

The Jambar

The student voice of Youngstown State University since 1931

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Campaign against Issue 2 draws political attention



Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

With Youngstown State University's faculty union campaigning against Issue 2 on November's ballot, campus has become a political hotbed.

More than 100 faculty, staff and citizens congregated in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center on Monday night to voice their disgust over Senate Bill 5.

Volunteers passed out signs and information on how and when to vote early, before state Rep. Bob Hagan, Sen. Joe Schiavoni and other local figures stoked the crowd's fire with anti-Republican vernacular, encouraging those in attendance to persuade others to vote "no" on Issue 2.

The crowd greeted Schiavoni with roaring applause coupled with a standing ovation. He spoke about how he felt the entire SB 5 process was rigged. From introduction to vote, Republicans merely pretended to act like they would work with their Democratic colleagues, Schiavoni said.

"They didn't give us adequate time to do anything," he said. "They'd give us a 1,000-page bill, then ask us if we had any questions before we had time to review it."

Schiavoni gave an account of his testimony on the Senate floor.

"I looked at all 17 that voted 'yes,' and said, 'Thank God we live in a state where the people can overrule the elected officials,'" he said.

He encouraged everyone to vote.

Hagan followed Schiavoni with strong yet poignant comments.

"No one on Main Street did anything as bad as Wall Street," he said.

Hagan drew comparisons to an attack, with Republicans being the enemy.

"We'll fight till our very last breath. We're here to rally the troops because there's a movement to take away our rights," Hagan said.

"They can kiss our working class."

JoAnn Johnntony, state president of the Ohio Association of Public School Employees, shouted, "Make sure your family [is] in tune with what their rights are."

Johnntony said she feels Ohio will be taking a step backward unless Ohio repeals SB 5.

SB 5 PAGE 3

University braces as unions cast contract vote

Jordan D. Uhl
NEWS EDITOR

Both the Association of Classified Employees and Ohio Education Association of Youngstown State University could ratify their respective tentative agreements with the university by Tuesday evening.

ACE held an informative meeting on Friday at McKay Auditorium to introduce the new contract to union membership. A "fair turnout" raised questions regarding the new health care policy, layoff and recall language, and job security.

"There's a lot of changes [and] a lot of questions," said YSU-ACE President Paul Trimacco. "Every member of ACE will be affected in one way or another."

Union members were able to review the contract over the weekend. On Monday evening, ACE held a question-and-answer session. Voting was scheduled after, with a motion to ratify to follow should the union accept the proposal.

An official result is expected Tuesday.

Trimacco was reluctant to predict an outcome.

"It's such a diversified

UNIONS PAGE 3

Community 'food desert' limits food options for students

Patrick Donovan
NEWS REPORTER

Youngstown State University sits at the heart of a city-wide "food desert" with no oasis in sight.

"The 'food desert' is an issue that I've been aware of since I started on [the Student Government Association] two years ago," said Elyse Gessler, SGA president. "As a student who recently moved to the North Side, I usually have to drive home to Austintown to shop."

According to a March 2011 report by the Food Research and Action Center, the Youngstown-Warren-Boardman area was ranked fifth out of all U.S. metropolitan statistical areas with the highest rates of food hardship in 2010.

The report sheds a bright spotlight on the grocery vacuum that plagues YSU students living on and around campus.

YSU student and North Side resident Gary Davenport is aware of the lack of fresh

FOOD DESERT PAGE 2



(Background) Supporters of the first nonviolence rally take to the street of downtown Youngstown on Sunday, amidst the rain. (Bottom left) Family members of Jamail Johnson show support for nonviolence and reminisce about their lost loved one. (Bottom right) Marcus "Coogi" Sadler stands out against violence as he wears an interpretive outfit, which represents his cousin who lost his life in a violent act. Photos by Jenna Medina/The Jambar.

Nonviolence rally attracts public response

Jenna Medina
FEATURES REPORTER

On Sunday, Youngstown held its first nonviolence parade and rally, which caught a large amount of public attention even in the pouring rain.

Put on by the Mahoning Valley Sojourn to the Past, the Youngstown State University Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, Youngstown City Schools and the city of Youngstown, the rally aimed to raise violence awareness.

"This is really a joint effort," said Penny Wells, director of the Mahoning Valley Sojourn to the Past.

Wells said she has been intrigued with the idea of a nonvio-

lence rally since 2009, when Janae Ward, a Sojourn participant, proposed the idea.

Mahoning Valley Sojourn to the Past, a tour of civil rights sites in the South, exposed Youngstown high school students to nonviolence workshops.

