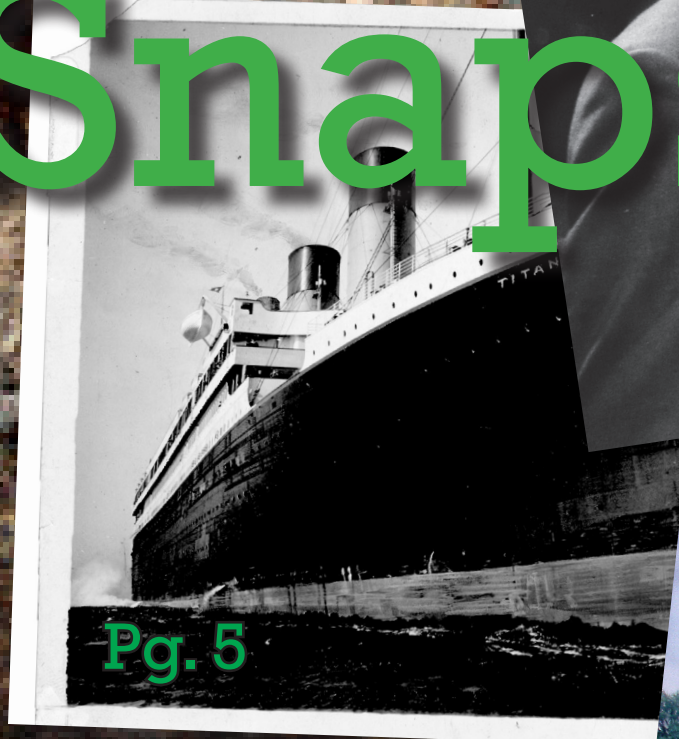


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YO...

This is it. We've been excited, moved, stressed and depressed. We've had a lot of fun and sleepless nights. We've moved from reporters to editors, from spectators to the main attraction.

But now it all comes to an end. Well, at least for the three of us.

We've shared enough stories about the history of The Yo* Magazine. Now we want to briefly talk about its future.

For the past two years, we have worked to relay the voice of Youngstown in our magazine.

To the locals and the occasional passerby, our city's voice is apparent. You can find it in pawnshops, trap houses, dance contests, concerts, food banks, banquet centers, parks and boxing rings.

It was our job to amplify that voice, with all of its eclectic complexities and passively aggressive tone, and relay that sound beyond the regions of the Mahoning Valley, to the rest of the world. We wanted that sound to be louder than all the other noises in our society today.

As of this writing, we're still working on it.

We think the world needs hearing aids, but that's OK.

It's OK because we're going to continue to make that voice as loud as possible until the deafest of ears listen and understand what we're trying to say.

Youngstown has its crime, its corruption and its relatively weak economy. But it also has a vibrant arts scene, rich culture and undeniable potential to be something more. It's all part of the city's voice.

It's not our job to fix Youngstown, demonize it or beg you to help us. We just ask that you read the stories, dissect the information we provide and draw your own conclusions.

To our readers or "listeners": We thank you for your continued support.

To our successors: We hope you continue our mission.

Finally, to the hard of hearing, our voice is growing every day. We don't know what the outcome will be, whether it will be easy on the ears or a violent screech, but it will be heard.

Until then, this is our signoff. Thanks for two great years.

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The 'Modern' man

From Wick to the Walk: A journey with Ed O'Neill

By
Ellen Douglas

Ed O'Neill has come a long way from riding his bicycle around Youngstown as a kid — all the way to getting his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2011.

His two young daughters thought that was cool, but it was never O'Neill's driving focus to have a star with his name on it. He is a man of the moment.

"If you look down the road too far, you can't focus on now," he said.

Perhaps that's the secret to his success.

O'Neill seems to go with the flow, but stresses the importance of "doing your best" because you like what you're doing "not for an end result."

