

YSU CANDIDATES FOR NEW HONORS COLLEGE

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On Monday, April 13, three finalists for the position of dean for the new Honors College were announced. The finalists — Stephen Gage, professor and director of bands and orchestra in the Dana School of Music; Adam Earnhardt, chair of the department of communication; and Thomas Wakefield, associate professor in the department of mathematics and statistics — presented their ideas to students and faculty on campus.

Stephen Gage

Gage, on top of being a full time professor in the Dana School of Music for 35 years, conducted the Youth Orchestra in Youngstown.

"The first question that I had was 'why would you want an honors college?' I'm someone who looks up things and such a program provides a place for bright, better graduate students who want to be intellectually engaged," he said. "If I was sitting in the house today, one of the things that I would be thinking is why would you want a conductor to be the Honors College dean?"

Gage said that his vision, if elected dean of the Honors College, would be a place for student success.

"System plus spirit equals success. The system is what we



From Left to Right: Thomas Wakefield, Adam Earnhardt, Stephen Gage

PHOTOS BY THE JAMBAR STAFF

put in place. My approach to this is that the system is everything that the university does to make sure that the students who choose to come to YSU and participate in the Honors College have a chance to be successful. I feel as a teacher that my most important thing that I do is to give my students a chance to be successful," he said. "The spirit is what all the people involved in it do."

Gage said that an Honors College has to be aware of and able to compete with other universities for honor students in its region.

"I have to work with outside sources. I think all of us are aware that higher education is in difficult financial times. At our institution, we

hired Gary [Swegan] not so long ago to come and help us with enrollment management. We want to make sure that in a region where the population continues to decline ... there's less students to draw from. If we are talking about an Honors College, we are now going to be competing for the best and brightest to come to our school, and there are going to be less of them. And we are not the only school that will want them," he said.

Gage said that he sees the position as a "student connected job."

"If I was the dean of CLASS, or Health and Human Services, or Creative Arts and Communication, I'm not so sure that the way I approach the world

would be particularly helpful because I think it's primarily dealing with administrating in-house things. This job, I see as a student connected job," he said. "I find that being a teacher and a conductor for three decades, that the good and the bad and the ugly of those three, is that they make me more prepared for this job than perhaps anything else that I can do."

Gage assured students and faculty that he would put all of his effort into the success of the Honors College.

"Critical thinking, to me, usually refers to looking at music on a page and thinking about how I might want it to sound. Our students, all of them, certainly our Honors College students have to be

critical thinkers — outside the box problem solvers. I think it's a strength; you might think it's a weakness. I assure you that if I were to get the position that you would get my heart and soul," he said.

Thomas Wakefield

Wakefield, another finalist for the dean of the Honors College, addressed his ideas for the college on Tuesday in the Board of Trustees Meeting Room in Tod Hall.

He said that the strength of the Honors College is in its students.

"The Honors College is the

HONORS COLLEGE
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REACTION TO "STRAIGHT PRIDE WEEK" FLIERS RAISES CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

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Campus officials removed posters calling for May 1-8 to be celebrated as "Straight Pride Week" on Tuesday, following student and faculty complaints.

Utilizing the familiar rainbow design that many LGBTQIA groups use, the poster called for a "Straight Pride Week," during which students would go about their days without drawing attention to their sexual orientation.

The poster's text alleged it was the work of "students that are sick of hearing about ... LGBT pride," though no evidence exists to suggest there was more than a single person behind the flier.

Shortly after the posters were discovered, Student Government Association president-elect Ashley Orr was made aware of the situation. She contacted Jack Fahey, vice president of student affairs, who then acted to have the posters removed by campus officials.

"Everyone has a right to express their opinion on campus, but [the SGA and the administration] felt — especially considering the English Festival is about to start — that the poster's language was obscene and should be taken down," Orr said.

Despite the fliers' language eliciting a number of complaints, YSU's decision to remove the bulletins may have been a violation of the First Amendment.

According to Ari Cohn, an attorney and the program officer for legal and public advocacy at the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, public college campuses are not considered zones of limited speech. Unless the speech qualifies as unprotected under U.S. legal pre-

cedents, officials cannot censor it.

"The Supreme Court has been clear for decades that the First Amendment extends to public university students to the same extent it does to them in the outside, regular world. College students have broad First Amendment rights ... which means that schools can not prohibit certain kinds of speech that are deemed unprotected under the First Amendment," Cohn said.

The loosely determined category of speech known as "hate speech" is protected under the constitution.

"Hate speech — ill defined as it is — has never been held by the Supreme Court to be unprotected by the First Amendment ... unless it also falls under another category of unprotected speech," Cohn said.

Unprotected speech is a category of communication that likely would result in an immediate disturbance of the peace or potential for bodily harm to an individual.

