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WOMEN SPIKE STIGMA



Rebecca Fink is the senior woman administrator.

Photo by Haley Thierry / Jambar Contributor

Women take action in athletics

By Haley Thierry
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University encourages and looks for roles in its Athletic Department to be led by women, given that it's a male-dominated industry.

Rebecca Fink, senior woman administrator and senior associate athletic director, said the Athletic Department has been working toward boosting female coaches and administrative positions.

"We've tried to be really intentional, whenever we have job openings, coaching or administrative positions, in being strategic in recruiting, or trying to gather a [pool] of candidates that's not only diverse from a gender perspective but diverse in general," Fink said.

In her positions, Fink oversees compliance, academic units and is a sports administrator for track & field, women's soccer and women's bowling.

"My main role is just serving on our senior leadership team and having a voice within that room as we make larger decisions that affect not only different programs but also our department as a whole," Fink said.

Aline Scott, women's volleyball head coach, explained what it is like to be employed by YSU as a female head coach.

"I have felt very supported here. It's been a good five years and I have felt like every year I have a lot of people behind the scenes that help me grow and help the kids grow and it's been a nice time here," Scott said.

Scott said it's helpful for female athletes to have female head coaches, and it's a great representation to help women believe they can achieve the goal of working in her profession.

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Athletics expands mental health services

By Lindsey Linard
Jambar Contributor

With a \$50,000 grant from the Horizon League, the Youngstown State University Athletic Department is adding resources for student-athletes to address mental health and wellness.

According to Jen Tymkew, associate athletic director and director of Athletic Training Services, the Athletic Department used the money to create wellness opportunities for athletes, and it has more plans for the future.

"We've got some more programming and education coming down the pipeline, both for our student-athletes and our coaches and staff," Tymkew said. "We want our coaches and staff to feel just as comfortable with all this information as [student-athletes] do as well."

Nicole Kent-Strollo, dean of students and ombuds-person, said student-athletes have more variables beyond what typical students encounter that can impact their mental health, such as increased pressure and responsibility, injuries, performance anxiety and the effects of the pandemic.

"You want to be seen as tough, you want to be seen as resilient, you want to be seen as someone who can handle the pressure, but maybe you need a little more help in order to do that," Kent-Strollo said.

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Women

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“We as women understand one another a bit better, and I think it’s a good way to share your experiences and be able to know what they’re going through because you went through it exactly the same way that they did,” Scott said.

Madison Chapman, athletic communications graduate assistant, oversees women’s lacrosse, men’s and women’s swimming & diving teams, and men’s and women’s cross country. Chapman said she loves working with the women in the field and feels women help each other

excel in their roles.

“My experience here at YSU has been wonderful, especially being a woman in sports. I feel valued over here and respected by my peers. I’ve not had that in other internships and other things that I’ve done,” Chapman said.

Chapman also said women should not be afraid to work in a male-dominated field. It may be scary, but have confidence and be yourself. Each woman has unique capabilities that allow them to do well in sports and in their roles.

Scott explained challenges she faces with being a female head coach and how expectations for female coaches differ

from male coaches.

“There is certainly a different way that we have to behave, just based on society and people thinking that women need to be more agreeable, they need to be more nurturing, they need to be less direct, that those are expectations that accompany women everywhere and it’s no different in my profession,” Scott said.

Fink said any full-time position in the Athletic Department will be posted on the NCAA Market and YSU Human Resource website. For student employment opportunities, openings can be found on Handshake.



Aline Scott is the women’s volleyball head coach.

Photo by Haley Thierry / Jambar Contributor

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7-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

Thu Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed

High: 62°F	High: 47°F	High: 63°F	High: 57°F	High: 57°F	High: 46°F	High: 45°F
Low: 35°F	Low: 42°F	Low: 33°F	Low: 33°F	Low: 32°F	Low: 24°F	Low: 32°F
Chance of precip: 97%	Chance of precip: 15%	Chance of precip: 88%	Chance of precip: 7%	Chance of precip: 86%	Chance of precip: 55%	Chance of precip: 0%



Thunderstorms



Mostly Cloudy



Thunderstorms



Mostly Cloudy



Scattered
Showers



Scattered
Showers



Fair

Information courtesy of accuweather.com

Thomas Colloquium tries new approach with speakers

By Hannah Werle
Jambar Contributor

The board of the Thomas Colloquium on Free Enterprise, a business lecture series hosted by Youngstown State University and the Williamson College of Business Administration, hopes to attract larger audiences with diverse speakers.

Jackie LeViseur, director of University Events, said the board of the colloquium wanted to change its approach when the series returned after the pandemic. According to LeViseur, the board wanted to find distinct lecturers who'd attract larger audiences.

"The business series doesn't garner that big of a crowd because it's kind of a targeted audience. So, we were like 'how can we change that?' Instead of just the two speakers for this past year," LeViseur said. "We came up with four [speakers]."

The board hired skateboarder Tony Hawk, entrepreneur John Hope Bryant, former CEO of PepsiCo Inc. Indra Nooyi and Olympic athlete Allyson Felix.

In addition to attracting an audience, LeViseur said the board hired lecturers who could show how business interacts with different fields, such as Hawk's skateboarding or Felix's athletics.

So far, the lectures have garnered interest from students as Hawk's show sold out LeViseur stated.

Kelly Wilkinson, dean of the WCBA, said the board was looking for lecturers who could reflect the population of YSU.

"We had the opportunity to look for impactful speakers that not only are entrepreneurial but also reflect the population of the university in diverse ways," Wilkinson said. "The whole idea was to bring a diverse set of people on campus that would attract a variety of constituents."

The college will welcome Nooyi on March 23. According to Nooyi's speaker agency, Harry Walker Agency

Inc., Nooyi is an acclaimed businesswoman and is credited for growing PepsiCo's revenue from \$35 billion to \$63.5 billion during her tenure as CEO.

Nooyi has also been featured in Forbes' "The World's 100 Most Powerful Women" and TIME's "100 Most Influential People in the World."

LeViseur said she believes Nooyi's accomplishments will encourage students and promote female empowerment.

"[The board] picked her because of her platform as a woman CEO. She talks about diversity and while she was at Pepsi, sustainability was a big issue and also getting nutritional foods into the communities that Pepsi served," LeViseur said.

Wilkinson said she believes Nooyi, along with the other lecturers, will promote diversity and equity in business.

"I think there needs to be a difference in perspective and a difference in where we're coming from, particularly from women," Wilkinson said. "This town is full of strong, successful women and they are willing to help, to guide, to mentor and we need to take advantage of that."

Wilkinson also said she wants these lectures, specifically Nooyi and Felix's, to serve as inspiration to students.

"I want to empower the women of this college — of this university — to understand that they're not just a girl," Wilkinson said. "It's not about being aggressive, it's about being determined."

The Thomas Colloquium is one of three lecture series hosted by YSU. Founded by Paul and Marguerite Thomas, the colloquium was created to educate students and community members about jobs and opportunities in the business sector.

The colloquium consists of two sessions. The first, hosted in the WCBA building, allows students to speak

directly with a lecturer through question and answer sessions. The second event is the official lecture and will be hosted at Stambaugh Auditorium.

The next speaker is Allyson Felix, the most decorated female track and field athlete in Olympic history. Felix will visit the university Sept. 14, tickets will be available Aug. 8.



Headshot of Indra Nooyi.

Photo courtesy of Emily Trielvel

News Brief

The Excellence Training Center will be hosting the Penguin Shark Tank Competition on April 26. Events will allow students to compete for business investments to help fund their projects.

An online application must be completed by March 27. Then, students will be approved to compete and are required to pitch their ideas to panelists within five minutes. For more information, visit the ETC's website or contact Cynthia Manofsky, cmanofsky@ysu.edu.

Athletes

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In addition to the resources all YSU students are offered, such as access to counseling and Penguin of Concern referrals, the Athletic Department recently added yoga sessions twice a week that are open to all student-athletes.