He sure is doing his best today, because his journey has taken him to the lead role of America's favorite modern dad, Jay Pritchett, in the award-winning sitcom "Modern Family" on ABC.

O'Neill likes his character. He said Pritchett "realizes he messed up" in his first marriage, and now he wants to "get it right."

The show deals with modern life and its ups and downs. It also makes us think, but allows us to relax and laugh at the same time.

O'Neill grew up near Wick Park and began his acting career at Youngstown State University's Spotlight Theater. He said he loved the idea of walking on stage and acting.

YSU gave him that opportunity and opened the door to his





Photos courtesy of YSU Theater Department archive



successful acting career.

While we may not know where the road will lead in life, O'Neill keeps an open mind. He realizes that there are many roads, perhaps unknown, but ones that keep you moving forward.

One of those roads led him to play as defensive lineman for YSU. The Pittsburgh Steelers signed him in 1969.

"I just knew I had to be strong, I had to exercise and then I would see what would happen," O'Neill said.

So he chopped wood and rode his bike through Mill Creek Park, preparing for this new role. But he was cut from the roster and said he was careful not to get caught up in what people call "paralyses of analyses." He said disappointment can paralyze you when you think about it too much.

Many times when a door shuts, we stay stuck in the rut and stop moving forward because we are focused on what O'Neill refers to as "unrealistic, crazy

expectations."

Perhaps that is when we stop setting new goals and stop moving forward in life. If O'Neill had done this, two of his best-known characters would never have come forth.

O'Neill is well known for his character Al Bundy from the sitcom "Married with Children," which ran from 1987 to 1997.

He understood the quirkiness of the show and successfully used humor that surrounded the show's tie to any other professional in his "Saturday Night Live" monologue on Jan. 13, 1990.

O'Neill's acting goes far beyond these well-known sitcoms. He has been in dozens of TV episodes and dozens of movies and . Some of his personal favorites were "The Dogs of War," "The Spanish Prisoner" and "Spartan," he said.

The diversity of his roles is a testament to his ability to

✦

"There is no secret. I don't see myself as different from anybody else. Maybe some people just persevere more." -Ed O'Neill

take on the many characters he has adopted throughout his career.

"There is no secret. I don't see myself as different from anybody else. Maybe some people just persevere more," O'Neill said.

While speaking with O'Neill, something became apparent. He is a bit different than many people. O'Neill's sense of what seemed like inner peace quickly came across.

This man did have a secret — his ability to live in the moment. Perhaps that is the secret to his successful career, a career that not only moved him down the road but also onto the Hollywood Walk of Fame. ✦

ED O'NEILL TRIVIA:

Question:

In what 1972 movie did Ed O'Neill play a brief role as a deputy alongside co-star Burt Reynolds?

ANSWER: "DELIVERANCE"



Down with the ship: A look into Youngstown's history on the Titanic

By Marissa McIntyre

Among historians, some of the most common stories about the history of the RMS Titanic involve how noble first-class men went down with the ship, how Captain Edward J. Smith's body was never recovered and how J. Bruce Ismay jumped into a lifeboat at the last moment.

With 2,223 people on

board for the Titanic's maiden voyage, many stories were lost among the heaps of untold recollections.

Shayen George, a psychologist who lives in Hubbard, has a story that that sheds light on the Titanic.

He is the great-grandson of Shawneene George, a third-

class survivor and Youngstown native.

Shawneene George was born and raised in Lebanon. She came to Youngstown in 1906 with the hopes of raising enough money to buy land in Lebanon and build her family a house.

When her husband died in

1908, she decided to stay in Youngstown and eventually moved her children to the area from Lebanon.

In 1910, she traveled back to Lebanon after sending her flu-stricken son, Thomas, home. She thought the mountain air would help him recover. Unfortunately, by the time she

they wouldn't let them pick up any passengers, so you can imagine there's people in the water screaming, moaning and dying. It really bothered her quite a bit. She had a lot of trouble with it until she died," Shayen George said.

