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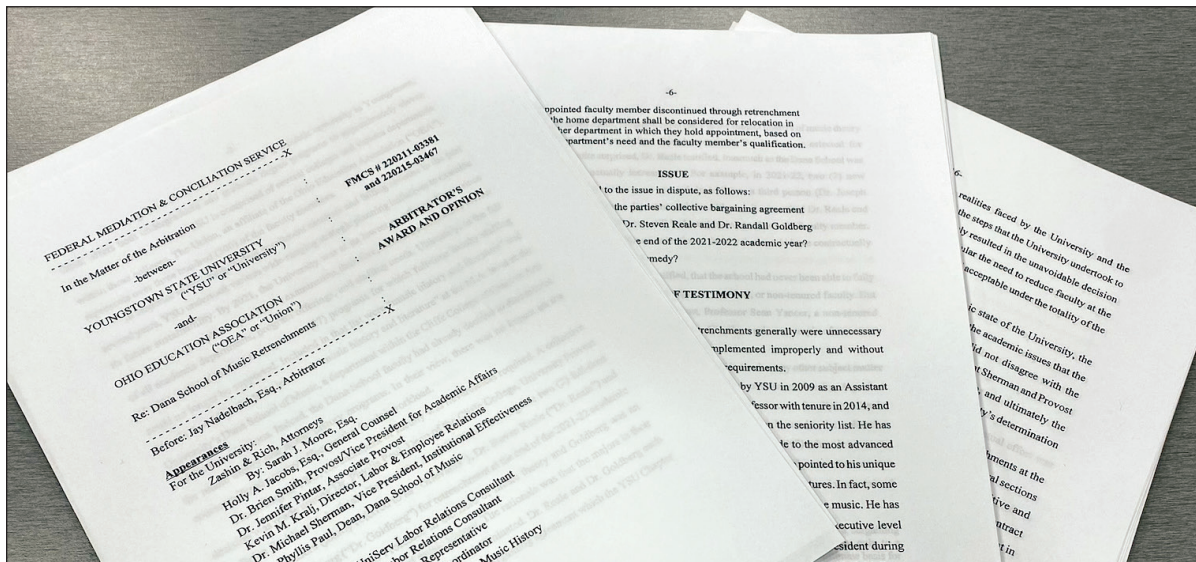
FREE!



Thursday, March 2, 2023



RETRENCHED AND RETURNED



YSU is required to pay back lost income of two retrenched professors.

Photo by Shianna Gibbons / The Jambar

Dana professor yet to receive back pay

By Shianna Gibbons
The Jambar

An arbiter determined Dec. 9 that Youngstown State University wrongfully retrenched Steven Reale and Randall Goldberg, two Dana School of Music professors.

The arbiter, Jay Nadelbach, wrote in his decision that the YSU administration had failed to uphold multiple sections of Article 13 Retrenchment of Faculty in the collective bargaining agreement. The arbiter awarded the reinstatement of both professors and back pay for any loss of wages.

While Reale is back on campus teaching music theory courses, he stated he has yet to see any payment

for his lost wages from YSU. Goldberg is to be awarded any lost wages but has taken a new job. YSU's legal affairs office declined to comment until the settlement was finalized.

In October 2021, Dana School of Music faculty were given notice that the Office of the Provost and the dean of Cliffe Creative Arts College decided to sunset the music theory and music history and literature programs. In November of 2021, Reale and Goldberg were told they would be retrenched.

Reale said the faculty of the school of music put together an objection to the sunset of the programs and faculty retrenchment.

YSU-OEA, Page 2

History tracks: Activists shed light

By Elizabeth Coss
The Jambar

Around 2,500 people registered to visit East Palestine High School on Feb. 24 to hear from speakers Erin Brockovich and Mikal Watts about their findings on the East Palestine train derailment.

Watts, an attorney from Texas, spoke about a variety of red flags raised when he, other attorneys and environmentalists looked over data surrounding Norfolk Southern, the company involved in the train derailment.

According to Watts, the incident in East Palestine hasn't been Norfolk Southern's first accident or derailment. He explained several incidents have happened within the past 20 years.

"In 2002, in Tennessee 10,600 gallons of sulfuric acid were released after this company derailed a train there. In 2012 in Paulsboro, New Jersey, 23,000 gallons of vinyl chloride were released," Watts said. "2018, in Pennsylvania, 46 double-stack cars and 23 well cars jumped the tracks ... and of course, what just happened to you."

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STAFF**EDITOR IN CHIEF**

Elizabeth Coss
eacoss@student.ysu.edu

MANAGING EDITOR

Shianna Gibbons
smgibbons@student.ysu.edu

NEWS EDITOR

Christopher Gillett
cmgillett@student.ysu.edu

STUDENT LIFE EDITOR

Samantha Smith
slsmith15@student.ysu.edu

SPORTS EDITOR

John Ostapowicz
jfostapowicz@student.ysu.edu

SPORTS REPORTER

Cameron Niemi
cniemi@student.ysu.edu

GENERAL REPORTERS

Jessica Stamp
jstamp@student.ysu.edu

Molly Burke
mkburke@student.ysu.edu

Natalie Lasky
nmlasky@student.ysu.edu

Cassandra Lucyk
celuck@student.ysu.edu

Jazelle Artman
jeartman@student.ysu.edu

VOLUNTEER PHOTOGRAPHER

Viktoria Paliakovich
vpaliakovich@student.ysu.edu

HEAD COPY EDITOR

Michael Sheehan
masheehan@student.ysu.edu

ASSISTANT COPY EDITORS

Isaac Bobin
iebodin@student.ysu.edu

VOLUNTEER COPY EDITOR

Maria Schwartz
meschwartz01@student.ysu.edu

HEAD DESIGNER

Jessica Stamp
jstamp@student.ysu.edu

ASSISTANT DESIGNER

Madison Fessler
mrfessler@student.ysu.edu

COLUMNIST

Henry Shorr
hlshorr@student.ysu.edu

ASSISTANT VIDEO EDITORS

Kara Boerio
klboerio@student.ysu.edu

Sydney Fairbanks
sefairbanks@student.ysu.edu

WEB MANAGER

Austin Caroline
ajcaroline@student.ysu.edu

ASSISTANT WEB MANAGER

Rikkisa Khadka
rkhadka01@student.ysu.edu

SOCIAL MEDIA CURATOR

Langley Mackesy
lemackesy@student.ysu.edu

BUSINESS MANAGER

Mary Dota
mfdota@ysu.edu

YSU-OEA

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“We outlined what we saw as being the prime contract violations. If [they] were going to retrench in these conditions, [they] are violating the contract in at least three places. So we told the university in this document, and the university continued to move forward with the retrenchment,” Reale said.

From there, Reale said he put together an appeal document stating the same three violations of Article 13, but that administration was going to move forward. Reale filed a grievance, which had a hearing in January 2022, then moved to arbitration.

“By the time we went into arbitration, the university had already been told on three different occasions why they were violating procedure and moving forward,” Reale said.

Gabriel Palmer-Fernandez, chair of the YSU-OEA grievance committee, said arbitration is sometimes necessary but can be costly and time-consuming.

