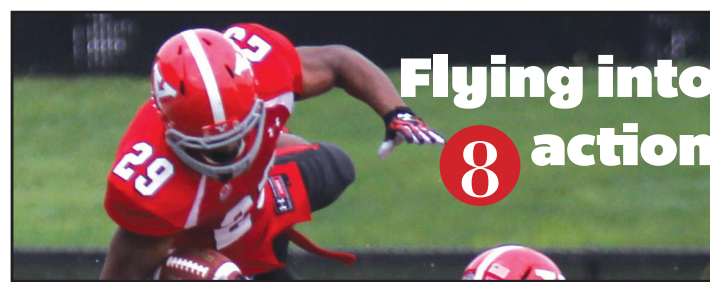




Dawn of the Dead



Flying into action

I think, therefore I drink

LIAM BOUQUET
lcbouquet@gmail.com

On Friday, Sept. 20, the Philosophy and Religious Studies Club held their first Eat, Drink & Think event of the semester downtown at the V2 Wine Bar.

Students and faculty alike participated in a spirited discussion — with plenty of food — led by Alan Tomhave, an Assistant Professor in the Department and specialist in Political Philosophy. During “Just War and Syria,” attendees spent their time engaged in an encompassing conversation on the civil war in Syria and the ethical implications that American or international intervention would have.

Nadia Costick, a respiratory therapy major at YSU, said she had never attended an Eat, Drink & Think event in the past and explained she was impressed by the proceedings.

“The event was very well organized and the discussion was extremely productive and orderly. Everyone contributed to the discussion and it was non-stop,” Costick said. “Everyone had something interesting to say and by having people from all different walks of life attend, I feel like I learned things I might have never been able to outside of the event.”

Eat, Drink & Think is an all-inclusive gathering, and any student with an interest in topical discussion can join. Professors from all fields of study are also encouraged to attend. Guest discussion moderators from a wide variety of fields such as Biology, Anthropology, and Geology have led

the talks in the past.

Tomhave kicked off last week’s event by summarizing the Just War Theory and explaining circumstances in Syria. The group’s discussions are led by a single professor or expert who serves as a moderator. The moderator introduces and guides the topic, but does not control conversation.

“Typically, whoever is leading the discussion will give some background concepts to help frame the discussion, maybe give some examples and then sort of let the discussion evolve on its own,” Tomhave said. “I’m much more interested, personally, in getting the people that had shown up to discuss it, talking about it. As long as they aren’t going too far afield, then I’m going to let the discussion go.”

Students have been gathering for Eat, Drink & Think for over 5 years now to discuss a spectrum of issues. Students in the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department started these discussions in 2007. With some funding by the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department’s class fees and help from several faculty members, dedicated students put together the event once every month downtown with ample space and ample food.

“It was a proposal by a bunch of students in our department who were majors, and they came up with the idea for the event; they even came up with the title for the event,” Mower said. “It’s a student event. It’s run by students for students.”

As part of their emphasis on inclusion, YSU students and community members can also be involved in what the group talks about. Each year,



Alan Tomhave leads a discussion on the morality of war on Friday at V2 Wine Bar as part of Eat, Drink & Think. The group meets once per month and is comprised of YSU students and professors. Photo by Josh Medore/The Jambar.

the club has a meeting where they collect and archive possible topics from anyone who wishes to submit them. Interested parties can even continue to submit possible topics via e-mail anytime throughout the year.

“It is kind of an interesting

model: the topics are proposed by students and community members and then faculty members and the student leaders of the student club pick the topics,” said Deborah Mower, associate professor of the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department and the faculty

adviser for the club.

The club then modifies topics in an attempt to enliven conversation by relating larger concepts and theories, such as the Just War Theory, to hot button or monumental issues happening near the time of the meeting.

The Ultimate Season



Travis Kneen huddles with fellow Aperture Ultimate team members before competing in a tournament. The ultimate Frisbee team’s season began on Sunday in Niagara Falls, New York. Photo courtesy of Josh Lyder.

JOANNE TOMBO
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The Youngstown State University ultimate Frisbee team, Aperture Ultimate, had their first game of the season on Sunday. The team was created by Alex Hunt, a former YSU student, and has been an intramural sport on campus for five years.

This season, Aperture Ultimate has the largest and most active roster in team history. The

black and blue colored team represented YSU this past weekend in Niagara Falls, New York.

Josh Lyder, the team’s captain and president, said he is excited at all of the potential this year’s team has to offer.

“We’ve had a very active fall and have been really excited on how high our roster bumped up this year,” he said.

The team’s roster has over 30 active players this year — a team record. In the past, the team

ULTIMATE SEASON
PAGE 3

Help where it’s needed YSU for Recovery expands

FRANK GEORGE
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Two years ago, student Matthew Glover, along with Youngstown State University’s Recreation Center, created a 12-step-based drug and alcohol prevention program called YSU for Recovery. This year, the program has been expanded.

In the past, the drug and alcohol prevention program was a service exclusively for students in recovery. Now, YSU for Recovery can provide support to any YSU student, faculty or staff member. The group meets in Kilcawley Center at 12:30 p.m. on Mondays.