She died April 21, 1947, 35 years after the Titanic tragedy.

While Shawneene George and her family roamed the steerage corridors on the Titanic, a major part of Youngstown history dwelled in the first-class suites.

George Dennick Wick, founder of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company — along with Mollie Wick, his wife, and Mary Wick, his daughter — were aboard the Titanic. They were on their way back to Youngstown from England because of an illness George Wick had acquired.

They left Youngstown in February. Little did George Wick know that this would be the last time he would ever see Youngstown.

It was practice then for the wealthy to travel when they got sick because they believed it was good for physical and mental healing.

The Wicks were traveling with their friends and cousins, the Bonnells. Mary Wick was a close friend of Caroline Bonnell, whose mother, Elizabeth, was also aboard.

On April 10, 1912, they boarded the unsinkable ship with the hopes of returning home.

According to MVHS records, George Wick was a "dominating figure in the commercial, financial and industrial affairs of the Youngstown district."

The Wicks and the Bonnells enjoyed their stay on the Titanic.

In first class, they were with some of the richest people on the planet — Isidor and Ida Straus, owners of Macy's department store; John Jacob Astor, the richest man on the ship, and his wife, Madeline;

Ismay was noticed in the boat, then he would be shot.

Collapsible boat C was launched at 1:40 a.m., and the Titanic went under at 2:20 a.m.

Shawneene George and the others in her lifeboat watched as the Titanic slowly sunk below the Atlantic Ocean surface.

"After we had pulled about a half-mile away, the sailors stopped rowing. We watched the lights of the big boat with our hearts in our throats. Then, we saw it sink," Shawneene George said in an account she recorded 25 years after the disaster.

Shawneene George returned to Youngstown after being rescued on the Carpathia. Her daughters, who she had left in Youngstown before going back to Lebanon, were being cared for at a Catholic orphanage.

"She was a strong woman, my great-grandmother. She kept the family together," Shayen George said.

He said his great-grandmother definitely suffered from post-traumatic stress. She couldn't even listen to the sounds of a crowd cheering at a football game without breaking down.

"She said it reminded her of when they were in the water;

great-grandmother slept through the initial impact of the iceberg and didn't know what was going on until she was awoken by the commotion.

In her recorded accounts, Shawneene George said once she reached the boat deck, she and Banoura were pushed into one of the final lifeboats that were launched before Titanic's final plunge into the icy Atlantic Ocean.

She was in collapsible boat C, which is the very boat that Ismay jumped into.

Ismay was chairman of the White Star Line, the company that funded construction of the Titanic.

According to Shawneene George's accounts, the women in the lifeboat covered him up because officers on the ship were firing guns in the air to scare the men away from the boats.

The women were afraid that if

"She was a strong woman, my great-grandmother. She kept the family together."

- Shayen George

made it home, he was dead.

She spent the next couple of years prioritizing family affairs before her scheduled trip back to the U.S. on the Titanic.

Shawneene George was traveling with her cousins Tannous Daher, Gerios Yousseff and Tannous Thomas, who were all bound for Youngstown with the intention of landing jobs in the steel mills.

Yousseff's body was the only one recovered of the three men. He was the only one wearing a life vest.

Shawneene George's female cousin Banoura survived and resided in Detroit.

First-class men went down into the steerage cabins to help women and children make their way toward the lifeboats, according to Mahoning Valley Historical Society records of Shawneene George's accounts of the disaster.

Shayen George said his

and Thomas Andrews, the ship's designer.

All men listed have something other than their riches in common. They all died on April 14, 1912, as a result of the Titanic sideswiping an iceberg, which bent the ship's first four compartments.

The Titanic was thought to be unsinkable because of a number of aspects in its design. The first four compartments had pumps that could withstand flooding. The bottom of the ship was built with a double bottom, allowing for up to two compartments in any order to flood and still be able to stay afloat.

