

THE STUDENT VOICE OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1931

THE JAMBAR

YSU PROFESSOR ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE AFTER INVESTIGATION, ALLEGED VICTIMS SPEAK OUT

Photos by J. Harvard Feldhouse/The Jambar

**MORGAN PETRONELLI
RACHEL GOBEP**

The music was blasting during Teen Angst Night at Suzie's Dogs & Drafts on April 20. People could be seen dancing and singing along to covers of popular pop punk music. Within the barrage of sweat, dancing and conversations something much darker was allegedly taking place. What followed was a series of events that would eventually lead to a traumatized student and the downfall of a respected music professor.

Jacquelyn Jupina, a senior general studies major, filed a complaint with the university alleging that over the course of three years Brian Kiser, horn professor in the Dana School of Music at Youngstown State University, "created a sexually hostile environment for her at the university," according to a report obtained by The Jambar.

This culminated on April 20 with "Kiser touching [Jupina] in a sexual manner and professing his love for her" at Teen Angst Night.

Kiser was placed on paid administrative leave July 25 after an investigation that was prompted by the alleged events that occurred at Suzie's. The investigation was conducted by Cynthia Kravitz, former Title IX Coordinator and Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Policy Development.

The Jambar contacted Kiser regarding the allegations. Kiser said he has no comment.

In a letter regarding Kiser's notice of paid administrative leave, Allan Boggs, interim chief

human resources officer, wrote Kiser was to have no contact with the alleged victim, students, faculty and other university staff, university records show.

Boggs also indicated that Kiser was barred from returning to campus without permission, and was not permitted to hire any students for personal work such as babysitting, something he had done in the past.

Jupina said Kiser approached her when she was a freshman at YSU and asked her if she would babysit for him.

Student witnesses interviewed in the Title IX investigation perceived that Kiser sought out "attractive, young female students to babysit for him," according to the report. Kiser responded to that perception by saying that he chose females because he has a daughter.

Jupina said in her interview for the investigation, Kiser would "drunk call" her and send her pictures of himself with waitresses at restaurants, saying "they have nothing on you."

She said she didn't know what to do when Kiser attempted to "play a boyfriend role" in her life. Because he was a professor and she was a music education major at the time, Jupina believed he controlled her future and she did not want to be disrespectful.

"I knew it wasn't okay, but I didn't think I could do anything about it because he didn't touch me ... He crossed the line the first time he called me and sent me drunk texts my freshman year, so it's crazy that it happened for so long," she said.

Investigation into the Allegations

Jupina described the interaction at Suzie's as a "one-on-one encounter" with Kiser and said the following occurred: Kiser placed his arm under her jean jacket and on her hip, placed his hands on the side of her head, ran his hands through her hair and told her he was in love with her.

She said she was able to feel his penis on her thigh, and she pushed Kiser away, yelled at him and told him he was married.

In the report, Kiser described his interaction with Jupina at Suzie's saying the bar was noisy, so he was forced to lean into Jupina to hear her. He also said he might have touched her upper back, but did not place his hands on her hip or head.

The report states Kiser said he did not run his hands through Jupina's hair or tell her that he was in love with her.

According to Kiser, a woman hugged him at the bar and sent Jupina into a "jealous rage." The report says Kiser said the interaction between him and Jupina began as "friendly."

Kiser asserted in the report that Jupina was making comments about his home life and family, to which he said he was "stunned." He said Jupina contacted him that night, but he did not reply.

Kiser then invited Jupina "over for coffee" the next day via text message and told her that "everything [she] said was completely spot on."

Through the report, Kravitz found that the information gathered "does not support Kiser's

assertions."

The report states that Jupina's account of the interaction had remained consistent and was corroborated by her friend and roommate, who Jupina relayed information to and student witnesses who were at Suzie's that night. The roommate also approached Kiser and told him not to talk to Jupina, according to the roommate and Kiser.

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YSU CELEBRATES DR. RAY'S LIFE OF SUCCESS, PASSION

RACHEL GOBEP

The lobby of Moser Hall was packed with the family, friends, colleagues and students of Ray Beiersdorfer standing shoulder to shoulder on Friday afternoon to celebrate his life of success and passion.

Beiersdorfer, also known as “Dr. Ray,” is a distinguished professor of geological and environmental sciences who suffered a major heart attack on Sept. 13. He remains hospitalized and in critical condition.

Beiersdorfer’s wife, Susie, said his ventilator tube was removed

on Oct. 2, but his heart continues to beat.

“Ray does nothing conventionally,” she said.

At the celebration, Susie Beiersdorfer said she could see how her husband touched so many people in different ways.

During the celebration of his life, tears were shed, followed by laughs when stories were told. Numerous people described Beiersdorfer as passionate and unconventional.

Beiersdorfer was an environmental activist and the leader of a group pushing to ban fracking in Youngstown.

“I’ll never be able to think about drinking a glass of water without thinking of my friend,” said Chris Yambar, local artist

and writer.

Martin Abraham, chemical engineering professor at YSU, said Beiersdorfer was a “passionate advocate” for what he believed in.

In honor of Beiersdorfer’s 62nd birthday on Friday, those in the YSU community are encouraged to wear a Hawaiian shirt and do five acts of kindness for people or nature as a celebration of his “kind and colorful life.”

Read next week’s issue of The Jambar for a tribute to Dr. Ray and his impact on the community, YSU and more.

SERVICE ANIMALS AT YSU

COURTNEY HIBLER

Service animals can be seen around Youngstown State University and they are more than just an adorable, fluffy companion for their handler.

A service animal is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability. Some disabilities include being confined to a wheelchair, visually and hearing impaired, those dependent on their medications and more.

Service animals are not defined as pets, but as working animals.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, animals whose sole purpose is to provide comfort or emotional support are not service animals.

Some service animals are dogs, cats and even miniature horses.

Sally Frederick, a freshman social work major,

trained and owns a service dog named Ripley, who is used for medical alerts.

“She is the only reason I’m able to attend school,” Frederick said.

Before Frederick owned Ripley, she did countless research on service animals including how to obtain and train them.

With the information she learned, Frederick wrote a book titled, “To Train a Service Dog: Ripley’s Story.”

“I put everything I had learned into my book, so others who need a service dog can learn the basics,” she said.

Frederick said she plans on expanding the first book she wrote after she is finished with school.

“I want it to be about traversing college with a service animal,” she added.

YSU has had service animals on campus in the past, but Frederick is one of the few students who currently possess a service animal.

Gina McGranahan, assistant director for disability services, said all accommodations are

based on the student’s disability and are decided on a case-by-case basis.

“It is recommended that the student registers with the Disability Services office, but it’s not required,” she said.

If a service animal were to cause an issue, YSU has the ability to exclude that certain animal.

These issues can include the service animal posing a direct threat to the safety or health of others, causing physical damage to the property of others, posing an undue financial and administrative burden or resulting in a fundamental alteration of the university’s program(s).

“A service animal must be under the control of their handler at all times and if there are serious issues, the student would need to get additional training for their animal,” McGranahan said.

When it comes to the handler and their service animal, it is crucial to not interact with the animal while he or she is working.

“It stresses the dog out because they are taught not to be touched while working,” Frederick

said. “Always ask the handler before you make an interaction.”

Esmeralda Pabon, a freshman biological science major, said it’s unacceptable when people attempt to do this and it should be addressed.

“Maybe some flyers could be posted that inform people on service animals,” she said. “This would hopefully educate people so they don’t do the same thing over and over again without truly knowing how harmful it is.”

Frederick said training a service dog isn’t difficult, but more time consuming.

She is starting to train another dog for her mother, although it will take a significant amount of work due to underlying issues.