"Some categories of unprotected speech are incitement to immediate violence or unlawful action, which I don't think any reasonable person could argue is present in the fliers. ... There's also defamation, libel and slander, which the flier wouldn't fall under," Cohn said. "There is the doctrine of fighting words, which applies to face-to-face verbal epithets, such as racial slurs, that would incite one to violence on the spot. These were fliers, so they wouldn't count there. Then there's also true threats and intimidation, which requires some kind of serious expression to do some kind of grave bodily harm to somebody. Obviously these posters, as distasteful as some may find them, don't fall under any category of unprotected speech."

FIRST AMENDMENT
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FEDERAL FRENZY: YOUNGSTOWN'S SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST

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Federal Frenzy, taking place this Saturday, April 25, will be moving Youngstown State University's spring concert from the familiar venues of auditoriums and grassy quads to the towering stone and steel of Federal Street in downtown Youngstown.

The event is a collaborative effort between YSU's Penguin Productions, the city of Youngstown and the Rich Center for Autism.

Michael McGiffin, coordinator of downtown events and special projects for the city of Youngstown, said he is excited about the event.

"It's going to feel like Youngstown's version of South by Southwest," McGiffin said.

There will be two stages in Martini Brothers Burger Bar — one in Suzie's Dogs and Drafts and one in O'Donold's. Bands will be playing inside from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. while local artists, craftsmen and vendors man booths along Federal and Phelps streets. An outdoor stage will go live at 6 p.m., culminating in a performance from Athens, Ohio's Red Wanting Blue.

McGiffin said the event combines Penguin Productions' spring concert with the Rich Center's Festival on Phelps.

"We're essentially just marrying those two events to sort of kick off the summer event season with one big event," McGiffin said.

He said the decision to combine the events arose from the idea that there are only so many people in town, and they're not all going to attend every event.

"If you start honing in and focusing on not putting something in every weekend, but putting a few really good quality well-produced,

well-funded and well-run events, then you're elevating the standard while still making sure that you're not tiring out your crowd by having something every weekend," McGiffin said. "And you're making sure that you're not stealing from other crowds, or having your crowd stolen by another event."

Bergen Giordani, events coordinator at the Rich Center, said that since the Rich Center is part of the campus community, combining the events makes sense.

"Festival on Phelps was a great first-time event last year, but it needed to grow, and it didn't have the financial backing to make it grow, so that's what Penguin Productions was able to provide — the entertainment portion," Bergen said. "Festival on Phelps had a strong vendor portion, but the entertainment was weak. Partnering with Penguin Productions allowed us to both do what we did best and make it into one great event."

Carolyn Jesko, the event leader for Penguin Productions, said she began moving university events downtown while she was working in the student activities office.

"For our events for the Student Activities Presents series, we started building a relationship with downtown venues," Jesko said. "It just amplifies the event because it will be like four times the size, and it's literally down the hill, so

campus is just right there."

McGiffin said he is trying to get YSU students more involved with the downtown area.

"It's an easy opportunity because of the relationship I have with everybody up on campus," McGiffin said.

He said Federal Frenzy in particular is a good vehicle for implementing this strategy.

"It's a really good opportunity to really showcase that Youngstown is a college town," McGiffin said. "Moving the annual spring concert downtown, I think that's at least a step in that direction."

Jesko said bringing the two events together allows the organizations to combine resources as well.

"Penguin Productions is given a budget at the beginning of the year, and we spent money on two events in the fall, Life in Color and Fall Fire Fest, and then whatever was leftover for that we're using for this event," Jesko said. "Then the Rich Center for Autism is spending some money as well and doing some planning of it, and the city of Youngstown is spending money as well and helping us plan it. So the three of us are the ones funding it and putting it on, combining resources."

McGiffin has high expectations for the event.

"There's a lot of buzz around it, so that's good," he said.



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destination for high achieving high school students from this region and beyond. If we're going to dedicate our time, talent and resources to create an honors college, we are going to make it the best," Wakefield said. "YSU is uniquely positioned among this region, especially compared to other universities in this region, in the sense that it offers all of its students, but especially the honors students who will most likely take advantage of it, the opportunity to work with faculty in a one-on-one setting."

Wakefield said that if he is chosen as dean, he would try to incorporate an academic mission statement of student success into the Honors College.

"I would like our program to challenge our students to grow — not only academically, but personally — into ethical citizen scholars that find their calling while they are here and achieve their professional, civic and social goals in their choosing. That's my goal for all students," he said.

Wakefield added that he would form a Dean's Advisory Council and Alumni Advisory Board in order to accomplish that student success.

"I really like to seek the input of other people in helping me make decisions. In terms of the structure of the colleges I see

moving forward, I would really seek input from faculty, chairs, deans and I think it's critical to have more faculty involvement in the Honors College. I would like to see a closer connection between the students and faculty, and more faculty recognition of honors students. I would form a Dean's Advisory Council of faculty and chairs to help me make decisions and to help offer me advice," he said. "I would also seek input from students. It's critical that we have the input of students to help us to move forward in terms of some kind of honors council. I would like to know what the students want and give them what they want."