Jessica Trickett, manager of

collections at the MVHS, said the women didn't realize that when they entered a lifeboat, they would never see George Wick again.

"They weren't even thinking about lifeboats. This is the Titanic, the unsinkable ship," Trickett said.

George Wick's body was never recovered.

In 1977, a relative of the Wicks stopped at the MVHS to deliver his accounts of receiving the news of the Titanic's sinking and knowing his family was on board.

W.J. Hitchcock was a nephew of George and Mollie Wick. In his recollections, he tells about coming home from first grade

that day and knowing that something bad had happened.

His mother pulled him aside and told him the Titanic sunk.

"They knew little more than that at the time. The entire family took the train to New York to be as near as possible," Hitchcock said, according to his recollections. "The scene on the pier in New York was a tense one for all of the family."

Bob Ault, serials/microforms librarian at Maag Library at Youngstown State University, said a major piece of Youngstown was lost that night.

"The Titanic is definitely a symbol of man's arrogance at the time," Ault said.

According to Hitchcock's

recollections, Mollie Wick saved the jewelry she was wearing on the night of the Titanic's sinking by placing it in a small bag fastened to her garter. The jewelry is now a family heirloom.

Ault said George Wick was such a dominant figure in Youngstown that all church bells in the city were tolled for five minutes shortly after his death was confirmed.

The centennial of the tragedy took place this year, and everyone who was involved with the Titanic in 1912 has died. But the impact of the stories, like the impact of the iceberg, is something that will remain with Youngstown forever. ★



Stories from Mill Creek Park

Park patrons remember

By
Ellen Douglas
Photos by
Carla A. Wyant

Liz Barnett has a hiking story. But, before she shares it, let's go back to 1998, when, at the age of 23, she moved to Youngstown with her husband, Vern, and her daughter, Julia. At that time, a new friend introduced her to Mill Creek Park. All these years later, she still vividly remembers that day.

They went to Bears Den, where there is a small quaint cabin. Behind the cabin is one of the park's most unique sights: a magical mountain of rocks — big rocks that will summon any adventurous spirit. This scene was Barnett's first memory and the beginning of her bond with the park.

As the trees grew, so did the Barnett household.

With the addition of Daniel and Rachel, the Barnetts often used the park as a learning adventure.

"Any time I wanted to use nature as a teaching aid for my kids, I would take them to the park," Liz said.

They learned birdcalls as they

hiked along the dozens of trails.

"Often, after a heavy rain, the streams would be raging and rushing, especially by the silver bridge. It was very exhilarating," Barnett said. "Personally, the park became a sanctuary for me. It was a place where I could rejuvenate and refresh my spirit."

In 2009, Barnett challenged herself to hike all 15 miles of trails in Mill Creek Park.

