was in, I met a lot of awesome people who got me involved in other agencies for other movies,” Hughes said.

Minor roles in high-budget films still get the star treatment, such as having hair and make-up done by professional stylists and artists, Hughes said.

“You get treated like royalty no matter what your part is,” Hughes said. “You go in expecting nothing, so when you get more, it feels better.”

Hughes met various actors from the films she’s worked

on, including Will Smith on the set of “Concussion.” She said she expected the actors to be unfriendly in real life, but has been pleasantly surprised.

“You would think they are [rude] just because that’s the way people imagine them to be and they’re not,” Hughes said. “Will Smith is absolutely awesome.”

Hughes attended “The Bye Bye Man” premiere and was pleased by the finished product.

“Unless you’re on set the whole time, you don’t even know what’s next in the movie because half the time they film them backwards,” Hughes said. “Seeing it all come together, I was really impressed.”

She said she would like to be an extra in more films in the future, but she isn’t looking for a career in acting at this point.

“I love doing it, but at this point in my life I’m more promised a career going to school unless someone actually confronted me,” Hughes said.

People have been very supportive of her role in the film, something that Hughes did not expect.

“It’s nice to get the support now,” Hughes said. “I feel like the more support you get, it’s going to go a long way and might get me more publicity in the future.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF DUSTIN LIVESAY

Freshman Nikki Mendez throws her ball down the lane in their last tournament with her teammates on looking in the background.

Surprising Themselves: Women's Bowling Set to Begin the 2017 Season

BY RICK HENNEMAN

The Youngstown State University women's bowling team will play at their first invitational of 2017 this weekend at the KU Invitational on Jan. 20-22 in Kutztown, Pennsylvania.

The 2016-2017 season is the inaugural season for Penguins bowling and YSU head coach Chelsea Gilliam is looking forward to beginning the program.

"It's great," she said. "Last year was very nerve-racking at first because it was something that no one around here knew what went into it. It was a lot of unknowns last year but it has been exciting. Now I get to be a part of something that will go on forever. The first team gets to be the history of the program."

Gilliam was named as head coach in September 2015 and had one year to recruit and secure a roster for this season. She was also tasked with setting up a schedule for this year and finding a bowling lane for team practices. Gilliam said that she is very impressed with the women on her first roster.

"Overall I think we have done very well," Gilliam said. "We have eight girls now, six freshmen and two sophomores. They are doing great. I am very happy with where we are right now for a first year program. I am look-

ing forward to seeing how this semester goes."

YSU had their first matches of the season starting back in October and the Penguins managed to beat some of the best teams in the country, including a win over #2 ranked Sam Houston State. Gilliam was surprised by how the team performed early in the season.

"They surprised me actually," she said. "The very first match I told them that my goal for us was the top 10 for each day and they were sixth both days. Right off the bat they were already doing better than I initially expected."

Freshman Nikki Mendez has led the Penguins so far this year with numerous team-highs including total pins (2876), average score (191.7) and eight games over 200. Mendez said that she is happy with her performances so far this season.

"I didn't have too many expectations for myself," Mendez said. "I just wanted to do good for myself personally. I think I have been, so I am pretty happy with how I've been playing."

Mendez was a four-year varsity letterwinner and led her team to an Illinois state title in high school. She explained that competition at the college level is a different story.

"In Illinois, there is a lot of competition," Mendez said. "Sometimes you get people who

are stars. In college, everyone is a star. It's cool because there is a lot more competition and it is intense. You are with the best of the best."

YSU freshman Alexis Grim, a Boardman native, also had a successful high school career. She placed 15th in the 2015 Ohio State Championship and was named the Vindicator Girls Bowling Athlete of the Year. Grim said that at the beginning of the season the travel and competition was difficult but now she looks forward to it.

"At first it was really overwhelming but now we are really excited to see new things and go to places we never could have in high school."

The Penguins are about to enter the bulk of their schedule but Gilliam said that she hasn't changed her mindset for the remainder of the season.

"I don't know if I have really changed my expectations much," Gilliam said. "It's just pushing them harder now that I see what they are able to do."

The Penguins have yet to break into the top 25 of national rankings but sit just outside the top 25 after receiving votes for the poll.

After this weekend's KU invitational, YSU will next travel to Texas for the Stephen F. Austin Stormin' Ladyjack Invitational on February 10.

Students in Training

Students Participate in Army and Air Force ROTC

BY JORDAN UNGER

It's no question that all college students face stress from time to time due to balancing school work, jobs and other obligations. Students participating in the Army ROTC on campus and Air Force ROTC at Kent State University are no exception.

The Reserve Officers' Training Corps are programs offered to Youngstown State University students to learn leadership skills and become commissioned officers in the U.S. Army or U.S. Air Force. Army ROTC is offered at YSU and Air Force ROTC is offered at KSU.