“What happens in our process is that there is no separation, because [YSU administration is] judge and jury at the same time. So in order to get an external set of eyes as it were, on the complaint, we have to go through these various steps, and then go to arbitration, which is costly, which is very time-consuming,” Palmer-Fernandez said.

Three days of hearings for testimony and evidence were presented to Nadelbach from July 25 to July 27, 2022, by the YSU administration and YSU-OEA.

According to the arbiter’s report, YSU argued that the decision to retrench faculty was to maintain financial stability given

the decline in student enrollment. The arbiter’s report also stated that the decision to retrench faculty was, “reasonable and acceptable under the totality of the circumstances.”

However, Nadelbach stated that YSU did violate three articles of 13.2 in the collective bargaining agreement.

First, the arbiter’s report stated that the YSU retrenchment committee failed to acknowledge the priority hierarchy of faculty when it made the decision to retrench outlined in 13.2(a).

Secondly, Nadelbach stated YSU failed to “make every effort” to relocate the extra faculty.

“Ostensibly, YSU would have me accept the self-serving general representation that its committee looked at other positions, both before and after the retrenchments, and reasonably determined that the Grievants simply had to be let go because they were not qualified to teach other Dana School of Music courses. I find that level of effort to be unacceptable given the article 13.2(e) requirements,” Nadelbach stated.

Lastly, Nadelbach stated YSU’s decision to keep faculty members with less seniority over Reale and Goldberg was “simply unconvincing and improbable.”

Reale said arbiters typically try to come to a middle-ground decision, but this was not the case.

“There’s a saying that if both sides walk away unhappy, then that’s probably the right call. But that’s not what happened here. The arbitrator found uniformly in our favor and on every charge that we made,” Reale said.

Reale said teaching is his passion and he is thrilled to be back in the classroom, but YSU’s administration violated the

community’s trust.

“This has been a catastrophically bad decision, and to my knowledge, no one in administration has been held accountable for it,” Reale said. “YSU’s administration holds a real position of trust within the Mahoning Valley to be the best possible stewards of this university — which is the crown jewel of the region. The arbiter’s finding has shown that the administration has grievously violated that trust and anyone who cares deeply for YSU should be deeply troubled by that.”

In a press release, YSU-OEA President Mark Vopat stated YSU-OEA was happy to welcome back the Dana School of Music professors and to continue working to provide for and protect diverse programs at YSU.

“We do not want to see any more faculty put through this long, damaging process of appeals and arbitrations. We want to focus our attention and resources on strengthening our programs, not building defenses against unjust terminations,” Vopat stated.

In a statement given by Ron Cole, YSU’s spokesperson, YSU would abide by the arbiter’s decision.

“We have received, read and will abide by the arbitrator’s decision. The ruling, however, does not change the financial realities facing YSU. The arbitrator himself conceded that retrenchment of faculty is a necessity given the university’s economic condition, and he noted that even the faculty union did not disagree with the need for faculty retrenchments. We will continue to operate the university in a financially responsible and prudent manner that ensures a sustainable future for YSU, our students and our community,” Cole stated

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7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed

High: 54°F	High: 42°F	High: 40°F	High: 47°F	High: 54°F	High: 43°F	High: 37°F
Low: 30°F	Low: 37°F	Low: 31°F	Low: 27°F	Low: 39°F	Low: 24°F	Low: 23°F
Chance of precip: 2%	Chance of precip: 95%	Chance of precip: 47%	Chance of precip: 5%	Chance of precip: 21%	Chance of precip: 55%	Chance of precip: 1%



Partly Cloudy



Sleet



Rain



Partly Cloudy



Partly Cloudy



Scattered Showers



Overcast

Information courtesy of accuweather.com

Changes coming to planetarium

By John Cox
Jambar Contributor

Since the Jan. 9 fire, the Ward Beecher Planetarium was closed while the extent of the damage was assessed, costs tabulated and a timeline for the future established.

Planetarium Engineer Curt Spivey said in addition to the fire, water damage required key parts to be replaced.

“We were early adopters of the system from a company called ChromaCove. They have evolved so many generations past our system that they won’t be able to replace what got damaged,” Spivey said.

When the Youngstown Fire Department used hoses to put out the flames, water spread throughout the planetarium and damaged the 55-year-old dome.

“Even if we were able to save the dome, it would have to get out of the way for them to fix the roof behind. We’ve had a couple experts look at the dome and it’s probably going to have to be replaced,” Spivey said.

“When the new dome goes in, it will look radically different than it looks now. The dome will be a little bit lower,”

Spivey also said there were about three to four inches of water in the room once it was accessible.

With the planetarium closed for up to a year according to Spivey, all shows — for schools and for the general public — are canceled.

Astronomy classes were being taught in other classrooms, which professors found to be a challenge in fully immersing students in the material compared to the setting and technology the planetarium offers.

Astronomy professor Patrick Durrell said the alternate environments detract from the impact of lessons.

“Our courses are designed for the planetarium. We project onto the big screen and show full-dome videos about some of the wonderful things in the universe. Moving to a normal classroom with a smaller projector and screen — you lose some of that,” Durrell said.

The planetarium was opened back up for classes Feb. 17, albeit with the lights and dome still damaged.

“We moved some of our smaller classes in there as a trial run and we let people know that it’s not 100%, but let’s see if we can make this a better experience for everybody,” Durrell said.

Classes will continue in the planetarium until the end of the semester while repairs start.

YSU’s insurance will cover most of the damages, but Spivey believes not everything that needs to be taken care of will be able to be covered, such as the seats.

“The seats in there are 15-years-old, but if the dome comes down the seats have to come out. Fifteen year old seats going back in might not be an option,” Spivey said. “We might have to foot the bill and buy new seats, but that’s a maybe.”

For more information and updates, refer to the Ward Beecher Planetarium’s Facebook page.



Despite the repairs, classes will continue to be held in the planetarium.

Photos by John Cox / Jambar Contributor

Derailment

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Watts also explained that he and other attorneys looked into how often derailments occur for the company.

The team members discovered that according to the United States Department of Transportation database on accident reports that from 2003 to 2022, Norfolk Southern reported 3,397 events classified as derailments.

Brockovich, a whistleblower and activist, has worked on various environmental cases including investigations on water pollution and contaminants released by Pacific Gas & Electric Company in Hinkley, California. She was also an activist in the Flint, Michigan water crisis.

Since Feb. 4, Brockovich said she had been receiving emails and pleas from citizens to come to the city and look into the safety risks.

“I could see the frustration and confusion growing for all of you,” Brockovich said. “Every community I’ve been going to for 30 years is the same run around and

they don’t get information ... You have symptoms, you have issues. You want to be heard, but you’re going to be told it’s safe.”

Brockovich also said the city has common sense by expressing concern.

“Don’t let what has happened here divide you. I’ve done this enough times ... don’t expect somebody to give you the answers. This is not a quick fix. This is going to be a long game,” Brockovich said.

Bob Bowcock, a water expert in hydrology, also spoke on a variety of issues the community will face.

Bowcock, who has worked with Brockovich on other incidents, said the community shouldn’t expect things to happen fast because it takes time for chemical and water contents to pass through soil.

“[The water and chemicals] percolated down into your ground water table and it starts moving around your community,” Bowcock said. “That takes a long time, because it has to go through soils, it doesn’t just sit and spread around, it takes months and years to migrate.”