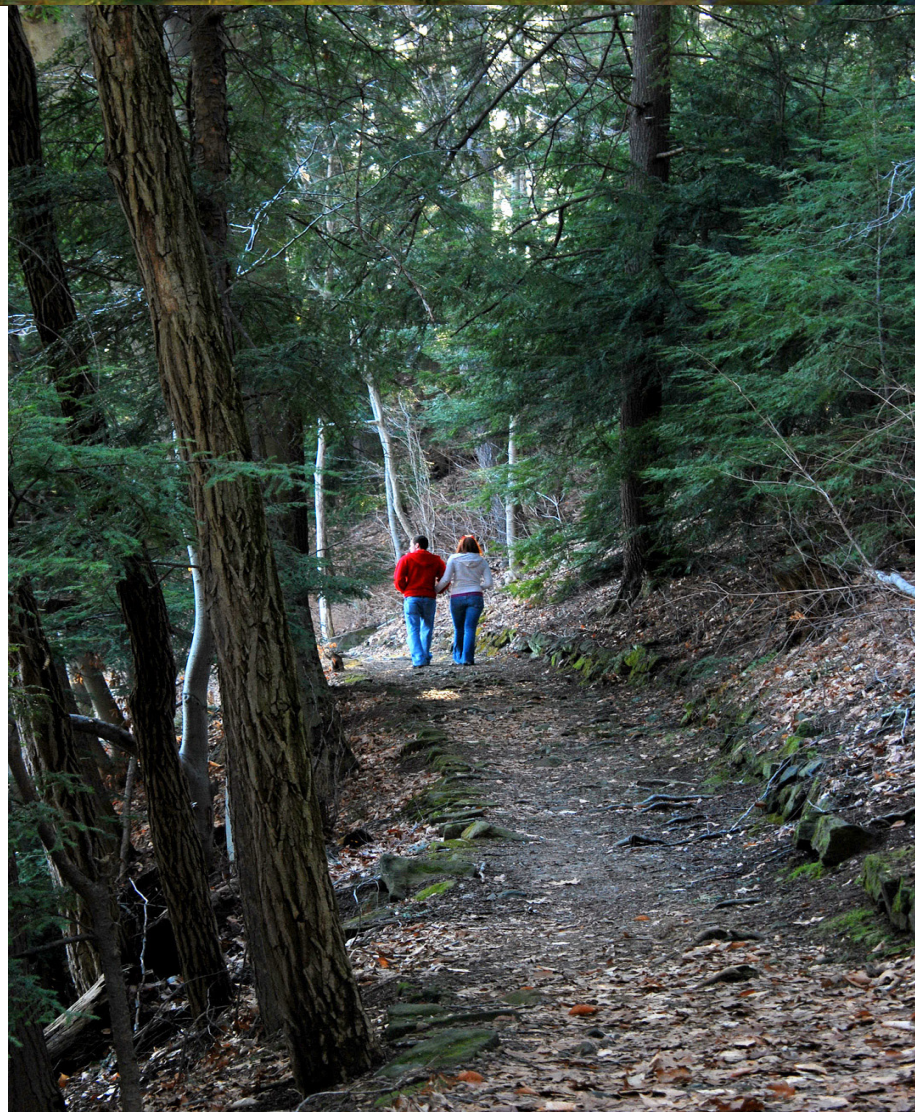
She succeeded.

Barnett would also bring out-of-town guests to the D.D. and Velma Davis Education and Visitor Center, Fellows Riverside Gardens and the Garden Cafe.

