

YSU Students Hit the Streets to Protest Inequality and Injustice



PHOTO BY GABRIELLE FELLOWS / THE JAMBAR

BY SAMANTHA PHILLIPS

A group of 25 Youngstown State University students and three faculty members joined an estimated army of 500,000 demonstrators marching in Washington D.C. on Saturday to demand social reform and protection of women's rights.

Chants of "This is what democracy looks like" rang out at the Women's

March on Washington as protesters held signs with phrases such as "The Future is Female" and "Save Planned Parenthood." Several roads around the White House and Capitol were closed to accommodate the marchers.

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences provided a free bus trip for YSU students and faculty to participate in the Women's March. Amanda Fehlbaum, a sociology professor on campus, first heard

about the protest on Facebook months ago and began organizing the trip and recruiting members.

"We need to remind everyone that women's rights are human rights," she said. "I hope that our congressional and legislative representatives will stand up for what is ultimately right for the American people."

Cryshanna Jackson Leftwich, a political science professor at YSU, said she encour-

aged her students to attend the march and said it was a learning experience that showed students how they can get engaged with politics.



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Prayer Rooms at YSU Seek to Bring Inclusivity to Campus

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
NAMI NAGAOKA

With all the different views and religions in the student network at Youngstown State University, many are curious to know how the students who practice Islam juggle attending classes with required prayer five times a day.

YSU has provided some open rooms for its diverse student community located in Jones Hall and Maag Library. These rooms essentially provide a silent common area for every student to engage in their religious practices freely and without disturbance.

The English Language Institute provides two prayer rooms in the basement of Maag Library. Lynn Greene, assistant director at ELI, opened the rooms in 2011 after many Middle Eastern students requested to have a place

to peacefully pray.

The prayer rooms are open from 11:50 a.m. to 1 p.m. for everyone regardless of faith, even though more than half of ELI students are Muslim. The Division of Multicultural Affairs also provides two Interfaith Meditation Rooms in Jones Hall. They are also open for everyone from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A Muslim student at YSU who asked not to be named said he always used to pray five times a day when he was in his hometown in Saudi Arabia.

Praying five times a day is one of the five pillars of Islam, which are obligatory religious duties that are supposed to be performed by Muslims. The student said he always prays on time if he has the chance to, but often must combine a few prayers if he is busy during the day or has class.

Islam is the main faith in Saudi Arabia and mosques are abundant, so normally the student can go to pray with

multiple people when the time comes. In Youngstown, prayer for Muslim students is often more isolated and can cut into daily tasks, like class.

“Sometimes I have to isolate myself to pray and then come back,” the student said.

Badr Aldossary, a Muslim student at YSU, said he prays five times a day daily. When he registers for classes, he always considers the time of classes so he can pray on time.

However, he sometimes cannot help choosing some classes which are the same time as the Salah, Muslim prayer. After his class he goes back to his dorm or goes to one of the prayer rooms to pray.

“While there are a lot of people who don’t understand our religion and culture, there are also a lot of people who do understand me, and they are really helpful and make me comfortable,” Aldossary said.

MARCH
FRONT

“We thought this would be a great opportunity to look at how we can participate in democracy and understand that there are ways in which if you think the constitution isn’t working for you, then you can get your voice heard, and there are right and wrong ways to protest and get your point across,” she said.

Monica Busser, a mathematics student, came to D.C. with the YSU group. She said it was inspiring to see so many people protesting peacefully.

“It provided a sense of solidarity, knowing all these people feel the same way about these issues, and we aren’t going to shut up until our voices are heard,” Busser said. “It was empowering — we are making a difference. Half a million people were there. That can’t be ignored.”

Other students, such as Dylan Edwards, found their own way to the nation’s capital to be part of the historic march. Edwards said he couldn’t just watch the event unfold on television — he wanted to show his support.

“This was the largest single protest event in American history,” he said. “The protest managed to bring together more people than even the Freedom March on Washington with Martin Luther King Jr. This will go down in history.”

Edwards said he felt welcome at the Women’s March because the atmosphere

was “an outpouring of tolerance for all kinds of people.” He said the march was effective because it remained peaceful and raised issues women are facing.

“I am incredibly glad I got to share that experience with the two most important women in my life — my mother and my girlfriend — and it will be amazing when I am old to say to my grandkids that I was there,” Edwards said.

People didn’t just advocate for women’s issues at the protest — they also covered civil rights, immigrant rights and LGBT rights. YSU’s students had a variety of personal reasons for why they marched.

Busser said being a woman in the STEM field makes equal pay in the workforce an important issue for her, but she also wanted to protest the new president because of his remarks about women in the past.

Reproductive rights were also brought up by Fehlbaum and Jackson Leftwich. Jackson Leftwich said she was protesting the defunding of Planned Parenthood. She said women should have the right to access contraception and safe abortions.

“If a woman can’t control when and where she has a child, she is more likely to grow up in poverty, less likely to advance in her career field and more likely to suffer from postpartum depression,” Jackson Leftwich said. “These are health issues — it’s larger than a bipartisan issue. These are people’s lives in jeopardy.”

Georgia Kasamias, a religious studies student, said she was impressed with how the march was organized because it



PHOTO BY GABRIELLE FELLOWS / THE JAMBAR

included people from a variety of different backgrounds. She said she cares about women and immigrant rights.

“It’s important to mobilize and show unity, especially after the inauguration. It will catalyze positive change,” she said. “It’s demoralizing for women to have a president that has made derogatory remarks toward women in the past.”

Katie Morrison, a political science student, said she marched to support women

of color.

“I come from a community of women of color, and the impact the policies from the Trump administration will have on my community may be devastating,” she said.

The Women’s March spurred sister marches in major cities across the country on Saturday, with an estimated 5 million people in attendance overall. Event organizers said they plan to have more campaigns in the future.

Student Insights Into the Inauguration

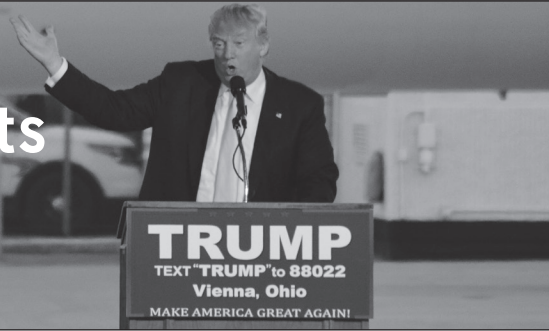


PHOTO BY GABRIELLE FELLOWS / THE JAMBAR

BY JORDAN UNGER

President Donald Trump was sworn into office on Friday, sparking a wide range of reactions after the transition from an eight-year Barack Obama administration.

Students at Youngstown State University expressed their opinions on the new administration. Laurencia Canzonetta, co-chair of YSU Students for Trump, said she was filled with patriotism during the inauguration and looks forward to the future.