“The program changed a little bit. It’s now not just for those that are in recovery, but it can be for anybody,” said Joy Byers, director of campus recreation and student programming. “It could be that you have a father or a mother that is having alcohol or drug abuse, and it can be for if you have a sibling. It can be a resource for anybody.”

Glover said YSU Recovery provides support for individuals suffering from all kinds of addiction including: alcohol, drugs, sex and gambling. He called YSU for Recovery a successful, convenient program for students.

“As a non-trad student myself ... my main question

coming back into college life was pretty much: where do I fit in? People in recovery, obviously, we’re abstaining from certain substances, and there’s not much for us to do on campus,” he said. “This way, it gives us at least once a week to get together and talk about our stressors — talk about what’s going on, help each other even just around campus.”

Glover explained that YSU for Recovery acts as a nonjudgmental support group.

“The big push right now is breaking the stigma, letting people know it’s okay that you have a problem with drugs or alcohol or any kind of problem that you have... That there are people there that can help you and there are people who have walked down the same path. They can be a support group,” Glover said.

YSU for Recovery is part of the recreation center’s holistic approach to fitness. Byers indicated that the recreation center is not only interested in physical fitness, but also social and emotional wellness.

“If there are students that are in need we want to be there for them and if there are other ways that we can meet their needs ... please don’t hesitate to come talk to us,” Byers said. “We want to be a resource for them.”

CORRECTION

In Tuesday’s issue of The Jambar, we misspelled the last name of former YSU running back Jamaine Cook. In place of his last name, we printed an obscenity that may have been found offensive. The teaser should have read “Cook goes back to the books.” We would like to apologize to Mr. Cook. We deeply regret this error.

The horde has come to campus

KARA PAPPAS
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Humans vs. Zombies, hosted by the Urban Gaming Club, kicked off their opening ceremony Sunday night. The group had a mandatory rules and safety meeting, proclaiming their number one rule to the game: "don't be a douchebag."

The moderators are in charge of enforcing the rules of the game and wear a white bandana to denote their position. Jeff Lanzer, one of the moderators of the game, said the number one rule was put in place to cover a lot of the gray area of HvZ.

"The rule refers to shady game play — if a player does something that isn't technically against the rules, but isn't the most fair. All of that falls under the 'don't be a douchebag' rule," Lanzer said.

The storyline starts with the outbreak of a contagion that turns humans into zombies. However, zombie players are the main way human players turn into zombies.

In an attempt to ward off the zombies, humans may be equipped with Nerf blasters, rolled up socks and blow darts.

Game play is not allowed indoors; but once outside, it's every human for himself, as zombies can tag a human five steps outside of the door.

This year, 144 students signed up to participate in this intricate week long game of tag across campus.

"Last year we had 120 players. We hope to continue in-

creasing the number of participants every year," Lanzer said.

Joe Wilson, another moderator in the game, played last year also and said he likes it because it adds some spice to the typical day.

"Not only do you have to make it to class on time, you also have to fight off zombies and survive," Wilson said.

Wilson said he hopes to survive the entire week as a human.

"I was turned into a zombie on the final mission last year. It sucked to make it that far and not survive the infection. I'm more prepared this year," Wilson said.

The game is played from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. and includes optional missions throughout the week. Players wear an orange bandana either around their head or forearm depending on whether the player is a zombie or a human.

Michael Thomas, President of the UGC, said that the game is designed to be flexible depending on the humans-to-zombies ratio.

"Mission zero was played on Sunday and resulted in more humans being tagged and turned into zombies than we expected. In order to keep the game going, the surviving humans were given a bonus and the following mission was made slightly easier for them to complete," Thomas said.

Thomas said that the enthusiasm of players this year will help the event to continue each semester.

"A lot of players are stepping up in order to fill the gaps that are going to be left when the older players graduate," Thom-



The Urban Gaming Club is hosting a weeklong game of Humans vs. Zombies throughout campus. The game began on Sunday and ends Friday night. Photo by Kara Pappas/The Jambar.

as said.

One such player is Kelsey Davis. She is participating in the game for a second year in a row and said that her favorite part of the game is the night missions.

"This year we have a little more free rein on how we complete the missions instead of having to take a specific route, which I think is going to make the game more interesting," Davis said.

Davis did not survive last year's game, falling to the infection early in the week.

"All the humans had to pass through a very narrow bottleneck during one of the missions. It was a massacre. Only a hand-

ful of humans made it through, and the rest of us were turned," Davis said.

Nick Uroseva, co-founder of the Urban Gaming Club at YSU, said players can be as active as they chose to be.

"Players can participate in missions or just try to survive while walking to class. It all depends on how involved they want to be," Uroseva said.

Uroseva also said that taking part in the missions may result in an advantage for the winning team.

"The humans successfully completed Monday's mission, which started with a scavenger hunt around campus. It ended

with the humans having to create a perimeter around a checkpoint and defending it for 10 minutes," Uroseva said.

Humans who played were given an antidote card, which they could use to remain human if a zombie tagged them. In addition, zombies had to tag a human on the arm that their bandana was worn as opposed to tagging them anywhere on their body.