Wakefield identified areas of growth for the Honors College.

"First and foremost, I would like the Honors College to have closer ties with the community. I would like a larger presence on the YSU campus. I want it to be an active and forceful presence. I would like all of us as faculty members to know the power of the Honors College and what it is doing and the impact that it has on its students. To that end, I would like stronger academic integration and more stringent honors course requirements," he said. "I would like to see our students competing in more

honors coursework instead of contract honors coursework and more integration and participation from faculty."

and more integration and participation from faculty."

He also said he would want to develop a more comprehensive senior thesis for honors students.

"[The thesis] differs among the different majors, and I would like to bring that into the Honors College because the Honors College could, in some sense, oversee the experience. One, to make sure it's rigorous enough to qualify as an honors thesis. We're not replacing it; the student would still work with faculty in their area of expertise, but that experience itself is strong enough to merit that honors senior thesis," Wakefield said.

Wakefield outlined his strategic initiatives for the Honors College, emphasizing recruitment, interviewing perspective scholarship recipients, stressing honor's advisement and establishing a closer relationship with deans from the other colleges.

"I would, as dean, somehow make it possible that I advise all honor's students. Primarily because that allows us to develop honor's courses that we can reach the critical mass," he said.

Wakefield highlighted some of the advantages of instituting an honors college, as opposed to an honors program.

"I hope that by making it a

college, the dean might have some power over curriculum that the Honors Program director does not have. Maybe we can come up with some sort of unique general education program. I think having an honors college makes that possible, where an honors program does not," he said.

He said that an ideal size for the Honors College, compared to other universities with more students, would be about 700 to 800 students.

"The university has about 12,000. Right now we have about 450 students in the Honors Program," Wakefield said. "I would like to see 700 or 800 at least in the beginning. Maybe even more. The more stronger students we have, the better."

Adam Earnhardt

Earnhardt shared some of his ideas on Monday in the Board of Trustees Meeting Room about his vision as dean of the Honors College. He said that students are the ones who connect the college to other departments on campus.

"If you think about it, there really is no reason as to why the Honors College isn't somehow connected to every single department on campus. We are, in some cases, connected to every college by the virtue of having students from those col-

leges part of the new Honors College," he said. "It's part of the development; it's part of the commission. Students are our ambassadors. Those students go out and help us recruit other students."

Earnhardt said that research and scholarship are what he views as core values in an Honors College.

"My home base is in the College of Creative Arts and Communication. So we think about scholarship a little differently than somebody in Honors if you think about it," he said. "I think that we need to understand how to transition from a program to a college. We need to understand that resources are a gigantic part of that, personnel are part of that, and having packaged all of that together. It's not as simple as developing a name for that."

Earnhardt said that, if elected, his goals would include sustaining the enrollment growth in the Honors College and including more scholarship opportunities for students.

"Trying to get them to think about Youngstown State first. How we get there is a bit of a challenge and it's going to force us to take the risk and how we package, brand, sell Youngstown State as a five county area," he said.



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NEW WAIT-LISTING OPTION ADDED TO YSU PORTAL

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In an attempt to streamline the registration process, Youngstown State University has added a feature to the myYSU portal allowing students to place themselves on a waitlist for classes filled to capacity.

Previously, if a class were filled to capacity on the portal, students would have to call the respective department to ask if there was any space or to alternatively be placed on a waitlist.

Chet Cooper, a professor of biology and an adviser, said in his experience, the secretary managed a department's waitlist.

"From my recollection, the departmental secretary would keep the list of students that wanted into the class, then when something came open, they might try to figure out a way to get them into the class," Cooper said.

Under this new system, once a student has wait-listed a course, they are placed in a queue; the registrar will automatically send an email to the student next in the queue, altering them when a seat becomes available.

Jack Fahey, the vice president of student affairs, said the new system does more than streamline the registration process for students.

"It is one of the many things we are trying to do to improve completion," Fahey said. "Not only does it give the students an opportunity to get in line and see where they are on waiting lists, but it also gives the department minute by minute information on how many people are looking for that specific course section and whether or not they should add a new section of that class. ... It should make it much more efficient and much more transparent for students and faculty and chairs."

Jeanne Herman and Tysa Egleton, university registrars, worked alongside faculty members and the Student Government Association to create this addition.

Michael Slavens, the president of SGA, said he and Jacob Schriener-Briggs, the SGA vice president, both pushed for this change as part of their Student Academic Success Initiative — a host of academic policy recommendations aimed at bolstering

retention and graduation rates.

"Jake and myself worked very closely with Jeanne Herman, the university registrar, in order to try to advocate for this added feature. Ultimately, I believe that it was brought about as a result of a very successful meeting between [Martin] Abraham, Mr. Fahey, Mr. [Ken] Schindler, Jacob Schriener-Briggs and myself in the fall," Slavens said.