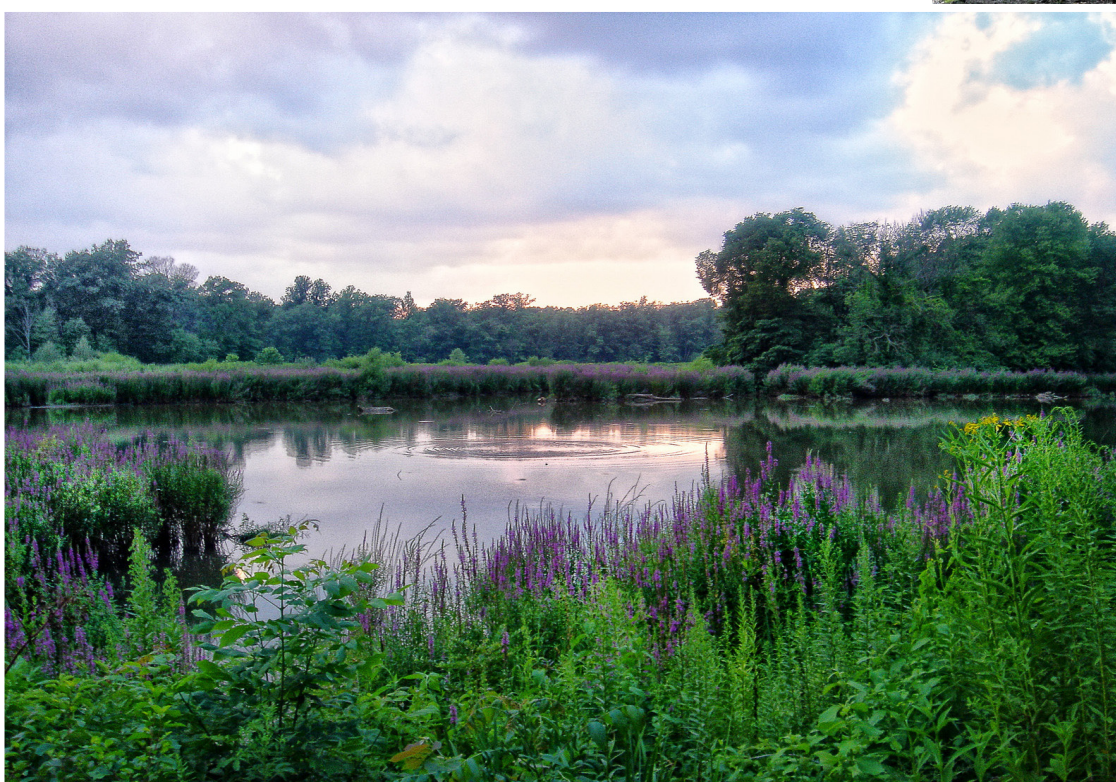
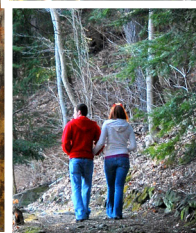
She would always try to catch a tour of Lanterman's Mill and the covered bridge as well.

In 2011, however, Barnett and her family moved to Michigan. She referred to Mill Creek Park as "the jewel of Youngstown."

She wanted those who are not familiar with the park to know that "not only is it nearby — it is safe, convenient, beautiful and well-kept."



MILL CREEK PARK



In her home in Caledonia, Mich., Barnett looks at framed photos of Mill Creek Park with great memories in mind — and more to come. She and her family come back to Youngstown every now and then.

Pam Clay and her rescue dog, Lola, take advantage of the park for walks every day.

“Sometimes Lola comes two times a day. ... She never goes without [a walk],” Clay said.

Clay’s mother, who is in her 70s, also takes advantage of the park.

“She comes every day,” Clay said. “She walks this whole trail — about 2.5 miles. She outwalks all of us.”

Vernon Gilbert, who was spotted eating his lunch at the Scholl Pavilion off Bears Den Road, retired from his 40-year job at the park in 2007.

“I meet a lot of different

people ... a lot of children, walkers and runners,” Gilbert said. “This is one of the places they enjoy the most running and walking through is Mill Creek Park because of the lay of the land, the scenery and the quietness.”

And then there’s Lanterman’s Mill, which is actually an active grinding mill, said park tour guide Gary Meiter.

“It was restored in 1985.

So, we’ve been grinding flour ever since then. The flour we sell here would be three kinds: whole wheat flour, cornmeal and buckwheat flour,” Meiter said.

He added that the park has had visitors from every state and most of Canada, along with European and Asian countries, Australia and New Zealand.

“Those people in particular are very impressed with Mill Creek Park,” Meiter said. ★

The ‘Reel’ deal

By Chelsea Telega

Photo by Chelsea Telega



Tyler Landis, Tom Stoup and Derin Spector communicate with one another daily. Just like your standard group of friends, the men exchange texts, phone calls and emails, and they have face-to-face interaction every Sunday night at 10.

The catch is that the three men have never met in person, as a computer screen and thousands of miles separate them.

The group will meet for the first time at the end of October at the Philadelphia Film Festival.

The three friends met on an online movie critic forum after sharing common and conflicting film interests on a message board. Two years later, on April 7, the “cinephiles” joined forces to create their own critiquing outlet.

Reel Time Podcast started solely as a podcast and evolved in to a media website after only six months. Those involved communicate through Skype to debate topics such as new movie releases, older films and cinematography.