"I'm very excited to see President Trump in action," Canzonetta said. "With the help of Congress and the American people, I have full faith that he and his team will lead our country in the right direction."

Canzonetta said she looks forward to the Trump administration's changes to border security, military support and a new healthcare plan, most of which were mentioned by Trump during his inauguration speech.

Brooke Lazar, a professional and technical writing student, said the change will help the people's voice be heard.

"I don't believe our government cares about what we have to say," Lazar said, "but I think Trump is going to change that. He is actually for the people, and he doesn't sugar coat things."

While some students are thrilled about the executive transition, others hold concerns for Trump's presidency. Dylan Edwards, the president of YSU College Democrats, said one of his greatest concerns are changes to healthcare.

"I'm a person with a pre-existing condition, so I think it is worrying that they are actively in the process of repealing Obamacare without a backup plan for health insurance in place," Edwards said.

As one of his first acts as president, Trump signed an executive order Friday to scale back the Affordable Care Act. Edwards said repealing the ACA will have a negative impact after four years.

"You could have 100 million people in this country booted off of their insurance because they fall into the category of pre-existing conditions," Edwards said. "Their rates go so high for insurance, they cannot afford it."

Canzonetta said a replacement to ACA is

necessary because the act is not affordable for the U.S.

"Some families have a \$10,000 [deductible] and the premiums have increased 25 percent across the nation," Canzonetta said. "Under President Trump's administration, I believe we will get the real problems addressed and create a competitive environment to keep the rates in line."

Another concern of Edwards is Trump's plan to fill Justice Antonin Scalia's seat in the Supreme Court because he fears Trump's judgement.

"We're dealing with a man who is famous for his 3 a.m. tweets that inflame the senses of the majority of the nation," Edwards said. "Someone with that impulsiveness at the helm of the U.S. for even these first 100 days ... is concerning."

Greta Frost, a political science student, said she doesn't want Trump's rhetoric to make certain Americans feel further marginalized.

"As a woman, I am a little scared of what he will do to women's reproductive healthcare rights," she said. "When you have someone in a position of power that talks about sexual assault and has sexually harassed women, that doesn't make me feel any better."

Obama leaving office has received mixed reactions as well. George Colettis, another political science student, said he thought Obama was a fairly good president.

"He was definitely someone who was able to get certain policies that he wanted to get passed passed," Colettis said. "With a lot of the problems that were happening, he was a good soother for the country."

Although Lazar is looking forward to the Trump administration, she said she was sad to see Obama leave.

"I think he genuinely loved what he did," Lazar said. "While it's sad to see such a good-hearted man leave, it's time for us to prepare for better things."

Frost said she hopes that the divide left by the election can be mended, even if only slightly.

"[Trump] has really made everyone question what the Republican and Democratic Parties stand for," Frost said. "Because those questions are being asked, it may help us to mend that divide."

YSU Students' Expectations for Trump

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
MORGAN PETRONELLI



"He's proved to be kind of a wild card this whole election season, so I'm not sure what to expect," Ellington said. "I think he and republicans in general should probably just stay out of women's reproductive things and not try to defund Planned Parenthood or anything like that."

Chelsea Ellington is a senior majoring in English.

"I have no expectations — I don't know what the hell he's going to do. He just kind of went, 'Oh I'm president, what now?'" Self said. "What can he do? Uh, resign."



Caleb Self is a freshman majoring in anthropology.



"I think he has a lot of ideas on what he's going to change, and specifically a lot of talk has been around Obamacare changing, and despite that the fact that it will be bad at first to repeal it, I think that his new health care plan will eventually benefit me," Mraz said. "I believe that, despite doubts around him, he will be successful due to people in his cabinet providing experience and help for him."

Megan Mraz is a freshman majoring in criminology.

PHOTOS BY MORGAN PETRONELLI / THE JAMBAR

Feeding Student Hunger

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
LAURA MCDONOUGH

The Youngstown State University Student Government Association began a food pantry last spring to combat student hunger on campus.

Gabrielle Gessler, President of SGA, said the food pantry proved to be a success right away.

“If you gage the utilization of students, we averaged about 10 students per week and we are open two days a week,” Gessler said.

James MacGregor, vice president of University Affairs, said the food pantry had a slow start, but has now served between 50 and 60 students so far.

Because the initial trial period of the food pantry went so well, it was continued. Gessler said part of their success comes from the support they receive from their partnerships and donations which allows them to maintain a full pantry.

Because the food pantry receives so many donations, the SGA office can't always keep it all.

“We had a donor from Little Debbie who donated so much to us that we donated those to the Youngstown Family Mission,” MacGregor said.

Gessler is currently working on grant papers through the National Education Association. If accepted, the grant money will allow them to purchase a refrigerator

and a freezer to hold frozen goods, fresh produce and fresh meat.

The grant is due at the beginning of February and Gessler will know within the month whether or not she will receive the funds.

“The amount of the grant exceeds the amount of the freezer and refrigerator, so we're also looking into possible expansion somewhere else within the university, hopefully still in Kilcawley Center,” Gessler said. “We're just receiving so many donations.”

MacGregor said their ideal location to move into would be what is now the bookstore, but they are exploring other options.

“There's been some talk with the recent purchase of Barnes and Noble, and with Barnes and Noble being built and located off campus,” Macgregor said. “That space would be open and we've been talking with Mr. Howard and those departments to see if we can have some storage in the current bookstore space.”

In addition to monetary and food donations, the food pantry is working with the Environmental Sustainability Society to get fresh produce from places like the Ward Beecher greenhouse when they have the ability to store it.

SGA was able to purchase an ID scanner which has been used to keep track of students using the service.

The information on who uses the food pantry and when is confidential.

If they notice a particular student who comes in often, they are able to help them look for services for a better long term solution.

“We don't want to infringe on anyone's privacy, but if we see a student who comes in Wednesday and Friday multiple times a month, there's definitely an issue and we want to try and help them address that,” MacGregor said.

The YSU bookstore still provides bags to the food pantry to aid in keeping their services discrete, as a student walking around with one of their bags is nothing unique on campus.

SGA is currently working on a way to better advertise the food pantry in a discrete way that will maintain student dignity and confidence. They even keep a small circle of volunteers to ensure discretion.

“Because it's sort of an underground thing, not a lot of students are familiar with it that may still need assistance,” MacGregor said.

The food pantry is currently open in Kilcawley Center on Wednesday from 3 to 5 p.m. and Friday from noon to 2 p.m. in the hallway behind Wendy's. Gessler said there is discussion on expanding their hours or opening on more days.

The YSU App Aims to Get Students Involved on Campus

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
TANNER MONDOK

The Youngstown State University mobile app aims to give students the ability to connect with their peers, provide ways to get involved on campus and improve their social and academic lives. The app was made by Campus Recreation, Center for Student Progress and Student Activities.