Wells said the experience of these trips allowed Sojourn students to make the idea of a nonviolence rally a reality.

Wells said the Sojourn students petitioned the YSU Board of Trustees, the Youngstown City Council and the Youngstown City School Board of Education to make the first week in October Nonviolence Week.

All three of those bodies approved the resolution.

NONVIOLENCE PAGE 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Cuban writers give readings this week

Cuban authors Raul Hernandez Ortega and Nestor Cabrera Quésada will read their work Tuesday at the McDonough Museum of Art and Friday at the Lemon Grove Cafe. The free readings begin at 7 p.m., are bilingual and are open to the public. The readings were made possible through the Ohio Arts Council, the Rayen Foundation and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. For more information, call the YSU Poetry Center at 330-941-1650.

Scientist to speak at YSU on Wednesday

Aaron Manka, senior investigative scientist at the National Science Foundation, will speak Wednesday in the auditorium of Williamson Hall. The presentation, sponsored by the Dr. James Dale Ethics Center at YSU, will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. In his role at the NSF, Manka investigates allegations of research misconduct, like plagiarism, falsification and fabrication.

Safe Zone training offered

YSUUnity, in conjunction with the Safe Zone Advisory Council, will host a Safe Zone 1 Ally training session Oct. 14. The training session, which will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Beeghly College of Education's McKay Auditorium, is an ongoing effort to make YSU a safer place for LGBTQIA students. Faculty, staff, administrators, student employees and student leaders are encouraged to attend the training, which requires registration no later than Friday. Visit http://www.yosuunity.edu/files/safe_zone_invitation.pdf to register.

POLICE BRIEFS

Man arrested for driving without license, playing loud music

On Thursday afternoon, YSU Police heard loud music coming from a white car stopped at a traffic light. When the light changed to green, the car turned left on Madison Avenue, and the university police officer stopped the car. The driver freely admitted that he did not have a driver's license. YSU Police arrested him for driving under suspension and also issued him a loud music violation. He was released.

Student reports M-2 theft

On Thursday evening, a YSU student reported an iPod Touch and a charger missing from his car, which had been parked in the M-2 deck. The student told YSU Police he had parked his car in the deck around 12:30 p.m. Although he locked the car, his iPod and charger were in plain view. According to the police report, someone had pried open the student's driver's side window and stuck something inside to unlock the car. The student also said that an unknown pinkish substance — possibly blood — remained on the window. The university police officer noticed several scratch marks along the windowsill and a piece of rubber ripped from it. The window was completely out of the rubber sill. YSU Police took four photos of the damage.

CLASSIFIEDS

OTHER

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SB 5 PAGE 1

"She was fiery," said YSU senior Molly Toth. "She was talking about [women's rights], and that really hit home with me."

Dan Buckler, a graduate student and president of Students for Social Justice, has been participating in anti-SB 5 events since the bill's arrival in the Ohio Statehouse.

"Personally, I just believe all workers, public and private, should be guaranteed certain rights, and in order to confirm those rights you need collective bargaining," Buckler said. "SB 5 is a direct assault on those rights."

The rally drew off-campus union leaders as well.

Jim Graham, president of UAW Local 112, played on Gov. John Kasich's infamous catchphrase about running over those in his way.

"If they [want to] run us over they better have a big bus," he said.

Graham also refuted any rumors that UAW was pro-SB 5, attributing them to Kasich's campaign.

Sgt. T.J. Assion of the Mahoning County Sheriff's Department and member of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 141, called Kasich a coward.

"I would like to challenge him to ride in a police car with an officer from the Youngstown Police Department at night and go into a burning building while people are running out of it," Assion said.

While Assion falls in line with Democrats, he's actually a registered Republican.

"I know SB 5 inside and out and will challenge anyone to a debate. So I know it's unfair," Assion said. "They [want to] call it collective bargaining reform. They're not reasonable reforms, they're atrocious defamations."

Police Patrolman Sam Mosca has been president of the Youngstown Police Association union for six months and is bracing for the potentially brutal impact SB 5 could have on his family's future. With Mosca's wife being a teacher in the public school system, the effect could double.

"We understand the economy is bad. We haven't had a raise in four years, and we're OK with that. But this goes way beyond the economy," he said. "It's about the governor's agenda to privatize everything."

"Running Ohio like a business [is] a catchphrase, and unfortunately it's a bad one because government is not business. Government is government," said state Rep. Tom Letson. "Would you really trust business to run an election? To man a fire station?"

Hagan offered a memorable quip for voters to overcome the tricky language of Issue 2:

"Remember, do you want to re-elect Kasich? No. Vote 'no' on Issue 2."