“It’s movie news and reviews, TV reviews and trailers. It’s basically how we want to spread the word about arts and movies and film,” Landis said. “We’re not

catering to a mainstream crowd really. We’re kind of setting the board for what we really enjoy.”

Each podcast runs for at least an hour while three or four co-hosts debate the contents of two films. The critics will commence before the podcast is recorded to talk about movies they saw over the weekend, or a movie that will be released in a number of months.

The show itself is not scripted, and the men agree that once the debates start, the conversation flows naturally. The variety of interest is what keeps the show original.

“When we’re about to record a podcast, I’ll say, ‘I hated it,’ and [Landis] will be like, ‘Oh, great; that’s awesome,’” said Spector, co-founder of Reel Time. “With a group of people who generally agree that a movie was good, it’s kind of boring. For originality sake, different opinions are good.”

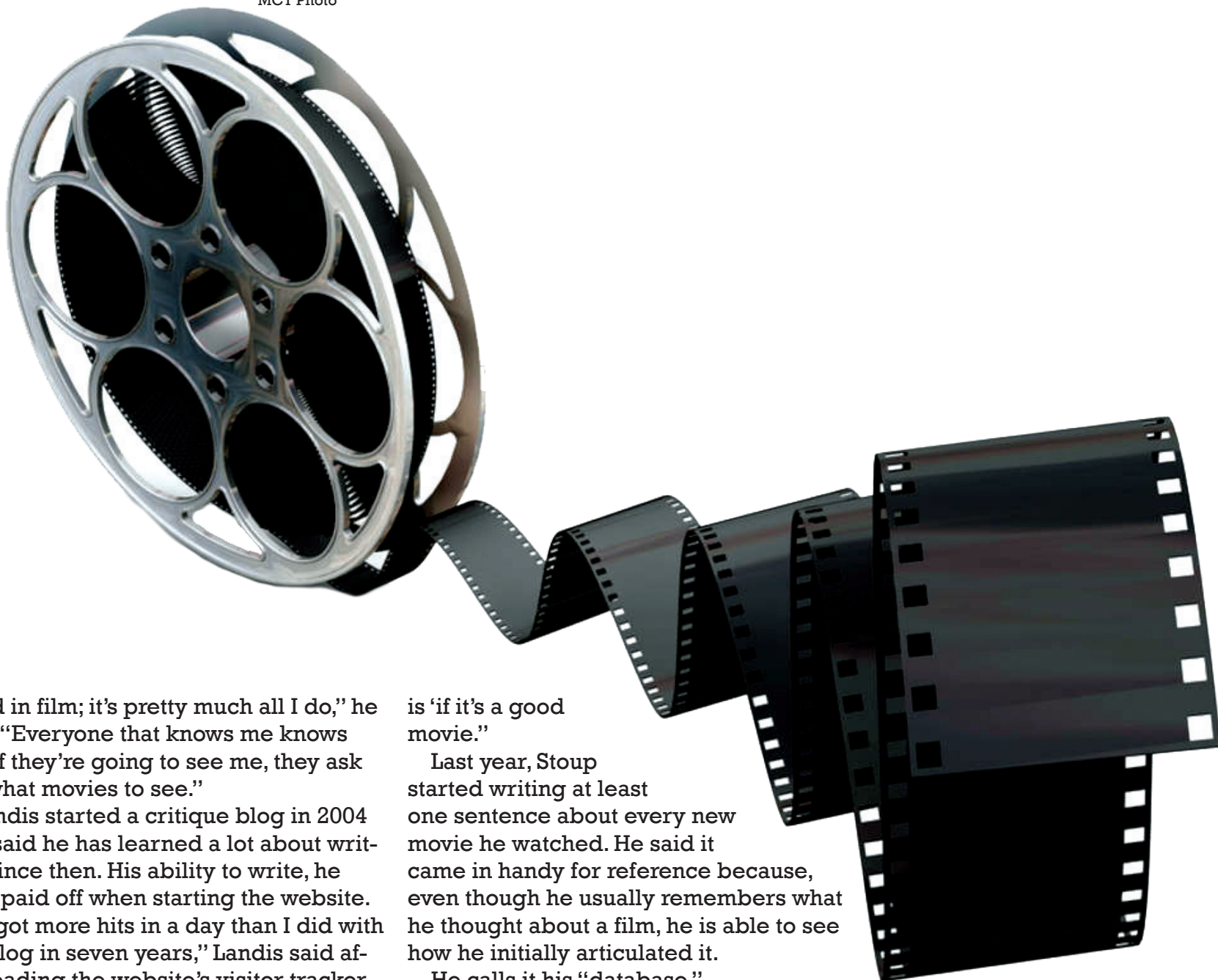
Stoup, a Reel Time correspondent, said the group has a “good rapport” and that the dynamics between the different groups of people make them all get along like lifelong friends.