When the app is opened, users are presented with a screen that displays options such as campus events, groups, clubs, academic support and dining services. Below these are several options for Campus Recreation and general information about YSU.

The app features a calendar that lets students add their courses or important due dates. This calendar can be viewed by added friends who have the app, but only with the user's approval in their privacy settings.

In the community section of the app there are options for student feed, buying and selling, lost and found, housing, news and ridesharing.

In the student feed, students can communicate with each other and find tutors, ask for campus facility hours

and discuss campus events. The student feed operates like a news feed website would, such as Twitter and Facebook.

Students also have the ability to send messages to their peers and customize their user profile.

Becky Varian, director of the CSP, was the one who reached out to the app company OOHLALA.

“I believe it was our student government rep that sent them my way and then Erin Driscoll [director of Student Activities] and I partnered to make it happen for our departments,” Varian said.

Varian believes that every student should download the app because anything that can get students engaged with their campus is a good thing.

“All research shows the more engaged students are [with the university], the more likely they'll be successful in college,” she said. “They can engage with each other, with reps from campus departments and even with local businesses that provide discounts on the app.”

Director of Campus Recreation Joy Polkabra-Byers added the Rec section to the app.

“A lot of university rec centers were seeing students meeting each other through these apps and making workout buddies and that was one of the big things we wanted

to see come out of having this app,” Polkabra-Byers said.

Polkabra-Byers says that she sees a lot in the student feed section of the app that involves people selling old books or students looking for other students to go to the Rec with. She also noticed someone asking if the Rec was open and said that an employee was able to answer the question for them.

“One of our staff got on there and said ‘yeah here are the hours,’” she said. “So I think it's students helping each other but then campus itself is using it as well.”

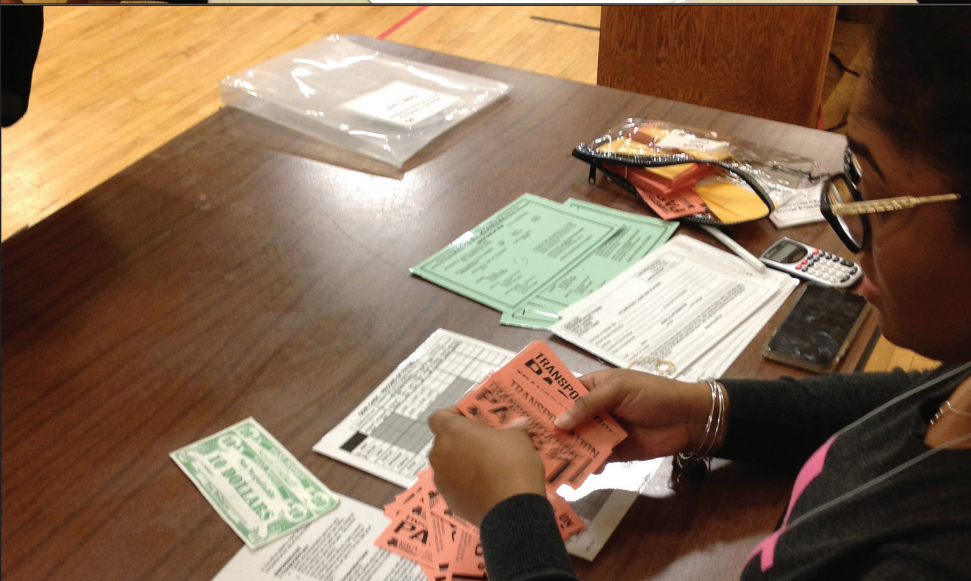
Megan O'Neill, a campus recreation graduate assistant, worked closely with Polkabra-Byers when making the Rec section of the app.

O'Neill believes the app is a great resource for any student and should be utilized to get more involved on campus.

“Since we go to a commuter school I always hear ‘there's nothing to do here,’ when really YSU offers so many programs and activities to their students,” O'Neill said. “The app is a great in-pocket resource for students to utilize and explore the many opportunities to get involved on campus.”

The YSU app is available to download via the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.

It's Not a Game, It's a Simulation



BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
LAURA MCDONOUGH

According to a 2011 Brookings report, Youngstown had the highest concentration of poverty in the nation with 49.7 percent of people in poverty.

Youngstown State University student group Bridges Out of Poverty Student Union often holds a poverty simulation to show people what living in poverty is really like.

The poverty simulator will be at 2 p.m. in Kilcawley Center in the Chestnut Room on Feb. 3 2017.

The age and gender of participants is randomly assigned, and some may be given a baby to care for. The end goal is to survive one month in poverty; every 15

minutes equals one week and the simulator lasts four weeks.

Faculty advisor Karla Krodel said, "The people who are going to participate in the poverty simulation are actually going to be discovering and learning about poverty because they're going to take on the role of a person in a family who is in poverty."

Participants start as low income, just on the poverty line, and must complete certain tasks every week. They must keep their house secure, feed their family, consider transportation to get to work or take children to school, pay the bills and more.

"It's not a game; it's a simulation. It simulates the pressure and stress that having a low income puts on people," Krodel said. "It shows how your choices can be narrowed down and you might find yourself making choices that you wouldn't normally make."

Krodel said most people find the simu-

lation eye-opening and difficult, but she has never had anyone tell her they didn't like it.

"At the end when we do questions, they said it's different," said Mecca Sims, a YSU student who has helped with the simulation in the past.

At the event, 'community resources' will be staffed by students like Sims working with BOPUSU and other volunteers.

"They would be welfare, daycare, pawn shop, utilities and other stuff," Sims said.

In a previous poverty simulation held for the honors college, Krodel said students learned just how important having reliable transportation is. In the simulation, you can't visit any of the resources without a transportation pass, as one of the students quickly found out.

"She has a big ol' fat paycheck but no cash," Krodel said. "She's like 'I can use a transportation pass to go to the bank and

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KARLA KRODEL
get money so I can buy transportation passes, but I don't have another transportation pass to get over there to buy more transportation passes. Or I could use the transportation pass to go get more transportation passes, but I don't have any money to buy them because I have to cash the check.' I said, 'Well you have to find another way,' and she said, 'There is no other way!'"

The unnamed honors student did not give up, and like many she did figure it out.

"By the end of the simulation, people are finding other ways, and that's what's interesting," Krodel said.

Krodel said she hopes the poverty simulator helps people understand what life in poverty is like and motivates people to help reduce poverty.



Reagle Leaving Student Success

PHOTO BY ALYSSA PFLUG / THE JAMBAR

BY GABRIELLE FELLOWS AND DAN HINER

After a little over a year and a half at Youngstown State University, Mike Reagle, associate vice president for Student Success, will be leaving YSU. Reagle has accepted the assistant vice president for Student Success position at Western Kentucky University and will leave in March.

Reagle oversees the services and strategies for improving student retention and graduation.

Reagle was hired in May 2015 after interviewing for another position at YSU. He accepted his current position, but it was the first time that he had accepted a job where he wasn't involved in housing since he was a junior in college.