Ashley Orr, SGA president elect, is optimistic about this change.

"The ability to wait-list a section of a course as we register for fall semester is something that I am very excited about. Utilizing this feature will allow for students to have access to sections that they would have written off getting into when seeing they were full. This can lead to students taking courses at the time that they prefer and may also allow them to take a course with a particular professor," Orr said.

Cooper pointed to common reasons for classes to reach capacity quickly.

"It depends on the major and the student. You know our beginning biology students generally are able to get into their biology classes; it just becomes a problem when you get to the upper division courses. Some faculty are more popular than others, so students tend to rush to that section rather than wait a semester. I'm actually seeing some of that this semester," Cooper said. "Students want to get to this class because of some of the individuals teaching the class. Everybody wants to though; it is like getting into a rock concert, there are only so many tickets."

Orr said the feature could give greater flexibility to students who have specific preferences for professors.

"Students are excited about the opportunity to retain a professor for courses in sequence, say elementary and intermediate Spanish. Further, students whom also work on campus and off will benefit from the possibility of getting into a course with a time that will work better with their schedule," Orr said.

Cooper said that the change does not mitigate the issue of classroom availability and capacity.

"The big part is the room capacities. In some courses, we just don't have big enough classrooms," he said. "We could accommodate more students if we had larger classrooms."

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NEWS BRIEFS

Relay for Life Local Meetings

The 2015 Relay For Life of Columbiana will be having a meeting Thursday April 28 2015. The Committee Meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. and the Team Meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the Columbiana Public Library. The 2015 Relay For Life of Salem will meet Thursday May 7 at 6:30 p.m. for the committee and 7:15 p.m. for the team at the Columbiana Public Library. For more information please contact Renee Walker at renee.walker@cancer.org or 888-227-6446.

Nexus Grant Student Documentary Premieres

"Tribunal: The Making of a World Premiere Play," a project completed by YSU students with the Nexus Grant, will premiere Friday April 24 from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown. This is a free event and lunch will be provided. For more information contact Eran at 330-746-3250.

YSU Math Teams Earn Awards in Contest

In this year's international Mathematical Contest in Modeling, two Youngstown State University student teams earned Meritorious Awards and three teams earned Honorable Mention. The students who were on the Meritorious Award-winning teams are Crystal Mackey, Gabbie Van Scoy, Teryn Jones, Kayla Zitello, Camron Bagheri and James Tancabel. Those who earned honorable mention are Ashley Orr, Emily Hoopes, Jenna Wise, Megan Chambers, Tim Shaffer, Eric Shehadi, Zack While, Christopher McComas and Matthew Ciccone.

While students' freedom of speech is guaranteed on college campuses, some universities do have policies to regulate the use of their bulletin boards.

The Jambar is not aware of the placement of every example of the fliers and the potential effect the placement would have on the legality of their removal.

As far as The Jambar has been able to ascertain, YSU does not have policies explicitly banning material from bulletin boards some might find offensive, but does have a policy in Article 3, Section 8 of the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct that states, "Physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment, stalking, bullying and/or coercion which endangers or tends to endanger the safety, health or life of any person (including self)" are violations of student conduct. Based on one's interpretation, the fliers could fall under one of those categories.

Barring an explicit exemption, however, Cohn doesn't believe the fliers should have been removed.

"It's hard to say definitively because I'm not in the administrator's head ... but if the fliers were removed simply because someone found them offensive, then yes, that certainly runs afoul of both the letter and the spirit of the law," he said.

Despite this potential legal issue for the university, the students on campus who were targeted by the fliers' message still express the feeling of being accosted.

YSUnity, Youngstown State University's LGBT+ student organization, advised their members to respond in a measured and responsible way to the fliers. Tim Bortner, president of YSUnity, claimed the fliers were an example of the sort of bullying his organization stands against.

"As an organization, we support everyone on this campus, whether they're LGBTQIA or straight allies. This group is a supportive group for everyone, and this campus is supposed to be a safe place for everyone to be themselves. YSUnity does not support any kind of hate like this against our community, against the straight community or against any other community operating on this campus," Bortner said.

David Nickell, a graduate student, said he believes opinions like those found in the flier corrode the progress made by those seeking a more accepting campus.

"It's a shame how one person — or a small group of people — must hide behind anonymity to insult or degrade a minority group that already faces this brand of intolerance every day. By not taking ownership, the culprit demonstrates not only ignorance but also cowardice, and degrades YSU's longstanding pride for and commitment to diversity," Nickell said.

Several students and faculty, many with expressions of disgust accompanying the image, passed an image of the flier around social media.

While the First Amendment allows for uncomfortable and offensive speech in public places, Cohn said he believes these freedoms to be conducive to a stronger learning environment.