It also has educational opportunities to inform students of their resources through team meetings and Remind text messages and support groups for those dealing with injuries.

Athletics has also added a new position to work with those seeking help for mental health issues.

Meredith Grimes, a graduate student studying clini-

cal mental health counseling, was brought on as a student-athlete wellness graduate assistant intern last year and works with student-athletes daily.

“I truly believe that student-athletes are an underserved population with mental health,” Grimes said. “It’s very eye opening to me how many kids are affected by the stigma and still are afraid to fight it or embrace it.”

Each team also has an individual athletic trainer that is able to help students who may be struggling. The athletic training staff spends a lot of time with their respective teams and are able to address changes in behavior or personality, Tymkew said.

“We can also be that eye to go ‘Hey, you seem to be

struggling a bit lately,’ or ‘You just don’t seem like yourself, is there something I can help with?’” Tymkew said.

Kent-Strollo also explained that in addition to Grimes’ position and athletic trainers, the NCAA is requiring all Division I schools to add a staff psychologist for student-athletes in the next year and a half. But even with these new staff additions, she said she believes YSU still has many places where it can improve how it serves students and student-athletes.

“We need more counselors, we need more mental health professionals on our campus,” Kent-Strollo said. “We definitely need more resources. We are very understaffed in that area, and that’s something we are continually working on.”



Student-athletes can receive help with mental health issues at Student Counseling Services.

Photo by Lindsey Linard / Jambar Contributor

Campaign season begins for SGA

By Samantha Smith
The Jambar

Youngstown State University’s Student Government Association allowed students running for president, vice president and representative positions to campaign March 13.

This year, the SGA president and vice president candidates will run uncontested. Alexander Papa, a senior majoring in history and political science, is running for president and said campaigning this year is unique.

“We’re doing it a little bit differently. We’re just trying to sort of show what we want to accomplish. We’re just thinking ahead of time, so the students can see that and sort of make our faces known,” Papa said.

Jordan Pintar, a sophomore majoring in philosophy and anthropology, is run-

ning for vice president and said the campaigning process would have been more aggressive if the pair were not the only candidates.

“I know last year, [previous candidates] were painting the rock, they were handing out shirts, they were doing sideboard shots, posting everywhere. Since there is nobody really going against us, we don’t want to shove it in everybody’s face. More than be like, ‘Here’s what we can do to support you as students,’” Pintar said.

For their campaign, the pair is posting the initiatives they want to work on once they become president and vice president. Both Papa and Pintar came up with two main initiatives each.

Pintar said she wants to improve campus life and work on community partnership with the university.

“I’m not sure if a lot of students know,

but we get a budget as student government. We want to spend it on resources for the campus. So that is where our first initiative kind of comes in,” Pintar said. “We want to expand and flow. We wanted to expand Penguin Shuttle destinations, get more resources for students on campus, more food options.”

Papa said he wants to work on food insecurity at YSU and community involvement.

“[Food insecurity] has been a big one with this executive team,” Papa said. “I definitely want to make sure we bring [Swipe Out Hunger] back. I want to change it a little bit, and maybe add some components where we actually have the opportunity to take students on like a tour to a food bank or a local facility.”

Papa said making this change in the event would be more impactful for students participating.

“I feel like just seeing that in action is so much more powerful than sitting around and not seeing what these organizations do,” Papa said.

Papa and Pintar will be campaigning until April 5 and the elections will begin April 4. Voting can be done on the Penguin Portal or at certain polling locations in Kilcawley Center.

Nickiforos Mastorides, the current president of SGA, said there will be a town hall meeting from 3 to 4 p.m., March 22 in The Hub of Kilcawley to replace a debate.

“If students are eager to come and ask questions, [SGA] encourages it,” Mastorides said.

To learn more about Papa, Pintar and their initiatives, visit their Instagram account @papapintar4sga. For more information about SGA, visit its website.

Anthropology professor, ace investigator

By Scott Chittock II
Jambar Contributor

Loren Lease, associate professor and acting chair of humanities and social sciences at Youngstown State University, uses her skills in anthropology to examine skeletal remains found during police investigations such as missing persons cases.

The Youngstown Police Department and the Mahoning County Coroner's Office contact Lease when they have skeletal remains and need help determining if the remains come from a human or an animal.

Lease then provides a biological profile of the remains to try to learn more about who the person was.

"When you're talking about the skeleton — it doesn't give you a definitive description," Lease said. "A biological profile is not a positive ID. What it is, is a presumptive or a set of variables that you use to narrow down the missing persons' list."

Lease said the profiles can reveal information such as biological age, stature, pathology and trauma. Any information revealed can then be used with data the police already have. This can help police identify the remains of missing persons who were never found.

Depending on what actually remains of the skeleton, there may be limitations on what information can be learned from a profile.

"In some cases, all you may have is a skull, and so you can only do things such as tentative estimations of sex and ancestry, perhaps age," Lease said. "You can't do anything in stature. You can't talk about pathology or trauma because all of the postcranial, all — everything from the neck down — is gone."

Lease said she's fortunate to have a skill set that can help in such situations, and it's important to help in any way she can. If Lease didn't volunteer to help, the remains would need to be sent out of the area for examination — which would cost money and take more time.

"It's important to families and friends to have their loved ones identified," Lease said. "No one should go through their life not knowing what happened to their loved one."

Last year, Lease received national recognition for helping police identify the skeletal remains of a local woman who'd been missing since 2017.

Lease is able to volunteer with these cases because of her specialization in forensic anthropology and skeletal biology. Although her branch of anthropology focuses on skeletons, she said there's much more to anthropology than examining skeletons.

"I only work in the biological anthropology [field]. In fact, I only work in a small segment of the biological anthropology field," Lease said.

Lease explained that anthropology is a broad field that covers evolutionary history, human interaction with the environment, diet, culture and more.

"Anthropology is the study of humans over time — you know, from 65 million years ago if you're looking at primates and our closest non-human relatives," Lease said. "Anthropology covers humans. We study humans in all manners."

Before getting into anthropology, Lease majored in art history as an undergraduate student. Lease said after taking a few classes related to anthropology, such as human origins and archaeology, she discovered she loved it.

"It both answered and opened up the world to me," Lease said.



Lease presents a cast replica of a human skull. Photo by Scott Chittock II / Jambar Contributor

Giving plasma for money

By Christopher Gillett
The Jambar

Some Youngstown State University students give plasma to make money while attending college.

Plasma, which makes up 55% of all human blood, is the liquid part that carries around cells and platelets. Once extracted through plasmapheresis, plasma is used for blood transfusions and to make medications to treat diseases.

George Mahramas, a junior graphic and interactive design major, recently began giving his plasma, and said he does it to make some extra cash and help people.

“I’m not relying on [money from plasma] super heavily as like a crutch. It’s more to get a little bit of extra floating money between two paychecks,” Mahramas said. “It’s also just kind of a good thing to do because they can use that sort of plasma to help make antibodies and do transfusions for people.”

Since American college tuition is not publicly funded, many college students give plasma for money. During

the Great Recession in 2009, The Jambar covered university students giving their plasma for money.

Before attending YSU, Shawna Allshouse, a junior medical laboratory science major, gave plasma in 2009 to have money to buy diapers and formula for her child. Allshouse said her first time donating plasma was unnerving because she had to travel.

“Just as a young girl who was going there, it was kind of — especially in an area that I didn’t know — it was quite awkward and a little scary,” Allshouse said. “The worst part was being in Sharpsville [Pennsylvania] and having to go all the way to Youngstown, and there’s not more places available to go.”

The U.S. is one of five countries that allows plasma to be given for money and is the largest plasma exporter in the world. According to CNBC, blood made up over 2.5% of all American exports in 2021.