He was approached by Western Kentucky to fill their vacancy in November. The position allows Reagle to work back in housing, where he had worked for 14 years at Eastern Kentucky University prior to coming to YSU.

"To be able to go back to a job [that involves your main skill set] is an opportunity ... even though this has been a great experience, especially when it falls into your lap. You just know," he said.

Reagle said he realized how important family is after the passing of his father in the fall, and the job opportunity at Western Kentucky would allow him to relocate closer to home.

"The professional position was a great opportunity. Moving back to Kentucky would bring us closer to family," Reagle said. "I lost my dad back in September and when things like that happen you begin to look at how important family is.

"We're about seven hours from my wife's parents and this move would put us about two hours away. Put all these things together and it's sort of a no brainer, even though we've grown to love this campus and this place."

Reagle said the transition to Western Kentucky was a "lateral move" in terms of pay, but he is excited about the different housing opportunities Western Ken-

tucky will offer to its students in the future.

"They're going to invest \$120 million into their university housing system. They're hiring this person to lead this process for the next 10 years as they're doing this work," Reagle said.

Ron Cole, YSU's public information officer, said Reagle has been in contact with YSU Provost Martin Abraham for "at least a couple weeks" in regards to leaving YSU.

Reagle's last day at YSU will be March 3. Abraham said he considers Reagle's departure date as a deadline to fill the position.

Abraham said he is still working to find an interim replacement for Reagle; the plan is to have the replacement selected before he leaves. Abraham said he could not give a definitive answer on the frontrunner for the interim position, but said he may have someone in mind already.

Abraham said he is planning to conduct a national search to replace Reagle, but no timetable has been set to find a permanent replacement.

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Drawing Attention to YSU Department of Art

BY AMANDA LEHNERD

Christine McCullough, Claudia Berlinski and Terre Brock Davis of Youngstown State University's art faculty have been invited to exhibit their work in a three-person show called "Drawing Attention."

The exhibit will take place at The Sally Otto Gallery at the University of Mount Union. An artists' reception is scheduled for Jan. 26, 4-6 p.m. and the show will run through Feb. 19. The Gallery is located at 34 W. Simpson Street, Alliance, Ohio.

The exhibit "Drawing Attention," is meant to challenge the viewer and allow him or her to build upon the individual images while investigating layers of personal and profound meaning.

"In other words, most artists produce bodies of work that relate visually or thematically, but each work does not necessarily depend on its proximity to another for the concept or meaning to be understood," Berlinski said. "The work in this exhibition also draws attention or awareness to the specific concerns of each artist whether they are of personal, social or global significance."

McCullough, Berlinski and Davis create works in series, and they all work with different mediums, yet their works still relate to one another under the theme of "Drawing Attention."

"The relationship we have as artists is that we are drawing attention to personal ideas through our distinct voices and viewpoints — and in a visually representational way," Berlinski said. "The theme, style and media are different for each of us, but we share an interest in subject matter that is highly personal to each of us, and we are using metaphor to depict meaning."

The University of Mount Union Sally Otto Gallery director invited McCullough to exhibit her work in the large gallery.

"[The director] has been familiar with my work for many years and invited me to exhibit in the large space," McCullough said. "For several years

now I have been creating smaller works that function as a series, and this invitation seemed the perfect opportunity to collaborate with two colleagues — Berlinski and Davis — who work in similar fashion."

McCullough is exhibiting three distinct groups of work in the Sally Otto Gallery: "Her," a series of four paintings containing diptychs, acrylic and juxtaposes, and a small series that exploits narrative devices but remains ambiguous.

"'Her' is a series of 16 works in encaustic and mixed media that focuses on gender-specific vernacular and its impact on self-identity. The next series showcases four paintings and contains two diptychs in acrylic and metal leaf," McCullough said. "The final group is a small series that exploits narrative devices but remains ambiguous, allowing the viewer to form their associations."

Berlinski's work was created using the camera on her phone. She said her work explores the fugitive nature of personal history and memory.

"This body of work is steeped in a personal, and global obsession to record things visually. I always have my cellphone with me; I will record the times spent outdoors and visually collect the textures and objects of my home," Berlinski said. "My work explores the fugitive nature of personal history and memory. These photos reveal found, and sometimes constructed, arrangements of places and things that are familiar to me. The images become metaphors that portray intimacies of my life."

Davis said her work reflects her concerns for a social construct where self-interest is valued more than well-being.

"I've placed birds into contrived environments symbolic of this self-created construct. Birds can be representative of freedom and nests of the home," Davis said. "I am playing with these metaphors to examine the dichotomy of perceptions associated with ideas like materialism versus values, self-indulgence and morality, safety and vulnerability, protection and entrapment, and confinement and freedom."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTINE MCCULLOUGH



PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRE BROCK DAVIS



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLAUDIA BERLINSKI



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSEPH CAUDLE

YSU Paintball Club

BY GABE GARCIA

Over the last decade, paintball has grown in popularity as a sport among people of all ages. It wasn't until last fall, however, that it was brought to Youngstown State University.

Paintball Club asks that those who seek to become members pay a small \$10 fee to help cover equipment and a \$40 fee for each semester that they participate in.

"We have about 25 members," said Joseph Caudle, president of Paintball Club. "We don't have events at the moment due to the cold weather, but once spring comes we'll get a more recreational practice schedule."

Caudle is currently a sophomore, majoring in civil engineering. He has also been a member of the Army National Guard for the last two and a half years.

"We usually go to the Drop Zone in Warren," said Caudle. "It's local places like that where tournaments are held at the collegiate level. Our goal is to eventually make it free, but for now, we want to make it as cheap as possible to join."

During the fall semester, the paintball club held a shootout to raise money for their organization, which turned out to be pretty successful.

"We had so many participants that we ended up running out of targets and had to close down early," said Justin Wisenall, vice president of the club.

According to Wisenall, two events were held. One was to shoot six rounds of a paintball gun at balloons for \$3, and the other

was to experience firing a fully automatic marker for a predetermined cost.

"At the end of the day, the winner was notified, and they were awarded half of the proceeds," said Wisenall. "The winner, I believe, received \$100 and only spent \$3."

Paintball Club holds sign ups in the fall semester only. The fees are used to help supply everyone with extra paintballs and cover admission for a whole day of play.

"The paintball matches were fun, but the open communication between members has been a highlight so far for me," said Wisenall. "Another is the open comradery and how everyone pushes to improve the organization."

No tryouts are required for their main events, but the club's future goal is to hold interclub tryouts for a possible collegiate speedball team so that they can participate in tournaments.

"It's a much more affordable way to play," said Amanda Scott, club treasurer. "The more people that join, the cheaper it gets. If you enjoy playing paintball, it's a much easier way to get out there and have fun."

Paintball Club is open to anyone at YSU, student or faculty.