“It is a huge undertaking, but with patience and time I feel like anyone is able to train a dog,” she said. “It’s all worth it in the end if it means helping yourself out in the long run.”

ENDING CHILDHOOD ILLNESS ONE DANCE STEP AT A TIME

Photo by *Frances Clause/The Jambor*

FRANCES CLAUSE

Youngstown State University's Guinathon, a student organization with a yearlong movement dedicated to saving children's lives from childhood illness, hosted its second annual Miracle Week from Oct. 1 through 6.

Guinathon is partnered nationally with Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and raises funds and awareness for Akron Children's Hospital Mahoning Valley. All proceeds benefit the hospital to fund new programs and equipment and uphold the promise that no child is turned away for any reason, including an inability to pay, according to Guinathon's website.

Throughout Miracle Week, students and community members made donations and participated in special events around campus including a pie-in-the-face fundraiser, paint-a-pumpkin and the Fall Fire Fest. By Oct. 3, \$3,000 was reached for the "3k in Three Days" goal.

Francine Hazy, public relations manager for Guinathon and junior psychology major, said the main purpose of these events was to get students involved and encourage them to sign up for the eight-hour Miracle Network Dance Marathon in February 2019.

"At the dance marathon, students and faculty join Miracle Families to dance and reach Guinathon's fundraising goal," Hazy said. "Last year at YSU's dance marathon, the fundraising goal was exceeded, and [Guinathon] hopes to accomplish that again."

Last year, \$45,073.94 was raised, exceeding the goal by over \$15,000. This year, the fundraising goal is \$62,000, representing the 62 children treated every minute at a Children's Miracle Network Hospital.

Hazy said the best way for people to get involved with Guinathon's cause is through their website and social media channels. Updates on events throughout the year, tips on how to fundraise money and challenges for those who aim to end childhood illness are posted on these platforms.

"Getting involved with Guinathon is a life-changing decision because the mission is one everyone can identify with, and hearing about the impact that Akron Children's has on the Miracle Children and their families is inspiring," Hazy said.

Nicole Clark, internal director of Guinathon and a senior middle childhood education major, said the organization educates students and the community about Miracle Families throughout Miracle Week.

"For Child Health Day on Oct. 1, Guinathon used the slogan 'Commit for the Kids' to spread awareness about childhood illness and Guinathon's Miracle Families," she said. "Guinathon has about 8 to 10 families that come to the dance marathon in February and some that come to Miracle Week events."

Clark said a Miracle Family that goes to all of Guinathon's events is the Plant family.

Sarah and Chris Plant, parents of Rebekah, Sam and Alma Plant, watched all three children receive treatment at Akron Children's Hospital. "Rebekah spent the first 70 days of her life

in the NICU of Akron Children's, and then had open heart surgery," Sarah Plant said. "Our son, Sam, used the emergency department there because of his food allergies, and even our baby daughter, Alma, had trouble breathing when she was just a week old."

Sarah Plant said Akron Children's Hospital and Guinathon have done more than impact her family.

"It's incredible to see college students working so hard to help kids they may never meet," she said. "Besides how fun the dance marathon is for everyone, my favorite part is how each student there is a real life hero to my kids."

Miracle Week concluded with a message from President Jim Tressel, thanking everyone's effort toward Guinathon's cause. Student Government Association President, Ernie Barkett and Executive Vice President, Caroline Smith, also encouraged students to sign up, donate and raise money leading up to the dance marathon.

IDENTITY THEFT LEADING YOU TO PLACES YOU'VE NEVER BEEN

JOHN STRAN

Starting college and journeying through an academic career oftentimes requires distributing an abundance of personal information.

From making copies of information for student loans to creating copious passwords and anything in between, a student's personal information can spread through web servers all over a campus.

When applying for next semester, taking out a car loan or applying for a job, there's no way around distributing these personal details. Other times, personal precautions can be made.

Chris Wentz, associate director and information security officer at Youngstown State University, said oftentimes people give out personal information because they trust the person or website.

In an ever-growing digital world, users may become more complacent, not fearing what a touch of the screen or click of a mouse can lead to.

This may be a reason why, according to the Federal Trade Commission, people in the 20 to 29 age range are the most targeted for identity theft, meaning many college students are prime targets.

"College students are at a point in their lives where lots of people want and need their information, so they are fairly used to giving it out," said Monica Merrill, a professor in the criminal justice and forensic science department at YSU.

Susan Beiling, bursar in YSU's bursar's office, said she receives phishing emails daily telling her to reset a password by clicking a link. She always ignores them, but wonders if students may be more apt to click the link.

"Perpetrators are becoming more and more knowledgeable on how to make these emails look professional," Beiling said.

Merrill added lack of credit history as a reason why students are prime targets saying no past activity makes it harder for companies to

recognize any fraudulent or irregular behavior.

Wentz also described the importance of this history and said banks pick up on the spending habits of their customers and can notice when a transaction was made at place not frequented by the customer.

As stealing information online and as all cybercrime increases, Wentz said it's still important to note personal information on paper can still be stolen and be just as damaging.

According to IMPACT Solutions, on average, identity theft costs its victims 60 hours and \$1,000 to recover their identity and repair their credit record.

Through all the chaos that identity theft can create, Wentz said the beauty lies in the simplicity of one's ability to protect their personal information. Protecting personal information is generally much easier than stealing it.

"There are small things you can do to prevent identity theft such as not paying your bills on

public Wi-Fi networks and being wary of giving out your social security number," Merrill said.

Wentz advised to never call back any numbers claiming a bill is overdue and to call the actual bill provider and ask whether or not the information is true. Along with this, he suggests to shred any extra documents and delete all information on a personal laptop if deciding to sell or give to a friend.

Both Wentz and Merrill also suggest requesting credit reports.

"The Fair Credit Reporting Act allows you to get one free credit report per year from each of the three reporting agencies," Merrill said. "This way you can check and see if there are any accounts you were unaware of or credit checks you did not request but this is only useful to you if you are aware of it and use it."

If identity thieves are savvy enough to capture personal information, identity theft recovery plans are in place to help take back what's rightfully yours.

YSU PROFESSOR ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE AFTER INVESTIGATION, ALLEGED VICTIMS SPEAK OUT (CONTINUED)

Additionally, the report found that Jupina's version of the encounter is "more reasonable and logical."

In the report, Kravitz wrote, "Staying and speaking with someone who was in or just had a 'jealous rage,' and was making shocking comments about your family does not seem reasonable or plausible."

Kravitz concluded on July 25 that there was "sufficient evidence" to find that Kiser's actions had violated YSU's Discrimination/Harassment Policy.

The report also states that there was a "pattern of troubling and possible grooming behavior which preceded this event."

"It is important to note that Kiser is well-known in the academic and music worlds, and someone who students believe, either correctly or incorrectly, has the ability to positively and negatively affect their time at the university and also their work and academic future," Kravitz wrote in the report.

Through the report's conclusion and recommendation, Kravitz found that based on the evidence provided "Kiser engaged in verbal, written and physical conduct of sexual nature that was unwelcomed by Jupina."

The report described Kiser's actions as "intimidating, hostile, offensive or abusive."

Another Alleged Victim Emerges

Another student in the Dana School of Music spoke to The Jambar on the condition of anonymity. She explained her relationship began with Kiser during her senior year of high school by taking horn lessons with him.

"I had really enjoyed working with [Kiser]. I thought he was really solid with his game plan and where I saw my career going in terms of being one of his students," she said.

By the time she reached her freshman year at YSU in 2016, she said their student-teacher relationship began to alter.