Kathleen McLaughlin, a journalist and critic of the plasma industry, and author of “Blood Money: The Story of Life, Death, and Profit Inside America’s Blood Industry,” which analyzes the plasma industry’s influ-

ence. McLaughlin said that the plasma industry relies on structural problems in the U.S.

“[The plasma industry] gravitates toward communities and neighborhoods and people who are economically marginalized and it thrives in those places,” McLaughlin said. “We have a whole lot — millions of people — who depend on this as part of their income.”

Because of the desperation of many people who give plasma, there is some stigma around it. McLaughlin said this stigma exists less in college.

“The practice is much less stigmatized with college students than other segments of society,” McLaughlin said. “It’s just become kind of a thing that college kids do to support themselves, to buy books, to buy groceries, to have a little money [and] to go have some extra fun. It doesn’t — I don’t think — come with the same stigma it comes with among working adults.”

If interested in McLaughlin’s book, visit the Simon and Schuster website. If interested in her work, follow her Twitter, @kemoc.

Youngstown’s progressive past

By Shianna Gibbons
The Jambar

YSUnity and the Melnick Medical Museum sponsored a presentation March 21 about Dr. Richard Murray, a local plastic surgeon who provided gender-affirming surgeries in the ‘70s.

Murray was a Youngstown native and took some art classes at Youngstown College and Notre Dame, then went to Georgetown Medical School.

Murray’s practice, Medart, was located on Glenwood Avenue. Murray’s passion was art, and he pursued his career in plastic surgery to combine art and the medical field.

Ginger Williams, speaker and board member for TransOhio, started researching Dr. Murray four to five years ago. Williams utilized multiple different archives, historical societies and libraries to find information on Murray.

Williams said Dr. Murray had a multitude of passions.

“I’ve found that Dr. Murray is a complex person. He was a surgeon, an artist, an author, a sculptor and an educator,” Williams said. “A patron of the arts, a humanitarian, a conservative, a risk-taker, a lecturer, a philanthropist and a volunteer. He was one of the few doctors in the country who offered gender-affirming surgery at the time.”

Dr. Murray’s practice mainly helped people with cleft lip or cleft palates, car accident injuries before he began providing gender-affirming care in September 1972.

“This article is dated for January 1973, but it places the surgery in September 1972,” Williams said. “Which makes this — as far as I can find — the first gender-affirming surgery in the state of Ohio. There was another one, a few weeks later actually, that was performed at Metro-

Health Medical Center in Cleveland.”

Rayvin Gorrell, president of YSUnity and junior anthropology major, said she was most excited for people to learn Youngstown has a progressive past.

“A lot of people don’t think of our area as a progressive, LGBTQ-friendly area. It’s very nice to know that this has been a very progressive area, and that we have a doctor doing gender-affirming surgeries over 50 years,” Gorrell said. “That just really excites me because a lot of people probably didn’t know that. It has been kind of hidden from society’s eyes, but we have always been here and we will always be here.”

Dr. Murray performed numerous gender-affirming surgeries. Later in his career, Murray had his medical license removed for improperly prescribing steroids for athletic-enhancement. Williams said that Murray just wanted people to be their most perfect self.

“Dr. Murray was this wonderful, complex human that really wanted to help people be the best version of themselves,” Williams said.

“I’ve found that Dr. Murray is a complex person. He was a surgeon, an artist, an author, a sculptor and an educator.”

— **Ginger Williams**,
Speaker and board member for
TransOhio



Mya Snyder is creating clothing for the EveryBODY Fashion Show.

Photo by Molly Burke / The Jambar

Celebrating body positivity on the runway

By Molly Burke
The Jambar

Youngstown State University students taking the Fashion Show Productions and Promotions course are preparing for the 2023 EveryBODY Fashion Show.

More than 120 models will showcase the students' work during the free, public event at 6 p.m., April 12 at the Beeghly Center.

The theme, EveryBODY, was created to promote body positivity and celebrate a diverse collection of models, which have no requirements to participate.

Jennifer Frank, YSU fashion and merchandising professor who instructs the class, said the fashion show began as a tribute to a student who lost their life.

"Dr. Priscillia Gitimu started the show right after we lost a student in 2012 ... to an eating disorder," Frank said. "We all struggle, myself included, at some point in our life with our body image, and if we can just raise awareness that your beauty comes from inside — not from outside — then we've achieved our goal."

Frank said the students have been working since January to put on the show.

"They learn everything from start to finish to produce

and promote a fashion show. We create all the invitations, they recruit the models, they decide on what categories of merchandise they want in the show," Frank said. "They're involved in everything, both backstage and in front of the house."

Senior marketing major, Mya Snyder, has her own clothing business called Sew What? Sew This! Snyder said she is looking forward to seeing the runway.

"I am of course very excited to see my pieces down the runway, and seeing ... people who may never have been asked to model before getting that time to shine and experience is really cool as well," Snyder said.

A variety of Snyder's pieces will be featured in the show. Snyder said she primarily sells accessories and tops.

"Most of what I make and sell is all second hand pieces that have been reworked ... Bags and bustier tops [are my favorite garments to make]," Snyder said. "I find a ton of inspiration from vintage — vintage styles, vintage patterns, vintage runway shows ... anything that's super colorful I love."

Owen Bertram, junior theatre studies major, will be modeling in the show. He said he had fun walking in the show last year, so he is looking forward to his perfor-

mance this year.

"Representation is really important, and I know for me at least, I always had a bigger body type ... and I really like the idea of seeing people with different body types [in the fashion show] because we all deserve to be confident," Bertram said.

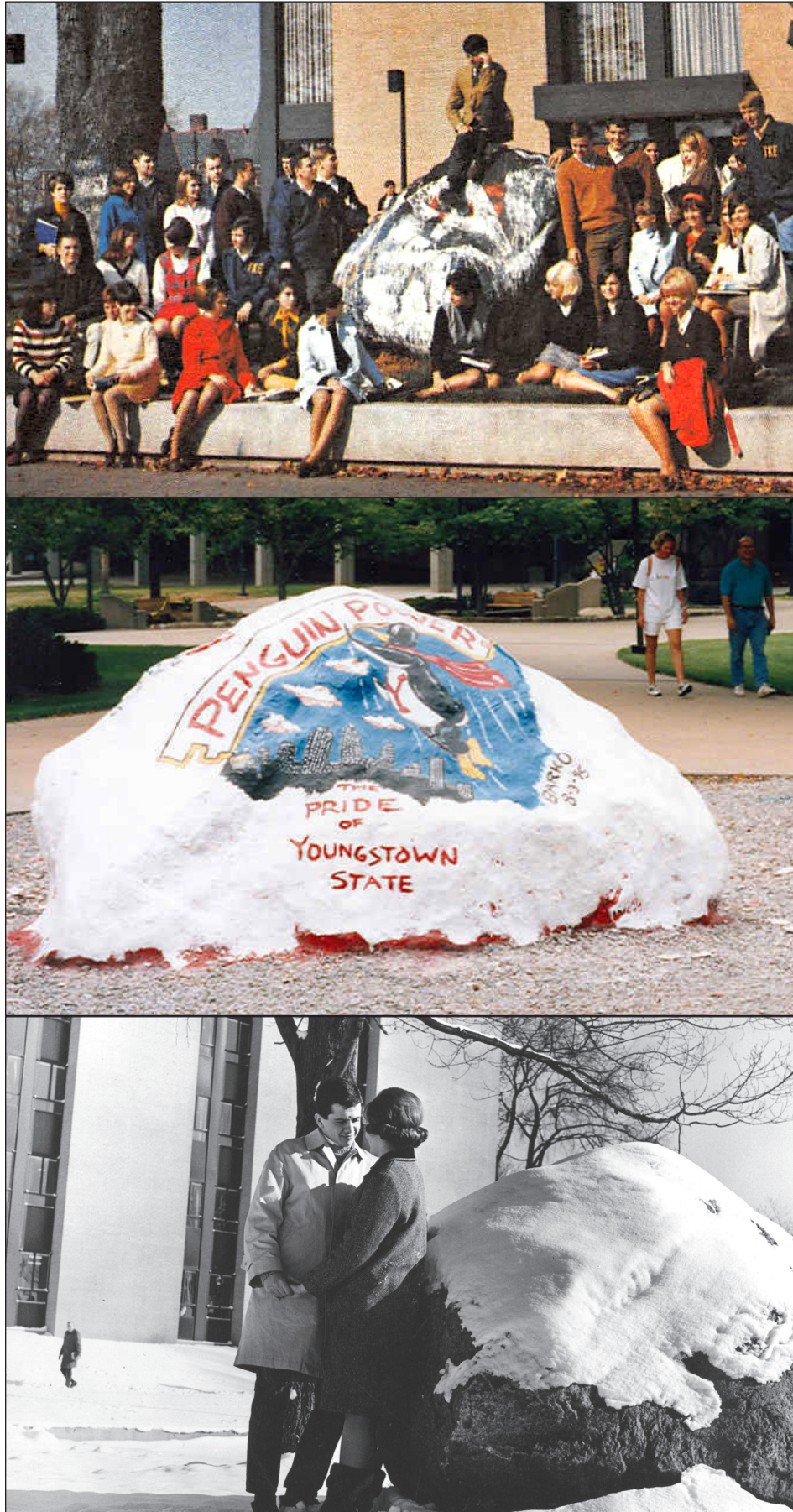
Senior communications major, Devon Biggs, is also going to model. Biggs said he is excited to showcase the art of drag with the audience.