ROTC and AFROTC are four year programs with approximately 22 credit hours. Amanda Scott, a flight commander in the AFROTC, said the first two years revolve around learning the basics of the Air Force.

"It's learning military courtesies and just trying to get you used to the language and the culture of it," Scott said.

The Air Force program varies from physical training to aerospace courses and hands-on activities. Ryan Slavic, Leadership Deputy Flight Commander, said cadets are also required to take leadership lab courses every semester.

"A lot of our focus this semester in leadership is drill," Slavic said. "We're also focusing on getting our second-year cadets ready to go to field training, so a lot of what we're focusing on this semester is customs and courtesies related to field training."

Army ROTC students also take leadership lab, as well as military science courses. Zachary Szweczyk, a cadet in the Army ROTC

at YSU, said all cadets participate in the 90-minute labs each week.

"We do practical, hands-on exercises where we apply the skills and lessons we learn in the Military Science classes, in as realistic a training environment as possible," Szweczyk said.

Slavic said the AFROTC program offers nonstandard leadership labs, which include water survival training and visiting military bases.

"It's not like the normal military training," Slavic said. "It's not guaranteed what we'll do each semester, but we always try to switch it up and get a well-rounded experience with what time we have."

Nicholas Matsukas, an AFROTC cadet, said the non-standard leadership lab activities were unexpected.

"We went to Akron State University and used their pool to practice water survival techniques while still in our airman battle uniforms," Matsukas said.

As students progress through the program, they acquire more responsibilities. Scott is entitled to be in charge of a group of Army and Air Force cadets this year, which she has enjoyed so far.

"I love it," Scott said. "So far this has been my favorite year because I love being in charge of cadets and being able to help them through, whether it's school issues or ROTC issues. It's a great opportunity to help them grow."

The amount of time dedicated to ROTC also depends on how far a student is in the program. Daniel Rivera, vice wing commander in the AFROTC, said cadets start with at least four or five hours of dedication and progressively in-

crease.

"I'm devoting [what] I would guess around 15 hours a week just coordinating, planning and different things at a different level of leadership," Rivera said.

Air Force students must commute to Kent State each week for AFROTC. Rivera said balancing schoolwork and training can be difficult.

"It used to be really difficult," Rivera said. "If you're not good with prioritizing, if you're not good with time management ... it's really rough."

Szweczyk said this is one of the greatest challenges for him.

"In ROTC, school always comes first," Szweczyk said. "In practice, though, it's a much more difficult balance when your peers are counting on you. It's tough to prioritize school in situations like that."

Time management is one of the key factors to keep in mind as a new cadet, Scott said.

"Learn to balance between social life, school life, work life and be able to also get out and exercise not only for your physical wellbeing but also just getting rid of stress and helping you cope with things," Scott said.

Keeping a weekly schedule helps keep everything on track while balancing obligations, Rivera said.

"It takes the pressure off your mind and makes things more manageable," Rivera said.

It is important to keep your ears open and learn everything that you can when starting out, Rivera said.

"It's going to be a challenge for somebody who's thinking about joining, but it's greatly beneficial if you go with the right mentality," Rivera said.

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Future Fashion Fads

PHOTO BY ALYSSA PFLUG / THE JAMBAR

BY AMANDA LEHNERD

The Youngstown State University fashion merchandising program exposes students to an interdisciplinary and global perspective to the business side of fashion apparel. The students acquire the skills and knowledge for apparel industries. These skills include merchandising, retailing and distribution, computer applications in textiles and apparel, product development and appraisal skills.

Some of the students in the fashion merchandising program took the time to share what they feel are the top trends of the season for students at YSU.

Emily Wright said the '90s are back — the current and future trends of the season portray popular looks from the '90s.

"Everything from chokers, flowy blouses and suede being used on denim and tops resembles a '90s feel," Wright said. "What makes up a trend is what's hip or popular at a certain point in time."

Many of these looks hit the runway first and trickle down to street fashions. The trickle-down effect is a model of product adoption in marketing that affects many consumer goods and services.

"It states that fashion flows vertically from the upper classes to the lower classes within society," Wright said. "Each social class is influenced by a higher social class."

Nicholas Phillips stated a lot of the trends he loves come from what he sees in the mainstream media, music artist, movies, magazines and ads. He gets inspiration from all over.

"When it comes to inspiration, you start to lose sight of individuality because you'll see what someone has and you'll forget that they are famous," Phillips said. "Many times you'll think 'I want that belt because they have it,' when in reality you need to work around your budget; trends like that fade overnight anyways."

Individuality branches from the colors you like to the material and cut of the clothing that compliments your shape.

"A lot of brands push the envelope because they say what's popular and what's in when those brands are popular and in," Phillips said. "When it comes to individuality, don't worry so much about the brand, but worry about what compliments who you are because you can always find similar clothing and make it your own style."