"A university campus is quintessentially the place for the rough and tumble of conflicting ideas and viewpoints. If you go to college and you aren't offended by something, chances are you didn't learn as much as you should have," Cohn said. "Frankly, parents and introspective students should be looking for that ... it's so integral to the soul and purpose of a university that trying to squelch it in the name of recruiting would seem to me to be going about things fairly backwards."

The Jambar will continue to investigate the placing of the fliers and policies relevant to the removal.

Jambar reporters were unable to reach YSU administration for a response but will continue to report on the issue.

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Thirty-Seven Years of Wonder: English Festival Makes its Rounds at YSU



PHOTO BY GABBY FELLOWS/THE JAMBAR.

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Students from area school districts fill the halls of Youngstown State University April 22-24 for the 37th annual English Festival.

Around 5,000 students appear every year to discuss literature, write collaboratively and share their love and passion for the English arts during the festival.

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the teens follow a given schedule that leads them to sessions where they must challenge their perceptions of the books on that year's required reading list. The sessions end with an awards ceremony that honors the students who produced the most outstanding work during that day's sessions.

The English Festival was originally created to instill and promote a love of reading and writing into younger children, fostering the idea that linguistics can be both rewarding and enjoyable.

Gary Salvner, co-chair of the English Festival committee, said the event is meant to bring students together who love writing and reading fervently.

"The whole idea of it is to encourage and reward reading and writing," Salvner said. "We want to convince kids that it's fun as well as academic. It shows that reading and writing not only as school subjects, but an active and fun part of their lives."

Rachel Beach, a community volunteer, said she believes that the English Festival makes it easy for students to connect with a unique group

of people who may be more elusive and shy than the everyday teen.

"It's common for kids to like to write and read online, but that puts them in their own little community and world that's disconnected from their reality," Beach said. "The English Festival brings kids face to face with others that have the same interest."

Students who come to the event often attend for many years and credit the event for strengthening their passion for the arts.

Hannah Jefferson, a student at YSU and volunteer at this year's English Festival, said attending the event when she was younger is the reason for her extensive love of literature and language.

"Without the English Festival, I wouldn't be where I am today. I wanted to be many different things when I was growing up until I attended the festival in 2008 when I met Chris Crutcher and heard him speak. It made me reflect and I thought about the influence that his books had on my life," Jefferson said. "After that, I knew what I wanted to do. I wanted to write ... and connect with others through books, and the English Festival helped me realize that."

From the camaraderie to the books themselves, the English Festival is a peaceful gathering place for lit-loving students year after year.

Julia Gergits, the chair of the English department, said that the event is always filled and will remain for years to come.

"It's at full capacity — we have all the students that we can house at this point. There is definitely no decline in participation now or any time in the future," Gergits said. "It's as big as it can be ... it's wonderful to see all these kids interested in these topics."

Going Wild

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Wild Style Comedy is on a mission to eliminate boredom and replace it with laughter on Youngstown State University's campus.

Wild Style Comedy will present comedy acts and trivia in The Hub in Kilcawley Center May 1 at 8 p.m.

Some may see college as a place for academics and football games as entertainment, but sometimes students find themselves continually bored on campus. Jarrod Brooks had a plan to change that.

Brooks, a YSU student, came up with an idea one day when he was talking with a few friends in his dorm room about what they could do on campus, aside from playing video games and sitting around.

"I like that it brings people out of their dorms ... on certain days," Brooks said. "Each time that we do it, we have a nice audience — 50 to 70 people that show up every night."

Inspiration for Wild Style Comedy comes from the MTV show, "Wild 'N Out." "Wild 'N Out" is a game show consisting of two teams who play various types of games, like competing in freestyle comedy and creating punch lines to use against their op-

posing team.

Wild Style Comedy will follow a similar format and will offer food and refreshments free of charge during intermission. The event will feature various comedy skits and bits performed by YSU students. Members of Rookery Radio will help judge the event.

During the first couple of months Wild Style Comedy was paired with housing and residence where it drew in 50-70 students. This collaboration allowed for easy advertising for residents to see what was happening on campus.

After those first months, Brooks and Julian Jones, president of the Student Diversity Council, switched gears and began collaborating in hopes to draw in more people from campus.

"A lot of times, I would be talking to people and I would ask them what they would be getting into today and somebody would always say that 'it's boring here' and 'I have nothing to do besides go into my dorm,'" Brooks said. "I want to get more events going on so campus can be fun."

For next semester, Brooks said he hopes to branch out from the normal crowd that makes their appearance by inviting people from sports teams and Greek life.

"I like to see people come to watch something that me and friends talked about in my room and it actually came together," Brooks said. "It's more opportunity to do something on campus — more events like that, to get more alive."

YSUscape Offering a 'Taste of Youngstown'



PHOTO COURTESY OF YSUSCAPE.

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YSUscape, a Youngstown State University student organization, will be hosting their second fundraising event called the "Taste of Youngstown" on May 2 from 5-9 p.m.