"I do drag and I am a pageant queen, and I do multiple pageants all over," Biggs said. "It kind of gives me a little exposure here in Youngstown."

Biggs said the EveryBODY Fashion Show is the perfect place for drag representation, especially since drag has been targeted by recent legislation.

"Ohio is one of those states that is looking to put in laws to reinforce certain things against drag, and so with YSU being a campus ... I believe that even the smallest amount of people seeing things can persuade their viewpoints," Biggs said.

Those interested in modeling can contact Frank at jmfrank@ysu.edu. For more information, check out the YSU Fashion and Interior Merchandising facebook page.



Historical photos of the tradition rock.

Photos courtesy of Lisa Garofali from YSU Archives.

UNDER THE LAYERS OF PAINT

The many layers of tradition rock

By Raeghan Hilton
Jambar Contributor

Painting the campus rock has been a tradition at Youngstown State University for over 50 years. Students use the rock to advertise events, support causes or represent opinions of individuals or groups.

Lisa Garofali, archives and records management specialist for the YSU Archives and Special Collections, said the rock was found during the construction of Kilcawley Center in 1966.

“It was left at the request of the student council and Paul Gregory as a senior class gift to the university community. They wanted it to be a place where students could meet and unite,” Garofali said.

This tradition of painting the rock started in March 1967, after an article was published in *The Jambar* titled “What Ever Happened To Tradition Rock?”

In the article, Ben Hayek, *The Jambar*’s managing editor at the time, acknowledged the lack of tradition surrounding tradition rock.

“This monument to tradition has seen neither a drop of paint nor the head of a chisel. We have cheated this rock. We have bestowed upon it the greatest humiliation that any campus rock could ever receive. We have ignored it. Already a year and a half has passed and nobody has loved it, loathed it, or written editorials about it,” Hayek wrote.

Hayek went on to say tradition rock may be the only tradition that YSU might ever have. Less than a week later, *The Jambar* published a photo showing tradition rock painted.

To this day, students and organizations alike continue to paint the rock per this tradition. Rayvin Gorrell, a junior anthropology major and YSUnity pres-

ident, explained her organization’s connection to the rock.

“It’s very, very important for us to be able to paint the rock because in the past people in the LGBTQ+ community have not had the opportunity to have a voice. So I think it’s very important that the rock is an opportunity for us to have a voice on campus and even in the YSU community,” Gorrell said.

Over the years, the tradition rock has been in a few different locations.

“Originally, the rock was located on the east side of Kilcawley Center where the fountain is today. And it was moved in 1975 during the campus landscaping master plan, where they redid a lot of landscaping on campus. The students wanted it to be in a more central location so they moved it directly in the middle of Kilcawley in the front, on the south side,” Garofali said.

The tradition rock was then moved farther east on campus in 2006, where it remains today, according to Garofali.

Garofali said tradition rock was moved because students were no longer just painting the rock but the areas surrounding it. This became a safety concern when the sidewalk around the rock became slippery to walk on.

When it comes to protocol for painting of the rock, John Young, executive director of Student Experience, said there are expectations but only one formal rule.

“It’s kind of always been an unspoken code, if you will, in regards to respecting it and I guess what goes on it. There is no protocol in regards to signing up for a time to paint it, or ownership of it, if that makes sense, like a space. The only restriction is that the paint stays on the rock itself and not any of the adjacent areas,” Young said.

TAKING CENTER STAGE

West Fest on the west side

By Madison Fessler
Jambar Contributor

Westside Bowl is celebrating its fifth anniversary with West Fest on March 25. The entertainment venue opened in 2018 and started West Fest to celebrate its one-year anniversary, however it had to close during the coronavirus pandemic.

This is the third West Fest since the pandemic. Nathan Offerdahl, owner of Westside Bowl, said the alley took a hit during the pandemic, but he's thankful to host West Fest again.

"Having to cancel basically an entire month of events in our second anniversary year was by far the most difficult thing that we've had to go through," Offerdahl said.

Offerdahl also said he believes the public has a lot of pent up demand for live music as people are becoming more comfortable with being in large crowds again. He anticipates this year's West Fest will have the biggest crowd yet.

Ryan Racketa, guitarist, keyboardist and vocalist for East 9th, works with his bandmates to pick out the bands to play at West Fest. East 9th started West Fest in 2019, and it has chosen bands for the festival every year since.

The headliner is picked based on how long it has been around and its reach. This year's West Fest headliner was chosen because audiences wanted to see the band play again.

"Our headliner this year is Moondivers — reason being this is their first show in almost two years ... this is kind of the show that encouraged them to get back together and do another gig," Racketa said.

Racketa said East 9th plans to get a mix of bands that fit within the alternative indie-rock genre. The bands are local and have varying degrees of exposure.

"We're always just looking to get a good mix of local bands. You know, we've had

some that are newer, more up and coming, just starting out. And we have bands that have been around for several years," Racketa said.

One of the bands performing at West Fest is The Goners. TJ Logue, singer and guitarist for The Goners, said he's excited for the adrenaline rush of being on stage.

"For me my favorite part of performing is just the adrenaline rush you get from moving around and dancing on stage [it's] kind of like a sport, it's like exercise in a sense," Logue said.

Logue and The Goners' drummer Justin Barnett said they enjoy performing their show opener 'Only in Love,' and it sets up a good time for the rest of their show. Barnett said they are thrilled to be playing at West Fest and showing a crowd what they're capable of.

"We have something that we can really wow the crowd with ... being out there and showing what our minds can cook up and what they're capable of doing," Barnett said.