Some of the current popular trends can easily be adapted to one's own style. One can keep their own individual style by implementing these trends with their current style.

Chokers

Chokers have been a huge hit this fall and are continuing to be worn through the spring season.

"Anything from suede choker wraps to solid black. Whether it's going out and using it as a statement piece, chokers are the must have piece this spring," Wright said. "Girls are copying this trend from the popular Victoria's Secret ads with models rocking the choker look with their athletic wear."

Blouses

Blouses are appearing in stores like Zara, H&M and Forever 21. Sheer blouses and vertical seaside printed stripe blouses are making an appearance this spring.

"They do a twist from their original arrival. This time

we see these styles with a cold shoulder sleeve," Wright said. "College girls are ... using these styles for going out, and they are pairing these trends with the chokers or thigh high boots."

Suede

We see suede on denim, jackets, skirts and chokers. Several designers employed suede on skirts and dresses. Suede is leather with the flesh side rubbed to make a velvety nap.

"The beauty of this trend lies in its softness," Wright said. "A popular look would be the suede skirt. A simplistic suede skirt, paired with a white tee and an adorable cable knit cardigan. Wear this style with or without tights for an adapted and weather suitable look."

Many stores carry trendy clothing, yet many students can't afford to shop at top name brand stores on a college budget. Students can look to alternate clothing stores to find essential pieces that fit the current trends.

"If I'm on a budget, I'll head to the Salvation Army or Gabriel Brothers, and I'll find things with potential," Phillips said. "From there I'll head home, and I'll grab some scissors and paint and begin putting my individuality into the clothing."

In the end, what matters in fashion is wearing what you love with confidence.

"When it comes to wearing what you love, don't worry so much about the brand or where it came from," Phillips said. "Youngstown isn't a place that cares about the way people dress, and the final idea is staying true to yourself and wearing what you want even if all of Youngstown doesn't care."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX WEBB

Q&A With La Calle Artist Alex Webb

BY GABE GARCIA

This Friday, The McDonough Museum of Art will host Alex Webb's exhibit "La Calle," with a public reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Webb, an award-winning photographer, has ventured throughout Mexico City and surrounding areas to compile a series of photographs. "La Calle" brings together photos taken between 1978 and 2007, nearly 30 years of photography. Webb frequently credits the landscapes and cityscapes of Mexico for prompting his shift to color photography. The exhibit will be on display until March 3.

Q1: What camera did you use to take all of these photographs in the exhibit?

A: Mostly a Leica Rangefinder.

Q2: What was your inspiration for *La Calle*?

A: The exhibition came out of my decision to do a book of some 30 years of photographing in Mexico. It seemed like the right time to bring this particular body of work out into the world.

Q3: How many other museums are showing your exhibit beside the McDonough Museum? Are there any outside of the U.S.?

A: The show opened at the Aperture Foundation in New York, and then went to the Eterton Gallery in Tucson. I'm not sure where else it will go in the U.S. over the next two years, Aperture is traveling the show, but eventually it will go to Mexico. I am told it would go to four museums in Mexico: tentatively the Museum of Modern Art in Mexico, Marco in Monterrey, The Tijuana Cultural Center and a new museum in Puebla. But I have not had

confirmation of the date of the tour. The photographs will ultimately end up residing at the Televisa Foundation in Mexico City.

Q4: Who are the people in the photographs that were taken? Do you know any of their stories?

A: These photographs deal with elusive, often suggestive moments in the streets. Whatever "stories" there are in them lie embedded in the often complex and ambiguous photographs themselves. Each viewer, depending on who they are, potentially discovers different "stories" in these photographs.

Q5: Are you able to explain the significance behind the title of the exhibit?

A: The title refers to Octavio Paz's noted poem, "The Street," in which he invokes a kind of existential loneliness on the street. But equally importantly, the title emphasizes that these are photographs from the streets of Mexico. Street photography has a long and revered tradition in the history of photography — from Kertesz and Cartier-Bresson to Frank and Friedlander — and this work belongs to that tradition.

Q6: Knowing what you know now, is there anything you wish you could say to yourself when you first started out as a photographer?

A: Being a photographer is sometimes difficult. It can be lonely, often unrewarding regarding recognition, and financially uncertain. However, it has allowed me to explore the world visually on my own terms, creating books and exhibitions that I deeply believe in. I don't know what else I could have done with my life that would have fulfilled me quite the same way.

US Agency Sues Nation's Largest Student-loan Servicer, Accusing it of Cheating Borrowers

BY ANDREW KHOURI
LOS ANGELES TIMES (TNS)

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau sued the nation's largest servicer of student loans Wednesday, alleging that Navient Corp. cheated borrowers, resulting in higher payments for Americans struggling to pay back their student loans.