Bowcock said there was the potential for dioxin exposure in the air and water from when the controlled

release took place to bioaccumulate.

“Dioxin is a bioaccumulator,” Bowcock said. “It will be uptaken by the plants and it will be consumed and you will bioaccumulate it ... It’s going to stay with you for a very long time. Everyone in this room has dioxin in their bloodstream, we need to understand what those base levels are.”

Watts said he encouraged individuals who were worried about their health, fear of cancer and interested in pursuing lawsuits to consider getting their blood tested for chemicals or collecting samples of their urine to have proof beyond speculation to uphold in a court of law.

Youngstown State University will hold a donation drive for those affected by the train derailment until March 3.

Donation boxes will be placed throughout Kilcawley Center to collect non-perishable items.

For more information from Watts, Brockovich, the team of attorneys and others working on the East Palestine train derailment, visit eastpalestinejustice.com. Contact Adeline Whaley at akwhaley01@student.yosu.edu for information on the drive.



Activists discuss the effects of the train derailment on the environment.

Photo by Elizabeth Coss / The Jambar

WOMEN'S WORKING HISTORY



The YHCIL is located on Wood Street.

Photo by Jazelle Artman / The Jambar

Shedding light on working women

By Jazelle Artman
The Jambar

The Youngstown Historical Center of Industry and Labor recently received a quarterly grant of \$7,500 from The Ohio Humanities Council to conduct and archive the stories of working women within Mahoning County.

Marcelle Wilson, site manager at the YHCIL, said the museum has hired two researchers to conduct interviews.

“We have two researchers who are contacting women who have worked outside the home from the 1970s through the 2000s. They set up oral history interviews, which we do here at the museum. Once they conduct those, we have a spreadsheet that we utilize to quantify the information that we gather about women’s experiences outside the home,” Wilson said.

Wilson said the steel museum is looking for women of all ages willing to interview and share their experiences.

“We want to talk to young women who are in the workplace now, women who have been working and then women who’ve retired because they can share

their experiences. They can commiserate with problems and they can see how change and improvement has occurred,” Wilson said.

Wilson said the interviews are targeted to women facing challenges in a variety of areas.

“We are not specifically looking for women who face challenges. We are collecting information on how women are dealing in the workplace and we’re finding that a lot of the issues pertain to families as a whole,” Wilson said.

Wilson also said the museum wants a variety of women from different cultural backgrounds because of Youngstown’s rich and diverse community.

“We want to get experiences from everyone. People of color, African American, Latina, Latinx, women from every spectrum of life we’re interested in and how they have coped,” Wilson said.

The goal of the research is to decipher a recurring issue and if there is any way to improve the work-life balance of women in the area.

“This idea of work-life balance is not a new issue that women and men really are dealing with. These are a lot

of family issues that affect everyone,” Wilson said. “We want to see how the workplace culture has changed over time. What still needs to be dealt with and then what improvements have we seen in where?”

Interviews will be filmed on the second floor of the museum and last around 60 minutes.

“We have one of our two researchers who will ask you a variety of questions, and you answer them based on what your experiences have been,” Wilson said.

The museum will also hold workshops to teach women how to conduct research.

“We are going to be holding some workshops to teach women and girls how to conduct oral histories, and to get them together to discuss their experiences,” Wilson said.

The steel museum will have a preliminary program meeting at 6 p.m. on March 16 to share the data uncovered thus far. The museum plans to open an exhibit displaying the research later in the fall.

For more information about the museum, go to its website, or call (330) 941-1314.

Wanted: More residents

By Hannah Werle
Jambar Contributor

The Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber and Eastgate Regional Council of Governments, among other organizations, are working to create an office dedicated to repopulation efforts in the Mahoning Valley.

Those involved in the project estimate the area needs approximately 3,600 more workers to fill the jobs provided by incoming businesses.

In an effort to meet these new demands, organizations such as the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, the Western Reserve Port Authority and Global Cleveland are working with Eastgate Regional Council of Governments and the regional chamber to start the repopulation efforts.

According to Jim Kinnick, executive director of the Eastgate, the partners plan to have a media campaign to promote the Mahoning Valley to current and former residents within three to six months. Kinnick said he hopes the organization can become recognized and obtain a physical office by 2024.

“We’re not afraid to ask for help. I think that needs to be emphasized. We’re not experts, but we’re going to bring experts in,” Kinnick said. “The community leaders and business leaders are willing to help us, and it’s going to take the efforts of everybody to make this successful.”

Kinnick named business leaders and representatives from organizations such as Avalon Golf and Country Club, PNC Financial Services Inc. and Huntington

Bancshares as contributors to the efforts. These businesses, along with others, have provided funding and resources to the project.

While the plan is still in its early stages, the group has recognized what it calls the “three R’s of repopulation.” The efforts will aim to retain existing residents, return those who’ve left the area and receive immigrants and refugees.

Kinnick said those in the office are planning to hire a consultant and cultural liaison, who will begin the process of receiving global populations.

According to a flyer provided by Kinnick, Ukrainian and climate refugees are expected to be the main focus for relocation.

Lisa Long, Financial Resource Development director of the Youngstown Area Jewish Federation, has worked with the group to provide funding and immigration assistance.

Programs to help with English acquisition, housing and food options must be developed before any efforts toward immigration or refugee relocation can be made, Long said.

“We really do need 3,600 workers, and along with those workers come, hopefully, 3,600 families. So, we want to make sure that all of our systems are ready to go — and some of that will have to happen before folks get here, but some of that will organically grow once folks get here as well,” Long said.

According to Long, one of the federation’s goals is to create a system that welcomes and supports newcom-

ers as they settle into the area. Long hopes to provide information and opportunities for these newcomers to practice the cultural and religious traditions important to them.

A key to making the Mahoning Valley appealing to immigrants and refugees is to create a working relationship between those leading various cultural organizations and religious practices, Long said.

The Jewish Federation, along with the repopulation office, hopes to work with interfaith communities to aid newcomers.

“With all of our agencies, the Jewish Community Center, our nursing home or our day school, the majority of people we serve are not Jewish,” Long said. “We do a lot of work through our Jewish Community Relations Council, a lot of interfaith work and a lot of work within the Youngstown community in general. And so we know we’re a partner in the growth of Youngstown, whatever shape that might take.”

Nate Myers, associate provost for International Initiatives at Youngstown State University, has spoken with the Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber about joining the efforts. Myers believes religion, culture and amenities will serve as important factors in making the Mahoning Valley more appealing.

“At the end of the day, people need to feel like they’re embedded in the community that cares about them,” Myers said.



Jim Kinnick is the executive director of Eastgate, a council dedicated to bringing new people to the Mahoning Valley.

Photo by Hannah Werle / Jambar Contributor

BSU hosts VERZUZ, changes leadership

By Christopher Gillett
The Jambar

The Black Student Union hosted its second-annual VERZUZ, a karaoke event open to all Youngstown State University students, to destress before midterms, on the evening of Feb. 25 in the Rossi Room in Kilcawley Center.

The event gave attendees the opportunity to sing any song they wanted to, compete for prizes, have food and socialize with one another. VERZUZ was the last event of the outgoing president hosted. The event acted as a part of a transition in the BSU.