Her sister bought a house near where Kiser lived, so their interactions began to increase. She said Kiser then asked her to babysit his two children for him while he and his wife attended and performed at various events.

She alleged their interactions while she was at her sister's house went from simple hellos and goodbyes to Kiser beginning to stalk her.

"He knew my school schedule; he knew what scholarships I had. He knew where I was, where I wasn't and how he wanted to manipulate that information for his own good," she said.

The music student cited one specific event that she said particularly scarred her. She stated that during the 2017 Thanksgiving break, her mother took her car to visit her sister while she spent the holiday at her boyfriend's house.

When she returned to school from break, Kiser allegedly confronted her about "spending too much time" at her sister's home.

While there were few documented conversations between the two, she said when they would communicate, the conversation was "awkward." This included Kiser sending her random messages including pictures of his children, things she needed to work on for tuba, congratulate her or give her unwarranted feedback.

It was apparent in both the report and interviews with both of the alleged victims, that he sought out female students to be his babysitters and vehemently engaged in activities that resulted in the victims feeling that he was stalking them.

Both Jupina and the other victim stated that Kiser had a rotating group of babysitters, and they created a group chat after the incident at Teen Angst Night as a way to comfort each other and discuss each individual's interaction with the music professor.

"He was very self-righteous and money-driven," the music student said. "Nothing was ever about what I could do so much in myself as a person, [rather] so much as how I can be successful and how to make money and how to make him look better."

She said she had reached her breaking point during her junior year and after she explained her situation with her mother and by further convincing by Jupina, she decided to go to the Title IX Office at YSU.

"I had stayed away from [reporting the incident] for a long time in fear of retaliation because there are other students, who specifically in our studio, who had very negative experiences knowing that they went forward with their information," she said.

The Jambar is waiting on a response from the Title IX Office regarding the progress of this report.

Katie Markielowski, a former YSU Dana School of Music applied music major, said during her time at YSU from 2010 to 2015 she noticed that Kiser was friendly to his students and would frequently attend music student parties that included beer pong and drinking.

"I didn't ever feel comfortable with him alone and avoided [him] when possible," she said.

The Aftermath

The agreement between the administration and Kiser has not been finalized, but is expected to be within the next week.

A.J. Sumell, YSU Ohio Education Association Union president and economics professor, said although he cannot speak on the allegations of Kiser because the agreement has not been finalized, any type of sexual assault or misconduct allegations are taken seriously by the university and the union.

"All faculty members are given due process, which means that a process should be afforded regardless of the severity of the allegations," he said.

He said sexual harassment or misconduct allegations have no place at YSU or anywhere in society.

"Nobody on campus would want to look the other way or take these types of allegations lightly," Sumell said.

Kiser is currently in the midst of negotiations with the YSU-OEA union to decide if he will resign or be fired. According the YSU-OEA 2017-2020 faculty contract agreement section 12.9, if termination were to occur, the employee would be paid the remaining of the academic year.

The YSU-OEA union has sent Kiser an offer and the university is currently waiting for his party's response.

Kiser has reportedly been hired by a university in Indiana, and his home is currently listed for sale.



Photos by Tanner Mondok / The Jambar

A PEEK AT THE PENGUINETTES

ALYSSA WESTON

Youngstown State University's football season would be incomplete without majorettes, or Penguinettes as referred to on campus, who accompany the YSU Marching Pride.

Shannon Antenucci, YSU Penguinettes advisor, is responsible for choreographing routines, running practices, organizing special events and activities and making sure the majorettes look and feel confident.

In March and April, auditions are held for Penguinettes and feature twirlers. Once those spots are filled, the majorette line begins working on routines for the upcoming season.

The Penguinettes twirl batons during the fight song and pregame show, but mostly dance for the halftime performance.

"Our feature twirlers only twirl, using up to three batons for juggling tricks and even perform with fire," Antenucci said. "Our program has grown tremendously in the past six years, and our dancers and twirlers have done a fabulous job through their commitment, hard work and attention to detail."

She said although a lot of time and energy are put into each show that outsiders may not realize, the group of 15 girls somehow manages to support one another and stay positive.

"With the bond that they have and kindness they give out to others, it's no wonder that they work so well together on and off of the field. I couldn't be more proud of them," Antenucci said.

Jenna Parkany, Penguinettes captain and a senior marketing management major, said she initially auditioned for the Penguinettes because she was a majorette in high school and was encouraged by other students on the line at the time to try out.

"I became captain first by putting out my interest in the position," she said. "From there, I was interviewed at auditions and my scores and previous experiences on the line were also taken into consideration."

Parkany said her overall experience on the Penguinettes line has been very positive.

"I am learning to grow by being able to lead these amazing women and dancers. I could not be more proud of how respectful they are to one another and how great they represent the

program," she said.

Angela Toro, Penguinette and a senior early childhood education/intervention specialist major, said students do have to audition annually to claim their spot, regardless if they have been on the line in past seasons.

"Being a Penguinette is a great opportunity to show your passion for dance and twirling and to make great connections with students all cross the university and make friendships that last a lifetime," she said.

Natalie Toro, Penguinette and a senior early childhood education/intervention specialist major, wants to encourage other students to come to the football games and experience the performances put on by the Penguinettes and the YSU Marching Pride.

"Being a Penguinette to me is more than dancing and twirling a baton. It is such an honorable way to represent the most visible student organization at YSU," she said.

Students interested in auditioning to become a Penguinette or feature twirler should keep an eye out for audition dates and practice dance technique, twirling skills and performance.

"Being a part of the Marching Pride is such

a fantastic experience. The places you go, the things you do, the memories you make and the friends you love are things that stick with you forever," Antenucci said.



Photo by Brent Bigelow / The Jambor

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY CELEBRATIONS ON CAMPUS

AMANDA JOERNDT

National Coming Out Day is celebrated by millions all over the country on Oct. 11, and Youngstown State University is putting their own twist on the celebrated day to bring the student body together.

YSUnity: SOGIE Society is a student organization on campus that allows students to bring awareness to the LGBTQ+ community, to have a sense of belonging on campus and attend events to support their identities and community. SOGIE stands for sexual orientation, gender identity and identity expression.

YSUnity members and Ani Solomon, associate director of diversity programs, have collaborated their ideas for the events taking place on National Coming Out Day on campus.

Starting at 10 a.m., there will be a banner in the lower arcade of Kilcawley Center for anyone to sign in support of the LGBTQ+ community, along with rainbow sprinkled donuts.

At 7 p.m., a social will take place in The Cove of Kilcawley, where food and a trivia game will occur for students to win prizes.

YSU students can come to the events and

learn more about YSUnity and different ways to get involved in events supporting the LGBTQ+ community.

Solomon said there is a place for everyone on campus regardless of who you identify as.

"I like the fact that anyone, no matter what they look like or where they come from, they can be a part of this community and it could be a piece of who they are," she said.

Solomon said that no matter who a person is as an individual, anyone can be a part of the LGBTQ+ community.

"When I think about my overall job topic, it's all of the different identities and experiences we hold. People of all different identities and background can identify within the LGBTQ+ community," she said.

Carissa Brennan, a senior middle childhood math and language arts education major, is the president of YSUnity.

Brennan said YSUnity is important for students on campus to become educated on what the LGBTQ+ community is about.

"Many people come from high schools where they had little to no out students or teachers, they have never seen a drag queen or heard of bisexual before," she said. "Hopefully, with this group we help people break down

stereotypes and know that we're all the same at the end of the day."

Events that YSUnity hosts on campus to raise awareness and to bring people together are painting the rock, drag shows and group outings for everyone to attend and be themselves.

National Coming Out Day is one of the biggest events for YSUnity, and they love to share the celebration with everyone each year.