The federal consumer agency said that Navient, formerly part of Sallie Mae, "failed to provide the most basic functions of adequate student loan servicing at every stage of repayment for both private and federal loans."

Navient, the agency claimed, provided student borrowers with inaccurate information, ignored complaints and processed payments incorrectly.

"For years, Navient failed consumers who counted on the company to help give them a fair chance to pay back their

student loans," bureau director Richard Cordray said in a statement. "At every stage of repayment, Navient chose to shortcut and deceive consumers to save on operating costs. Too many borrowers paid more for their loans because Navient illegally cheated them and today's action seeks to hold them accountable."

The lawsuit claims that Navient violated the Dodd-Frank reform act, the Fair Credit Reporting Act and the Fair Debt Collections Practices Act. The agency is seeking redress for borrowers harmed by the practices and to prevent any future harm.

In response, Navient called the bureau's allegations "unfounded" and questioned the timing of Wednesday's lawsuit, noting it came just days before the Obama administration is set to leave office.

"The timing of this lawsuit — midnight action filed on the eve of a new administration — reflects their political motivations," the company said in a

statement posted on its website.

The filing of the lawsuit comes during a flurry of new rules and regulations in the waning days of the Obama administration and as the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is likely to come under renewed threat from long-time Republican critics, who have complained the bureau holds too much power over financial products, and that its attempts to help consumers have led to restricted access to credit.

Some Republican senators have even asked President-elect Donald Trump to remove Cordray as director, which would likely set up a legal showdown over Trump's right to do so.

Consumer advocates have praised the agency for its aggressive actions, including Wednesday's suit against Navient.

"The action by the CFPB against Navient demonstrates the importance of having a strong and independent consumer watchdog on the side of students and working families," said Per-

sis Yu, director of National Consumer Law Center's student loan borrower assistance project. "We call on President-elect Trump to reject calls from Wall Street to fire CFPB Director Richard Cordray or to weaken the consumer watchdog."

In its lawsuit, the consumer agency specifically alleged that Navient misapplied or misallocated borrowers' payments and steered struggling borrowers into payment options that saddled them with higher costs.

Navient also did not provide enough information on critical deadlines to renew income-driven repayment plans that lowered costs, the agency claimed. That caused students to miss enrollment, which "could have caused their monthly payments to jump by hundreds or even thousands of dollars," the bureau said in a news release.

Navient services private and federal loans for more than 12 million borrowers, according to the agency.



Campus Construction Continues



PHOTOS BY ALYSSA PFLUG / THE JAMBAR

With Wick Avenue construction underway and no possible way to cross the street, students are encouraged to take alternate routes to access the campus core from the Wick parking deck, Bliss Hall and Meshel Hall. While the construction makes it difficult for students to get to their classes on the main part of campus, it is said students can expect construction to be finished up in 2018.

The Jambar Column

Why Shanghai is like a Monet

BY JILLIAN SMITH

I once saw the painting “Water Lilies” by Monet on display in a museum. The piece was comprised of hundreds and thousands of tiny swirling dashes of color that all seemed to swim about the canvas like drunken fish. Up close, those dashes of color made the painting chaotic and almost overwhelming. Once I stepped back, though, all of those dashes suddenly made my eyes lock to a pattern that revealed the elegant water lilies Monet sought to capture. This is how I felt when I arrived in Shanghai.

It would be an understatement to say that Shanghai is overwhelming. As the most populous city in the world, and the most populous country on earth, it is a city that makes you realize how big humanity is and how small you are as a human. Motion seems to never stop. People snake around you in a neat constant mass on foot. They zoom past you on bikes and scooters. And they downright nearly kill you in cars.

Shanghai is a city of contradictions. A super modern, ultra sleek skyline greets visitors. Some of the visitors may have come in on one of the world’s fastest trains (it goes 30 miles in seven minutes). The next street over, though, provides bent old men hawking raw seafood in stalls and bartering in the way residents of this city have done for centuries.

I got coffee at a Starbucks in a chic luxury-shopping plaza. Here, it was hard to believe I wasn’t in America. While I never knew China before, it was evident that it had gone through a significant change. Communism seemed almost like an afterthought as commerce whirled all around me. People of middle and upper class echelons bought designer labels and snacked at upscale Haagen-Dazs with the enthusiasm of the nouveau riche.

Later, dinner at a dumpling stall on Yanchang Road was a markedly different experience. Warming my hands over the steamer, at the corner of a street where people have no problem pushing

each other aside roughly to get out of the way of a rogue scooter, a young woman solemnly rolled up the dough with meat and spices with her bare hands. The dingy stall had poor lighting and I questioned the safety of my choice, but let me tell you that dumpling was delicious.

The diversity of the city is also dizzying. I had this idea in my mind that the city would be Chinese only. I was instead shocked to find Indians, Norwegians, Russians and Nigerians all on my first day in the city. Islam has been in Shanghai for over 700 years, the vibrant Jewish community has established synagogues all over and the French Concession is home to a strong Catholic tradition.