The BSU founder and outgoing President David Hughley III, a senior business administration major, said it's great to see people perform songs.

"[I enjoy] seeing people perform their songs of any genre — classic, rock, hip hop, R&B [and] soul. It doesn't matter. It's just about having fun," Hughley said.

Incoming BSU President Julian Johnson, a junior political science major, also hosted the event with Hughley and said he was excited to host his first event for the club.

"I'm just excited for the turnout and great vibes from the student body, and also partly hosting my first event," Johnson said.

Hughley said BSU's events, like VERZUZ, have changed as the organization has grown.

"[BSU is] a much bigger organization. We volunteer

more. We have more funds to do stuff like this — much more leadership, and just, we're an entirely different organization. We've definitely expanded since we started here," Hughley said.

Johnson also said he was expecting a lot of turnout for VERZUZ because of the club's outreach.

"For my first time, I'm expecting a good turnout for the event, because we did advertise this really well, and just getting ready to host events and just be a part of Black Student Union as president," Johnson said.

Johnson said he was ecstatic to assume full-time leadership of the BSU, and to rebrand the club to make it more like a family.

"I'm most excited for the events in the future — to be honest — I'm trying to rebrand [the BSU], to make [the organization] a nice family-type atmosphere," Johnson said. "We're gonna have a lot of fun with it. And also the club is not just open to [African Americans], it's open to everybody to join."

For many members of the BSU, it was their first time attending VERZUZ. Junior social work major Kani Jones-Thomas, the treasurer for the BSU, was among those attending for the first time. He said he was most excited about meeting and having fun with club members.

"We've been having a lot more people coming and getting involved within the club. So, it'd be more exciting to have more people come in or have the same faces come up and get to know them more," Jones-Thomas said.

The BSU is open to all YSU students, for anyone interested in joining the club, email Johnson at jcjohnson11@student.ysu.edu.

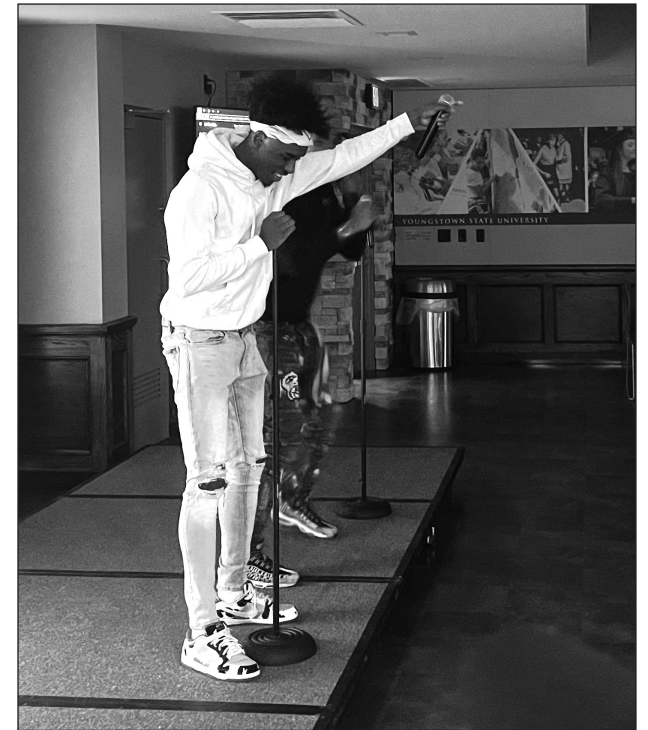


Photo by Christopher Gillett / The Jambar

Attendees take the stage to perform karaoke.

When flyers don't fly at YSU

By Aleksa Radenovic
Jambar Contributor

Flyers compete for students' attention on bulletin boards in buildings across Youngstown State University's campus.

However, student organizations at Youngstown State University are required to get their flyers approved before hanging them up in order to follow the YSU Posting Policy guidelines.

Joy Polkabla Byers, associate vice president of Student Experience, said she encourages all students to read the YSU's Free Speech Policy and the Posting Policy on the Division of Student Affairs website before posting any flyers.

"In order for students to post their views and thoughts, there are guidelines on how to post on campus in a form of individual events," Byers said. "You will need to go to the Kilcawley staff desk to have it stamped, it can't be larger than 11 by 17, have the date of the event, who is posting it and contact."

Flyers not following these guidelines or violating the Code of Student Conduct have been taken down and reported

Elsa Khan, vice president of the Student Life Committee for the Student Government Association, witnessed the misuse of campus advertisement and free speech during last year's SGA campaign season. She reported the incident without stating any names and the flyers were removed.

"Last year, SGA had three different people running for president and vice president and I definitely saw some examples of certain students using their platforms to kind of poke fun at current or future administrations," Khan said.

Khan said there are strategies to stay within the guidelines of the Posting Policy.

"Try to avoid using negative language because we at Student Life do not tolerate negative campaigning, which I believe is also a bad reflection of your own character," Khan said.

Caleb Queen, coordinator of Student Involvement,

said YSU has specific staff members who monitor the halls and boards that hold the flyers to ensure they're up to date and not over cluttered.

Queen said he encourages students to report whatever they believe needs to be looked into.

"We would prefer that people report it if they see something, that way we can have the staff look at it, as opposed to students just taking things down themselves," Queen said. "If something like that happens, we tend to take it to the Dean of Students Office to try and see what was happening."

Byers said Youngstown State Posting Policy is structured to promote free speech on campus. YSU's Free Speech Policy can be read and is on the Student Affairs website.

"We value speech across campus and that the individuals have the ability to have an individual thought, expression and assembly as our constitution indicates with the Free Speech Policy," Byers said.



BEAT OF THE DRUM

A discussion on percussion

By **Samantha Smith**
The Jambar

Youngstown State University's percussion ensemble is set for three more concerts this semester.

Glenn Schaft, director of percussion studies, explained the practices students go through to prepare for each event.

"We rehearse every Tuesday and Thursday for an hour and a half. We scheduled different pieces and blocks each week," Schaft said. "We dedicate a certain amount of time to each piece and we rotate through the pieces."

YSU's percussion ensemble performs each music piece differently compared to a regular orchestra, Schaft said.

"A lot of our pieces are different than like what you might see in a concert band or orchestra, where pretty much everyone in the orchestra plays every piece," Schaft said. "We might be doing a sextet, and then the next piece is a trio. So not all the students are playing on every piece. So sometimes we use two rooms simultaneously, to make the gear usage more efficient and use our time better."

Schaft said the ensemble will perform different genres like Argentinian, Afro Cuban and Japanese-inspired music for the concerts.

"This semester we're playing quite a variety of music. We're playing a piece that's a marimba concerto," Schaft said. "We're playing some Argentinian tango music that was originally written for string quartet that we transcribed for marimba quartet.

We're playing kind of a music theater piece called 'Music Tables.'"

Schaft said the ensemble transcribes music created for certain instruments to be played as a percussion piece.

"[It] wasn't as difficult as you would think. If you look at a string quartet, we figured out what the range of a cello is and it just happens to match with our five octave marimba. So we can pretty much play the part exactly as it's written for a cello. The trickiest part is the viola part, where it is written in a different clef. We have to transpose it up a step because the viola is written in an alto clef which none of us are used to reading," Schaft said.