Local eateries including V2, Martini Brothers, One Hot Cookie, Friends, Suzie's Dogs and Drafts and the MVR will be sponsoring the event with their food.

Along with food vendors, there will also be a gift raffle with varying baskets, such as Gia Russa baskets and signed athletic gear.

The event will take place at the Erie Terminal in downtown Youngstown and is open to the public for \$10, while students get in for \$5.

Their first project, the Elm and Madison mural, was financially supported by their first "Taste of Youngstown" in July 2014.

Gianna Marinucci, secretary of YSUscape, reminisced of their first experience organizing the mural project.

"We realized how much funding it takes to make a mural. The paint, supplies, all that," Marinucci said.

Anthony Marchionda, the marketing leader of the student organization, emphasized that there may be even more vendors sponsoring the event, but are unconfirmed. This year, the money will go toward several potential projects rather than one.

"This is funding that [YSUscape] can [use to] get supplies for workdays and ... beautify the campus area and make it look more presentable," Marchionda said. "Maybe other murals, maybe we'll create a green space at

YSU or downtown. It's not just focused on one project."

The YSUscape officers elaborated on why the organization chose to have their fundraising event downtown with local vendors.

"It's good to show YSU students and even faculty members that there's stuff going on downtown," Marchionda said. "It's a quarter mile away from you."

The officers of YSUscape also will be adding onto their Elm and Madison mural with the help of this event. Four penguin-shaped boards will be posted on the existing mural with signatures and logos of students and organizations.

"We're giving student organizations the opportunity to have their logo on one of our eight-foot penguins on our spotlight mural — it's called Our Spotlight Penguins," Marchionda said.

The event will also include more vendors than last year.

"Those local vendors, they want to be more involved with the university, so when they have groups reaching out to them, they are more than willing to help out," Marinucci said.

Joe Cassese, the owner of MVR, will be sponsoring the event for a second time.

"[MVR] is a Youngstown-based business and community-based here on the campus of YSU so we see an organization like YSUscape, which is helping to beautify campus and Youngstown, is something that we would try to be a part of," Cassese said. "We do have a lot of students that are down here spending their money and we appreciate it. There is always something good that [the students] are doing, and if it also helps the city, then why not help?"

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EDITORIAL

WHOEVER POSTED THOSE STRAIGHT WEEK FLIERS IS A COWARD

The author of the “Straight Week” fliers hung around campus Tuesday has the unique distinction of encompassing the needs of every character from the Wizard of Oz; they need a heart, a brain, some courage and to go home.

In case you missed it, here’s the lowdown.

Tuesday a number of rainbow-adorned fliers were hung around campus calling for May 1-8 to be celebrated as “Straight Pride” week. Kind of weird since that’s essentially celebrated by our culture year round, but otherwise the idea is mostly benign. Until you read the rest.

“Join us in celebrating straight pride week at YSU by not annoying the shit out of everyone about your sexual orientation. It’s easy to join too! Just come to YSU, then go about your day without telling everyone how ‘different’ you are.”

“Brought to you by the students who are sick of hearing about your LGBT pride. Nobody cares about what you think you are, or what you want to have sex with. We have nothing against your sexual orientation. We just don’t give a f--k.”

Well thank God they don’t have anything against the LGBT+ individuals’ sexual orientations, otherwise that message might have seemed bigoted!

Pro tip for next time, anonymous flier person: you can’t say you have a problem with people expressing their sexual orientation, then go and say you don’t have a problem with people expressing their sexual orientation. See the problem there? It’s sort of like starting a sentence with “I have no problem with black people, but ...”

Obviously the poster’s problems with the LGBT+ community goes beyond minor annoyance. This person took the time — before finals week no less — to print out and distribute these things. Who has time for that? Someone with an axe to grind.

Before we continue, we just want to make something clear; yes, we get it. We’re giving flier person a larger platform to spread their message by talking about it in the paper. While the problem of promoting a negative message is always an issue with media coverage, The Jambar editorial board was approached by YSUnity, Youngstown State University’s LGBT+ student organization, to comment on the issue. Since we have the blessing of those targeted by the message, we feel justified in using this platform to tackle the issue despite giving the opinion a greater voice.

Now, let’s get into this thing.

First, we should be fair here before putting a fatwa on the flier person and summing the hashtag inquisitors to come and exact social media retribution; the flier isn’t promoting violence nor is it exceedingly inflammatory. It’s just very dickish.

That being said, just because the flier isn’t calling for us to hunt LGBT+ students for sport doesn’t mean it isn’t awful.

Our LGBT+ community on campus isn’t exactly marching around Kilcawley in feather boas and assless chaps like it’s Pride Week in the Castro. Outside of YSUnity’s events — which are almost always held after the majority of classes have finished and always in spaces they’ve reserved

— it would be a challenge to “spot” a member of that community unless you got to know them and they chose to talk to you about their sexual orientation. You know, like any other human being.