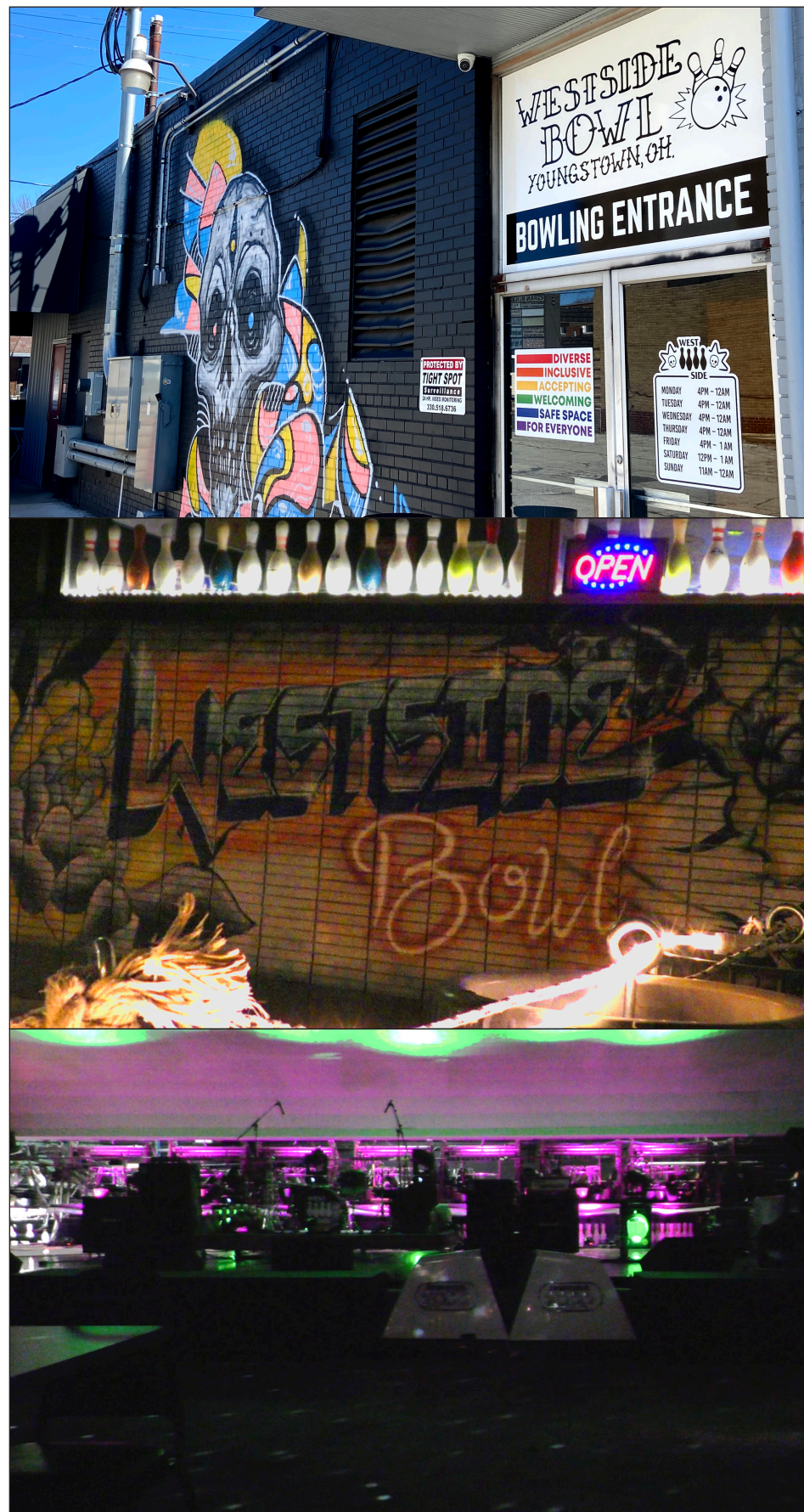
Guitarist and lead vocalist for Speedo Agreedo, Mike Leko, stated this is the band's first West Fest performance. However, it's performed at Westside Bowl previously, and is one of its favorite venues to play.

"Westside Bowl is a world-class venue. They have amazing sound, and talented staff. They don't leave much to be desired," Leko stated.

Leko stated he has two songs he's excited to play at West Fest, along with some new music that's not on its recent album.

"I am excited to play our song 'Hot Shot' that's probably my favorite song from our album. 'Creepin' is the one we rock out on the hardest ... 'La Dee Do' is probably our most danceable tune and it [is] always a good time," Leko stated.

Doors for West Fest open at 4 p.m. and music starts at 5 p.m. There are eight bands lined up to play. Tickets can be purchased for \$10 on westsidebowl.com



Photos by Madison Fessler / Jambar Contributor

Westside Bowl performances will be on its main stage.

YSU hosts 28th annual Flute Festival with guest Soo-Kyung Park

By Jessica Stamp
The Jambar

The sounds of airy flute music floated through Bliss Hall on March 18 for the annual Flute Festival.

The event started with the U.S. Navy Fleet Forces Woodwind Quintet's concert. After, students could watch the Flute Ensemble rehearsal or visit the exhibits and a masterclass that were offered throughout the first floor.

At noon, guest artist, Soo-Kyung Park, a flute professor from New York University, performed her recital and then gave a brief presentation to students.

The Boardman High School Flute Choir and Youngstown State University High School Honors Flute Ensemble were also at the event and performed.

Mia Heron, a junior music education major and president of the Flute Society, said it was exciting to have Park at YSU and to work with her because of information on practice techniques.

"We bring in guest artists from all around the country who are really famous in the flute world," Heron said. "This year we have Soo-Kyung Park who is a professor at New York University, so we're really excited to have her and do masterclasses with her all day."

Heron said the event was open to the public and an

opportunity for high school flute students to get to know YSU and its music program.

"It's just a day filled with networking with different artists in the area, getting to know the music school here at YSU, not just the flute studio, but getting to know the school and different professors here," Heron said.

Heron also said at the end of the Flute Festival, high school students had a chance to perform alongside the YSU flute players.

"We're rehearsing today together, so that's direct involvement with high school students in the area so they can feel like a music major almost for a day," Heron said.

Heron said this event is mainly possible because of Kathryn Umble, a YSU flute professor, who arranged everything.

"[Umble] is really the rock of this organization in the Flute Society. She basically has set everything up. She's brought in the Navy Band ... Soo-Kyung Park, our guest artist," Heron said. "[Umble] coordinated everything with the school to get the rooms and things like advertise for us."

Umble said the Flute Festival allows students to gain knowledge to help further their careers and school education.

"The flute festival guest artist recital and masterclass with YSU flute students is an invaluable educational and networking event, and in the past this festival has led to career and graduate school offers for YSU alumni," Umble said.

Saralyn Joiner, sophomore flute performance major and vice president of the Flute Society, said this event takes a lot of time and practice but allows people to experience good music.

"These are some of the best players that we're gonna be hearing today ... expect a lot of very prestigious music played," Joiner said. "It took a lot of work in practice for us to be at this level."

Joiner said the Flute Society has performances and other concerts during the year but the Flute Festival is its biggest event.

"This is our biggest event but we actually have rehearsals and performances all the time throughout the year," Joiner said. "We have concerts every few months."