The ensemble currently has 13 to 14 students but can have up to 17 students at a time. Students can audition to be in the ensemble in the fall semester. Schaft said it is recommended the student is a percussion major, but any student is allowed to audition.

The final three concerts are on March 23 at the Butler Institute of American Art, April 12 at Ford Theater in Bliss Hall and April 29 at Norwin High School in Irwin, Pennsylvania. Each event is free and open to the public. For more information about the percussion ensemble, visit its webpage.

"We rehearse every Tuesday and Thursday for an hour and a half."

— **Glenn Schaft**,
Director of percussion studies

Left End rides again

By John Ostapowicz
Jambar Contributor

After going on hiatus for nine years, Left End will return to the Packard Music Hall in Warren, Ohio on March 11.

Many said Youngstown's classic rock band Left End pioneered the glam rock sound of the early 1970s in the Mahoning Valley.

The band's rise to popularity stemmed from the late lead singer Dennis Sesonsky, widely known by his stage name Dennis T. Menass. His onstage antics made him the face of Left End.

Before Left End was founded, drummer Patsy Palombo, bassist Roy Guerrieri and guitarists Tom Figginsky and Jim Puhalla started as the Soulsations.

During a show at The Apartment, a local nightclub in Youngstown, Sesonsky approached the group and wanted to join the band. Palombo remembers the impact he made on the group.

"He came in our dressing room after the show and said you are the loudest, most obnoxious group I've ever seen in my life. I'd love to play with you guys," Palombo said.

At the time, Sesonsky was the premier rock singer in the Mahoning Valley, as he had been a part of the Pied Pipers, Citations and Holy Mackerel.

With the addition of Sesonsky, the Soulsations went from soul music to hard rock in 1971 and officially changed the band's name to Left End.

"He came into the band and insisted that we do glam rock stuff," Palombo said. "He was only with the band for our second rehearsal when we wrote 'Sunshine Girl.'"

In 1972, Left End recorded its first single, "Sunshine Girl," with Peppermint Records, a recording studio on the south side of Youngstown. The single quickly reached the top of the charts with the help of popular radio station 101.1 WHOT-FM.

"We took it to their Program Director Dick Thompson," Palombo said. "It got a great response, so they played it again until it was number three."

A year later, the band released "Bad Talking Lady," which reached number one on 101.1 WHOT-FM and 1390 WNIO-AM, formerly known as WFMJ-AM. In the same year, "Bad Talking Lady" finished sixth on the WHOT-FM 'Good Guys' Fabulous 50 Tunedex for the week of July 2.

At the time, the tunedex was picked by popular disc jockeys A.C McCullough, Boots Bell and Jerry Star.

Besides Left End's radio popularity, the band's live performances took Youngstown by storm. The band played at popular attractions including The Apartment, The Tomorrow Club and the Idora Amusement Park ballroom.

The Tomorrow Club featured big names such as AC/DC, The Ramones, Joe Walsh and Madonna. The interaction between the bands and the fans is what made the club popular.

At Idora Park, Left End was a featured act for 13 consecutive years for 101.1 WHOT-FM's Spring Thing, a run that ended when a fire destroyed the park in 1984.

With the traction and hours of radio play from local radio stations, Left End landed a record deal with Polydor Records in 1974. The band released its first and only album, "Spoiled Rotten."

The record catapulted Left End into national success, as it toured with The Eagles, Ted Nugent and Foghat.

The band's hopes of a second album and international tour were dashed after Polydor merged with RKO Records. The band sued the company to get out of its contract, which led to Left End being blacklisted among other record labels.

After disbanding in 1985, the band reunited in honor of Sesonsky in 2014 for the Youngstown Music Awards. The awards featured Left End as the headliner with four local singers, each taking turns singing the band's hits.

Lead vocalist for The Stage of Dreams and Haymaker, Daniel Butch, performed "Sunshine Girl" with the band and remembers the pressure of performing.

"It was quite an experience and a little intimidating to be honest," Butch said. "The place was sold out. There were so many people there and it all led up to the Left End performing."

In 2020, Palombo published the band's memoir, "Tenacity: The Left End Story." The inspiration for the novel came from the band's countless stories.

"Many fans for years have said you ought to write a book, you have all these cool stories," Palombo said.

With the help of co-promoter Ray Timlin, the band will reunite for its reunion show, Left End Ridin' Again, featuring original members Palombo, Guerrieri, Figginsky and Puhalla.

For the show, guitarist Dave Lemasters and lead vocalist Michael Lawrence will perform with the band.

Lawrence graduated from Coastal Carolina University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and toured around the United States before finding his way to Las Vegas.

"It's been a dream come true for me. I love rock and hard rock and grew up listening to it," Lawrence said.

To purchase tickets for Left End's reunion show, visit [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com). Doors open at 7 p.m. on March 11.



Photo by John Ostapowicz / Jambar Contributor

Left End's album "Spoiled Rotten."

K8YSU competes in School Club Roundup

By Molly Burke
The Jambar

Youngstown State University's Amateur Radio Club competed in School Club Roundup, a national amateur radio competition that took place Feb. 13 through 17.

Students connected with people all over the world through YSU's radio station, K8YSU. With each connection, the club scored points. Higher points were awarded for connections with other schools and places outside the United States.

Frank Sole, the advisor for the Amateur Radio Club, said School Club Roundup is open to all schools in America.

"Any type of school — grade school, middle school, high school, college, trade school — can compete on the air nationally," Sole said. "It happens twice a year, it's scheduled per semester. We have a spring semester and a fall semester."

During the October session, K8YSU scored over 67,000 points. Sole said this placed the team 4th out of 18 collegiate stations and 6th nationwide.

"We had about six to eight folks up here operating ... and you're only allowed a total of 24 hours on the air, but we put in about 22 or 23 total hours on the air," Sole said. "Out of all the stations that competed nationwide, we were 6th. We only had three college stations beat us, one grade school and one high school."

"Any type of school — grade school, middle school, high school, college, trade school — can compete on the air nationally."

— Frank Sole,
Advisor for the Amateur Radio Club

Since fall, the club has grown its membership. Thirteen students participated in the February session of School Club Round, and K8YSU beat its previous score by about 1,000 points. The club will find out overall placing within the next few months.

Freshman business administration major, Ryan Pribulsky, said he spent many hours on air during School Club Roundup.

"About 1 o'clock every day, I would come here ... turn all the equipment on ... and get on the air, and just see what's going on, see who's out there, call 'CQ' as we say, which means 'is anyone out there?'" Pribulsky said. "The furthest contact we've made so far is New Zealand."

Despite the club's success, the competition was not without its challenges. Pribulsky said a coronal mass ejection interrupted connections Friday.

"There [was] a coronal mass ejection, which is a solar weather phenomenon that disrupts our ability to communicate. It's complicated, but basically the radio waves bounce on the upper atmosphere like a blanket, and it's like they took the blanket off ... It's a bit of black out," Pribulsky said.

Pribulsky said his favorite part of School Club Roundup was bringing in new students.

"It's wonderful to see new people in the hobby," Pribulsky said. "It is a service that is very important to the community at large, to provide communications, to study these things and to have people qualified and knowledgeable on operating these in case of emergency."