Walking the streets of the city, it was hard not to go into information overload. There are massive Chinese characters from an eye level that display a web of unintelligible red streaks. People shout and push past each other in a language that makes unaccustomed western ears feel numb. Dogs and cats run underfoot, Google Maps just doesn’t work and the streets are laid out in a network that is an affront to my grid pattern accustomed sensibilities.

But as I step outside of myself and observe Shanghai for what she is, I can’t help but admire the design of her form. There is orderliness to this chaos. There is, contained within all of the movement, a startling moment of clarity in seeing the patterns of human life being played out on such a grand scale.

Here is an ancient city that supports more than 24 million people. Here is a place that is brimming with the life energy of a massive piece of humanity, each day hosting that humanity’s respirations, thoughts and actions. Here is a place where the elderly grandmother practices Tai Chi while facing the Huangpu River. Across the street, a young businessman can talk brusquely on his iPhone. It is a place where a Brazilian can get Turkish goods while meeting his Australian counterpart.

Welcome and join me as I spend the next four months digging into this fascinating Monet painting.

Editorial

Let’s Be Blunt: Prescription Marijuana Okay in Ohio, Not Okay on Campus

In December, Youngstown State University’s Board of Trustees voted to keep medical marijuana off-campus in and out of dorms, which may displace students that have prescriptions for marijuana because housing them on-campus would violate the drug-free campus policies set forth by the federal government.

The question of how to handle medical marijuana, especially in public places, has been debated for decades. In recent years, states have legalized pot for medical use, but the federal government has remained reluctant to recognize marijuana as anything other than an illegal pastime.

States are now instituting the medical marijuana laws in almost every local election cycle. But a new problem has emerged that puts public institutions, such as colleges, in the dead center of the controversy.

What do public institutions that need to follow federal laws to receive funding do about medical marijuana? Specifically, are universities supposed to accommodate students who live on campus that have a prescription for medical marijuana?

Colleges and universities need to follow the Controlled Substances Act and the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989, which means students, faculty and staff are banned from possessing, distributing or using pot while on campus property or while participating in university functions.

So while Ohio recently legalized medical marijuana, Ohio universities technically did not.

Students attending YSU with a prescription for medical marijuana will be required to show proof of their condition and request removal from the housing program.

Say an out-of-state student received a scholarship to attend YSU. The scholarship allowed them to have their tuition paid for including room and board. Then, let’s say that student gets cancer. Their doctor prescribes them medical marijuana to hopefully increase their appetite while they’re going through chemo.

They bring their note saying they have

cancer to the housing staff and are asked to evacuate their room. See the problem?

YSU is allowing students to use the oils and edibles associated with marijuana, but students aren’t allowed to possess them on campus. You can have your prescribed Mary Jane, but don’t keep it in your dorm and don’t expect to use it on campus.

No one here is advocating for students with prescriptions to smoke a blunt, leave for class and hope to participate in school like everyone else.

There are some doctors who won’t touch medicinal pot since it carries so much controversy.

For students with legitimate medical problems, though, there should be a solution that doesn’t involve making them evacuate their dorm. If their illness is serious enough for a medical professional to prescribe Mary Jane, they should be allowed to take it.

The outdated federal laws are handcuffing administrators and decision makers across the country, forcing them to choose between the health of their students and the monetary wellbeing of their university.

The Board of Trustees and the administration can’t be blamed for following federal law, but the fact that the university decided to follow the status quo without a solution for housing these students needs to be addressed.

Ohio is still trying to figure out its own medical marijuana laws and no one can possess a prescription for another year, so YSU still has time to find an answer to the dilemma.

As time passes and universities across the state get more accustomed to the new laws, figuring out a way to house students with medical marijuana prescriptions will become an issue a lot of universities will have to handle head on.

Colleges and universities normally pride themselves on the success and safety of their students, but can that really be achieved if the students are being punished for their health by getting forced out of their dorms?

Letter to The Editor

JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published 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.

OUR SIDE POLICY

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.

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.

Throughout the election, you may have heard people say that Trump is a "trigger," and have ignored these statements as nothing more than the bemoaning of liberals. However, as one of the millions of American who have been forced to relive traumatic memories by Trump's meteoric rise to power, I am well-acquainted with the fear and powerlessness so many of us felt.

I am with you. I wept with you when it seemed that hatred and bigotry won — love lost. As so many of us were forced to do, I needed to mourn for what we had lost; and to come to terms with the fact that we were still not able to crack that highest and most impenetrable glass ceiling. However, what remains equally true are the millions of strides forward we have taken as a nation.

We need not be discouraged by the distance left to cover when we look back at how far we have come. When we stand together, the beauty of the indomitable human spirit is revealed, and we stand by one another, striving, struggling, but never ceasing to move forward.