Since its infancy, Reel Time Podcast has taken on correspondents from all

over, including Canada, the United Kingdom, Florida, New York and Pennsylvania. Landis, a Youngstown native and editor-in-chief of the podcast, said 15 people work under him.

Landis is a Youngstown State University graduate who found his passion for film in his late teens. A former journalism major, Landis would always lean toward film and cinematography for his writing topics. Despite his professors trying to steer him away from his comfort zone, Landis always made it back to the movies.

“I’ve always been inter-



ested in film; it's pretty much all I do," he said. "Everyone that knows me knows that if they're going to see me, they ask me what movies to see."

Landis started a critique blog in 2004 and said he has learned a lot about writing since then. His ability to write, he said, paid off when starting the website.

"I got more hits in a day than I did with my blog in seven years," Landis said after reading the website's visitor tracker.

The three contributors are guaranteed film nuts.

Last year, Landis tallied the number of films he watched in terms of each movie he was seeing for the first time. It was 370.

Spector said he watches 20 to 30 movies a month, depending on his work schedule, but he tries to see as many as he can while they are still in theaters. Stoup watches between 50 and 70 movies a year for the podcast alone, and, including leisurely moviegoing, he watched more than 600 films last year.

Watching this many movies, however, comes at a steep price.

"I'm pretty sure that I have lost the ability I had as a child to turn my brain off and just enjoy the film," Stoup said. "When I'm asked for criteria for what makes a movie good, my only answer

is 'if it's a good movie.'"

Last year, Stoup started writing at least one sentence about every new movie he watched. He said it came in handy for reference because, even though he usually remembers what he thought about a film, he is able to see how he initially articulated it.

He calls it his "database."

There are times that Stoup chooses to watch a movie he has seen already rather than a new one.

"Sometimes I'll become absolutely obsessed. When the film 'Young Adults' came out, I refused to watch anything else," he said. "There are some tried and true films in my favorites library. For so many films, re-watches are better than just seeing it."

In addition to movie releases and film critiques, the podcast's new addition is the Director Spotlight. The critics pick a living, dead or retired actor or director and critique three of his or her films. The Spotlights, Landis said, have garnered more views than the new releases.

The group gained attention from director Paul Thomas Anderson's website, cigarettesandredvines.com. The fan website retweeted the ep-

isode after seeing it on Reel Time's Twitter, leading to one of Reel Time's most successful podcasts — getting 101 hits in just two days.

Landis said Youngstown is a difficult area to gain readership in, especially because of the site's eclectic content. His hope is to move to a more "culturally progressive area" to find success.

The collective goal of the group is to make money with the business over time. The podcasts are available on iTunes for free; however, ultimately, the hope is to have the group's name get notarized.

"Only good can come of it at this point," Spector said. "We've formed this bond with one another, and we're so intent about this working." ☆



[get plugged in]

*Calling all writers, editors,
designers and photographers*

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