"Please don't be intimidated," Wisenall said. "It's loads of fun and helps relieve stress from being a student. Anyone can play; we have experienced members from different backgrounds that will gladly help anyone with any questions or concerns. Sign-ups are year-round."

To learn more about YSU's Paintball Club and how you can join, visit their Facebook page or contact Caudle.

Q&A with Guest Artist John Scacchetti

BY AMANDA LEHNERD

Q1: Where does your love for theater and dance stem from?

A: I think it stems from my grandfather. When I was a little kid, my grandfather was a professional jazz musician in the area, and he was playing gigs all over the town. When I was younger than age five, I would see his shows, and I would always be dancing on the dance floor. People kept telling my parents they needed to put me in dance lessons, and they did. When I was five, I started taking tap lessons in the area. When I was about 12, I got involved with the Youngstown Playhouse, and I figured out what I wanted to do with my abilities.

Q2: Was being on Broadway always a goal of yours?

A: Oh yes, I have always wanted to tap dance on Broadway. I was met with mixed reactions when I was growing up. I would tell people I wanted to be on Broadway and their responses ranged from 'that's a cute dream to have', or 'that is an unattainable dream.' I ended up attaining my goal pretty quickly.

When I was in middle school I was recruited to be in different musical productions Youngstown State Uni-

versity was having. I was 13 to 15 years old doing shows with a bunch of college children. Christine Cobb latched on to me and noticed my potential, and she gave me my very first professional gig as a dancer at age 15.

Q3: Why is your favorite type of dance Tap?

A: I like the percussiveness of it. I always wanted to play the drums when I was a kid, but I ended up studying the piano and French horn. There is just something innate about the percussion. I grew up listening to early hip-hop, it had very simple backbeats, and I really enjoyed it, which lead me to love the way tap sounds.

Q4: What is the hardest role you have had to prepare for in professional musical theater?

A: I just recently played the role of Phil Davis in the show *White Christmas*. It is a stage adaptation of the movie. It was a big challenge in the sense of stamina. The character I played in this stage adaptation of the show doesn't leave the stage for the first hour and 15 minutes of the show, and we only have nine days of rehearsal. This was a challenge; it was a lot of material to learn regarding the scripts, songs and choreography, and then beyond that, it was the stamina. The performance was at

Hilton Head Island, so to prepare for the show I would go running on the beach while singing my songs at full volume for about a half-hour at a time. The pace of the rehearsal process was also difficult. We didn't have time to stop and analyze what we were doing, so if I made a mistake, I had to keep going with my performance and fix the problem later.

Q5: What are you teaching during your master class?

A: I taught a master class Sunday specifically for Dance Ensemble. It was an advanced class where they learned a theater jazz piece. It is what I like to call action based dancing, and it is an excerpt of choreography. Once the dancers learned the steps, I tell them to forget about the steps and encourage them to explore what they are dancing about.

On Tuesday I taught two classes, one was a lab where I choreographed a number for a musical version of "Footloose" and the second was a lecture where I spoke about the ins and outs of the business, what the rehearsal process is like and how to navigate a career.

Today, I am doing a community tap class. We have reserved time and space from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in Beeghly Center, room 119 for people of all ages and all levels to come and participate. The class is all free, and if you don't want to dance you can observe.

Pumping Up Penguin Pride

BY ALEXA DEVORE

A new student group at Youngstown State University is promoting student involvement in clubs and sporting events.

All students are welcomed to join the Woo Crew, which was founded by James MacGregor, Jenna Parkany, Brit-tany Hoon and Rachel Davis to cultivate more school spirit.

MacGregor said he helped form the group because they wanted to increase students' participation in uni-versity events, the way Penguin Pack does for sporting events.

"[Before] we did not necessarily have a group to promote student engagement at commence-

ment or the orientation programs," MacGregor said. Erin Driscoll, director of Student Activities, said the Woo Crew is engaged with orientation programs such as SOAR, and volunteer at events such as Penguin Nights.

The organization will also host events like First Friday, a monthly event where they host activities, games and contests.

"We want to get students motivated and excited to be on campus [and] promote Penguin Pride and campus engagement," MacGregor said.

Parkany said the group serves many purposes, from getting involved on campus to meeting new friends.

"I joined the Woo Crew because I enjoy being involved on campus and it was a perfect opportunity to help promote spirit, not only to students, but campus wide," Parkany said.

A perk of joining this group is gaining volunteer hours that can be exchanged for campus gear, which shows support for the campus.

"Volunteering is all on your own time," Parkany said. "You get the chance to connect and work with other departments and receive credits that are exchanged for Youngstown State gear."

Having this student organization will change how people perceive the campus and improve school spirit, Parkany said. One reason for the lack of student participation on campus is because YSU is a commuter campus, so it can be difficult to keep students around after class.

Freshman can sign up for the organization at orientation and current students can contact a member if they are interested in joining.

"Battlefield 1": A True Depiction of History?

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
ZACH SRNIS

When Electronic Arts released its most recent installment in the Battlefield franchise, "Battlefield 1," they decided to change the typical setting for their first-person shooter. Instead of going to the future, which most shooters tend to do, "Battlefield 1" decided to go back to World War I.

This puts into question how realistic the game actually is to the time period.

David Simonelli, a history professor at Youngstown State University, teaches the class on World War I and said that games like "Battlefield 1" should not be the sought out for their realism.

"I'm not sure the point in any video game is realistic depictions of the history involved," Simonelli said. "The good thing about video games, though, is that people tend to ask questions about history. It's a great way of introducing history to poten-

tial students."

The Battlefield franchise is known for its vehicles, and "Battlefield 1" is no different. Simonelli mentioned that vehicles were used often during the war, but that they were not reliable.

"Cars did not really have much of an off-road capacity yet; the jeep and other all-terrain cars would be a second World War adaptation," Simonelli said. "Tanks developed during the Great War [were] kind of moveable fortresses, but they broke down a lot."

Tanks and cars aside, the signature vehicle in the game is the Zeppelin. "Battlefield 1" allows a large vehicle to appear in the middle of the match to help the team that is currently losing. The Zeppelin is a large airship that allows the bombing of the battlefield and helps to even the odds.

"They had to hope no airplanes showed up to shoot the Zeppelin down before it got back," Simonelli said. "A zeppelin would inevitably go down in flames too,

because zeppelins carried massive gas tanks to make the long trip to England and back. Between hydrogen and gasoline, they were basically floating bombs."

A good amount of the battles in "Battlefield 1" occur in villages where the player moves from home to home fighting the enemy. The homes and surrounding buildings are often destroyed by tanks. Simonelli mentions that this aspect is not too farfetched.

"Street by street, house by house combat occurred more so on the eastern front than the western front," Simonelli said. "There were no Stalingrads, where the whole battle took place in a city — battles took place out in less populated areas where everyone could move quickly without hindrance."