Additional reporting by Marissa McIntyre.



NONVIOLENCE PAGE 1

For the event, the students made public announcements, designed and sold T-shirts, and raised billboards around Youngstown.

The parade began at 3 p.m. outside of the Williamson College of Business Administration and ended at the city square for a rally, where speakers included YSU President Cynthia Anderson; Connie Hathorn, superintendent of Youngstown City Schools; and Jeff Steinberg, director of the Mahoning Valley Sojourn to the Past.

Many local residents were also present for the nonviolence parade and rally, supporting loved ones lost to violent acts.

The family of Jamail Johnson, a YSU student who lost his life in an off-campus shooting in

February, carried a banner with a picture of Johnson's face, which read, "STOP THE VIOLENCE!!! WE LOVE YOU JAMAIL!!!"

Yulanda McCarty-Harris, director of the YSU Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, said the nonviolence rally and other Sojourn events have made her grateful that she and her family have a roof over their heads and that her children are blessed with fine education.

"But many do not have these things," she said. "So when we march and we end it with a rally, we do it for others. We do it for those that have lost loved ones to senseless violence. We do it to take back our community. We do it for our campus. We do it for our students. Jamail Johnson was one

of ours and we do it for him. We do it to give hope back to so many who have lost it and feel there is nothing to live for."

Local hip-hop artist Marcus "Coogi" Sadler attended to honor the short life of his 9-year-old cousin, who was ejected from a car during a collision with an impaired driver this summer.

Demond Hymes, a freshman and member of the YSU football team, said it was important that the team be at the event.

"We're here to show that we are athletes of Youngstown State, and even though we are athletes, we're trying to stop violence out on the streets," Hymes said. "Join an organization or join a team and keep yourself away from the trouble."

UNIONS PAGE 1

group. We have part- and full-time faculty, externally funded people," he said. "It's hard to say what's going to happen."

With the abundance of language changes, union leaders encourage members to vote with their best interests in mind.

"It's up to them," Trimacco said.

Julia Gergits, president of YSU-OEA, also was unsure of how faculty members would receive the contract.

"I just plain don't know. I'm

giving up trying to predict," she said. "Even with slight improvements, it's hard to tell."

An informative meeting was scheduled for Monday at 3:30 p.m., with voting to commence around 5 p.m. and continue until 7 p.m. Voting was slated to resume at 9 a.m. Tuesday and close at 5 p.m.

The main concerns of faculty union members were wages, health care and retirement.

Gergits struggled to gain a general feeling of membership.

"I can't get a good read," she said. "Some are hugely angry. Others are just done."

Regardless, the administration feels that both unions are now in control of their own destinies.

"Tentative agreements have been reached. Now it's in the hands of the membership," said Ron Cole, director of university communications.

Cole said he would be deferring all other comments until after voting.

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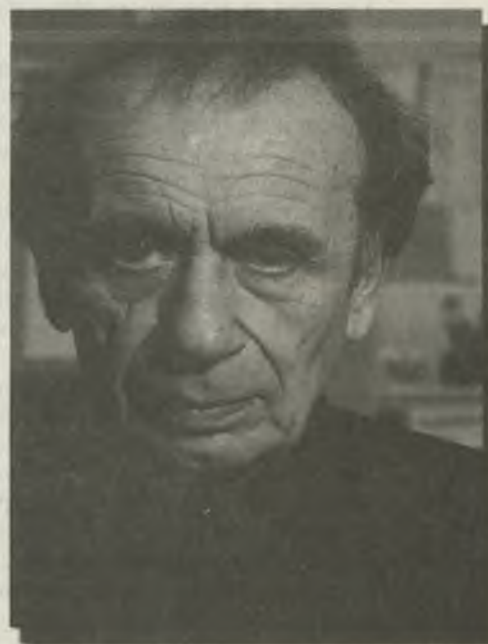
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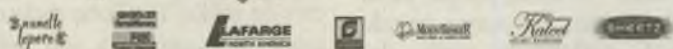
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Youngstown
STATE UNIVERSITY





Photos of Elena Tkac with her friends and family fill the wall of the Coy Cornelius Sculpture Studio for her daughter's exhibit. Photo by Kacy Standohar/The Jambar.

Alumna remembers mother through exhibit

Kacy Standohar
FEATURES EDITOR

After her mother passed away in 2003, Sara Tkac, Youngstown State University alumna and Youngstown native, sought to uncover more about her mother's life.

But what started as a way to complete her grieving process ended up as a master's thesis exhibit titled "You Look Just Like Her."