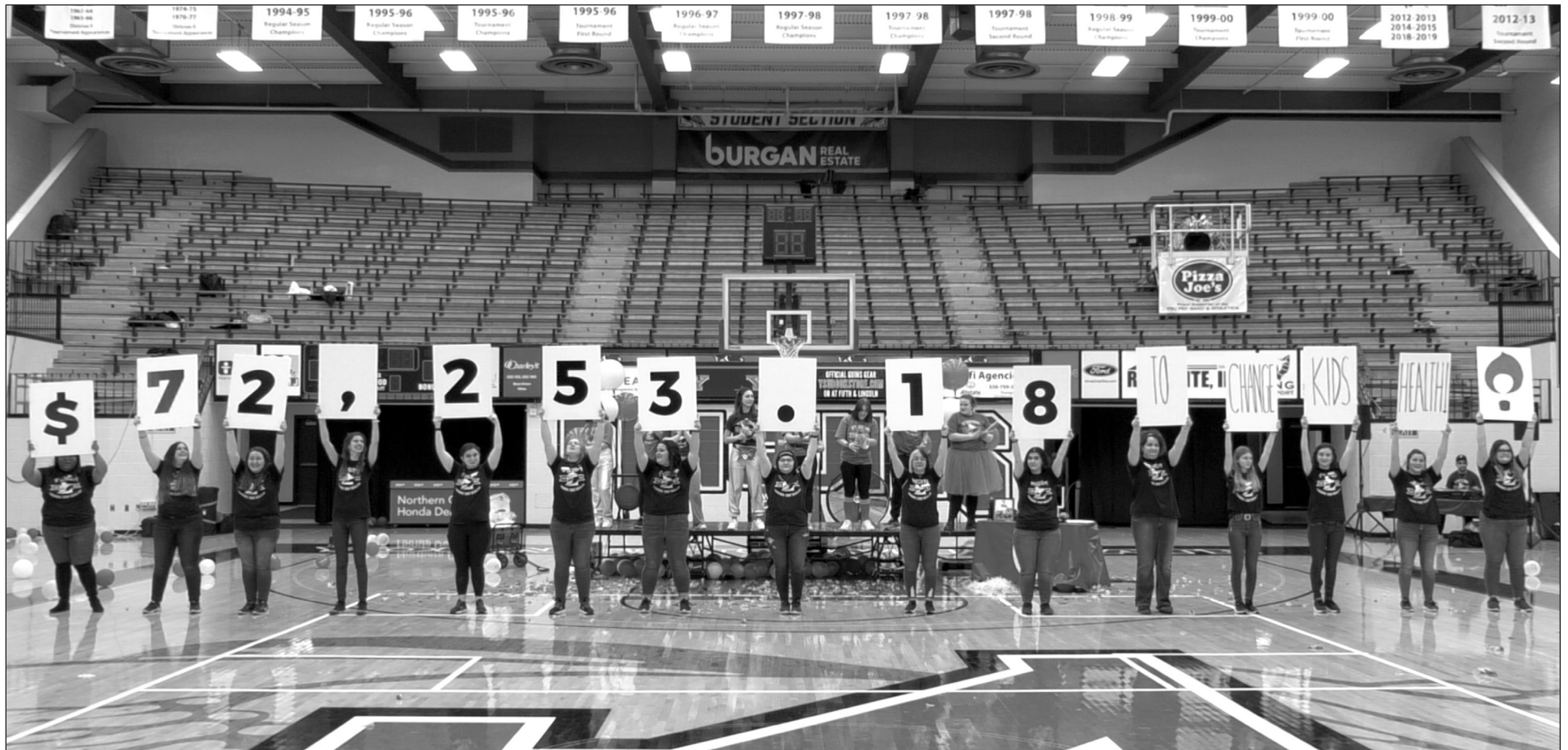
For more information on the Flute Society, check out its website.



Flute students setup for the Flute Festival.

Photo by Jessica Stamp / The Jambar

MONEY FOR A GOOD CAUSE



Guinathon will host its annual fundraising event April 1.

Photo from The Jambar Archives

Guinathon dances into the donations

By Elizabeth Coss and Natalie Lasky
The Jambar

Guinathon, an organization at Youngstown State University focused on raising money for Akron Children's Hospital of Mahoning Valley, will hold its seventh-annual dance marathon April 1, where it will unveil its total donations for the year.

The organization holds events throughout the year to raise money, but showcases the marathon as its biggest draw to the community in a final fundraising push.

Celeste Kapalin, a junior public and professional writing major and member of the recruitment team for the organization, said the event allows students at YSU to come together and celebrate money raised for a good cause.

"We dance, we play games, there's food — and at the end of the night we reveal how much money was raised throughout the year," Kapalin said. "It's called [the] dance marathon because we dance for the kids who can't."

Last year, the organization raised over \$72,000, the

most in its history. Kira Bowman, a senior biology major who is on the finance team, said one of the biggest takeaways for her is meeting with the affected families.

"Getting to see and meet our Miracle Families ... meeting the kids and just saying, 'Dang, I had an impact on this. I helped these kids.' If not this kid specifically, I'm helping [the Mahoning] Valley and I'm giving back to my Valley," Bowman said.

Miracle Families are families from local hospitals who receive money allocated from Guinathons' donations to pay for their children's treatment. Many of these families participate in the event.

Kapalin explained that at the end of the night, Miracle Families also get to participate in traditions like choreographed dances and the cutting of wristbands.

"At the end of the night, everyone gets in a circle. We all have been wearing hospital bracelets for the dance, and the kids come around and cut them off," Kapalin said. "One of the miracle moms talks about how not every kid gets to go home at the end of the day like we get to go home after the event."

Brittany Costa, the Children's Miracle Network Hos-

pitals' program manager and corporate alliance officer with the Foundation Office at Akron Children's Hospital, helps advise the organization and said Guinathon is one of the hospital's best programs.

"Every year it has raised more money than years past. It raises funds for our area of greatest need at the hospital to help out with different things like some of our programs that aren't compensated," Costa said.

Costa also said there are about 50 children among the families who take part in events like the dance marathon, and that she's excited to see the university's impact.

"[I'm] just proud of the students and proud of where they came from at the beginning of this year. Always, always proud of the amount of money that they are able to raise for the kids at Akron Children's Hospital as well as the impact they are able to make," Costa said.

The slumber party-themed event will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 1 in Beeghly Center. To donate or register for the event, visit Guinathon's website

The Jambar Column

Diversity for its own sake

A new bill in the Ohio state senate would affect public universities. Not only would universities cut ties with Chinese educational institutions, and faculty would be required to post their syllabi online, but the bill would also crack down on diversity and inclusion training practices for faculty.

All over the country, people in power are attempting to regulate and moderate what is being taught in publicly-funded schools in a non-content-neutral manner. If you've taken a Press Law & Ethics course, you would know that's illegal.

I don't want to go into why this bill would be beneficial or detrimental, as I try to keep my columns as apolitical as possible in our day and age. I want to focus on why I think diversity for diversity's sake is important.

Diversity does not simply mean a difference in skin color; it comprises ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic background, upbringing and many other aspects of people's lives.

Bringing people from different cultures into rooms where decisions happen creates a more diverse bank from which to pull ideas and resources.

In my Conflict Negotiation and Management course with Max Grubb, we have spoken extensively about how a diversity of thought increases productivity and profitability in a company or organization. This doesn't just mean accolades, past job experience or how successful someone was, but what they can bring to the table as a complete package.

Including people from different walks of life on a team creates different lenses through which people can assess their ideas and issues. It can greatly cut down on groupthink and people can genuinely



Henry Shorr

learn to see the world differently.

Having views challenged can be difficult at times, but it's where growth thrives.

I can't begin to say how much I have had to unlearn from some communities I grew up in to become a better ally. My work as an organizer brings me closer to people from many backgrounds and has opened my eyes to problems that I would have never noticed because I had never been able to see through that lens.

Diversity increases your network. My coworker Jihad always says, "Everybody can't reach everybody, but everybody can reach somebody." That's always stuck with me. Growing your network widens your frame of reference and an institution such as Youngstown State University should be considering that, even without a government mandate.

Having a faculty and administration that understands why diversity is necessary is important to me. Students are not a monolith, especially here in Youngstown. We are a diverse student body from different communities, cultures and countries.

A staff that reflects that and — maybe more importantly — understands why it's necessary should be the bare minimum we ask for.

The Jambar Editorial

Uncertain climatic times

What does the future hold? Many people have held this question throughout history.

Residents of long-dead states had to face a world in which their communities and families could be reduced to slavery or dust. Warfare, genocide and societal collapse have been common themes in all regions at some point in their history.

Alongside that, many soapboxes have been the pulpits of preachers who spoke of the coming of revelations at the hands of an angry god or some other supernatural force.

Remember December 21, 2012, when the world would end because of a supposed prophecy by the Maya calendar? Of course, that didn't happen — not to mention the Maya didn't even say it would.

The infamous doomsday clock was recently pushed to the closest to midnight it's ever been. While doomsday predictions are alive as ever, they are not the source of many people's current uncertainty.

Whether you deny it or accept it, man-made climate change is something undoubtedly familiar to the average politically-engaged American.