The game concludes on Friday night with the completion of the final mission. The Urban Gaming Club is planning their next event, which will be a day-long event around Halloween.

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NEWS BRIEFS

ConneX opening later this semester

The new Corporate Communication Consulting Center (ConneX) is scheduled to open later this semester — estimated in late September. Found in the basement of Maag Library, ConneX has a wide array of equipment including five iMac computers, five MacBook Pros, 10 iPads and a group video-conferencing hub. This lab is open to students and businesses are able to make appointments. A graduate assistant is to oversee the room and fees will be charged by the needs of the business. There is an open house from 12-3 p.m. on Monday, Sep. 30.

Youngstown State University placed in the top third in "Washington Monthly"

YSU ranked among the top third of similar colleges and universities in Washington Monthly's 2013 College Guide and Rankings. This is the ninth year of the magazine's rankings. Washington Monthly listed schools based on their ability to enroll low-income students and assisting them in graduating. It is also ranked on how affordable they are for the services they provide. YSU ranked 208th of 684 of the master's degree level colleges and universities and 93rd of 265 in the master's level public universities and colleges.

"America's Music" starts this week

"America's Music: A Film History of Our Popular Music from Blues to Bluegrass to Broadway" played Wednesday, Sept. 25 at 7 p.m., in Stambaugh Auditorium at YSU. Youngstown is one of 50 sites to host the program series. It is a six-part program that is focused on American musical traditions. Each of the six sessions focus on blues and gospel, Broadway, jazz, mambo, hip-hop, bluegrass, country and rock 'n' roll. The Tribeca Film Institute, the American Library Association, Tribeca Flashpoint and the Society of American Music are presenting the series. Upcoming dates are Nov. 20, Feb. 19, March 19 and April 16.

"Graphic Voices" in October

Three lectures are being held in the McDonough Museum of Art at YSU in October. The dates are Oct. 2, Oct. 10 and Oct. 30. The work of the artists is part of the "Graphic Advocacy: International Posters for the Digital Age 2001-2012" exhibit at the museum. The lectures are free and take place in the auditorium. The Earle and Ida Cliffe Fund sponsors the lecture series, in support of the YSU College of Creative Arts and Communication, the YSU Department of Art, the McDonough Museum, AIGA Pittsburgh and YSU.

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has had between 15-20 players on their roster. Many of the players on the team have never played ultimate Frisbee before, but learned to play it pretty quickly.

"We bring on anyone willing to play. We start off just by teaching the sport," Lyder said.

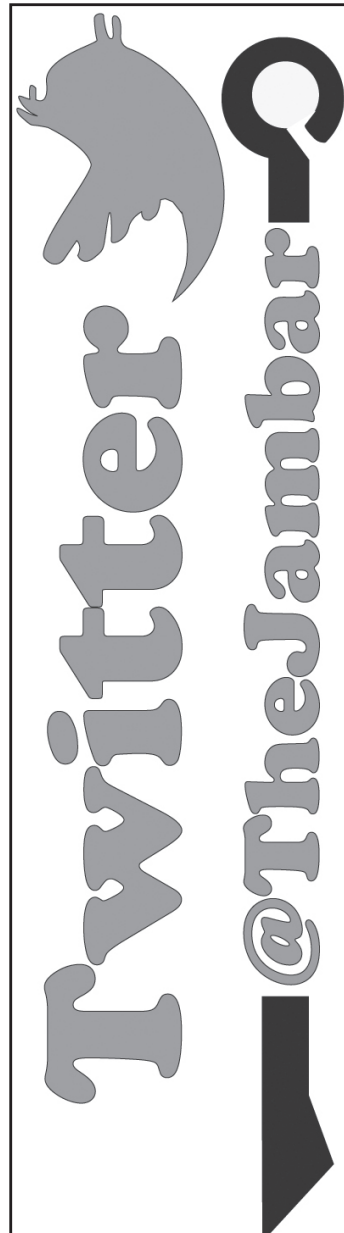
Macayla Macklin, Lyder's girlfriend, is one of four female players on the team.

"We make sure to tell the guys to play the way they generally would," Macklin said.

Macklin said she believes this season will be a lot different than the past because of the numbers on the roster. It will also differ because of the commitment the players are putting into the team.

Ultimate Frisbee is a relatively new sport to the area, but Lyder said first time players can learn the sport quickly.

"Really, playing the sport is new, and that makes it something a lot of people want to pick up," he said.