Following a misdiagnosed sinus infection, Sara's mother, Elena Canas Tkac, developed meningitis after outpatient surgery.

"She became ill a few days after the surgery. A couple days after that, we couldn't wake her up," Sara, 33, said. "She was admitted to the hospital. She had been in a coma for two months when we removed life support."

Sara, who was 25 years old when her mother passed away, left Youngstown to complete her master's degree at the Rochester Institute of Technology, where she also teaches imaging and graphic design. It was at RIT that Sara created her exhibit, though it was later moved to Youngstown.

Upon entering the unique exhibit of family photographs, guests are asked to dial a number on their cell phones and listen to recordings of interviews Sara conducted with her mother's closest friends and family members.

"I decided to put sound incorporated into it," Sara said. "There is a map when you walk in and you dial the number. It's not your average

monotone narrator voice. It's recollections."

Sara said she saw the family photos as a way to reconnect and an attempt to "find solace, peace and acceptance."

"They were photos from my mother's collections. I was near the end of my grieving process. The only way I could reconcile and move on was through this art," she said.

Sara found these photographs not strategically placed in albums but haphazardly thrown in a picture box.

"I became fascinated with the photos taken of her before she was my mother. When she died unexpectedly, I realized that I missed my chance to get to know her as an adult," Sara said. "I always saw her as an archetype — mother, teacher, fixer-of-everything — but she had a whole life before I was born, and I wanted to learn more about that existence."

Sara added that she became "obsessed with that time" in her mother's life, particularly when she "always looked so cute with full makeup and big hair."

Because Sara felt closest to that person in the photographs, she traveled back to Youngstown to ask her mother's friends and cousins for more photographs of her mother before she was married.

"As I looked through the images, I recognized many faces, but I couldn't put together any cohesive story," she said. "Without the owner to narrate, I found there was very little discernible narrative in the photos. This collection of family photographs preserves and presents

a visual history. But without an oral history, it was one-dimensional."

Sara then asked her mother's friends and family to provide the narrative. She felt that it was important to be with the people in the photographs in order to understand these family albums.

"Stories are usually passed down in families through the spoken word, at gatherings of any kind where the communal spirit is present," she said. "In order to take ownership of both the memories and the images, I joined the narratives as a participant, a witness. I stepped back in time and entered those moments in my mother's life in the only way possible."

Some of the exhibit's recollections are from her mother's Ursuline High School graduation party, her time at YSU, her wedding day and a plane ride where she sat next to a famous Spanish bullfighter.

"The stories in the audio tour act as an oral history, as a way to get to know a person through someone else's memories of her," Sara said. "This merging of an oral history with an altered visual history gives the viewer an opportunity to investigate the family photograph on a new, more intimate level, allowing them access to a reimagined narrative."

"You Look Just Like Her" is located at the Coy Cornelius Sculpture Studio, 1931 Belmont Ave. Sara's work will be displayed until Oct. 24.

Megan Thomas, gallery coordinator at the studio, said Sara worked "really hard."

"It's been a long road, and I'm so proud of her," Thomas said.

'A... My Name is Alice' brings newcomers to the stage

Candace Mauzy
REPORTER

By day, Kris Harrington teaches English 1540 at Youngstown State University. By night, she sings "Demigod" as she graces the stage at the Oakland Center for the Arts in its production of "A... My Name is Alice."

"Alice," which celebrates the Oakland's 25th season, was the company's first production. Director Alexandra "Sandy" Vansuch, who directed the play in 1986, also directed this year's interpretation of "Alice."

The play will run Friday and Saturday, as well as Oct. 14 and 15.

"Alice" auditions were held in July, and Harrington said her schedule allowed just enough time for the play.

"Once school started back, I was only able to rehearse two days a week," she said. "My husband and daughters also act. Usually two or three of us at my house have rehearsal at the same time."

"Alice" marks Harrington's "second time on any stage, ever."

"I didn't have any experience in musical theater, but the director ... felt I would bring something to the cast," she said, adding that her first encounter with theater came over the summer at the Youngstown Playhouse.

Like Harrington, cast member Tricia Terlesky said she's new to performing.

"This is my first time performing in a theater, the first time I have more than a paragraph of lines, the first time I've performed a scene alone and the first time I've sang on stage," she said.

Terlesky added that she likes the production's "variety show" approach, full of sketch comedy and touching songs.

"[I like] that we all have at least one individual piece that highlights each of our very eclectic qualities and talent," she said.

Vansuch said "the process of bringing in new people is always fun."

"The most interesting thing for me was working with this cast of people," she said. "Some of them are old friends, and some are new to me."