So, since YSU’s LGBT+ community doesn’t stick out like a sore thumb, where is this gripe coming from? Most likely it’s a response to YSUnity’s observance of the Day of Silence where participants wore duct-tape over their mouths as a way to protest bullying. Not just bullying of LGBT+ people — though that was a focus — but bullying against anyone. The whole point of the event was to illustrate that bullying is used by majorities to silence the voices of those in minority communities, whether that be race, sexual/gender orientation, religious beliefs, et cetera.

That was Friday. Tuesday, the poster went up essentially telling the LGBT+ community to keep quiet and, basically, act straight.

Really, if nothing else, it’s great advertising for why observing the Day of Silence is a good idea.

The second particularly offensive aspect of the flier was the phrase “nobody cares about ... what you want to have sex with.” This may come as a shock to you, flier person, but — and let’s just say spoilers here for other bigots who haven’t posted idiotic fliers yet — LGBT+ people like having sex with humans! For those taking notes, that’s a “who” not a “what.”

Let’s be honest though, the chosen language wasn’t a grammatical error. By saying “what” instead of “who,” the poster’s subtext was suggesting that LGBT+ people are sexual deviants

who have sex with things, not sex with other human beings that feel love and desire sexual intimacy and romantic companionship.

We can pick apart the flier all day, but we won’t have to because the campus administration acted quickly to rectify the problem. Unfortunately, this action may have violated the First Amendment.

A short time after the fliers went up, Student Government Association president-elect Ashley Orr was made aware of the situation and contacted Jack Fahey, vice president of student affairs, about the issue. Fahey sent people out to pull the fliers down.

With the English Festival about to begin, it was an essential guarantee that the college would pull down the fliers before the high school kids show up to flood The Hub.

People may cry “freedom of speech, freedom of speech!” and trust us, no one on this campus, save a particularly pugnacious journalism professor, cares more about freedom of speech than us at The Jambar. As such, as much as we hate to say it, there may have been a violation of the First Amendment when YSU chose to remove the fliers.

We say “may” because as far as we could tell, there is no university policy explicitly banning the posting of offensive views on bulletin boards. However, in article three of the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct, it states “...harassment, stalking, bullying and/or coercion” constitutes a violation of student conduct. People on one side of the argument would say the flier is perfectly described

by those attributes, while others would disagree. Ultimately, it would be the opinion of the court that matters.

If people want to hold an opinion that is critical of LGBT+ individuals, our country protects their right to hold and express that belief so long as they aren’t inciting violence. That’s good. The only way to protect speech is to make sure no one gets to limit it, even if it’s offensive.

But if you’re going to express your opinion, don’t be a coward. Come out and say your piece.

While some college campuses have become hotbeds of emotionally fragile, echo chamber denizens incapable of dealing with opinions contrary to their own, that is not Youngstown. We are of harder stock. So don’t hide behind your fliers. You’ll definitely be unpopular, and you’ll piss a lot of people off, but at least you won’t be a coward.

Campuses should be places where all ideas can be considered and debated. The bad ideas, after scrutiny, will be discarded. That’s how the marketplace of ideas works. You bring what you’re selling, see if anyone is willing to buy, and if they aren’t, then perhaps you should face the fact that you’re selling something rotten and change your product.

The ideas expressed in the flier are absolutely a rotten product. That’s why the poster hid behind a veil of anonymity; they know their product is garbage and they don’t want to face the feedback.

If you’re going to bring rotten ideas to the market, at least get a spine and own your trash.



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.

Traveling on Your Own

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So I try to continue going there once a year, not just to see them, but to possibly see my future home.

Kepnes talked about the importance of discovery while traveling, not only physically but also mentally.

“When you learn more about the world and the people in it, push your boundaries and try new things, you become a more open, outgoing and awesome person,” Kepnes said.

Gaining independence and wisdom with each venture matures us, making us different people in small ways. Although we don’t notice it while we are on vacation, it happens.

For example, going on vacation for the first time without our parents is a life-changing experience. Who is going to plan everything and make sure everyone makes it back to the hotel okay? Someone always takes that role. If you go with a group of friends, you all seem to care for one another like a family — you take on this adult persona you didn’t know existed in you.

Not to say that you’re paranoid every step of the way. Going with friends as an adult is a very exhilarating experience on an entirely different level. You have freedom.

“Travel simply teaches you how to be happy,” Kepnes said. “You’ll become more relaxed, more confident and see the world as a brighter place.”

You’re free to see the world in your own way. Free from supervision. Free from being told what to look at and how to look at it. Traveling is a wonderful experience — one that is completely different as an adult.

During my four years in college, I watched my friends come and go on vacations, road trips and weekend getaways as I worked my way through the school year, paying bills and never taking a day off.

Despite not really venturing too far on spring break, I did take full advantage of my summer vacations. I went with friends to visit other friends, to places that I fell in love with. Vacations give you a chance to figure out where you do, and don’t, want to end up.