Bao Su, freshman electrical engineering major, said he joined the Amateur Radio Club during the competition.

"I thought it was really fun. I got the chance to learn about so many things I had not learned before — like about how frequencies work — and I got to talk to random people. It's like internet before internet basically," Su said.

For more information on the Amateur Radio Club and K8YSU, contact Sole at fgsole@ysu.edu.



Amateur Radio Club connects with people over the radio.

Photo courtesy of Frank Sole

World-round trip at Penguin Nights

By **Cassandra Lucyk**
Jambar Contributor

Student Activities' semi-annual Penguin Nights event was held on Feb. 24 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. This semester's theme was Around the World and included a variety of international food, games and prizes.

Youngstown State University has hosted the event for eight years. Kathy Leeper, associate director of Kilcawley Center, said there were new international students at YSU this semester, which led to the theme decision.

"We have over 600 students that are international right now. So, we just thought we'd do something to recognize them," Leeper said. "Also, to give our students from the United States a chance to learn more about other cultures and just to have a party that celebrates everyone around the world."

Before Penguin Nights, focus groups were held to garner information about countries and culture. Jordan Record, graduate assistant for Student Activities, said international students had input on the activities.

"The focus groups were a lot of brainstorming. We invited a bunch of international students to come in so we could get some ideas of different celebrations around the world, games that they play," Record said. "We talked about different sports, methods of entertainment and just things that mattered to their culture that they wanted to be represented."

Lauren McFadden, graduate assistant at Kilcawley Center for Programming and Event Planning, said she helped with the game selection.

"The one that I was most involved with was the Family Feud event. We had about five rounds of Family Feud and we had two teams playing against each other. They competed for some really fun prizes, and in between each round we had a Minute to Win It game," McFadden said.

Other events were bingo, henna tattoos, a photo booth with different countries in the background, gaming consoles, a dance party with music from all around the world, indoor ice skating and inflatables.

Leeper said attendance has fluctuated over time, with it rising and falling because of the pandemic.

"In the past before COVID, we used to get like 900 people at this sometimes. Then COVID happened, and people who are here now might not remember it because they weren't here then," Leeper said. "We're building back up. We only had about 400 to 450 at the last one in the fall."

McFadden said this semester's Penguin Nights had a higher turnout than last semester.

"We had about 656 people show up," McFadden said. "I heard really good things from people, they seemed to really enjoy it."

The next Penguin Night will be held in the upcoming fall semester. For more information, contact Kathy Leeper at klleeper@ysu.edu.



Photo by Cassandra Lucyk / Jambar Contributor
Students have their photo taken at around the world photo booth.

Movie club premieres at YSU

By **Scott Chittock II**
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University recently saw the rebirth of its cinema club in the form of the YSU Movie Lovers' Club.

Eric Schaefer, a junior IT major, is the founder and president of the club. Schaefer said he got into watching movies after he moved into his apartment in 2020, and has been watching them as a hobby ever since.

"This semester I kind of asked on the YSU app, is there like a club or something for like, other movie fanatics such as myself to like meet, watch movies and talk about them, to like connect," Schaefer said. "There wasn't. I took it upon myself to make it, to make a club of my own about this."

Schaefer said movies are suggested by members which are chosen collectively as a group and that he wants people to watch movies and have a good time.

"I think to myself, nothing really brings people together like a good movie," Schaefer said.

Alexis Funaro, a junior middle childhood education major, is in charge of public relations for the club and said meeting dates and times are flexible.

"If you are unable to meet with us in person, you could always just watch the movie on your own time and then meet with us," Funaro said.

Funaro also said the club is open to a wide range of opinions and differing ideas.

"Our big thing is respecting others," Funaro said. "We are also very respectful of everyone and differences of opinion and different views and different likes and dislikes."

The club doesn't have a set meeting time or location, but Funaro said Saturday evenings are being considered.

The club isn't an official student organization, but is in the process of becoming registered. Coordinator of

Student Involvement, Caleb Queen, said YSU had a movie club in the past.

"We actually had a film club. It just never re-registered," Queen said. "Those students either graduated or decided they didn't want to run it anymore."

Queen said any students looking to start a registered student organization can find information on the Student Activities website.

"They can just reach out to me and we'll sit down and have a meeting and walk through all the steps together," Queen said, "I like to sit down and meet with the students that are trying to start the club. That way we can go over all the different nuances involved, and we can make sure they have all their, you know, ducks in a row."

Students interested in joining the club can check its Instagram page, [@ysumovieclub](https://www.instagram.com/ysumovieclub). For more information on creating a registered student organization, email Queen at mcqueen@ysu.edu.

The Jambar Column

Social media, social crisis

Every issue of the Jambar provides more opportunities to date myself as a middle-of-the-pack millennial in a sea of Gen Z. The topic of the week is social media and I'd like to share my journey from Myspace to the present.

I was an early adopter of social media. I think I lied about being 13 to get a Myspace account because all of my friends had one — the best reason to do anything.

Myspace was wild.

Imagine scrolling your page to your top friends — which was a real thing. You actually displayed to the world who you liked the best and yes, it did cause middle-school drama. You click on your best friend's page to see how their family vacation was, and are immediately bombarded with lime green, comic sans text on a hot pink page; all while "Tipsy" by J-Kwon blasts out of your speakers because you forgot to turn them down and that song starts immediately.

I joined Facebook when being in high school or college was still a requirement. It was much sleeker but other than that there wasn't much difference from Myspace in the beginning.

The real draw was the exclusivity; knowing your parents couldn't get an account was huge. I think the start of Facebook's downfall was opening the site to everybody — it wasn't cool anymore.

Facebook Messenger improved on AOL Instant Messenger — which we had been using since the late '90s, Skype gave us the power to talk to friends face-to-face, from anywhere in the world and Twitter let us tell each other what we ate for lunch or how much we loved "The Office."

Twitter's longevity is astounding to me, but it represents the transformation in how we consume content on the internet. Going from Bloggers to Tweepers, we had condensed everything into bite-sized nuggets of information, and now, if we are presented with more than that it is hard to maintain focus.



Henry Shorr

That was just high school. Instagram came out my senior year. Snapchat was a couple of years after that, along with Tinder, Google Plus, Vine and so much more. Meanwhile, YouTube was quietly becoming a major factor in the social media equation. Influencers abound.

I don't even know where to start with TikTok. That one is out of my purview — I don't even have it downloaded on my phone.

My generation has been living online and sharing our lives with the general public for a while. The generation that makes up the brunt of this student body has been online for even longer.

It can be a wonderful creative outlet; I've met Penguins who host podcasts, stream on Twitch and run specialized Instagram accounts. YSU athletes can even make money by making posts on social media.

There's a dark side, though. People get into a deep hole that can be near impossible to escape. The instant gratification and automatic dopamine response we get from social media isn't good for our brains. People also get into real-life trouble when they are too "open and honest" online.

In the words of my dude Ferris Buhler: "Life moves pretty fast," and technology moves faster. Social media engagement has grown exponentially in my lifetime and it's frankly horrifying to me.

Never in my life did I imagine myself scrolling endlessly through a feed of minute-long videos, trying to decide if I'm watching an advertisement or not.