In our lifetime alone, we have witnessed America elect its first African-American president. We have witnessed the first woman in American history run for president on a major party ticket ... and she won the popular vote in doing so. On June 26, 2015, our nation's highest court ruled that love is love and that love always wins.

While our incoming president nonchalantly used the language of sexual assault, and so many of us were re-victimized, survivors everywhere broke the silence and bravely shared our stories in an overwhelming response of love. Courage, hope, tenacity — these things have not been lost. Now is not the time to despair. We can cry and mourn, but we must not give up. Not now, not ever.

No matter who we are, where we have come from, who we love, or what we have been through, each one of us has a place and a purpose in this country. Our differences not only make us strong, they make us who we are.

Do not think, even for a moment that we do not matter. We are the future, and we are powerful beyond measure. Moving

forward requires the unmitigated courage to hope in a world giving us so little reason to do so.

To all the survivors who have been triggered by this election, know that you are not alone, even on the darkest nights. When it feels as if every tabloid or news feed contains the doppelganger of our abuser never forget the unmitigated beauty and stunning courage which is your truth. We have survived, and we will take every step forward, unified and empowered in the knowledge that our stories, our hopes and our dreams matter, because we matter.

Let us fill our community and our campus each day with the overwhelming conviction that love still trumps hate. No matter what. Stay hopeful Youngstown, and fight on.

MARISSA GRAY
YSU STUDENT



By: L. A. Bonté

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PHOTO BY RICK HENNEMAN / THE JAMBAR

Francisco Santiago (23) drives for a layup with Tai Odiase (21) and K.J. Santos (2) defending.

YSU Looks to End Losing Streak at Green Bay

BY RICK HENNEMAN

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team (8-12, 2-5 Horizon League) will face University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (11-7, 5-1 HL) for the second time this season on Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. The first game ended in disappointment for the Penguins when they fell to the Phoenix 90-77 on New Year's Eve.

The game against Green Bay will be the second of three away games within a six-day stretch. YSU head coach Jerry Slocum said that he has been looking at this week on the schedule since the summer.

"In the middle of the summer, I knew this would be our hardest stretch," Slocum said. "I thought we played very tired last night, then you're up Thursday morn-

ing at six o'clock to fly to Green Bay. I knew this would be our hardest stretch."

Slocum said he believes that turnovers have been a big problem for the team lately.

"We've turned the ball over too much in big situations," he said. "Even though we only had 10 against UIC, I thought that we had opportunities to stretch it in overtime. We had three turnovers in four possessions, which ended it. Then last night we had 21."

Freshman Braun Hartfield started Monday night's game against Detroit Mercy and has scored 19 points in each of the last two games.

"In a lot of ways he has been our most consistent guy over the last two weeks," Slocum said of Hartfield. "He's been posting numbers, getting rebounds and guarding the best guys. It has been very bright — he has done a good job."

Green Bay is now tied for first in the Horizon League standings with their first league loss coming at the hands of Valparaiso University on Monday night, who they are tied with. They also boast the most impressive offense in the league, leading in both scoring offense (80.8 points per game) and scoring margin (+9.2 points).

Green Bay senior Charles Cooper leads the team in scoring, coming off the bench with 15.5 points per game in league play.

Slocum said that the game against Green Bay will be a good test for the Penguins.

"They are very good in their building, undefeated in league play there," Slocum said. "We had a very poor performance here. Getting back in transition has got to be an emphasis. They are a team that runs it and pushes it. We just got to do a better job against these kinds of teams."

Slocum also said that you have to do two things that are very simple, but not easy: get back on defense and take care of the ball.

YSU is ranked last in the league in scoring defense, allowing 84.2 points per game. However, Slocum said that offensive production is the biggest concern.

"We've really battled at times defensively," he said. "I think it is more offense than defense. When you turn the ball over 20 times, and you give up mid 70s against Valpo, and last night you give up whatever you gave up with 21 turnovers, it's not a defensive issue; it's an offensive issue."

The men's basketball team will end their three-game road stretch with a game against University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Sunday. The game was originally scheduled for 3 p.m., but the game has officially been moved to 1 p.m.

The Press Box Perspective: SHOULD NFL HAVE SUNDAY NIGHT PLAYOFF FOOTBALL REGULARLY?

BY ANDREW ZUHOSSKY

Winter weather necessitated a change to the National Football League playoff schedule last weekend.

A week ago Friday, the NFL announced that the Jan. 15 AFC Divisional Playoff Game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and Kansas City Chiefs at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, which had been slated for a 1:05 p.m. EST kickoff on NBC Sports, would be rescheduled for 8:20 p.m. EST that night because of the weather and spectator safety.

Normally, the NFL does not schedule night playoff games on Sundays, except for Conference Championship week, when the late game is played in a 6:30 p.m. timeslot.