Cast member Laurie Geer said she was impressed that Vansuch remembered her.

"I thought it was amazing that she remembered my name because she meets so many children," she said, adding that she was a teenager when she first met Vansuch.

Other performers include Maureen Collins, co-founder of Easy Street Productions, and Donna Smith Downie, YSU alumna and former adjunct instructor.

"Alice" is dedicated to the memory of Anne Finnerty James, one of the Oakland's founders.

"The goal for this production is to perform for as many as we can, and to share Annie's life work," Vansuch said.

The Oakland is located in downtown Youngstown at 220 W. Boardman St. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$10 for students. For more information, call the Oakland at 330-746-0404.

Music lessons and jam sessions

Alyssa Italiano
REPORTER

Musical talent and YouTube brought teen sensation Justin Bieber into the spotlight. Now, the two come together once again to help Youngstown State University students.

Whether students are trying to become the next YouTube sensation or just looking to have some fun, a new organization on campus — MLJSIC, which is pronounced "music" — extends both options.

MLJSIC founder Matthew Rivera said the acronym represents the club's goals: music lessons, jam sessions, inspiration and cooperation.

The club offers musical lessons as well as help creat-

ing YouTube videos. Rivera, a freshman, said he frequently updates his YouTube channel, uploading random videos of him singing or recapping the day.

Although YSU has the Dana School of Music, Rivera wondered how to incorporate a contemporary spin on classical music and give students a place to learn more popular genres.

Through MLJSIC, he also intends to schedule time with members to assist them in learning an instrument and assembling videos.

Rivera concocted the idea for the club in the first week of fall semester. Multiple people requested guitar lessons from him, but the demands soon became chaotic. With a club, he could offer time slots and eventually incorporate more

musical tutors.

Freshman Alec Harkabus said the club is innovative and he hopes to join.

"Personally, I grew up with musical ideas. It has always made life seem better having music around," he said. "I always thought, 'Man, I wish I could play this instrument. That sounds cool.' This is nice way to outreach to other people who have that same idea and actually make that a possibility for them."

With high costs of musical lessons, MLJSIC appeals to sophomore Katie McCullough.

"I think it's a great idea, considering my boyfriend does something like that and gets paid by YouTube. He's a musician and helps other bands make music videos. He can make up to \$1,000 a

month," she said.

Rivera said he works around students' schedules and plans to make it as easy as possible to learn an instrument. He offers to meet off campus and will bring an extra guitar, if needed.

Besides lending a hand to others, Rivera rehearses and performs for fun.

As an instrumental performance major specializing in guitar, Rivera plays both the acoustic and electric guitars, which means that he's capable of performing multiple genres.

"I'm not Jimi Hendrix," Rivera said. "But I can play pretty well. I'm trying to teach people what I can. If they can get better than I can, let them do that. The more people I can teach means the more people I can collaborate with, the more people to jam with and

the more people who can teach me stuff."

In addition to the guitar, Rivera plays piano and ukulele.

Rivera said he is working on organizing the first MLJSIC meeting. Membership is \$5 but includes music lessons and other assistance. Rivera said he would never implement an additional charge, regardless of the amount of lessons received or videos made.

"If you want to learn an instrument that one of us knows, you can come to the group and learn. If you know an instrument and want to learn more about it or just jam, come," Rivera said. "If you do art, poetry or make YouTube videos, come and see who can help you out."

November to remember

The Jambar
EDITORIAL BOARD

RELATED STORY SB 5 PAGE 1

If there is anything to learn from the past six months of feuding and fighting over contracts, it's that the university must move on.

We've been criticized for our coverage of the contract negotiations and rightly so at times. But the campus has broken into separate camps hell-bent on getting their ways, and we felt the students should have a voice at the table.

Tuesday night could mark a return to normalcy as both unions vote to settle contracts with the university. And an agreement couldn't come at a better time.

Issue 2, the infamous veto referendum to repeal Senate Bill 5, is near. The unions have been stalwart in their negotiations, and the university has been equally unrelenting.

But who will be the benefactor of political backlash come November?

Unfortunately, we fear that teachers will feel the brunt of a disgruntled public.

Maybe not in the Valley, but across the state voters will remember how unions rocked the boat during turbulent times. They may have fought for what was owed them, but instead of amicable negotiations, our local teachers' union has become a poster child to those who support SB 5.

We will also remember the "final best offers" and union-busting changes to contracts. The administration was no less conciliatory through the whole process.

The faculty has allowed malicious and ill-advised rhetoric. And the administration has claimed that SB 5 played no part in the negotiations, yet they hire a lawyer who specializes in such tactics and employ others who come from such stock.