Enjoy social media, but it's best to check those privacy settings every now and then, read some books to make sure you can still concentrate while reading something longer than 280 characters, and go touch some grass.

The Jambar Editorial

Are you really alone?

Every day we communicate with others in a variety of ways including verbally, non-verbally, through touch and looks, but sometimes communication can become draining.

There's always a text, an email, a call, a voice memo — it never ends. So when do we pull the plug?

Every day, The Jambar goes through concerns and public matters. We deal with information on a daily basis, but this routine isn't meant for everyone and sometimes it can even be too much for constant communicators — and that's okay.

With the advent of phones and computers, we expected this to connect humanity in new ways. We were thrilled to feel wanted and reached out to, but sometimes too much is too much. Now, we see broken boundaries and burnout.

When does that text every 10 minutes cross a line? What happened to protecting our personal health? When do you shut off your phone because an email chain becomes distracting to your own welfare?

The answer is — you can't. Well, you can turn off your devices, but that email chain isn't going anywhere. Those texts still exist, those emails need responses and your burnout can't properly heal.

Within that, new issues arise. The American Psychological Association outlines some base risks of constant media use as anxiety, stress and depression. It also lists that social media specifically has tendencies of glamorizing harmful behaviors like eating disorders, suicidal tendencies and more.

Additionally, other issues exist with constant communication. Sometimes it pushes limits of harassment, breaches of privacy and other legal issues.

In a society where you're normalized into thinking something like constant communication is necessary, when do we

acknowledge what's happening needs to stop?

Everyone has different limits, but if you're experiencing issues you think may be telecommunications harassment, seek help. Do not be afraid to shut off your phone and step away from dangerous situations.

Ohio Revised Code classifies telecommunication harassment in a variety of different legal areas, such as aggravated menacing in some cases.

Telecommunications harassment also encompasses situations including if the communications purpose is to harass and abuse an individual, or can describe, suggest, request or propose that the caller, the recipient of the telecommunication or any other person engage in sexual activity.

These are just several examples in accordance with Ohio Revised Code, but telecommunications harassment covers a variety of different areas, which are listed on ORC's website.

Not all engagements online are harassment though, but if you feel boundaries are broken — discuss it. Take time for yourself and step away from things, like screen time, that can be harmful to you.

Even if you're just feeling burnt out, protect your health and put down the device.

From The Jambar, take some time for yourself and relax this spring break. The email can wait. The texts can wait.

Quote of the week

"It is not enough to succeed. Others must fail."

— Gore Vidal,
American writer

THE JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Press Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published weekly in the spring and fall semesters. The Jambar is free for YSU students and faculty.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The editorial board consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor, news editor, sports editor, arts and entertainment editor and head copy editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and do not reflect the opinions of any individual staff member. The Jambar's business manager, multimedia journalists and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

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The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com. Letters should concern a campus issue, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer's city of residence for publication. 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 has decided that the subject has been sufficiently aired. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitted 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.

WORK WITH US!

The student media committee is accepting applications for YSU Student Media positions.

Editor-in-Chief*

Managing Editor/Executive Producer***

News Editor*

Student Life Editor*

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Head Copy Editor*

Rookery Radio Station Manager

*must be available Wednesday evenings

**must be available Thursday evenings

***must be available Wednesday and Thursday evenings

Apply online at thejambar.com. Deadline for applications are March 12.
For questions, contact Mary Dota at mfdota@ysu.edu or call 330-941-3094



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Spring Break:

March 6 through
March 12

Classes resume
March 13

YSU women lead Horizon League in earnings

By Andrew Peterson
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University holds the top-three name, image and likeness earners in the Horizon League.

Women's basketball players fifth-year senior Lilly Ritz, senior Mady Aulbach and senior Paige Shy brought in the most money out of any other student-athlete through NIL deals.

Ritz said she is grateful for the financial benefits of NIL sponsorships.

"NIL is a really great opportunity for these big businesses to give you the opportunity to make some money now and put some savings in the bank. Just working with these big businesses just creates lasting opportunities," Ritz said.

Ritz, a business administration major, is averaging just under 18 points per game. Her NIL partnerships have taken

her in a couple of directions.

"I worked with Snapchat recently, just had to post and be like an influencer for Snapchat," Ritz said.

The NIL landscape is commonly dominated by men. Ritz said it feels great to be a woman and make money from such partnerships.

"I feel like social media plays a big part in NIL and I think women are better at social media than men," Ritz said. "I think that is how women get more opportunities."

For the past two years, Aulbach has served as team captain of the YSU women's basketball team and was named to the Horizon League's All-Defensive Team last year. She said the team's performance has contributed to the NIL opportunities offered to her and her teammates.

"The performance our team had as a

whole last year brought a lot of notoriety to the school and made history in many ways, winning the regular season. All of that attention created a lot of opportunities," Aulbach said.

Aulbach, a digital marketing major, said she's benefitted from NIL partnerships in a variety of ways.

"It introduces me to a lot of networking opportunities. Getting out there and meeting other NIL athletes, just all of the connections I am forming will help me in my career one day," Aulbach said. "It is teaching me how to market myself and capitalize off opportunities the best I can."

Aulbach has developed partnerships with Sam's Wedge Inn, Mama Bear Law Offices and Allstate. Most recently, she was signed by World Wrestling Entertainment.

Aulbach said she agrees with Ritz that

female athletes are gaining recognition.

"It is amazing when three women — me, Lilly and Paige, are among the top of [the highest earners] because obviously, men dominate many things in sports. So, I just think it shows how on the rise female athletes are, in general," Aulbach said.

Last year Shy, a general studies major, led the Penguins with 53 three-pointers and was ranked sixth in the conference in three-pointers per game.

Shy also touched on the future advantages of NIL.

"Definitely for the business side aspects of it like, I have never paid taxes before and NIL has kind of forced me to learn how to," Shy said.

Shy has partnerships with businesses such as Sam's Wedge Inn, Powerade and Dunkin Donuts.

Superstar in the making

By Dylan Lux
Jambar Contributor

A female student-athlete at Youngstown State University signed a name, image and likeness deal with World Wrestling Entertainment.

Mady Aulbach, a senior guard for the women's basketball team, was contacted by WWE's Next in Line program, which the company launched to expand its search for potential superstars. These NIL athletes gain access to the WWE Performance Center in Orlando, Florida, where they go to train for their roles as Superstars.

Aulbach explained how the Next in Line program reached out to her via social media.

"They [direct messaged] me and just asked if they could set something up to talk with me over Zoom. So, we had a Zoom meeting, and I talked to one of their heads of talent," Aulbach said.

Initially, Aulbach said she was under the impression she was being recruited to the business side of the WWE. She quickly discovered this was not their intent.

"When I said how excited I was about the opportunity [they said] 'I'm so glad, because not everyone is excited to wrestle!' I [said] 'Oh, you want me to wrestle?' So that

was exciting," Aulbach said.

After multiple meetings with WWE representatives in summer and fall of 2022, Aulbach said she received good news.

"[The WWE representatives] told me that I was selected to be a part of their NIL class three," Aulbach said. "In December, I went and did a photoshoot with them at one of their events in Pittsburgh. [It] was really cool, I got to sit front row and see the actual event, which I've never been to before."