The group also aims to educate students on how to stand up for what they believe in and to bring a sense of peace to the community.

Brennan said she has learned how to stand up for her beliefs in a nonviolent way.

"I've also learned to not be silent anymore and speak up for what I believe in, but in an educational way instead of a fighting way," she said.

Paige Beaver, treasurer of YSUnity and a second year biology pre-vet major, said her goal is to make people feel at home within YSUnity and the LGBTQ+ community.

"I know personally, if I had not found YSUnity, I would feel like I didn't have a place here," Beaver said. "So bringing awareness and letting people know they have that safe place is really important to us."

A new event YSUnity is hosting is Drag 101

on Oct. 12, with the host of their drag show, Mya Garrison, coming to demonstrate how to do drag makeup.

YSUnity is open to anyone on campus who wants to meet new people and understand more about the LGBTQ+ community and not to be afraid to be themselves.



Photo by Tanner Mondok / The Jambor

SPACE AND COMMUNICATION LACKING FOR WOMEN CENTER

RACHEL GOBEP

Megan List indicated that the Women's and Gender Resource Center Initiative Board is requesting a "safe central location and the agreed upon funding arranged last August [2017] by October 12, 2018," in a letter written to YSU President Jim Tressel and interim Provost Joseph Mosca on Oct 3.

"If we do not receive such help, we will understand that your administration does not wish to make half its student population's safety a priority," List, the director of the initiative, wrote in the letter.

Mosca said senior leadership at the university are currently in the process of discussing the initiative to "determine a direction and a consequent plan."

"Part of that discussion will include determining how the WGRCI aligns with other diversity and inclusion initiatives such as the Culture of Community," he said. "I have asked Dr. List for a copy of the proposal for the center in order to further inform our discussions."

Development began for a women's center at Youngstown State University in September 2017. This initiative was intended to result in a center, but this has not become a reality.

In August 2017, "ample funding and a central space" was promised to create a Women's Center at the university. According to individuals involved with the initiative, the progress on the center has been slow and communication between those involved and the administration at YSU is lacking.

List indicated in the letter that the administration promised the center would have a space no later than January 2018.

"In January, we were informed this space would be 'delayed,' and it has remained in such a state ever since." The letter continued, "Currently YSU has no women's center — and thus no safe space for women."

According to the YSU Women's Center Action plan revised on July 31, 2017, an implementation phase was supposed to begin in fall 2017. This plan included initial labor requirements such as a part-time interim director, an assistant director, full-time administrative assistant work, a volunteer rape crisis counselor and Nicole Kent-Strollo as a volunteer liaison with Student Outreach and Success.

As of Sept. 1, 2017, List was hired as the interim director for the center. All other requests have not yet been made. Issues from difficulties finding an assistant director to attempting to locate

a space have shown to be problematic for those advocating for the center.

Tressel said the concerns of those involved with the initiative when it comes to progress of the center are "fair."

"The thing we don't want to do is invest into something that doesn't touch the whole. We want to invest in something that will create the whole, which will then be able to create some pockets of activity and awareness," he said.

Tressel said the administration is currently working on the development of an Inclusion and Multicultural Strategic Plan at the university, which includes the Culture of Community.

He said his target deadline for the plan is Dec. 31 to know how it will be staffed, what the university can realistically do and what the students want. This plan includes the women's center.

"The women's center has been derailed by the administration ... We have nothing for over 50 percent of the campus. I think part of this is a sexist attitude by our president and our administration, and they're hiding their sexism behind coded words such as culture and diversity," Michael Jerryson, board member for the initiative and associate professor of philosophy and religious studies.

Jerryson said when Martin Abraham resigned as provost in May the center was set back because Abraham was pushing for the initiative.

"After the dismissal of Abraham, the women's center has reached out to the administration asking if there will be any resources, if there finally will be a room provided, as was promised to us last August. There has been no response," he said.

Additionally, Jerryson said the women's center struggled with attempting to organize a fundraiser and there was little community support for the fundraiser initially, which could give a signal of a lack of funding. He said this perception is incorrect because the fundraiser was not well marketed.

"It's no surprise that with no funding, no additional paid resources for a resource that would provide for more than half the population of the campus and the community ... that the administration thought its more important to put funding in other areas," Jerryson said.

List wrote in the letter to the administration that a safe space for women needs to be created on campus, along with an area to increase education about the "horrific problem" of predatory sexual assaults on college campuses.

On Sept. 7, Youngstown State University Police received a report that a rape occurred at Lyden House, according to a YSU

Penguin Alert.

Jerryson said the reported rape in September may be one of many that is happening on campus, but the campus community may not be hearing about it because there is no "safe space" at the university.

He said the women's center at YSU is "an afterthought" to the administration.

"Everyone expresses concern; they might provide a little action, but there isn't enough action or priority to do something to make it happen," Jerryson said.

Through different presidents and provosts at the university, Jerryson describes the current women's center initiative as the third one that has been shut down.

"Part of it has been the failure of the student body to support such an initiative ... The second reason has been the continual culture at YSU privileging white, male power over non-white, non-male authority," Jerryson said.

Lindsay Heldreth, a YSU alumnus and former student board member of the WGRCI, said she believes the YSU administration continues to "make excuses for itself" when it comes to the women's center.

Additionally, Jerryson said the Student Government Association at YSU has failed to prioritize the center.

Caroline Smith, executive vice president of SGA, said as far as the association knows, there is no ongoing initiative within YSU's administration.

She said she and SGA President Ernie Barkett met with a group concerning the initiative in the spring 2018 semester, but "since then, there has been no movement that we have been made aware of."

"We are more than willing to discuss the project with the administration; we would just need the people currently taking on the idea to contact us," Smith said.

She said that SGA believes the initiative is worthy of university attention and is important to have on campus.

"The support appears to be lacking because of limited university resources. From what we know, there is little money and space available for a Women and Gender Resource Center," Smith said.

Three-hundred and forty-seven people in the YSU community participated in a survey conducted in the spring 2017 semester about the WGRCI with 151 or 44 percent of the respondents saying they believe a women's center is important on campus or a 10 on a 1-10 scale.



Photo by J. Harvard Feldhouse/The Jambar

FALL FIRE FEST CELEBRATES HOMECOMING WEEK WITH A CONCERT

VICTORIA REMLEY

The crackling of wood and strumming of guitars could be heard at the Fall Fire Fest on Oct. 4, which added to Youngstown State University's fall festivities.

The fest took place in the M-71 parking lot and included a concert featuring Two Guys Under the Stairs, Munny Cat and Drop the Act.

Victoria Pacheco, a junior health and physical education major and event leader, said Fall Fire Fest was a big socializing event.

"It's a perfect time not only for you to meet more people, socialize with friends and hang out with them, but also to be able to just take in what Penguin Productions does and puts together and what YSU has to offer," Pacheco said.

The group held this event to participate in Homecoming Week. Many student organizations and clubs prepared activity tables. The YSU Spirit Tent was also added this year.

"We want to still incorporate the YSU spirit with Homecoming Week, so we have that to tie in keeping the spirit alive throughout the whole event along with the pep rally," Pacheco said.

A large bonfire and different food trucks, including the taco truck from Los Gallos Mexican Restaurant, tied in with the event. Two Guys Under the Stairs opened the show, Money Cat headlined and Drop the Act sub-headlined.

Pacheco said some of Fall Fire Fest's student organization tables allowed students to see what campus offers.

"It's another chance for you to see not only what Penguin Productions does and what we put together, but also what all these student organizations bring to YSU," she said.

Penguin Productions manages the arts and music aspect of YSU events. It tries to bring music to YSU students. The group prepared the event in three weeks.