No one took the higher road. And the students were left wading through looming strikes and fiscal cuts that will sway our hand on Nov. 8.

OUR SIDE POLICY

The editorial board that writes Our Side editorials consists of the editor-in-chief, managing editor and news editor. These opinion pieces are written separately from news articles and draw on the opinions of the entire writing staff. 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. Email submissions are welcome at editor@thejambar.com. Letters should concern campus issues, must be typed and must not exceed 400 words. Submissions must include the writer's name and telephone number for verification and the writer's city of residence for printing. Letters are subject to editing for spelling, grammar and clarity. The editorial board reserves the right to reject commentaries that are libelous or that don't defend opinion with facts from reliable sources. The editorial board will request a rewrite from the submitting writer based on these requirements.

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HEY! DID YOU GUYS FEEL THAT EARTHQUAKE LAST THURSDAY?!



Cartoon by Paris Chrisopoulos/The Jambar.



The big picture Pebbles, 'Chucky Cheese' and nostalgia

A way to remember the little things

Jared Buker
COLUMNIST

When I was a little kid, my parents insisted that I learn to play the piano. My grandmother bought me a piano when I was 8, but I didn't like practicing, going to lessons, playing from a book, listening to a teacher or really anything that would've made me the little prodigy my folks were hoping for.

I started writing songs and playing them at recitals so I wouldn't have to play the same mundane Christmas jingles as everyone else. Sadly, I lacked the foresight to realize I might want to hear those songs again one day. Out of probably eight songs — none of them are written down — only one is recorded.

It is as if the other seven never existed.

These nostalgic feelings led me to a diary I kept for roughly two weeks when I was 8. My assumption was that 8-year-old Jared would have been incapable of writing anything of substance, and, for the most part, I was right.

I spent most of my time talking about professional wrestling and the fact that my brother had home-

work and I didn't. But in between the lines were some brief details that brought me right back there, and it made me wonder just how much of our past and our memories get totally lost in the subconscious.

Is it the entirety of one's life that makes a person who they are, or can personality only be explained by those little moments in life that mean so much but weren't breathtaking enough to remember?

On Aug. 11, 1998, I wrote the following: "Just came home from Chucky Cheese. Man, I got a lot of toys. My best friend's little sister is here and she's not to fun but it's nice to have company. It's 7:21."

I never would have remembered such a random night from so long ago if I hadn't had the diary; it's a part of my past that would've been utterly forgotten.

Think about the friend you've had the longest. Why are you friends? I'm willing to bet that it was because of a collection of moments just like the ones in my diary that you'll never be able to remember entirely.

But it is the tapestry of our

memories that determine who we are and who we have around us. If you can't reminisce and peel back the layers to the onion that is your psyche, how can you really appreciate the wonderful person you hopefully have grown to become?

My suggestion would be to not make the same mistakes I made with my piano songs. You'll never know at the time what events will mean the most to you and where they might take you, so write them down. You supposedly only use 10 percent of your brain, so use pen and paper to avoid losing the story of you.

Pierce Harris, a Methodist minister who passed away in Atlanta in the late-1960s, once wrote, "Memory is a child walking along a seashore. You never can tell what small pebble it will pick up and store away among its treasured things."

If we truly want to know ourselves, we should keep track of our pebbles before the tide of our mind sweeps them away.



Stafford vs. Fitzpatrick?

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Week four of the NFL is officially over. Who are your Super Bowl predictions?

Packers, Patriots, Ravens, anybody else? How about a Lions-Bills Super Bowl?

What? Yes, the Lions and Bills are making a strong case to represent their conference in the biggest game of the year. Look at the stats.

Let's start with Detroit. Matthew Stafford has already thrown for 1,205 yards. The team has scored 15 touchdowns.

Calvin Johnson is the best receiver in the game right now. He already has eight receiving touchdowns and on pace for 32 on the year.

On defense, the Lions have nine sacks and five forced fumbles. Kyle Vanden Bosch already has three sacks. Plus, they have combined for 249 tackles.

The annual Thanksgiving game is sure to be a great one. A possible NFC championship game is on the horizon. Packers at Lions.

Ooooooh. I just got chills. Aaron Rodgers against a hopefully healthy Matthew Stafford.

This game will truly show what the Lions are made of.

For Buffalo, where did Ryan Fitzpatrick come from? He has thrown for 1,040 yards and nine touchdowns.

Fred Jackson is running all over people like a fat man in a buffet. He has 369 rushing yards and four touchdowns.

On the receiving end, Steve Johnson has 314 yards and three touchdowns. Youngstown State University's Donald Jones has 149 yards and a score.