In January, the Next in Line program announced that Aulbach was officially a part of the next class of up-and-coming superstars, and she was able to make it public on her social media accounts.

The senior guard explained her responsibilities as a student-athlete for WWE.

"In college it's very relaxed. Of course it's the WWE, so they don't need me to advertise for them ... they post me. I maybe get to go to some events [and] just learn what the WWE is all about," Aulbach said.

If Aulbach decides to pursue her career with WWE, she'll travel to Orlando, Florida to the performance center and train for her upcoming career as a potential WWE superstar.

Head coach John Barnes of the women's basketball team, stated he is excited to see one of his athletes have an opportunity like this.

"She is a huge part of our success over the years and bringing a basketball championship back to YSU. I will follow her career and go watch her wrestle if she ends up under the big lights," Barnes stated. "I think I'll be worried the whole time about her getting hurt but it would be pretty awesome to see one of our own in the national spotlight."

Aulbach said working with WWE isn't an opportunity she would pass up on.

"I should not take it for granted, because obviously not everyone gets approached by the WWE. I think in that respect I should take advantage of it, and do what I can with it after college," Aulbach said.

As for potential names for the future WWE wrestler, Aulbach said she's fond of a particular color.

"Definitely pink, I would say. Pink is my favorite color," Aulbach said. "A few people have suggested [names] like Mad Dog, or Pink Dream ... I've definitely thought about it, because that's one of the fun parts."

Donning the Horizon League crown

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

For the first time in program history, the Youngstown State University men's basketball team clinched the Horizon League Regular-Season Conference Championship title.

Head coach Jerrod Calhoun said he knows the importance of securing the number one seed for the first time in program history.

"It's what you've worked for to get home court advantage," Calhoun said. "We have to be locked in and ready to go."

The Penguins completed their final game of the regular season against Indiana University Purdue University-Indianapolis on Feb. 25. In the Jungle, Youngstown State defeated the Jaguars, 93-79.

The offense found its rhythm early, as five Penguins scored in double figures. Graduate student Malek Green led the way with 21 points, while graduate student Adrian Nelson and senior Brandon Rush both posted 18 points.

Late in the second period, the Panthers cut the lead down to eight, while senior Dwayne Cohill scored 10

points, and finished with 16 points and seven assists.

The team ended the season with a 23-8 overall record, which marked the first time in its Division I history it won 23 games in the regular season. The team's 15-5 record in conference play also set a new program record in conference wins.

On Feb. 23, Cohill was named to the Horizon League Men's Basketball All-Academic Team for the second-straight season and third since 2019.

With the conclusion of the regular season Feb. 27, head coach Jerrod Calhoun was named the 2022-23 Horizon League Men's Basketball Coach of the Year. The nod marked the first time a Youngstown State men's basketball head coach has won the award.

Three players earned postseason honors as Cohill earned a spot on the All-Horizon League First-Team. Senior Brandon Rush and Nelson were named to the All-Horizon League Third-Team, while freshman John Lovelace Jr. was named to the Horizon League All-Freshman Team.

This is the first time in program history that four Youngstown State players were named to the all-conference teams in the same season.

For Cohill, it marks the first time since the 2018-20

seasons that a player earned all-league honors in consecutive years. The award also made him the sixth player in program history named to the all-conference team multiple times.

Cohill finished the regular season ranked in the top 10 in the league in five different categories. He was second with 4.9 assists per game, third with a .529 field goal percentage, fifth with a .857 free-throw percentage, sixth with 17.8 points per game and ninth with 1.4 steals per game.

With the win over the Jaguars, the Penguins earned the number one seed in the upcoming 2023 Barbasol Horizon League Basketball Championship and will host a quarterfinals game at 8 p.m. March 2 against the University of Detroit Mercy inside the Beeghly Center.

With a chance to travel to Indianapolis to play in the Horizon League semifinals March 6, stakes are high going into the game.

"It's win or go home, there's five or six seniors on this team and if we lose we will never put a jersey on with Youngstown again," Cohill said. "We didn't come here to do that."

To watch the game visit ESPN+ or listen in on 570 WKBN.



Head coach Jerrod Calhoun convenes with players.

Photo courtesy of Robert Hayes

Penguins prep for tournament time

By Cameron Niemi
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University women's basketball team ended the regular season with two games on the road. On Feb. 21, it traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana to take on fourth place Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

The Jaguars defeated the Penguins 87-80 and dropped Youngstown State to 12-7 in the Horizon league standings, as they lost their third straight game.

Despite the loss, fifth-year senior Lilly Ritz recorded her 15th double-double of the season. She scored 20 points, 14 rebounds and five steals, which tied a season high. Senior Dena Jarrells scored a season high 25 points and dished out five assists.

The Penguins had a 10-point lead after the first quarter. The Jaguars climbed back and led by five at halftime.

Youngstown State continued to fight back and tied the game twice in the third quarter. IUPUI outscored the Penguins by three points in the fourth and went on to secure the seven-point victory and jumped the Penguins in Horizon Leagues standings.

On Feb. 25, the women traveled to Moon Township to take on Robert Morris University. The Penguins ended their losing streak and defeated the Colonials 65-51, which finished the regular season on a high note.

Ritz recorded her fifth-straight double-double, as she scored 17 points and 15 rebounds. Sixth-year senior Megan Callahan also scored 17 points and junior Malia Magestro scored 11 points.

The Penguins played well defensively, and held the Colonials to just 19 points in the first half. Youngstown State led at halftime 35-19.

In the second half, the Colonials made a comeback. They outscored the Penguins 24-9 and cut the lead to one point heading into the fourth.

The 'Guins started the quarter off hot, with an early 7-0 run. They locked up in the fourth, and held RMU to just eight points

and outscored them by 13.

The Penguins secured the 14-point victory, and concluded the regular season with a 13-7 record in the Horizon League. The women hold the four seed in the Horizon League Tournament, which grants them a first-round bye.

Head coach John Barnes spoke about the conference tournament and hosting a home game.

"I think it's pretty exciting for this city, this is the most excitement I've seen for basketball in my 10 years here. The crowds have been unbelievable. The buzz around the teams especially the men's team winning a Horizon League championship. I think it's going to be an unbelievable crowd and a true tournament atmosphere," Barnes said.

Callahan spoke about the importance of this game and what it means to the team.

"Every team wants it more in March. It's your last, it's the last for your seniors, for the girls who are not sure if they are staying next year, it's the last for everyone in a lot of situations. I think everyone is just a little bit more hungrier, more excited, everyone's out for a little bit more blood in March," Callahan said. "Going into tournament time, we are ready to be playing our best basketball."

Horizon League honors were also announced earlier this week. Ritz was named womens Defensive Player of the Year. She led the conference in rebounds, was second in blocks and tied for fifth in steals and became the first Penguin in school history to win this award.

She also made her second-straight All-League First Team, which has been done by one other player at YSU. Ritz led the conference in field-goal percentage and double-doubles. Callahan made All-League Third Team honors.

The Penguins will host the quarterfinals matchup at 5:30 p.m. March 2 at the Beeghly Center, versus fifth-seeded Northern Kentucky University. The game can be listened to on 570 WKBN or watched on ESPN+.