The Kansas City weather forecast indicated that an ice storm was projected to bring half an inch of ice to the area and an ice storm warning was in effect last weekend.

NBC aired the game in what's usually the "Sunday Night Football" timeslot during the regular season.

This rescheduling got me thinking, "Hmm, what if the NFL scheduled Sunday night playoff games on a regular basis?"

In all honesty, it doesn't sound like a bad idea. Think about it, everybody: "Sunday Night Football" is routinely

a highly-rated TV program. It's been the highest-rated show in primetime for so many years now.

People like watching the NFL. It's the most popular sport in the country. When games are played at night, the audience watches in big numbers.

Yes, be it Sunday night, Monday night, Thursday night, or Saturday night, viewers and fans love turning on the NFL. When the regular season ends and the postseason begins, the ratings increase, as do the stakes on the field.

Primetime TV and the NFL have been a great match for nearly the last half century.

It all goes back to the 1970 season, when the American Broadcasting Company and the league first came together to create what's now become one of TV's longest-running programs, "Monday Night Football", which just completed its 47th season and 11th on ESPN on Dec. 26.

During the early years of the ABC era of "MNF", the network would run special editions on Thursdays and Sundays, along with the usual preseason broadcasts, as well.

It wasn't until 1987 that "Sunday Night Football" became a regular feature on the NFL slate, though for its first three years on-air, "SNF" games were only played during the second half of the year on ESPN.

In the 1990 season, the Sunday night games were expanded to the entire season, with TNT airing the early

portion of the season. ESPN and TNT would split the Sunday night games through the 1997 package with ESPN airing the entire season from 1998 until 2005, after which NBC began its current relationship with the NFL.

Enough about the past. Let's talk about what could be for NFL playoff scheduling and, in my opinion, what should be, for NFL playoff scheduling.

First off, the NFL should keep the Saturday playoff schedule as it is. It's perfect.

Having a night playoff game on Saturdays in the NFL gives whichever network has the night game an advantage in the ratings and a good shot to win the night, since Saturday usually is a night for repeats across the board.

Now, then, how would the NFL manage to put a playoff game on Sunday night? I think the league would be best served by doing a modified version of the Saturday schedule.

I imagine that it would go something like this: Game #1 on a playoff Sunday would begin around 4:00 p.m. EST, with a network pregame report coming on the air at 3:00. The second game would then follow around 7:30, with the network coming on at 7:00.

With a 7:30 kickoff, the game would end around 10:30 or so and would give the network's east coast affiliates a great lead-in for local news.

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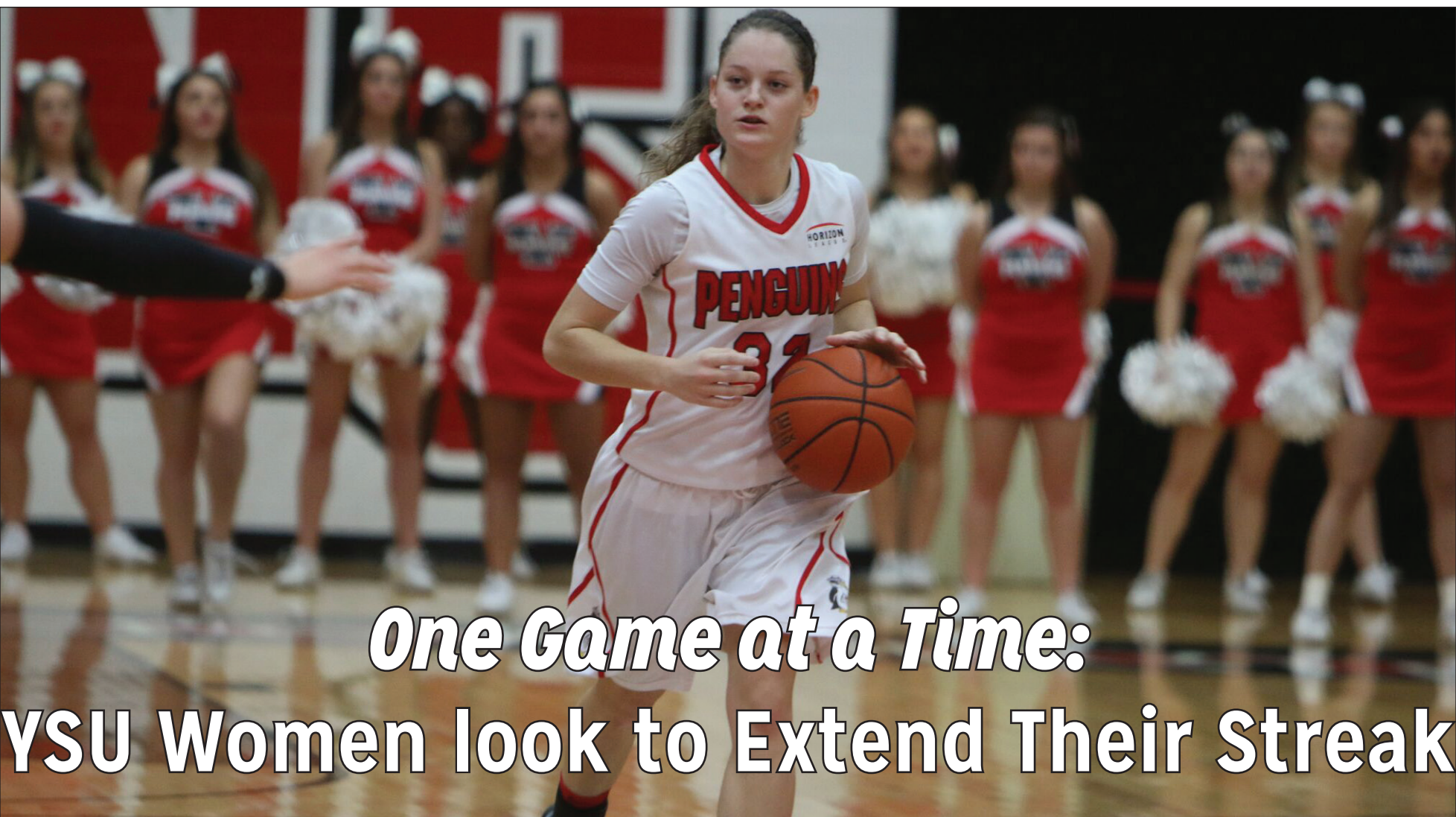
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One Game at a Time:

YSU Women look to Extend Their Streak

PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

Jenna Hirsch brings the ball up in a game against St. Francis University.

BY MARC WEEMS

With the Youngstown State University Women's basketball team (7-10, 3-3 Horizon League) currently on a three-game win streak, YSU will look to take their winning ways on the road.

They will travel to Michigan to play the University of Detroit Mercy (8-9, 4-2 HL) on Jan. 20. They also play Oakland University (9-8, 3-3 HL) on Jan. 22.

YSU has now propelled themselves into the middle of the pack in the conference standings with their three consecutive wins.

"I think we are playing better defense for one," said YSU head coach John Barnes. "Obviously, our offense has come around, for two. I think that the players are getting more comfortable with each other and also more comfortable on the floor together. We came really close to getting a win against Northern Kentucky, so we knew we were getting better."

Barnes said that in each of the last three games the team has been getting better, but they have yet to play a complete game in his eyes.

For Detroit Mercy, they have three players in double figure scoring with guard Rosanna Reynolds being the leading player with 16.4 points per game with 5.5 rebounds per game.

Forward Brianne Cohen averages 13 points per game and Nicole Urbanick averages 11.3 points per game.

UDM averages 72.6 points per game while shooting 65 percent from the free throw line, but gives up 70 points per game while teams shoot only 28 percent from the 3-point line.

"I think we all just have more confidence now," YSU guard Alison Smolinski said. "We are really playing relaxed now. We are playing how we are supposed to and have followed the game plan."

Recently, YSU's defense has held opponents to just 63.6 points per game in the last three games. In those three games, they are holding opponents to just 39.8

percent shooting when teams usually shoot 42 percent. They have also held opponents to 25 percent from three and just 64 percent from the free throw line.

UDM's biggest problem is that they get out-rebounded by almost ten rebounds a game and they've also lost two of their three games. They have shot 42 percent this season, which will be tough for YSU to handle.

YSU's game after that against Oakland will also be a tough test, although they have lost three out of their last four games. In that span, the Golden Grizzlies have shot 36 percent and 29 percent from the 3-point line. Oakland has shot 76 percent from the free throw line which is better than their season average.

"After getting a few wins, our confidence definitely went up," Barnes said. "We just have to stay focused. I thought that that game [against Cleveland State on Jan. 16] was our closest game in terms of staying focused and executing what we want to do."

In recent games, YSU has outscored op-

ponents by more than 15 points a game. That has come from strong bench including Smolinski, who has scored 19 and 30 in her last two games back from injury.

"The three wins are definitely going to help with our confidence," Smolinski said. "Playin' on the road is tough, but we are going to stick to the game plan and try to get the wins. I think that we are playing the best that we have played all season."

Barnes said that Detroit is very talented and have arguably the best group of talent in the league and maybe the player of the year in Rosanna Reynolds.

"They didn't really have a choice," Barnes said about players maturing quickly. "They get thrown into the mix. With that kind of experience, you grow up fast. It's like when a dad teaches you how to swim and he throws you into the water — you got to swim. You hate to do that, but we didn't have a choice."

Barnes also said that leaders like Indiya Benjamin and Jenna Hirsch have been huge.