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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26



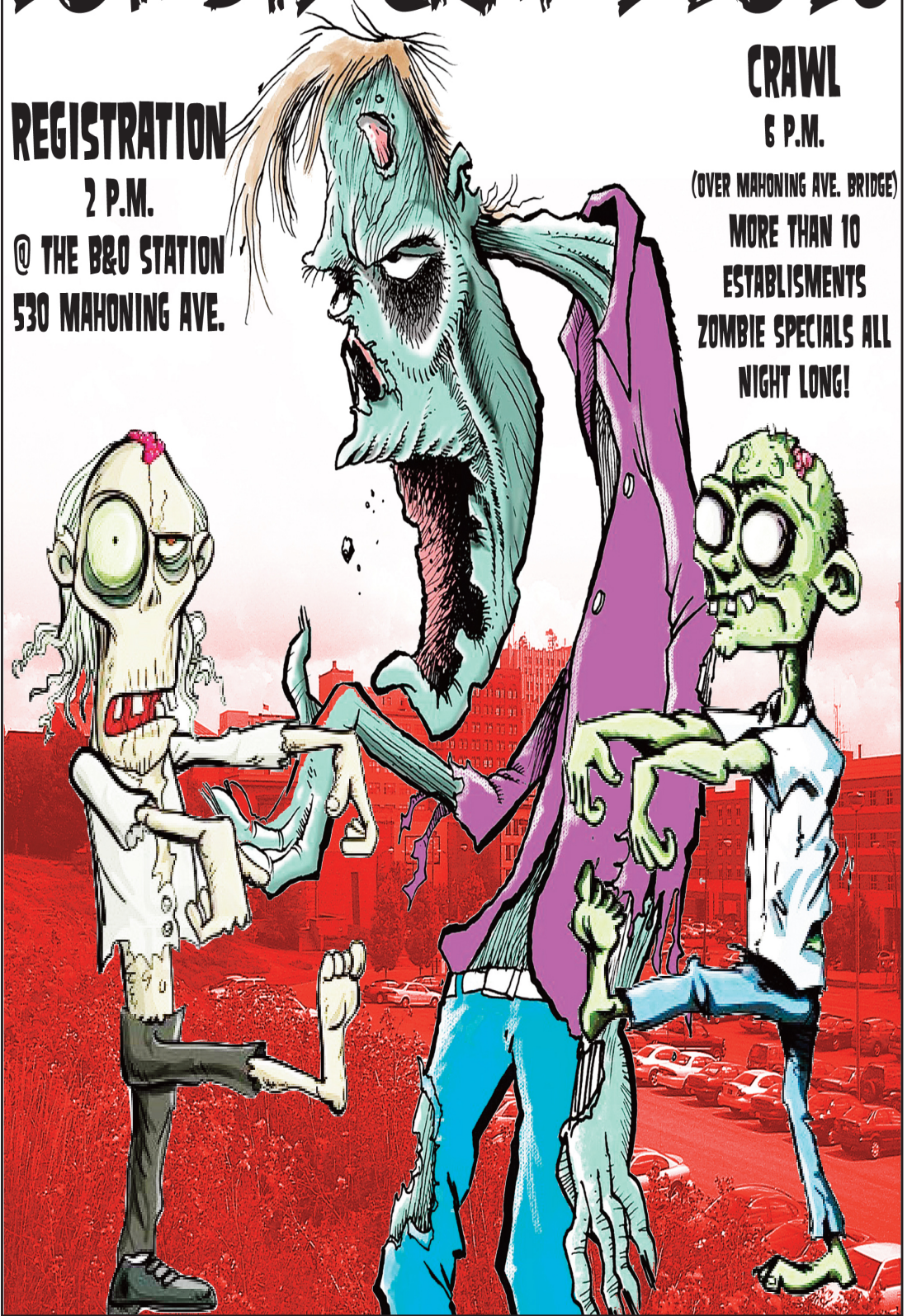
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Contest ends Friday, September 27, 2013. Two winners will be selected by The Jambar Staff. Please keep photos appropriate. Gift cards provided by Ambiance: The Store for Lovers, Boardman, OH location.

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STUMBLE

to the shuttle

TAYLOR PHILLIPS
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Driver of the University Shuttle, Robert Felder, said he enjoys driving the students around during the late nights of the weekend.

"I absolutely love it," Felder said. "There is always a constant flow and there has been more and more kids coming through every weekend."

Felder also said that he sometimes would even go out of the way on his route to help students get where they want to be.

"I'll always pull over for everyone that flags me down," he said. "We always have availability for them to hop on. We are always down there anyways."

Felder said that despite the typical opinion, students are actually very respectful to him rather than rude.

"They are always very grateful during the rides and also when they get on and off," he said. "It's really great to know that it is really being appreciated."

Besides the normal parking services shuttle, there is also a limo style bus equipped with leather seats and a plasma TV.

Senior engineering major, Dave Macek, has ridden the University District Shuttle a few times since it has been offered to YSU students.

"It's good to see YSU getting involved in the rejuvena-



Danny O'Connell of Youngstown State University Parking Services helped brainstorm the idea of a University District Shuttle that runs Thursday-Saturday from 10:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.

Youngstown State University students have been offered a new alternative to the taxis they may take to go down the road to West Federal Plaza Downtown on a busy weekend night.

Last month, YSU Parking Services introduced the idea of a "University District Shuttle" going back and forth from downtown, the dorms and fraternity houses on the east side. The bus runs Thursday through Saturday from 10:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m.

Danny O'Connell of YSU Parking Services said the shuttle has been a great success so far.

"It's going to be really big," O'Connell said. "We've had a lot of students go through so far and it's just going to get bigger from here."

O'Connell also said that they hope to use the University Shuttle during Homecoming Week.