Pacheco said putting together Fall Fire Fest required planning ahead of time and involved many organizations.

"We've been really good this year. I have an amazing group that I'm in right now, so thankfully everyone has been on top of

things," she said.

Albert Chizmar, a junior political science major on the event's operations team, said coming to the event shows YSU spirit.

The operations team set up the stage, lights and tables and contacted 42 Productions and Showtime Productions.

Chizmar helped prepare the event because he receives a lot of hometown pride and feels rewarded. He enjoyed Federal Frenzy and thought participating in Fall Fire Fest would be fun.

Edward Watral, a freshman social work major, said he liked how Fall Fire Fest included many activities.

"I think there's a variety of different things to do, so it makes it fun. I think the bonfire is a really big plus," Watral said.

Adam Manley, a sophomore finance major, said he liked the event's musical entertainment. He said there was a lot of different things to do and the background music was nice.

Zach Pezzuolo, a freshman integrated social studies major, said he enjoyed the event. He said he hasn't seen anything like it at any other schools.

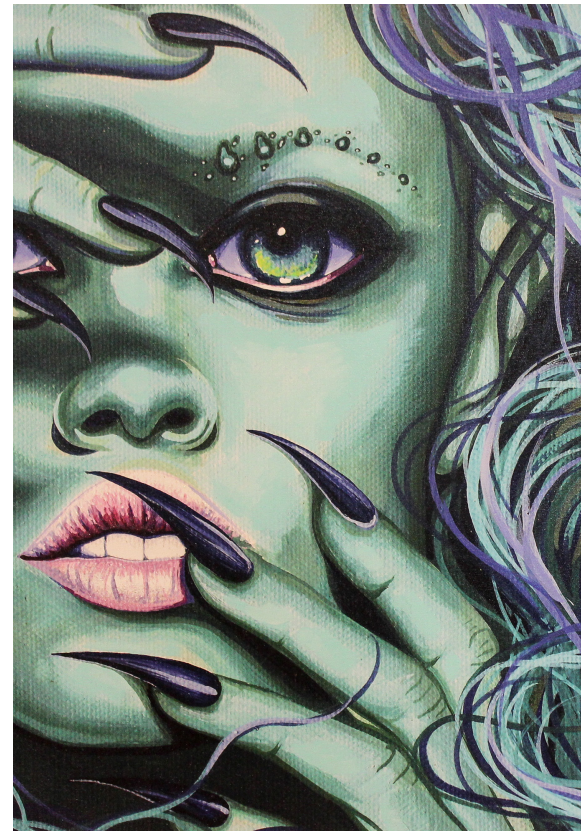


Photo by Marah J. Morrison/The Jambor

EXPOSURE TO THE IMAGINATION OF ROBERT WALKER

MARAH J. MORRISON

Robert Walker's art exhibition took place at the Soap Gallery on Oct. 5. Attendees were able to meet him and delve into pieces that featured the creatures and landscapes he has created.

Robert Walker is a national touring visual artist who has showcased his artwork throughout the country. He said since he was young, he has always been into art and that his mother has been very supportive of him.

"It's what I wanted since I was a little kid and it's a lot of dedication to painting," he said. "I started living off of it in 2006."

Robert Walker said he's created his works of art through his own personal imagination. He said his latest pieces are always the ones that touch him emotionally the most.

"As I'm doing something I always feel like this is it, this is my best piece," he said.

Robert Walker said he started out using oil for his paintings,

but now works with acrylics most of the time. He said at the moment, he is heavily into the color teal and has been using it a lot in his work.

"For the last few years, I have to force myself to use another color other than teal," he said.

Robert Walker said he always works on multiple pieces at once because of how long they take. He said the most stressful thing he's faced in the art industry is the festivals he partakes in.

"It's not challenging but it's work," he said. "Spring, summer, fall, I'm in a different state."

Robert Walker said although his show schedule is crazy, he wants to leave a mark with his artwork. He said after he's gone, he wants enough people to have his work so that it can live on.

"I'm always trying to promote myself," he said. "This is what I wanted to do. It's working and I'm doing it and just [enjoying] the journey."

Teresa Redmond, Walker's mother, said her son works very hard. She said he puts his heart and soul into each painting.

"There's a piece of him in each painting," she said. "He stays

busy."

Redmond said her son's artwork is everywhere and collectors have multiple paintings he's done. She said he's sold pieces in Australia and Majorca.

"When he was younger he used to paint with his fingers," she said. "You only get one life to live, and I've always told Rob that."

Redmond said she's witnessed how hard her son has worked and she that is very proud of him. She said he's come from nothing to something.

Kyle Walker, the husband of Robert Walker, said he's proud of him and that he keeps getting better with his paintings. He said his imagination comes out very well through his work.

"Everything that he says he's going to do he does it," he said. "He works hard. I love the crap out of him."

Barbara Cibella, an attendee of the exhibition, said the artwork Robert Walker does is fantastic and that he's a unique person. She said he has a following all over the country.

"It's so interesting to see how excited people get to see his artwork in person," she said. "He's come a long way."



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MARIO'S MOVIES: FLASHBACK FILMS - "RUSHMORE" (1998)

MARIO RICCIARDI

Max Fischer is the precocious and charming 15-year-old king of extracurriculars at the prestigious Rushmore Academy. From the calligraphy club president, to the lacrosse team manager, to a Kung Fu club yellow belt, to president of the Rushmore Beekeepers, to writing and producing his own plays, Max can do just about anything the school offers. Anything except earn himself passing grades.

An auteur's dramatization of the original overachieving hipster, Max idiosyncratically strives for a higher place in society through blunt communication, higher education and stylish, thrift-worthy outfits. Between extracurriculars, Max is befriended by rich industrialist Herman Blume, who ironically falls in love with the same first grade teacher Max has been pining for. The competition between the two is the pivot point of the film's many shenanigans and side romps, but ultimately only serves as one piece of the colorful puzzle that "Rushmore" is.

"Rushmore" is a whimsical boy-meets-girl story layered with Wes Anderson's unique visual style. It is primarily a comedy and it works as that, but humor is hardly what makes the film special. The key to "Rushmore's" timelessness is its subtle studies on life, my favorite of which is the dean of "Rushmore's" assertion that Max is one of the Academy's worst students, juxtaposed with the vast array of clubs and experiences Fischer takes part in. Max can't score over a D in algebra, but he's a debate captain, can speak French and logged four and a half hours flying a piper.

Another subtle observation, a much more general one, is the depiction of loss and love throughout the film. Some characters are in love, some are grieving the loss of loved ones and some are in both situations. There is also a very interesting depiction of the toll divorce takes on people regardless of how lovelessly the relationship has aged.

The cast does a great job balancing comedy and substance with Anderson's direction. Jason Schwartzman (Max Fischer) does a job well done portraying the 15-year-old cosmopolitan. His performance is at least partially responsible for the following decade's generation of hipsters. Bill Murray (Herman Blume)

puts forth a performance that shows that even Bill Murray is willing to take a step back for an honest project that he believes in. The third star of the film, Rosemary Cross played by Olivia Williams, plays a wonderful and hurt love interest deserving of as much analysis as Schwartz's lead.

All around, "Rushmore" is an enthralling fable that digs deep into the tropes of humanity. The film animates with Wes Anderson's artistry and vision. Anderson's craftsmanship allows the film to transcend the teen movie genre and truly become a piece of cinema.

"Rushmore" is often overlooked by critics and filmmakers next to Wes Anderson's current body of work, but it is no lesser of a film. By watching "Rushmore," we are not only seeing a stepping stone of one of our great modern-day auteurs, but also getting to watch art influence life and vice versa in the best of ways.