Overall, "Battlefield 1" is about as accurate as it is inaccurate, taking a few liberties here and there to advance the storyline. The settings of the battles and the guns that are used are, for the most

part, accurate to the time period. The vehicles and transportation, however, are a bit anachronistic in how they are used in the game.

Fans of the Battlefield franchise don't seem to mind the inaccuracies and have a mostly positive view on the game's setting and plot.

"The game is a return to form for the franchise," said Brett Kendra, a fan of the franchise. "I remember playing the first title ["Battlefield 1942"] and this is the sequel that most resembles that game."

Boa Le, another fan of the Battlefield franchise and first person shooters, said that the game developer's decision to go back into the past instead of the future made the game more interesting, even if it's not completely accurate.

"Too many of the shooters today are worried about going to the future," Le said. "I hope the success of 'Battlefield 1' will force other shooters to return to a similar time period."



Get Rec'd

PHOTOS BY ALYSSA PFLUG / THE JAMBAR

On January 20, the Andrews Wellness and Recreation Center at YSU hosted a Rec Xtra event from 9 p.m. – 12 a.m. Students had the chance to participate in activities like the rock wall, dodgeball, bubble ball, basketball and other activities along with an escape room. The Rec began this in hopes of keeping students around and getting them involved said Brandy Schumacher, assistant director of facility operations for campus recreation. The Rec plans to host this event once a month. Each month will have different activities for students to participate in. Students can expect the next Rec Xtra on February 24 which will include Group

X, extended rock wall hours and the escape room. YSU students had 35 minutes to escape the room. During that time, they ventured around the room to find clues in order to open the safe that had the key in order to get out.

For more information, <http://cms.ysu.edu/administrative-offices/campus-recreation-and-wellness/campus-recreation>

The Jambar Column

A New Age

BY JILLIAN SMITH

Yesterday I journeyed into the heart of downtown Shanghai. The words of my program director, You Sha, hung around my head like the city smog as I walked.

“The people of China are rich now,” she said. “They don’t mind spending the extra money to have nice things.”

Opulence was the only word that seemed to make any sense as I meandered down West Nanjing Road.

I have been to many cities, the nice parts of many cities. I have seen how the notably wealthy live in New York, San Francisco and even Singapore. But the sheer concentration and density and volume of the gilded class that greets the Shanghai tourist is a shock that floored me almost as much as the prices of the things which that class consumed.

This consumerist culture was something I had been told of before. Gaige Kaifang, or the economic reforms introduced by Deng Xiaoping in 1978, had inspired a new generation of entrepreneurs, an opening of massive economic growth and the general rise in a middle class that was more materialistic than ever. But walking through and very palpably experiencing a rising middle class is very different than simply hearing of it.

Hordes of college-aged students, my fellow peers, people who have no business walking in and out of stores like Prada, Burberry and Godiva, did so with a nonchalance that made me noticeably stare. Cars packed the streets, but a startling number of those cars were Range Rovers, Porches and Lamborghinis. Whole families came into the ultra-hip, overpriced coffee shops which I haunted just to get free Wi-Fi and were sitting their children down to entire dinners of gourmet lattes and hand-pressed Paninis. I was invited to a dance club in the French Concession. The average table

price? \$8,000 USD.

In China, bourgeoisie seems to no longer be a dirty word.

For a kid from Youngstown, however, observing the rising middle class and rapid march toward consumerism had an odd tinge to it. I couldn’t help thinking — though I know the correlation isn’t entirely correct — that all of the hustling, bustling, glowing, glitzy, luxurious happiness that swirled the expertly manicured tree-lined avenues had been put there through some great vampirish suctioning away from places like Kalamazoo, like Gary and like Youngstown.

All the vibrancy and verve and cute and prosperous main streets that had left these once great progenitors of industrial America seemed perfectly comfortable in their new home in Shanghai. Meanwhile, those Rust-Belt cities, despite some progress, continue to hemorrhage people and dollars.

The people of these cities have felt the vampirish nature of this wealth transition for some time. That is why they, in large numbers, switched their traditional union vote to put up President Trump in the last election. He seems to have cut directly to that concern that took me traveling across an entire ocean to understand.

And yet, as I reflected on that opulence, it seemed less and less appealing the more I felt the gummy feeling that never leaves my mouth when I breathe in the air too long. Or when I walked into a convenience store, and there was a whole aisle devoted to air masks. Or when I try to brush my teeth and I am told the water is undrinkable.

It seems as though the world has reached an age of uncertainty. It’s not certain if President Trump will bring back jobs to the Rust Belt, nor is it certain if China’s economic growth will continue to sustain itself. It also remains to be seen if those two trends are mutually exclusive. But whatever happens, the Mahoning and Huangpu rivers seem to have been the biggest losers in this grand contest. Let’s hope that a different course of action can be taken in this new age.

Editorial Protecting Planned Parenthood

A group of Youngstown State University students and staff attended the Women’s March on Washington that followed the inauguration of Donald Trump as the United States’ 45th president.

People marched for many different reasons including protecting the marginalized, minority communities and women’s rights. They also marched to raise awareness for the defunding of Planned Parenthood by republican lawmakers.

Planned Parenthood is often criticized by conservative politicians because half of its affiliates provide abortions, even though federal funding goes to the payment of STD testing, cancer screenings and family planning programs — not abortions.

The organization receives half of its funding from state, local and federal government sources that total \$553.7 million in

federal funding, according to a Planned Parenthood Annual Report from 2014 - 2015. This includes a Medicaid program that makes up 75 percent of Planned Parenthood’s federal funding and covers direct medical services to low-income patients.

Blocking funding from Medicaid could cause federal courts to get involved because federal laws allow eligible recipients, mostly low-income adults, to choose any qualified provider for health care services (including Planned Parenthood).

Texas learned in 2013 that defunding the organization creates a mess. That year, they cut Planned Parenthood out of its family planning program and gave up its Medicaid funding. An analysis done by the New England Journal of Health and Medicine showed that unintended pregnancies skyrocketed in the state since less women

could afford birth control.

Making Planned Parenthood ineligible for Medicaid would also cost taxpayers \$130 million over 10 years, according to a 2015 Congressional Budget Office analysis, because federal funds would have to cover costs related to increased pregnancies since birth control and abortions weren’t being provided.

Although defunding the organization could be complicated, it’s not impossible, and while former President Barack Obama has vetoed the proposal in the past, it’s uncertain how the new administration will handle it.

One can only hope that politicians wouldn’t allow their own religious beliefs to cause the downfall of an organization that helps millions of men and women in need of medical assistance, but only time will tell.

The TPP is Dead, but Don't Bury it Yet

LOS ANGELES TIMES (TNS)

As he promised repeatedly during the campaign, President Donald Trump formally and permanently withdrew the United States Monday from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a free-trade deal with 11 other countries that President Obama had championed. The move came as no surprise; the TPP had become so politically toxic, there was no realistic chance of it being approved by Congress. Nevertheless, the principles behind it — that the United States will be better off if global trade rules are closer to our own laws, and that increasing trade encourages economic growth — remain vitally important. And the geopolitical rationale is just as strong. The new president shouldn't lose sight of any of those issues as he moves ahead on trade.