"We hope to have a shuttle running after the homecoming bonfire," he said. "After it's over, we want to run it to and from Downtown so students can go down there and have fun after the bonfire."

tion of downtown," Macek said. "It's awesome. Most schools also have a bus like this so it is good to see it here."

Macek said another reason the University District Shuttle is great, is because it promotes safety for students.

"It also helps to keep us safe from driving drunk and from the robbers late at night," he said. "It really is a great service."

Felder said he encourages any student to hop on the evening shuttle during a weekend

night.

"It keeps kids out of trouble, and you don't have to worry about DUIS," he said. "It makes me proud to hear how grateful the kids are. It really is a great service."

A good night for the Goodnights



Local band JD Eicher & the Goodnights released its new album, "Into Place," Sept. 10. Photo courtesy of JD Eicher & the Goodnights.

GABRIELLE FELLOWS
gabbymfellows@gmail.com

JD Eicher & the Goodnights, a local area band, has had great success with the release of its third CD, "Into Place." The CD is the third in a trilogy of records under Grammy-nominated producer Dustin Burnett.

The band, made up of JD Eicher (vocals and guitar), Ben Portz (keys), Jim Merhaut (bass), and Dylan Kollat (drums/percussion), has been together since 2007. The group has performed with many large acts and has been featured in many magazines and news articles.

Lead vocalist JD Eicher said that having these opportunities opened up many doors for the group.

"Opening up for these big name acts was such a wonderful experience," JD said. "We were able to open up for the Dave Matthews Band, Anberlin, Coldplay, and others. You don't get to do that every day."

One of their songs has been used as a teaser for the Virgin America Airlines movie "Departure Date," and Alternative Addiction magazine has named them one of the top ten unsigned bands of the year.

Merhaut said he is very pleased with the success of the band.

"When I joined, it was mostly just a summer activity — something to do for fun," Merhaut said. "I never expected it to go this far. I knew we had talent, but this is something else."

JD Eicher and the Goodnights describes their sound as pop/rock with a light bubbly sound — something different from the usual head-banging punk rock bands from the area.

JD Eicher says the group owes the majority of their success to their loyal fan base, both locally and nationally.

"We aren't a typical band that comes out of Youngstown," he said. "We are very mainstream pop, and we have been lucky enough to find supporters of what we do."

JD Eicher does many acoustic solo shows to promote himself and the band as far west as Idaho and as far east as Vermont.

Traveling for the shows is hard work, but having a strong support system at home is something that keeps the band going — especially thanks to JD's parents, Dan and Peggy Eicher.

Dan Eicher says that regardless of what his son does, they will always be behind him.

"JD was the valedictorian of his high school. Peggy and I had always envisioned him going to law school, but when he told us he was pursuing music, we were supportive," Dan Eicher said. "We know this is what he wants to do, and we will always stand by him."

The band is very close knit, especially for how long they have been together. JD said that one of his biggest supporters is fellow band member Merhaut.

"I was his first guitar teacher," Merhaut said. "I watched him perform his first song the day he graduated. He has tremendous talent and an unbelievable drive. I am proud to call him my boss and I think he is a wonderful guy."

"Into Place" was released Sept. 10 and is available on iTunes and as a CD in many local stores. More information on tour dates and news on JD Eicher & the Goodnights is available on their Facebook page and at jdeicherandthegoodnights.com.

YOUTH CALENDAR

Thursday

Cheap Skate
Thursday, 5 p.m.
Champion Rollarena
\$2-\$3

Canfield Scaregrounds
Thursday, 7 p.m.
Canfield Scaregrounds
\$6-\$20

Cirque Musica with the Youngstown Symphony Orchestra
Thursday, 7 p.m.
Covellie Centre

"The Brothers Warner" screening and discussion with producer Cass Warner
Thursday, 7 p.m.
Tyler Mahoning Valley History Center

Friday

Rust Belt Growler Hours and Tours
Friday, 12 p.m.
B&O Complex

Badfish (Tribute to Sublime)
Friday, 12 p.m.
Nelson Ledges Quarry Park

No One Special
Friday, 9:30 p.m.
Lock 24 Restaurant

Saturday

Bingo and free movie
Saturday, 6:15 p.m.
Main Street Theater

Karaoke
Saturday, 9 p.m.
Los Gallos-Boardman

Sunday

Open Skate
Sunday, 1 p.m.
Skate Zone

Canfield Scaregrounds
Sunday, 7 p.m.
Canfield Fairgrounds
\$6-\$20



EDITORIAL

A letter of apology

EDITORIAL STAFF
thejambar@gmail.com

As many of you probably noticed, there were a few serious errors in Tuesday's issue of The Jambar. First and foremost, the misspelling of former Youngstown State University running back Jamaine Cook's last name in our teaser section just beneath our masthead. Second, the nonsense subhead on our lead story titled "Energy is Money" and third, our use of the wrong last name when referring to head equipment manager Alvy Armstrong.

The first error is clearly the most noticeable and possibly the most offensive error that has been made in our time working for The Jambar. For

those of you that were unable to read Tuesday's newspaper, in our teaser for an article detailing Cook's return to YSU after spending part of the summer playing for the Cleveland Browns, Cook's last name was spelled with a "c" in place of the second "o."