The Bills have already defeated the Patriots, so who is the next big challenge?

Although they lost to the Bengals on Sunday, it's only one game. Even the Browns lost to the Bengals, and they're still in contention for the AFC North.

Sunday will be a tough battle hosting the Eagles. The Eagles have been struggling to hold on to games, and the Bills pulled off a fair share of comebacks. The Eagles need a win.

If the Titans can keep it going, the week 13 contest can be a possible playoff preview.

Final predictions: Lions will go 11-5 and get a wild-card berth. There's no way anybody will be better than the Packers in the regular season.

The Bills will go 9-7 and achieve the No. 6 seed to get in the playoffs. Once they get in, they will be tough to stop. Look out, New England: The wheels are turning.

Beginning in the preseason, I predicted a Ravens-Falcons Super Bowl: the Battle of the Dirty Birds. If the Falcons do not turn it around soon, the Lions will take their place.

I'm still sticking with the Ravens. Their only loss came to an underrated Titans team. Did you see what they did to the Jets on Sunday?

Case in point. Plus, who in the AFC North will stop them? Pittsburgh already got blown away, the Bengals are the Bengals and the Browns are not there yet.

Detroit vs. Buffalo: Imagine the possibility.

TheJambar.com



School of Hard Knocks

A concussion occurs when a violent blow to the head causes the brain to slam against the skull beyond the ability of the cerebrospinal fluid to cushion the impact. Between 1996 and 2001, NFL teams reported nearly 900 concussions.

-When a football player takes a hit to the head, speeds range from 17-25 mph, with a force averaging 98 times the force of gravity.

-The shockwave passes through the brain and bounces back off the skull. The concussion usually occurs at the opposite side of the point of impact.

-The impact can cause bruising of the brain, tearing of blood vessels and nerve damage.

Symptoms

Immediate

- confusion
- amnesia
- loss of consciousness
- ringing in the ears
- nausea and vomiting
- convulsions

Delayed

- irritability
- headaches
- depression
- sleep disorders
- poor concentration
- trouble with memory

Cumulative Effects

-Studies show that prior concussions may lower the threshold for subsequent concussion injury and increase severity of symptoms.



ILLUSTRATION BY PARIS CHRISOPOULOS/THE JAMBAR

NCAA takes hard look at concussions

Caitlin Cook
REPORTER

New rules were put into place after the NCAA conducted several studies on the long-term effects of concussions.

Head athletic trainer John Doneyko, who has been involved with sports medicine at Youngstown State University for more than 25 years, said he has observed dramatic changes in the treatment of concussions.

"There were never any mandates from the NCAA that you had to do anything," Doneyko said. "There was no guideline for what a concussion really was and the dangerous long-term side effects."

Since the beginning of the year, all student-athletes must

be educated on the symptoms and side effects of concussions. Players must also pledge to notify a team doctor or athletic trainer if they experience concussion-related symptoms.

Furthermore, the NCAA has implemented a gradual return to play, providing athletic trainers with more stringent guidelines to follow.

"You can't have a concussion today and be cleared for activity tomorrow," Doneyko said.

Each student-athlete must take a baseline test at the start of the year to measure cognition, reaction and memory. If an athlete sustains a concussion, he or she is given a follow-up test within 24 hours of the injury.

Baseline test results are then compared with post-concussion results, providing the

sports medicine staff with a way to determine what is going on in the student-athlete's brain.

"In the past it was just, 'I'm going to ask you about your symptoms, and you're either going to tell me that you feel good or you don't feel good,' and we would base our return to play guidelines on how [they felt]," Doneyko said. "Now we have something that's more than subjective; it's quantitative."

Senior linebacker David Rach has played football for 11 years. He sustained a concussion during YSU's football camp that kept him out of play for two weeks.

"I got hit and everything was cool. Then, I don't remember, but evidently I just collapsed and was out cold," he said.

Rach left the football team

on Feb. 26 for personal reasons, but he returned in July.

He said hitting is a lot harder and more frequent in college, but that he remembers his head hurting more after high school games.

"I think we've already benefited from the changes in helmets compared to other generations," Rach said.

Youngstown's Dr. Steven Novicky said he noticed an epidemic of players with headaches, neck pain and visual disturbances coming into his office from July to October each year.

Subsequently, Novicky created Shockstrip helmet pads, which are made of medical grade material, to reduce the probability of concussion.

"The primary impact is absorbed, and then whatever part of the impact the strip cannot withstand reflects it

off," Novicky said.

Applied to helmets with a special adhesive, the Shockstrip adds a mere three-fourths of a pound of additional weight.