Numerous points can be made about fossil fuel usage, carbon emissions, melting ice caps, tropical deforestation and many other factors.

Climate change is happening at a relatively fast rate, it's man-made and climate change denial is promoted by the fossil fuel industry.

A poll by the Climate Advocacy Lab found that over 70% of Generation Z sees climate change as their most important issue and almost half see its effects as inevitable. Another poll by Pew Research Center found that many Americans believe climate change will personally harm them.

Climate change isn't something for

the distant future, it is already in progress. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2022 was the sixth-warmest year on record, while 2020 was the warmest. The United States Geological Survey found that droughts are becoming longer, while tropical storms are becoming more severe.

Specific disasters are often influenced by multiple factors but climate change has played a role. In fall 2022, according to The Guardian, China was struck by the worst heatwave in its recorded history. The southwest United States and Mexico are facing a looming water crisis caused by climate change and other man-made environmental issues.

While the current climate change is happening relatively fast on a geological scale, it still seems slow to most of us who take our lives day by day and week by week.

Polls don't seem to focus as much on how climate change and other issues have influenced individual's specific life decisions — careers, marriage, starting families, where to live — but it would be foolish to say it hasn't.

That leaves the questions: What will you do? How will climate change affect your life?

Quote of the week

Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers

— Alfred, Lord Tennyson,
Locksley Hall

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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.

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Assistant Video Production
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Floor Director**
TV Crew**
Teleprompter Operator**
Designer*
Copy Editor*
Assistant Copy Editor*
Assistant Rookery Radio Manager

*must be available Wednesday evenings

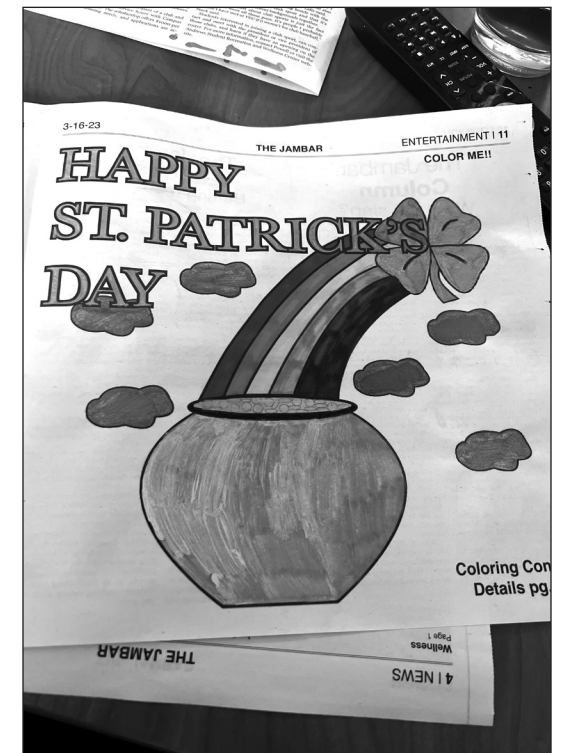
**must be available Thursday evenings

***must be available Wednesday and Thursday evenings

Apply online at thejambar.com. Deadline for applications are April 16.
For questions, contact Mary Dota at mfdota@ysu.edu or call 330-941-3094

The Jambar coloring book contest

Congratulations to
winner Alison Butz!



Heartbreak in Penguin city

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University men's basketball team finished its historic season with a heartbreaking loss to Oklahoma State University in the National Invitational Tournament on March 15.

Oklahoma State had five players score in double figures and defeated Youngstown State, 69-64.

The Penguins started strong in the first period and led for nearly 30 minutes. However, the Cowboys dominant effort in the final four minutes of the game overwhelmed the Youngstown State offense.

Youngstown State held the lead from the 16:39 mark of the first period until the 6:53 mark of the second.

Senior Dwayne Cohill, scored a game-high 25 points in his final collegiate game. Senior Brandon Rush added 12 points in an effort to secure a Penguin victory.

As a team, the Penguins offense found its rhythm early in the first half. 13-of-31 shots landed in the net from the field. From beyond the arc, Youngstown State made

5-of-15 and earned a nine-point lead heading into the half.

Head coach Jerrod Calhoun felt the team could have selected shots more carefully coming out of the second half and it was a deciding factor in the game.

"I thought the game was decided by us not making shots," Calhoun said. "That was the difference."

On the defensive side, the Penguins held Oklahoma State to 21.1% from 3-point range and 36.6% from the field.

For the Cowboys, the defense found what worked, as they held the Penguins to 23.1% from beyond the arc coming out of the locker room. Cohill spoke after the game about the second half collapse.

"We were keeping them in check," Cohill said. "In the second half, [Oklahoma State] got 8 offensive rebounds and that was the turning point in the game."

To finish off the season, March 14, Calhoun was named the National Association of

Basketball Coaches, District 12 Coach of the Year. He is the first coach in YSU history to earn a district Coach

of the Year honor.

The accolades continued as Cohill was named to All-District honors voted on by NABC-member coaches across the NCAA Division I level.

The men's basketball team's historic season at the Division I level ended with a 24-10 record. The 24 victories tied the school record and ended on a positive note by earning a spot in the NIT for the first time in program history.

"I thought the game was decided by us not making shots."

—Jerrod Calhoun,
Head coach

Bowling tunes up in Music City

By John Ostapowicz
The Jambar

The Youngstown State bowling team finished out its regular season on a positive note at the Vanderbilt Music City Classic at the Smyrna Bowling Center, March 17 to 19.

The Penguins started Day One of the tournament with a 4-1. The only loss of the day was against fifth-ranked Stephen F. Austin State University, 1,006-1,036.

Throughout the day, the Penguins averaged 200.96 pins per game, totaling 5,024 pins over five Baker matches.

The team started strong, as it toppled the seventh-seeded North Carolina A&T State University, 1,012-953. The women followed up the victory with three straight wins against Long Island University, Marian University of Wisconsin and Emmanuel College.

Over four straight matches, Youngstown State out bowled its oppo-

nents by 455 pins. Over 25 games, YSU topped an overall score of 200, 13 times.

The highest score of the day was a 249 against the Ladyjacks, despite a 54-pin lead over three games. The Penguins saw the match flip when SFA bowled 11 strikes in game four, totaling 263 pins.

The bowling team headed into Day Two 102 pins ahead of sixth place. The Penguins followed up their dynamic performance picking up a win over the second-ranked Vanderbilt University and Wagner College.

Although Youngstown State finished 2-3 in traditional matches, the bowling team averaged 211.3 pins per game in its first two matches.

Individually, junior Madyson Marx led the way with a five-game set of 1,047 that placed her 21st. Freshman Hope Bunk and sophomore Kirsten Moore followed with scores of 1,020 and 924, respectively. Bunk placed 29th averaging 204 in five games, while Moore

placed 73rd, averaging 184.8 over five games.

Sophomore Madison Doseck believes the team has a deep roster with adaptable players. She played a key role on Day Two as she bowled a 199.

"I feel like we have a deep roster," Doseck said. "We are able to bring anybody in, whether it's match one or match five."

The day flipped as the Penguins averaged 179.3 pins in their final three matches, which dropped them to the eighth spot with one day left of qualifying.

The bowling team finished the tournament strong with a win over Maryville University of St. Louis, but could not defeat SFU in the final two matches against the Ladyjacks.

As a team, Youngstown State finished in eighth place at the Music City Classic, while Sam Houston State University won the tournament.

With the final tournament of the regular season, head coach Doug Kuberski knows the importance of carrying the momentum into the postseason.

"You're always looking to continue to grow," Kuberski said. "We're focusing on those little things and getting better as a team on and off the lanes."

Throughout the 2022-23 regular season, the Penguins earned two second place finishes at the MOTIV Penguin Classic and the Dezy Strong Classic. The team also earned a third place finish at the Eastern Shore Hawk Classic and fourth place at the Big Red Invitational.