We would like to issue a personal apology to Mr. Cook, his teammates both here at YSU and professionally and to the entire YSU athletic department.

What happened is unforgivable and should never have happened. There is no way for us to truly state how sorry we are that such a word was used in the first place and that its use was not noticed by our staff in the editing process.

The subhead in our lead story on Tuesday ran as "YSU's tightTight budget gives wayleads to energy." It

should have read, "YSU's tight budget leads to energy conservation."

Again, this is an error that should not have been made in the first place, and we are sorry that it made into the final paper that you all saw on Tuesday.

The third major error was using the wrong last name for head equipment manager Alvy Armstrong. In the paper, we printed Armstrong's last name as Johnson.

We would like to issue a personal apology to Mr. Armstrong, his coworkers and the entire YSU athletic department.

This mistake should not have been made and it is entirely our fault for not catching in the production and editing process.

As you have read three times before, we are truly and sincerely sorry for the

errors in our previous newspaper, both to the people who were the subject of these errors and to the those of you that were offended by our use of such language and by our lack of responsibility to fix these errors before they were finalized and out of our control.

As a newspaper, we have an inherent trust between ourselves and our readers, and that trust was violated Tuesday by these errors. We have taken action, and we can assure you that we will do everything in our power to make sure that mistakes like these never happen again.

We would like to issue one final apology to Mr. Cook, Mr. Armstrong, the YSU athletic department and to our readers. These mistakes should never have happened.

Plain and simple, we f---ed up.

A refreshing voice of humility from the Vatican

MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL (MCT)

We wonder if the princes of the Roman Catholic Church knew what they were getting when they elevated Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio to be Pope Francis in March. Perhaps, they knew very well.

In an extraordinary interview published last week with 16 Jesuit journals, the pope

expressed a thoughtful tone of humility.

In the passage that has gotten the most attention, the pope says that the church "cannot insist only on issues related to abortion, gay marriage and the use of contraceptive methods. ... The teaching of the church, for that matter, is clear and I am a son of the church, but it is not necessary to talk about these issues all the time."

In other words, strive for balance and remember that the church is a "field hospital" that

must heal wounds. "It is useless to ask a seriously injured person if he has high cholesterol and about the level of his blood sugars! You have to heal his wounds. Then we can talk about everything else."

Francis notes: "We have to find a new balance; otherwise even the moral edifice of the church is likely to fall like a house of cards, losing the freshness and fragrance of the Gospel."

Francis explained that he is a pastor who needs his flock;

he didn't want to live in the traditional papal apartments because they were cut off from people. "People can come only in dribs and drabs, and I cannot live without people," he says.

Liberals may be disappointed if they believe this pope will fundamentally change church teaching on the role of women, priestly celibacy or contraception. Francis warns that any change must come slowly, and he worries about what he calls "female machis-

mo." Note what he says: "I am a son of the church."

But there is a new pastoral message coming from the Vatican — that of a humble servant who calls up young Catholics, washes the feet of prisoners and is an urgent voice for the world's poor. This is a pope who believes, unlike his predecessor, that the church must be a big tent, a message that already is resonating with many American Catholics.



JAMBAR POLICY

Since being founded by Burke Lyden in 1931, The Jambar has won nine Associated Collegiate Press honors. The Jambar is published twice weekly during the fall and spring semesters and weekly during the first summer session. Mail subscriptions are \$25 per academic year. The first copy of The Jambar is free. Additional copies of The Jambar are \$1 each.

OUR SIDE POLICY

The editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, the managing editor, the copy editor and the news editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles. They draw on the opinions of the entire writing staff and do not reflect the opinions of any individual staff member. The Jambar's business manager and non-writing staff do not contribute to editorials, and the adviser does not have final approval.

YOUR SIDE POLICY

The Jambar encourages letters to the editor. Submissions are welcome at thejambar@gmail.com or by following the "Submit a Letter" link on thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 500 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification, along with the writer's city of residence for printing. The Jambar does not withhold the names of guest commentators. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. Letters will not be rejected based on the views expressed in them. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries and letters if they are not relevant to our readers, seek free publicity, fail to defend opinion with facts from reliable sources or if the editorial staff decides that the subject has been sufficiently aired. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitting writer based on these requirements. The Jambar will not print letters that are libelous, threatening, obscene or indecent. The views and opinions expressed in letters and commentaries on the opinion page do not necessarily reflect those of The Jambar staff. Editorials do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the faculty, staff or administration of YSU.

An American dilemma: Your clutter or your life

HOWARD MANSFIELD
Los Angeles Times
(MCT)

They have become a defining characteristic of the roadside, wedged in among the malls and fast-food franchises, barracks-like rows of buildings with small garage doors, surrounded by a fence. A gated enclave for excess stuff.

There are 2.3 billion square feet of self-storage space in America, or more than 7 square feet for every man, woman and child in the country. Texas, Florida and California lead the country with the most storage space. It's now "physically possible that every American could stand — all at the same time — under the total canopy of self-storage roofing," boasts the Self Storage Association. There are about 51,000 storage facilities in the country — more than four times the number of McDonald's.