★★★★ 5/5 Penguins

TRIBUTING DEBUSSY AT KEYBOARD FESTIVAL

MOHAMMAD MUJAHED
JAMBAR CONTRIBUTOR

The Northeast Ohio Keyboard Festival celebrated their fourth year. This year, they paid tribute to composer Claude Debussy. The festival took place from Sept. 30 to Oct. 3.

On Oct. 1, multiple musicians performed at Youngstown State University. In the performance, they played many pieces of Debussy's work.

Caroline Oltmanns, co-director of the festival, discussed the goals and achievements of the festival.

"We are trying to promote keyboard music in Northeast Ohio," Oltmanns said. "We want people to be interested in piano music, and this year is dedicated to Debussy."

Oltmanns is also a professor at the Dana School of Music at YSU.

According to the directors of the festival, the festival has presented a variety of events and hosted notable guests since its inauguration in 2015.

This year's guest was the award-winning pianist Mark Nixon. Nixon, who is from South Africa, toured all around the world during his career, but this is the first time he performed in the States.

"I've been to China, Italy, Germany, [mostly] European countries, so it's great to be here," Nixon said.

He said he enjoys playing Debussy's music and has for a long time.

"I always loved his music, and I always played it when I was young," Nixon said.

He also discussed how the artistic approach to Debussy's music is very unique.

"It's something about the writing — it is incredibly detailed and also the beauty of the music," Nixon said.

He also said playing Debussy's music is challenging.

"It depends on how the piano responds to you," Nixon said. "It takes a quite amount of time to get used to new pianos because it's so subtle."

Piano music wasn't the only style of music being played during the festival. There was soprano music and also clarinet. Misook

Yun sang Debussy's "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun" in soprano.

Alice Wang played the clarinet in collaboration with Nixon playing the piano, performing another Debussy song.

Michael Nichols, an attendee of the event, said the festival had a lot of assets in the performances.

"You also get a lot of other instruments also which was very nice," Nichols said.

He said he enjoyed Nixon's energetic and expressive performance during the concert, and that this is the first time he saw him perform.

Nichols, who was once a piano performance major at YSU, said he was happy seeing performances like this on campus.

"This is like piano week, but on a smaller scale," he said. "I am glad we are having this festival. Anything we can add in art of the university, especially in piano music, is a good thing."

As far as achievements goes, Oltmanns is satisfied in this year's event.

"We are very happy in promoting this year's festival, and we can't wait for next year," she said.

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OTHER

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Photo by *Tanner Mondok / The Jambar*

Patrick Bonnette, a junior accounting major, plays an Irish pennywhistle while Shaun McCune, a senior music performance major, plays guitar outside of Kilcawley Center on Tuesday.

Bonnette said he loves to play Irish music and saw McCune playing guitar so he decided to join him.



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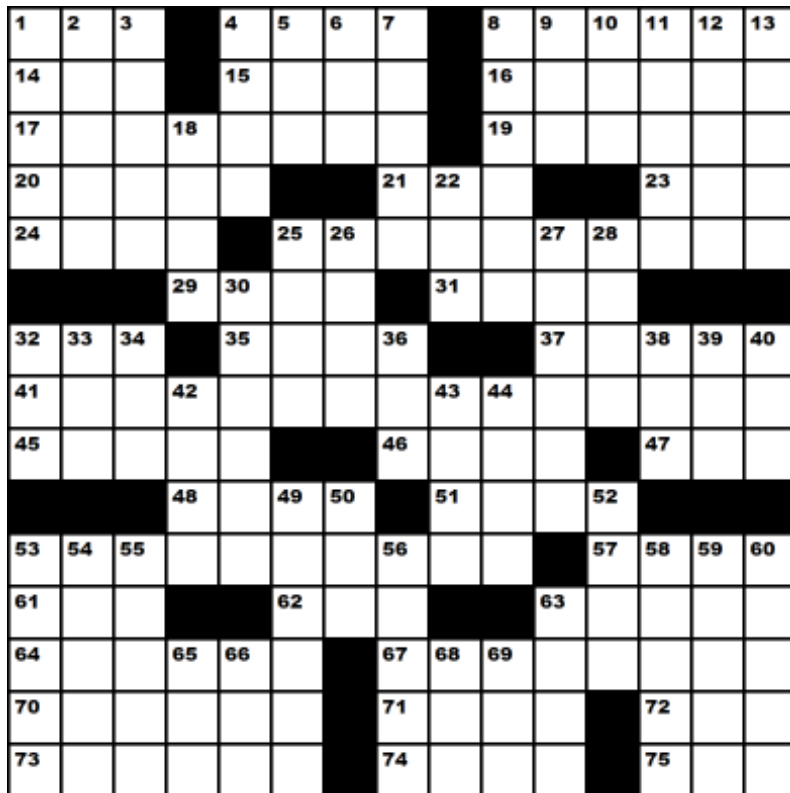
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SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



CHECK NEXT WEEK'S PAPER FOR THE SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE

CULT CLASSIC

Across

1. Online gaming annoyance
4. Break a Christmas Eve rule
8. Appropriates
14. Millen on "Orphan Black" and "11.22.63"
15. Neck of the woods
16. April 15, for many
17. Dance that starts with "a jump to the left, and then a step to the right"
19. Ray of "GoodFellas"
20. Goes public
21. Phoebe and Piper's sister on "Charmed"
23. Jordan Clarkson or Tristan Thompson, for short
24. Their mascot is Handsome Dan
25. Janet Weiss's boyfriend in 41 Across
29. Kitchen initialism popularized by Rachael Ray
31. Paquin, Magnani, Gunn or Kendrick
32. Beach transport, briefly
35. "The Simpsons" school bus driver
37. Harry Potter nemesis Malfoy

41. Cult classic showing at the DeYor PAC, Oct. 31-Nov. 3 featuring 53 Across

45. "M*A*S*H" setting
46. Word on an Irish Euro
47. Donkey Kong, for one
48. "Leggo my ___"
51. Church seats
53. ___ Theatre Company
57. Bore
61. Coach Parseghian of Notre Dame
62. Basketball play, Alley ___
63. The "A" in A/V
64. Kidnapper's demand
67. Handyman and live-in butler at Dr. Frank-N-Furter's lab
70. Howard Jones walking downstairs, for one
71. Purim's month
72. "___ the picture?"
73. Bank jobs
74. Toy that operates on rotational energy
75. Many TV drama settings

Down

1. Starbucks offering

2. "The Little Mermaid" mermaid
3. Only dwarf in the Company of the Ring
4. Furry feet
5. The Clinton years, say
6. "If ___ I loved her, all that love is gone": Shakespeare
7. Honor Society of Phi ___ Phi
8. Part of a spreadsheet
9. "Stargate" bad guys
10. "Deep Space 9" shapeshifter
11. Their logo is a blue cat and a red dog
12. Turkic language
13. Some Eastern Europeans
18. Choice word?
22. Nutritional std.
25. Two out of two
26. ___-Rooter
27. Jackson, Johnson or Cuomo
28. Cannery row?
30. Bon ___
32. "Raiders of the Lost ___"
33. Also
34. TiVo predecessor

36. A lode off one's mine?
38. "Busted!"
39. "CSI: Miami" character
40. Fall behind
42. Sailing stabilizer
43. Kelly who played herself on "Hannah Montana" and "30 Rock"
44. Pitcher Hershiser
49. "Gnomeo & Juliet" shorties
50. Sean ___ Lennon
52. Egg on
53. Swampy area
54. Furious
55. Hawaiian porch
56. "... ___ the Lord my soul ..." (2 wds.)
58. Saying
59. Inmate who's never getting out
60. SoHo apartments
63. Retro hairdo
65. They're numbered in NYC (Abbr.)
66. Home sick
68. Bachelorette's last words? (2 wds.)
69. Sorceress Morgan le ___

THE JAMBAR

— EDITORIAL —

TO BELIEVE OR NOT TO BELIEVE, THAT IS THE QUESTION

On July 8, Brett Kavanaugh, a former U.S. District Court judge, was nominated by President Donald Trump for a seat on the Supreme Court after the retirement of swing voter Justice Anthony Kennedy.