In the executive order he signed Monday, Trump declared his intention not to

pursue multilateral trade deals. Instead, his administration will conduct trade talks “directly with individual countries on a one-on-one (or bilateral) basis” in pursuit of better outcomes for American workers. (Separately, the administration is expected to seek to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico.) It will need to hop to it, then, if it's going to replicate the benefits of the planned free-trade pact with Europe or the pending 50-country Trade in Services Agreement.

It's certainly simpler to reach agreements with trading partners one at a time, particularly when dealing with countries eager to export more of their goods into this country. But adopting different sets of rules for each trading partner creates a crazy quilt that makes it harder for U.S. businesses to operate globally. More important, it will slow efforts to move the rest of the world toward U.S. standards for wage and hour rules, environmental protection and other factors that hu-

manize commerce but drive up costs for companies here. Meanwhile, abandoning TPP will only increase China's influence over Asian economies while gutting U.S. credibility as a leader on trade.

Just what makes a trade deal bad in Trump's eyes isn't clear; he evidently blames some unidentified feature of the biggest ones for the decline in U.S. manufacturing jobs and the rise in imported goods, particularly from Mexico and China. But those phenomena are driven mainly by the forces of globalism and automation, not the lowering of already low U.S. tariffs. The point behind major trade deals is to try to manage those forces, leveling the global playing field in a way that works for all the parties involved. The Trump administration may not be able to achieve those ends one country at a time. Rather than walking away from our Asian trading partners, Trump should come back with a counterproposal that advances U.S. interests across the region.

JAMBAR POLICY

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By: L. A. Bonté

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Track and Field Performs Well in the WATTS

BY DAN HINER

The Youngstown State University track and field program hosted its second meet of the season on Friday and Saturday. This weekend's YSU College Invitational was one of the biggest meets on the Penguins' schedule.

The meet consisted of 21 teams from Ohio and Pennsylvania and featured programs like University of Ohio and the University of Pittsburgh.

The Penguins had 18 participants finish in the top three in 27 events.

YSU swept the men's and women's 60m hurdles and the shot put. Amber Eles and Chad Zallow won 60m hurdles, while Jayne Corbett and Ryan Booth won the shot put events.

Junior sprinter Keishawna Burts finished third in the 400m with a time of 57.70 seconds. Burts also ran a personal best in the 200m dash. She finished second with a time of 25.26.

YSU head coach Brian Gorby said the attendance for

the event was one of the largest he's seen since he took the head coaching position 22 years ago.

"The kids were really feeding off the energy. You get 3,000 people in the WATTS, or maybe 4,000, but it was pretty awesome," Gorby said. "It was kinda like that big time basketball or football atmosphere. All the people were cheering, and our kids were feeding off it well."

Gorby said the crowd and the support was due to the number of local student-athletes in the program. The program features 38 student-athletes from the Youngstown-Warren area.

Gorby said YSU is starting to become a nationally recognized track and field program, and it's represented by the larger schools that participated in the meet.

The US Track and Field Cross Country Coaches Association released their first rankings for the indoor season on Jan. 9. The YSU men's track and field team was ranked 58th in the nation, and third in Ohio behind Ohio State University and the University of Cincinnati.

The next events will be the Penn State National Elite Invitational and the SPIRE Midwest Indoor Open.

The Penguins had performed well at both tournaments last season and Gorby expects the same this season because the same people will be competing in back-to-back years.

Gorby said junior distance runner, Ryan Sullivan, will receive an MRI because of an injury. Gorby said he's unsure when Sullivan will be back with the team.

He said YSU will be sending more people to Penn State because he has confidence that they can compete at a national level. Gorby said a "handful" of members from YSU will be sent to the SPIRE Open and he expects strong performances from both the men's and women's teams.

"The great thing about our program is we are well balanced," Gorby said. "We have one of the top pole vaulters in Ohio, Carl [Zallow] is one of the top runners and Chad [Zallow] is one of the top sprinters in Ohio. You have Ryan Booth, who's one of the top throwers in Ohio and now you have Brendon Lucas, one of the top 400m runners."

Both meets are scheduled for Friday and Saturday.

YSU Women Prepare for League Leaders at Home

BY RICK HENNEMAN

After losing back-to-back games on the road, the Youngstown State University women's basketball team will face the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (17-2, 8-0 HL), at home on Jan. 26.

The Penguins (7-12, 3-5 in Horizon League) have been winless on the road in conference play this season.

"I felt like mentally we weren't focused and sharp on the road," YSU head coach John Barnes said. "That was going on five games in 11 days and then ending it on the road is a little difficult, especially with a young team. We should be able to be in it mentally and execute the game plan, which I thought we did really well in our home games."

On the road YSU is 0-9, but at home the Penguins are 7-5. On the road, YSU shoots worse, scores less and is outrebounded overall.

"I think across the board we need to be more consistent," Barnes said. "We have way too many ups and downs: a lot of points one game and no points the next game. We just need more consistency, and that's something that happens with a young team."

One of the more consistent components of the Penguins recently has been the play of guard Alison Smolinski. In conference play, Smolinski leads the team in points per game (16.3) and 3-point percentage (54.5).

"Al [Smolinski] has done a great job for us," Barnes said. "She has been aggressive, looked to attack and kind



PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION

of taken an offensive load on her shoulders. She hasn't done that in the past. I'm very proud of what she's done and hopefully some of the other players can take lead from her. We need them to be as aggressive."

Green Bay is entering the game undefeated in Horizon League play and has the best defense in the conference, only allowing 48.2 points per game. Their impressive defense has helped UWGB boast the best scoring margin in the league as well (+20.5). The Phoenix also have the highest field goal percentage in the conference (46.1). "They are extremely talented, well coached and tough,"

Barnes said of Green Bay. "We'll have our work cut out for us. We're obviously going to have to play one of our best games. We are just young enough to maybe not worry about that and play our game and find a way to get it done. They have so many weapons that you have to account for. It will be tough all the way around."

The YSU defense has been the second worst in conference this year (73.1 points per game), and Barnes said that he will be focusing on that the most during the second half of the season.

"I think defensively we need to keep improving; we're not very good at all," Barnes said. "Some of that has to do with personnel, some of that has to do with mental toughness and raising your level of game each day. I thought we played great defense against Cleveland State, and then we really struggled against Detroit and Oakland on the road."

The Horizon League tournament is more than a month away, but Barnes emphasized that the team isn't concerned with their standings yet.

"We're not too worried about where we are going to be seeded, we're trying to take it one game at a time," Barnes said. "With this group if you start looking too far ahead, you lose track of the little things that help you win games. We're going to break it down as small as we can so it doesn't get overwhelming."