The storage shed is a symptom of our cluttered lives. Clutter is the cholesterol of the home; it's clogging the hearth. The "Clean Sweep" team from the television show of that name usually hauls away about half a ton of trash from each house that it rescues from clutter. (Which may explain why 23 percent of Americans admit to paying bills late because they can't find them, and why 25 percent of people with two-car garages have to park their cars outside.)

"We have too much. We're overhoused, over-clothed, overfed and over-entertained," said Don Aslett, getting right to the point. Aslett would know; he's been poking around houses for 50 years. In college, Aslett started what has become one of the country's largest cleaning companies, and his books on clutter

helped to establish the genre. People call Aslett, saying, "We don't know how all this stuff got here." Think of it as a whodunit. He solves the mystery and gently interrogates the guilty. Ask yourself: "Does this item enhance your life?" If not, get rid of it.

We're crowding ourselves out of our houses. And it's not just stuff. Work has come home. Home offices are like small, overwhelmed rail yards, heaped with paper and tangled with cords for all the devices associated with a computer (printers, backup hard drives, routers, scanners, backup power, speakers). The computer or desk is often tagged in a flurry of Post-it Notes in an attempt to remember obscure computer prompts. The computer itself presents a virtual heap of emails and text, sound, photo and video files.

Entertainment has come home too. Television sprawls out to 120 or 240 channels or more. There are more TVs than people in the average home. Adults are looking at screens — televisions, computers, cellphones, even GPS devices — about 8.5 hours a day, according to a study by the Council for Research Excellence. TV ads claim about an hour of each day. And the time spent watching television — 72 days out of each year — continues to increase, alongside the rapid rise of watching online videos.

Somewhere in there, between the physical and virtual clutter, we are losing the ordinary qualities of home — the solitude to recollect, the time for families to talk. (Yet another study has clocked only 14.5 minutes a day of actual conversation between parents and children.) We are losing the "nothing much" that is home. The room for tumult and quiet, for passing the time with

friends, for the ordinary pleasures of a day well lived.

A happy home, said the philosopher Gaston Bachelard, frees us to daydream. It allows us to "dream well," he said, and enlarge our imagination.

Clutter is choking our shelters. Is there any room left for us in our houses?

If we believe the gospel according to decluttering gurus, an awakening awaits those who clean house. Somewhere under all the junk is what we think we've lost — ourselves, our home, our family, our sanity, our soul.

But the decluttering gurus can only provide a material solution to a spiritual problem. They are confusing symptoms and causes. A cluttered house with a never-used piano or family dinner table buried under junk is a symptom of materialism run amok. It's not the cause. Cleanliness is good, but it is really next to godliness? You may be no more happy or wise in a cleaner house.

This mess is us. Forget the lists of seven simple steps that morph into hundreds of steps, forget the "in-home design consultation" with the California Closets organizer. The lesson that the lists seldom arrive at is this: Our lives are finite. That's the lesson we never want to hear.

Ignore the decluttering gurus who pile step upon step. Don't clutter your life with preparation and endless lists. Take this advice from the decluttering coach who calls herself "FlyLady": Grab 27 things and remove them. Repeat. What's keeping you from living? Throw it all away, step over it, push it into a corner, into the garage, barn, storage shed. Mice, rats, mold, mildew will have their way. Just go live your life.

Any Given Saturday

Penguins prepare for conference play and revenge

JOE CATULLO JR.

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The first half of the season is over, and the Youngstown State University football team is ready for what's ahead.

"Non-conference is all fine and dandy, but conference is where you measure your team's ability, especially in this conference," senior defensive end Kyle Sirl said.

The Penguins (3-1) open conference play on Saturday at Southern Illinois University (2-2), the first of eight Missouri Valley Football Conference battles.

"There's not one team you can look past," junior wide receiver Christian Bryan said. "Any team has potential to make a run and beat anyone on any given day. To start off 1-0 in conference play would be great. It will just ultimately help us reach our goal at the end of the year."

The Penguins' biggest success this season, offensively, is the rushing attack, averaging 238.8 yards per game. Freshman Martin Ruiz surpassed senior Adaris Bellamy on Saturday as the team's leader with 263 rushing yards and seven touchdowns.

Ruiz's success has earned him a spot behind senior running back Torrian Pace but may change come game time. Head coach Eric Wolford did not announce who the starter will be.

"Yesterday [Monday], we didn't know if Torrian was going to practice or not, but he came out," Wolford said. "We'll call that thing when it gets closer to game time. What's great is that you have a lot of competition."

YSU has a tough challenge against the SIU Salukis, who lead the conference and rank ninth in the nation in rushing defense — allowing 83.5 rushing yards per game. They have held their opponents to 50 rushing yards or fewer in four of their last six games since 2012.

"Something's got to give. They've got a good scheme," Wolford said.

With that being said, YSU's rushing attack has helped senior quarterback Kurt Hess and the receivers.