The bowling team looks to finish its season on a high note, with a win at the Southland Bowling Championships in Rowlett Texas at the Rowlett Bowlarama.

The Penguins will take on Sam Houston in a double-elimination tournament, the first two rounds are set for March 24.

Baseball goes big time

By Andrew Peterson
Jambar Contributor

Youngstown State University's baseball team is gearing up to take on some bigger universities this season, such as Pennsylvania State University.

With a 4-15 record so far, their most recent series against the Oakland Golden Grizzlies ended with the Penguins only winning one game out of the 3-game series. The baseball team also has a record of 1-2 in the conference.

Dan Bertolini, head coach of the baseball team, said competing against schools such as The Ohio State University or Penn State — which have a bigger pool of players to recruit from — shouldn't intimidate the Penguins.

"In this game, we all put our pants on the same way, and anybody can beat anybody on any given night," Bertolini said. "We just stay in the mindset that we prepare the best we can and give ourselves an opportunity to win."

Bertolini said playing against these programs is a win for the Penguins no matter the result.

"It's a great opportunity for players and our university to go out and compete against the best. We want to play against the best so we can be the best to prepare ourselves for Horizon League play," Bertolini said.

Sixth-year first baseman Padraig O'Shaughnessy said there's an exciting feeling getting on the field to play against these teams.

"It's awesome you get to see those big beautiful stadiums, they pretty much pack the stands every time — I mean it's a great atmosphere, and it's good to be able to say that you have been able to play at some of those places," O'Shaughnessy said.

According to O'Shaughnessy, there are several advantages to playing against different conferences.

"A big benefit is that they kind of show you where your holes are, so that in the long run, it ends up helping when you get in the conference play, they're definitely pretty good, so having to play those guys and see what we do need to work on helps a lot," O'Shaughnessy said.

Braeden O'Shaughnessy, brother of Padraig and a senior infielder on the team, said playing bigger universities is a highlight of the season.

"Open up with a team like Wake Forest, then a couple of weekends after that you play Kansas State, Baylor," Braeden O'Shaughnessy said. "Playing those big schools is what you dream of. That's why you come here and play Division I baseball."

Braeden O'Shaughnessy said these games also offer benefits for players to develop better skills to take forward in their careers.

"You're going to most likely have a lot better pitching, so you have to be on time. You have to be short with your swings, so there's definitely a benefit from the plate," Braeden O'Shaughnessy said. "Sometimes it gets tough when it's not going our way, but it definitely pays off."

In his five years at Youngstown State, Steven D'Eusanio, who is an infielder for the team, has appeared in 154 games. D'Eusanio has spent most of his time playing first and third base.

As far as playing in big venues is concerned, D'Eusanio has played in a number of memorable moments.

"My freshman year when we went to Florida State and Mississippi State, and then my sophomore year opened up at the University of Houston and actually took a series from them," he said. "That's probably one of the most memorable moments in my baseball career."

The team will travel to Pennsylvania to play Penn State on April 18.

"Sometimes it gets tough when it's not going our way, but it definitely pays off."

— Braeden O'Shaughnessy,
Senior infielder

Softball hosts home opener

By Cameron Niemi
The Jambar

The Youngstown State University women's softball team opened up Horizon League play at home for the first time this season. The women hosted Purdue University of Fort Wayne in a doubleheader March 21.

The Penguins came into the game with a 7-13 overall record and played all of those games on the road. After losing four straight, the Penguins bounced back and got the sweep against the Mastodons. They won the first game by a final score of 4-3.

Sophomore pitcher Bree Kohler got the victory on the mound for the Penguins.

In the first game, Purdue Fort Wayne jumped out to an early 3-0 lead in the top

of the third inning. In the bottom of the fifth inning, senior Megan Turner hit a two-run home run, cutting the deficit to one.

In the bottom of the sixth, senior Haily Roach hit a RBI single to tie the game at 3. In the bottom of the seventh with bases loaded, senior Conchetta Rinaldi hit a RBI single to left field and gave the Penguins their first home victory of the season.

The Penguins also won the second game in a dominant fashion with a final score of 7-3, and started off conference play 2-0.

Purdue Fort Wayne got off to a hot start and scored two runs in the top of the first inning. Youngstown State scored in the bottom of the first and pulled within

one run.

In the second inning, the Penguins caught fire as they scored three runs and took the lead. In the bottom of the third, Roach hit a two-run home run to left field that extended the teams lead. Turner continued the streak, hitting a RBI double putting the Penguins up 7-2 heading into the fourth.

Neither team would score the rest of the game and the 'Guins would secure their second victory of the day. Junior pitcher Sophie Howell secured the win for the Penguins.

Head coach Brian Campbell spoke after the game about the team's performance and how it will take on Morehead State University for another doubleheader.

"We will have a little bit of different

lineups, this year is the most that I have done rotations. For the most part we have rotated," Campbell said. "Even when we rotate they are expected to compete and do those things there that anybody else in the lineup would do."

The softball team remained at home for another doubleheader March 22 and hosted Morehead State at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. For stats and game results, visit ysusports.com.

The Penguins will travel to Detroit to play a three-game series against the University of Detroit Mercy.

First is a doubleheader at 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. March 25, followed by the final game at 1 p.m. March 26. To watch the games, go to ESPN+ or view live stats on ysusports.com.

Phantoms sparkle on campus

By Madison Fessler
Jambar Contributor

The Youngstown Phantoms hockey team participates in outreach projects in the community to attract people to attend games.

The team visits schools, community events and the Youngstown State University campus to gain interest. Its season begins in September and ends in April.

Megan Heckert, a social media coordinator and intern for the Phantoms, said many steps are necessary to get an outreach project approved. There is a big discussion about potential projects and who on the team would be selected to go.

“[Phantoms] outreach projects are decided throughout the office. We reach out to a bunch of people in the community and see who wants to have us out there, and then we go out there and do the projects,” Heckert said.

Heckert and other Phantoms office staff decide which players would be a good fit for an outreach project. Ultimately, player participation in these activities is voluntary.

“We reach out to the coaches and [Phantoms players] and say like, ‘Who wants to come along with us?’ and then we narrow it down and bring them out to do that project,” Heckert said.

On Valentine’s Day, five players visited campus for several hours to hand out Phantoms-themed Valentines. The team moved around campus to find the spots that had the most students present.

Left-wing for the Phantoms, Shane LaChance, said he enjoyed walking around YSU’s campus and interacting with the fans and students on Valentine’s Day.

“Just walking around campus, you know, giving out tickets and interacting with some students. It’s nice to see where people are from, ‘cause they come from all over the place ... ask them if they’ve ever heard of the

Phantoms, if they’ve ever come to a hockey game,” LaChance said.

Andrew Centrella, defenseman for the Phantoms, said this was his favorite project the team has done.

“[The cards were] pretty neat how they had some funny sayings on them, and obviously getting another chance to meet more fans,” Centrella said.

The cards featured some of the players with hockey or name-themed puns. One card had Phantom’s forward James Fisher’s photo and read, “You’ve scored a place in my heart.”

The team also engages in other outreach, such as reading and making crafts with school children.

Brandon Svoboda, center for the Phantoms, said his favorite project has been assembling hockey equipment with elementary school students.

“The school visits, like building the hockey nets with the second and third graders, that was pretty special,” Svoboda said.

Heckert, Centrella, LaChance and Svoboda said they want to do more outreach at YSU. LaChance said the players enjoy meeting and interacting with college students.

“I’d like to get out in the community more — just kinda interact with YSU students a little more since they’re so close. So I think that’d be a great opportunity for us to collaborate with them a little bit,” LaChance said.

YSU students can purchase Phantoms tickets for a discounted price of \$5 at the Covelli Center box office. For more information on the Phantoms visit youngstownphantoms.com.