Tipoff for the game against Green Bay is set for 7 p.m. on Jan. 26 and can be watched on ESPN 3. YSU will also play University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Jan. 28 at 4:30 p.m.

The Press Box Perspective: All-Star Weekend in the NHL

BY ANDREW ZUHOSKY

This Sunday, right before the NFL's biggest stars converge on Orlando's Camping World Stadium for the annual Pro Bowl Game, the NHL's best stars will take to the rink inside the Staples Center in Los Angeles for the NHL All-Star Game.

So, here's a question I want to ask you: Will you watch the game this Sunday?

The general consensus for people on this question might be "Yeah, I may as well watch the game. There's no meaningful NFL game this week and the NBA Sunday package doesn't start for a few more weeks. I'll check it out."

If you watch, here is something important you'll need to

know: The NHL All-Star Game is formatted differently than the other all-star games in other sports. Rather than a traditional East vs. West format, the NHL breaks its all-star game down into mini-games in a tournament pitting the best players from the league's four divisions against one another.

This is the second year for the format in the NHL All-Star Game. Here's how it works:

The first two mini-games are semifinals. All mini-games are played as 3-on-3 contests.

Each mini-game is played in two 10-minute periods. Should there be a tie score after the second period of a mini-game, penalty shots will decide the winner.

Winning squads from the semifinals progress through to the final, where \$1 million awaits the champion.

In addition, this year's All-Star Game will be the first to air on broadcast television in over a decade. The game will be televised live on NBC Sports this Sunday at 4:00 p.m. EST. It's the first NHL All-Star Game to be aired on over-the-air television since ABC's coverage of the All-Star Game in 2004, the last year that ESPN and ABC televised the NHL.

If any of you out there are still unsold on the game, how about this: Pittsburgh Penguins captain and forward Sidney Crosby was awarded the captaincy of the Metropolitan Division's all-star team, with Columbus Blue Jackets head coach John Tortorella serving as the team's head coach.

Washington Capitals forward Alexander Overchkin will play on the team as well.

will also be on the Metropol-

itan roster, as will Washington Capitals forward Alexander Ovechkin.

I don't know about you, but I'm really interested to see how Crosby and Ovechkin play as teammates, especially considering that they're usually archrivals.

Still, there's an awfully negative attitude that people have about hockey. They'll often say "Oh, it's just hockey. I don't watch hockey. I don't like hockey."

I've heard this kind of talk from people again and again. It really upsets me that people badmouth the sport of hockey when it's such a great sport.

I watch the NHL every now and then and I'm entertained by the games every time I watch.

Case in point: Over New Year's weekend, in-between watching

football, I turned on the NHL Centennial Classic from Toronto and the NHL Winter Classic from St. Louis the next day.

I watch NHL Network every so often in addition to watching and listening to NHL games whenever I can.

The idea that people hate on hockey just because it's cool to hate on hockey is a very troubling idea. Think about it: In the future, if people continue to badmouth hockey, the sport could lose its appeal with fans all over. I don't want to see that happen, ever.

So, in conclusion, I implore you to watch the NHL All-Star Game this Sunday. Give hockey a chance. Can you do that?



The Youngstown State University softball team was predicted to finish fourth in the Horizon League on Tuesday. A poll was conducted by all head coaches in the conference and were required not to vote for their team. The top three teams include conference favorite University of Chicago followed by Wright State University and Valparaiso University.

YSU finished 2016 with a 30-21 record, 15-7 in the Horizon League, and were eliminated from the Horizon League tournament after losing to Valpo and Cleveland State University. YSU pitcher Paige Geanangel (above) led the Penguins with a 4.17 ERA while recording 17 wins last season.

PHOTO BY DAN HINER / THE JAMBAR

A Dragster For Youngstown



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RYAN MARTINO

Ryan Martino (left) drives his car down the track. Both he and his father drive the car.

BY JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR
CHRIS MCBRIDE

Ryan Martino, race engineer and driver for Martino Motorsports, has always had pride in being from Youngstown. From his playing days at Youngstown State University as a punter for Penguins football to his time with Martino Motorsports, he makes sure to wear a reminder of Youngstown everywhere he goes to remember what he's striving for.

Martino wears something Youngstown on all team apparel. Whenever Martino sits in that driver seat he always memorializes the message he saw every game as a YSU Penguins football player.

"What are you going to do now," Martino said.

Whether it be in winning or losing, it was a lesson Martino and his teammates had drilled in their heads with every walk through the tunnel. Those words still hold a powerful amount of meaning to Martino to this day, even after he's traded in his football pads for a racing suit.

Under the tutelage of former YSU football coach Jim Tressel, there were many lessons to be learned from the respected coach.

"Coach Tressel had a book called 'The Winner's Manual' that he passed out before camp started each fall. It was a book of inspiration, motivation and reflection. Be-

fore or after games and practice, if you felt like you were on top of the highest mountain or if you felt like you were in the deepest of valleys, that book always brought you back to level ground," Martino said.

Though football and drag racing are drastically different scenes, Martino sees similarities in the two that fuel his racing mentality.

"Football and racing are similar in a lot of ways; both sports have winners and losers and usually come down to a battle of inches at the end," Martino said.

According to Martino, overcoming adversity is what determines whether or not you are a champion.

"It's all about the next play after a win or lose, the next series after a turnover or loss of downs that determines if you're a true champion or not," Martino said.

At the end of the day, Martino believes that "every play counts, and every race counts" and that's the type of competitor he is once he steps on the track. Martino attributes his YSU days to helping him prepare for the future.

Whether it be his football days at YSU or current days spent on the track, Martino remains a diehard fan of Youngstown. And though his playing days are over, he still keeps an ear to the ground when it comes to YSU.

"We've been known to get a look or two in restaurants and hotels when we are on the road for personal appearance and or races, listening along because the games get us that fired up to see the Penguins win," Martino said.

After a successful season for Penguins football, Ryan Martino saw something to be proud of in spite of it not ending in a championship season for YSU.

"It made me 'Y and Proud'. This year was a statement to the world that the YSU Penguins are back," Martino said.

Martino Motorsports had some success of its own in 2016, but much akin to YSU's loss in the Football Championship Subdivision, it was a season that ultimately ended in disappointment.

With a shot of clinching a season championship, a series of complications in the last two events put a damper on their quest to bring a championship back to Youngstown.

Having dropped from second to fifth in the standings in 2016, it was a low point that Martino vows "won't happen again this year" as him and his team prepare for 2017.

"We had the season that YSU had this year, the Cleveland Indians [had this year in baseball], the season that the Cleveland Cavaliers had in 2015," Martino said.

Moving forward, Martino says that 2017 is about winning. Winning not just for him but for Youngstown.

"It means everything to me. It means I'm a winner, a hard worker and that I know how to handle adversity," Martino said. "Youngstown is my home. Youngstown is where I belong."