"A great passing game's



Freshman running back Martin Ruiz gets sent airborne by a Duquesne University defender Saturday at Stambaugh Stadium. Ruiz is YSU's leading rusher with 263 yards and seven touchdowns this season. **Photo by Dustin Livesay/ The Jambar.**

best friend probably is the rushing game," Bryan said. "When you're running the ball well, your sucking them up and then get to hit them with the play action. When we're balanced, that's when we're at our best. The better they do, the better it'll help us out."

One key to the Salukis' offense is senior quarterback Kory Faulkner. He has thrown for 949 yards, 10 touchdowns and only two interceptions. He has also rushed for 57 yards on 16 carries.

"I think they've been doing

a good job of being creative as far as getting the ball out of his hand," Wolford said. "They're finding ways to get the ball out of his hands quickly. They've opened it up scheme-wise."

YSU defeated the Salukis at their place, 35-23, in 2011. SIU returned the favor with a 38-21 victory at Stambaugh Stadium. YSU committed four turnovers in the fourth quarter.

"I feel like they stole one from us last year," Sirl said.

Revenge is on the minds of the players as well as kicking off the conference schedule with a

win. Game time is 7:00 p.m. and can be seen on ESPN3.com. The game can also be heard on 570 WKBN and iHeartRadio.com.

"I like road games in the fact that I have the kids in my possession basically since noon on Friday," Wolford said. "I don't have to worry about distractions. I don't have to worry about parents hanging around, to worry about Suzie Q calling in the middle of the night — all those kind of things."

"I like to have them with me, thinking about football and getting ready."

SPORTS BRIEFS

The hand their Hundelt with

The Youngstown State volleyball team defeated Robert Morris on Tuesday, 3-1. Senior Missy Hundelt finished with 21 kills and 15 digs during the victory. Juniors Alex Egler and Shannon Watson each compiled 10 kills. The Penguins (7-7) open conference play at home against Cleveland State University on Friday.

Kicking into gear

The Youngstown State soccer team defeated Cedarville, 2-1, on Tuesday. The Penguins (2-7-1) win their first-ever game at Farmers National Bank Field and snap an eight-game winless streak. Senior Brittany Dowd and junior Chelsey Haney each scored. YSU returns to the field at Wright State University, the team's first conference game, on Saturday.

Missouri Valley Football Conference RECORDS

North Dakota State University 3-0

University of Northern Iowa 3-0

South Dakota State University 3-1

Youngstown State University 3-1

Southern Illinois University 2-2

Western Illinois University 2-2

Illinois State University 1-2

Indiana State University 1-2

University of South Dakota 1-2

Missouri State University 0-4

Rain or shine, tailgating is a tradition

MELINDA BOLTON

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Tailgating wasn't a 'thing' at Youngstown State University until the early 1980s. It exploded for fans and students in the 1990s during Jim Tressel's championship regime.

Alumnus Lou Isabella has only missed one home tailgate since he graduated from YSU's business school in 1985.

Over the years he fell in with a group of other avid YSU football fans and Penguin Club members whose ages have ranged from babies to retired veterans — including Steve Diaz and his wife, whose father John Kolar has been a Penguin Club member for 24 years despite the fact that he never attended YSU.

Isabella has made years of memories with his son at the Ice Castle, who is now a senior at Duquesne, but may owe allegiance elsewhere.

"He's definitely a YSU fan. He is not rooting for Duquesne," Isabella said.

His favorite memories of YSU football games come

from the heyday playoff games of the 1990's, when Stambaugh Stadium got its nickname 'The Ice Castle.'

"You would be here and it would be snowing and blowing and it would be below zero," Isabella said.

In spite of the humdrum records of the last decade, the camaraderie at the tailgates keeps this penguin alumnus coming back.

"One of the things you do, is when it is time to go to the bathroom, you grab a beer and then you walk. Usually going to the bathroom takes about a half hour, because you go down and you visit this or that person. You get something to eat there, if you run out of beer, you grab a new one at their place," Isabella said.

Back when he was at university, it was only \$20 to buy a tailgate pass. Now Isabella pays about \$140 — add the cost of one Penguin Club season ticket and the bill goes up to over \$300. This year his crew has twelve seats, which is down from sixteen last year.

Steve Diaz joined this tailgate group while obtaining a degree in civil engineering

from YSU in the early 1990s. He met the group, which included his wife, though mutual friends. He remembers the glory days and the hope of their return keeps him coming back.

Diaz is the major proprietor in the group now. He has invested over \$1,000 in tents, coolers and grills. He also spends about \$400 per season on food and alcohol.

He and his wife, also a YSU alumna, have a ritual every Friday night. They look up recipes according to each week's theme, make a list, go grocery shopping and pack the truck. Saturday morning they finish any other food prep or packing and make the drive down from Macedonia.

Diaz's favorite memories also come out of the 1990's, but particularly enjoyable are the home playoff games. He also goes on the road for at least one game every year.

Undeterred by the great seasons past, or by bad weather — like last Saturday — the group agreed they are looking forward to their next Saturday at the Ice Castle and of the memories they have yet to make.



Lou Isabella and his family attend every tailgate. Isabella has only missed one home tailgate since he graduated YSU in 1985. **Photo by Melinda Bolton/ The Jambar.**