A Shockstrip set costs \$75 and includes seven strips, industrial adhesive and instructions. Novicky said he is eager to share his product, and he hopes that one day all helmets will feature Shockstrip pads.

Several Mahoning Valley high school players are wearing the new helmet technology and, thus far, have experienced no concussion-like symptoms after hard hits, Novicky said.

"The bottom line is once you get the first concussion, you're prone to a second, a third and so on," he said. "It's extremely important to reduce the probability of another."

Jambar Players of the Week

Joe Catullo Jr.
SPORTS EDITOR

Youngstown State University hosted two games on Saturday. Despite losses, two players stood out.

Sophomore Missy Hundelt and freshman Jade Flory are this week's Jambar Players of the Week.

The YSU volleyball team fell to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in three sets. Hundelt, playing her second game since sustaining a concussion, finished with 30 total attacks, three digs and nine and a half points.

Hundelt said being selected as Jambar Player of the Week "feels good."

"But I have a lot of work

that I need to do now and improve," Hundelt said.

Head coach Krista Burrows said Hundelt has been struggling since her return, but that she can be an impact player.

"Being out for two weeks definitely caused her to sustain her energy and sustain what she's able to do because of her being tired physically," she said. "We have to give her some breaks in the matches and see if she can step up to the plate."

This season, Hundelt was named to all-tournament teams at the Syracuse Big Orange Tournament, the Indiana University Adidas Classic and the Maddie Bingaman Memorial Tournament.

Last year, she led the Penguins with 198 kills — 2.3 per set — and 227 points with 2.64 per set. She became the first freshman since 1993 to lead in kills.

Hundelt, originally from St. Charles, Mo., attended Orchard Farm High School. She was named first-team All-Missouri at the Class 2 level as a sophomore and senior. She was also named first-team all-conference and first-team all-region in all four years.

She ranks 14th in Orchard Farm history with 453 kills in her sophomore year. As a senior, she averaged 5.42 kills and 5.18 digs per set.

Flory, the other Jambar Player of the Week, said she



did not even know that the designation existed but that it feels good to be honored. Flory leads the soccer team with seven goals.

She ranks second in the Horizon League in goals (7), third in points (17) and tied seventh in shots (31).

Originally from Chambersburg, Pa., Flory attended Chambersburg Area Senior High School. She ranks second all-time in assists and third in scoring.

She is a two-time Mid-Penn All-Stars second-team selection and was a first-team Public Opinion All-Star in 2009.

Tennis triumphs at Bison Quad

Nick Mancini
SPORTS REPORTER

Youngstown State University's tennis teams competed at Bucknell University's Bison Quad, held in Lewisburg, Pa., over the weekend.

Head coach Mark Klysner said he was impressed with play.

"I was extremely pleased with how the girls played, especially with this being their first tournament of the year," Klysner said. "They definitely played much better than I expected. Our experienced players played to their capabilities, and I was really happy with some of our younger players."

In her first collegiate action, Marta Burak, freshman and native of Ukraine, won the Flight A Singles title.

Klysner said Burak exceeded expectations.

"Being a 15-year-old in her first tournament and to win her flight in singles [is] really something," Klysner said.

Klysner said it is not uncommon for players to come from other countries and play well on the collegiate level.

"For her to come into a brand new country like that and play with that much maturity and confidence is really impressive," Klysner said. "It is definitely not uncommon but usually it is a 17- or 18-year-old doing that."

Senior Lauren Hankle returned from an injury sustained

last year.

Hankle won the Flight B Singles title. She also teamed with Burak to win the doubles bracket.

"She is a senior leader, and it's good to get her back," Klysner said.

For the men, sophomores Max Schmerin and Zeeshan Ismail both reached the semifinals in Flight A.

"Overall, I was pleased with how the boys played," Klysner said. "It is encouraging, heading into regionals soon."

Ismail was able to post wins against Bucknell's Kelly Morque and Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania senior Ricky Dove before Bucknell senior Gregg Cohen knocked him out of the tournament.

"Zeeshan played well and continued his strong play," Klysner said. "I look to him to keep up his strong play."

Schmerin opened the tournament with a bye and bested Niagara junior Brandon Gallegos. He dropped his semifinal match, however, to Bucknell junior Evan Zimmer.

In doubles play, Ismail and junior Felipe Rosa won two matches, and they advanced to the semifinals.

Both teams' next tournament will be the Intercollegiate Tennis Association Midwest Regional in Columbus. The men's portion of the tournament will take place Oct. 13-16. The women will begin play Oct. 20 and conclude Oct. 23.