In “Why Travel Makes You An Awesome Person,” published in The Huffington Post in February 2012, Matt Kepnes said traveling is enriching, regardless of where you go.

“In fact, I think travel makes everybody a more awesome person,” Kepnes said. “We end our travels way better off than when we started. ... I believe that travel is something that makes you not only a better human being, but a way cooler one too.”

Traveling adds to life experience, which makes up who you are. I found one of my favorite places in the world while on vacation — the perfect weather, the funny accents and the southern hospitality of North Carolina. I fell in love with it when I went to see a few of my friends who live there now.

WILLOUGHBY LEADS PENGUINS OVER BOWLING GREEN



PHOTO COURTESY OF YSU SPORTS INFORMATION.

Youngstown State University shortstop Shane Willoughby (7) drove in a career-high three RBIs against Bowling Green State University. Willoughby's double in the bottom of the second inning gave the Penguins a 2-1 lead.

DAN HINER

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The Youngstown State University baseball team snapped a three-game losing streak on Tuesday. The Penguins picked up a 5-1 win against Bowling Green State University.

With the win, YSU's record improved to 11-24 and 4-24 in the Horizon League. Bowling Green's record falls to 14-21 (7-8).

The Falcons took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. Falcons designated hitter Trey Keegan hit into a double play with runners on first and third and no outs. The Penguins turned the double play, but the runner from third scored.

The Penguins took the lead in the bottom of the second inning after shortstop Shane Willoughby doubled down the

leftfield line drove home first baseman Brent Gillespie and designated hitter Josh Fitch.

In the bottom of the fifth inning, center fielder Frank Califano hit a two-out triple to right field. Then left fielder Jason Shirley hit a double down the right field line — driving in Califano. Shirley advanced to third base after a wild pitch and scored on a pass ball — giving the Penguins a 4-1 lead.

YSU drove in its final run in the bottom of the sixth inning after Willoughby hit a RBI single to left. Gillespie scored and the Penguins extended their lead to 5-1.

YSU starting pitcher Josh North threw four innings — allowing two hits, four walks and one earned run. The bullpen — a combination of Austin Lujano, Ryan Krokos and Anthony Konders — pitched five innings and allowed four hits and one walk.

"Obviously when you pitch as well as we did, we gave up a run in the first — we weren't real sharp the first couple hitters and that led to

a run," head coach Steve Gillespie said. "When you throw up eight 'zeros,' it takes a lot of pressure off the team to perform offensively. We had some timely hitting."

Willoughby finished 2-4 with double and tied a career-high with three RBIs. Gillespie said Willoughby's double in the first inning was key to the Penguins' win.

"It was early in the game when teams are trying to feel each other out, and we were able to overcome the deficit," Gillespie said. "We were able to take the lead right there with the double that knocked in two. We had given up an out and sacrificed the runners over, hoping to get at least a fly ball or ground ball and get one. He came up with the big hit and gives us the opportunity to add after taking the lead. So it was huge because it changed a little of the momentum of the game. It ended up being the difference after throwing up 'zeros' the rest of the way out."

Gillespie said the upcoming

schedule could play in the team's favor. The Penguins will play their next seven games at home, including six conference games. Gillespie said the current home stand could help the players' mentality heading into the end of the semester.

"With the awful spring we had to move two home series on to the road just to get to play them," he said. "We had a ton of road games early. It seemed like we were getting on the bus everyday. So I think it's good for that, especially as we wind down to the end of the semester with classes it's good. Maybe it will take a little bit of pressure off them — making sure they're studying on the road and that kind of thing. Now they can go to class and go through the flow of school, and maybe take some of that pressure and stress off as well."

Gillespie said the team potentially learned from its mistakes in the team's previous series against the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

"We played fairly well in Milwaukee. We had a couple of lapses in there that ended up costing us and we didn't knock in runs when we had opportunities to, and we lost two one-run ballgames," he said. "I think it solidifies the emphasis on playing clean defensively — quality pitching and getting the game under control — and taking advantage of opportunities. Which is kind of how we approached things all year, but it solidifies that when we haven't done that, we haven't won and when we've done that we won. So hopefully, it's being reinforced that it's the way we want to play."

The Penguins' next game will take place on April 24 against Wright State University. First pitch is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at Eastwood Field.



PHOTO BY LIAM BOUQUET/THE JAMBAR.

Youngstown State University assistant head football coach Ron Brown reportedly could be leaving the program. Brown joined the staff in January after YSU head coach Bo Pelini was hired. Brown coached with Pelini while he was at the University of Nebraska. According to the Lincoln Star Journal, the Omaha World-Herald and footballscoop.com, Brown has reportedly inquired about becoming the wide receivers coach at Liberty University. Brown and the YSU athletic department could not be reached for comment. Liberty Sports Information could not confirm if Brown has been in touch with Liberty head coach Turner Gill or the athletic department.