Over the past few weeks, a barrage of media coverage has descended onto the confirmation hearings; from the GOP dumping roughly 100,000 documents regarding Kavanaugh the night before the first day of the nominee's hearing conducted by the Senate Judiciary Committee; to the emergence of sexual assault and harassment allegations from multiple women, most notably by Christine Blasey Ford, a professor of psychology at Palo Alto University and Stanford University School of Medicine.

During the hearings for Kavanaugh, Ford decided last minute to testify about her alleged attempted rape by Kavanaugh and his friend, Mark Judge.

Emotions flared on both sides. Kavanaugh was blasted for losing his cool during his testimony about the accusations, while Ford's fearful, yet powerful image circled around the internet, hailing her as both a hero and accusing

her of being a liar.

The main question going through a lot of minds is, "Why come forward now and not immediately after it happens?" This statement is not only insensitive, but ignorant as well. Those individuals who have this mindset fail to put themselves in Ford's, or any sexual assault/harassment victim's, shoes.

Powerful people in powerful positions can have a great effect on other's lives and perhaps Ford was fearful of being labeled a liar and losing her career if she came forward. Many sexual assault and harassment victims tend to push those scaring events to the back of their mind, because it's better to forget it even happened than to speak up.

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, an average of 90 percent of individuals who are raped are women and five percent are men. NSVRC also reports that rape continues to be the most unreported crime; roughly 63 percent of rapes are not reported to the authorities.

The effects of sexual assault don't only play out on national TV, but also in the lives of those around us everyday.

This week, The Jambar uncovered a story regarding the sexual harassment allegations

against a Dana School of Music tuba professor, Brian Kiser. Now placed on administrative leave, Kiser was accused of "creating a hostile environment" in which he "sought out attractive female students" to babysit for him.

The investigative report concluded that Kiser used intimidation tactics in order to use his power to take advantage of his student babysitters both mentally and physically for his own pleasure.

Multiple victims reported to the YSU Title IX Office that Kiser created a sexually hostile environment for multiple years before ultimately reporting his actions to then director, Cynthia Kravitz.

This particular incident shows that the victims waited years to report in fear of losing chances of furthering their academic and professional careers, just like Ford.

We live in a strange world today — a world where the words of multiple women are outweighed by the words of a single man. But perhaps it has been that way all along and we have neglected to acknowledge it.

It's disappointing to think that the intentions of victims coming forward could be so twisted and contorted to fit a specific political agenda instead of spreading the message that it's okay

to speak up about what happened to them and that is was wrong.

Kavanaugh was ultimately confirmed for the open seat in SCOTUS, but not without a plethora of opposition.

The Jambar believes Ford and will continue to stand with her and other victims of sexual assault and harassment against those in power who try to silence the truth of the weak.

And don't forget to say her name — Christine Blasey Ford.

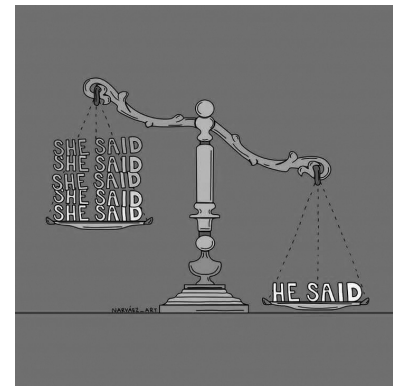


Illustration by *Nicole Narváez*
Instagram @narvaez_art

THE BEEFY CRUNCH BURRITO: A TALE OF LOVE AND HEARTBREAK

BRADY SKLENAR

Every fast food chain has had a limited-time menu item that customers have gone crazy over, but none have created as much buzz as Taco Bell's Beefy Crunch Burrito. In this burrito, seasoned beef, Mexican rice, nacho cheese sauce, sour cream and Flamin' Hot Fritos all come together to create one of the restaurant's most popular (and delicious) menu items ever.

With over 74,000 Facebook fans and seven tattoos of the burrito, there's no doubt that Taco Bell made something truly special.

Taco Bell has been known to regularly collaborate with other companies to create unique menu items, some of their most famous being Mountain Dew Baja Blast, Doritos Locos Tacos and Cinnabon Delights. But, when the Beefy Crunch Burrito came out in 2009, the inclusion of Flamin' Hot Fritos in the

burrito was a concept unheard of at the time.

When the limited run ended in May 2011, the Beefy Crunch Movement was born. Over the last seven years, the movement has strived to bring the Beefy Crunch back onto Taco Bell's menus and hopefully one day make it a permanent menu item.

At first, the burrito had a yearly promotion, not unlike McDonald's McRib. But on May 23, 2013, the Beefy Crunch Burrito left Taco Bell's menu for the third time and would not see a return for another three years.

In the years since, the Beefy Crunch's return has never felt certain. Years passed by with no word from Taco Bell. Fans' relentless comments on social media would continue to go ignored.

It wasn't until March 2016 that a return would be announced, but the burrito returned and left again a few months later, leaving its fans in the dark on whether they would ever eat another bite of their favorite burrito again.

This year has been both exciting and heartbreaking for Beefy

Crunch fans across the nation. In April, Taco Bell announced that the burrito would return to stores as a test run in the Chattanooga, Tenn., region in an effort to finally make the Beefy Crunch a permanent menu item in 2019.

Hope finally returned. Fans in the area rushed to stores during its run, some of the most dedicated traveling thousands of miles to just eat one burrito. After what seemed like a successful promotion, it was announced in August that the burrito would not be given a permanent place on the Taco Bell menu, but it would still be making a short return to menus across the country in the fall.

The Beefy Crunch has been back on Taco Bell's menu for a few weeks now and while I have been overjoyed to finally eat this burrito again, each bite feels bittersweet knowing that I only have one more week to enjoy it. Ever since my first bite of the Beefy Crunch in 2011, I have been in love, and I hope a day will finally come when all fans can finally order a Beefy Crunch Burrito whenever they visit Taco Bell.



Chrispin Lee (left) and Christiaan Randall-Posey (right) celebrate stopping Southern Illinois in the second half in Youngstown State's 17-14 win.

Photo courtesy of **Tanner Mondok/The Jambor**

DEFENSE TAKING SHAPE FOR YSU'S BIGGEST FCS TEST YET

MARC WEEMS

The Youngstown State University football team earned its second win of the season on Saturday. They avoided starting 1-4 with a 17-14 comeback win over Southern Illinois University.

As always, each week in Missouri Valley Football Conference is a huge test. This week is no different as the Penguins go on the road to face number two South Dakota State University.

"I thought we took a step back offensively," YSU Head Coach Bo Pelini said on last week's game. "We made too many mistakes offensively especially early on really hurt us in the first half. We didn't play very efficiently in the first half. Like I said before, Montgomery [VanGorder] didn't have his best game but we didn't really play well around him."

Pelini said that the defense has taken a positive step but hasn't gotten to the level that he would like.

VanGorder has played well as YSU's starting quarterback. He has 10 touchdowns to five interceptions, while throwing for 1,148 yards. He has completed 54.5 percent of his passes after going 15-for-36 against SIU.

"You have to play four quarters versus any team," offensive tackle Charles Baldwin said on what they learned of themselves last week. "We are tough up front and we have to come with it in every aspect of the game."

Baldwin started at right tackle for the Penguins in the win. He helped lead an offense that ran for 156 yards with Tevin McCaster rushing for 116 and a touchdown.

The Jackrabbits will be a tough mountain to climb. SDSU is averaging 51.5 points per game, while giving up 23 points. The Jackrabbits are averaging 579.2 yards of total offense per game while giving up 365.2 yards per game.

Quarterback Taryn Christian is having a quality year so far. He has thrown for 1,082 yards with 15 touchdowns to just one interception. The high-powered offense will be a tough task for the YSU defense that is giving

up 389.4 offensive yards per game.

"I learned that there is a lot of potential on this team and when we put our minds to it, anything can get done," linebacker Chrispin Lee said. "We showed that Saturday with a tough win. The team stuck together and fought through and came out with the win."

Lee is second on the team behind Armand Dellovade with 36 tackles. Dellovade has 43.

Defensively, the Penguins have been improving as Pelini said. If the West Virginia University game is taken away, the Penguins defense would rank 24th in the country in total defense. They currently rank 54th with 389.4 yards. Against FCS opponents, YSU gives up 330.5 yards.

"There were a couple of times that we weren't on the same page defensively because once again two guys are getting hand signals and not filling guys in," Pelini said. "I always say that if we are all playing the same thing, we can play anything. A couple of times that happened and it didn't hurt us. It will hurt because we were fortunate in a couple situations."

Pelini said that a lot of the guys are getting comfortable where they are in the defensive scheme.

"Just take it play by play," Baldwin said on the upcoming game. "Don't think about the drive or getting in the end zone too fast. Just go play by play and make sure you do your assignment each play. Everything else should work itself out."

The defense will be the biggest key to YSU's success against SDSU. Beside slowing down Christian at quarterback, YSU must slow down the 13th-best rushing attack in the FCS at 252.5 yards per game.

Isaac Wallace is the team leader in rushing with 417 yards and four touchdowns.

"The past few games we were kind of struggling," Lee said of YSU's defense. "That [getting a few early stops against SIU] boosted our confidence and we carried that out for the whole game."

YSU will look to upset the second-ranked Jackrabbits at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium in Brookings, S.D. on Oct. 13 at 3 p.m.



Youngstown State University Head Coach Bo Pelini yells at a referee during the second half of the game against Southern Illinois on Saturday, October 6. YSU defeated Southern Illinois 17-14.

Photo by **Tanner Mondok / The Jambar**

HISTORY NOT ON COACH PELINI'S SIDE GOING FORWARD

DAVID FORD

Throughout his coaching career, Bo Pelini has coached several elite football programs, at both the collegiate and professional level, including here at Youngstown State University.

During his professional career, Pelini won Super Bowl XXIX as part of the San Francisco 49ers staff, where he served as the team's defensive backs coach. From 1997 until 1999, Pelini served as the New England Patriots linebackers coach. He would fill the same role from 2000 to 2002 with the Green Bay Packers.

Before accepting the head coaching opportunity at the University of Nebraska in 2008, Pelini helped guide the Louisiana State University Tigers to the 2007 National Championship over the Ohio State Buckeyes, his alma mater. His record as an assistant speaks for itself.

Pelini, however, never thrived as a head coach.

For several decades, the Nebraska Cornhuskers solidified themselves as a college football powerhouse. Through the '70s, '80s and '90s, the Cornhuskers claimed five national championships and 17 conference championships.

In addition, the school produced three Heisman Trophy Winners throughout its history (Johnny Rodgers, Mike Rozier and Eric Crouch). Due to the school's popularity, Crouch graced the cover of the video game "NCAA College Football 2K3." Despite the individual recognition, Nebraska built a team-oriented dynasty.

When Pelini took the Nebraska job in 2008, the dynasty was a distant memory. Pelini had his work cut out.

During his tenure at Nebraska (2008-2014), the team won 67 games; the Cornhuskers never failed to reach nine wins in a season. He even became a pop culture icon at the school.

While at Nebraska, social media took notice of Pelini's popularity. In 2014, "Faux Pelini," the Twitter account that parodied the coach, contributed to the inception of the \$5 Bits of Broken Chair Trophy, the prize between the winner of Nebraska and Minnesota (the extended story is quite funny).

Each school disavowed the trophy in 2016, but it was

announced last season a new trophy would be constructed and given to the winner of each going forward. The trophy now stands as the focal point for charitable, fundraising efforts for each school.

While the Nebraska-Minnesota rivalry took a unique turn thanks to his parody account, Pelini himself never really participated in it.

Pelini failed to win a conference championship, and every season the Cornhuskers achieved either a 9-3, 9-4 or 10-4 record. While his season-by-season record proved serviceable, it was far removed from the school's expectations. In 2014, Pelini was fired. He hadn't won the games that mattered.

Since his dismissal from the school, Nebraska went from Big 10 Conference title competitor to one of college football's most inefficient programs.

Mike Riley (2015-2017) flopped as Cornhuskers head coach; Scott Frost is left to deal with the mess. Without Pelini, Nebraska has a school-record nine straight losses, with their last victory coming against Purdue University on Oct. 28, 2017.

Nebraska football is just 19-25 since Pelini was fired. In the end, Pelini got the last laugh, right?

Not quite.

In December 2015, Pelini announced his return to Youngstown as the Penguins next head football coach. The move reignited the Penguin fans, which had only seen one playoff appearance since current university president Jim Tressel left after the 2000 season.

Both coaches Jon Heacock (2001-2009) and Eric Wolford (2010-2014) never developed the talent, nor won when it mattered.

In 2012, under coach Wolford, the Penguins entered the heart of their conference schedule undefeated, ranked third in the FCS. They lost all four games in October; the Penguins failed to qualify for the postseason.

Much like Nebraska, the Penguins have a rich tradition of championship football at the FCS level. The team won national titles ('91, '93, '94, '97) and have made the playoffs 12 times before Pelini arrived. Much like Nebraska again, the Penguins put

a ton of pressure on Pelini to return the team to its championship days. Pelini hasn't delivered.

During the 2016 season, Pelini's second at YSU, the team reached the FCS National Championship after a miraculous playoff run; however, their luck fizzled out.

As Pelini began to recruit his own players, the record got worse. Since the championship run, YSU is just 8-8 (2-3 this season). Pelini has recruited tons of talent to the Penguins football program, but the talent continues to be squandered by one-dimensional coaching.

Last week, the Penguins managed to defeat Southern Illinois University, 17-14, despite a lousy offensive performance. The victory put the Penguins at 2-3, but with games against South Dakota State, North Dakota State and the University of Northern Iowa on the schedule, the team isn't likely to flirt with a playoff appearance, let alone a winning record.

When Pelini took the position, it showed his willingness to coach his hometown team, despite the salary decrease. Pelini wanted the position; the university wanted Pelini. Now, it's time for YSU to move on.

In a 2015 article published in *The Vindicator*, Pelini signed a four year, \$213,894 per year contract; the contract will expire on Feb. 28, 2019, as the article states. In his last season at Nebraska, Pelini earned nearly \$3.1 million.

Since his contract doesn't reach next season, it's probably best if YSU simply lets it expire. Even if both sides expressed interest in an extension, the school likely can't meet salary demands. The 2018 season should be his last with the Penguins.

Despite an underwhelming 2017, the 2018 season began with high expectations; however, the 23-21 loss to Butler University on opening day set the team back. YSU entered the Butler game as a 37-point favorite; the season hasn't improved since. The season only looks to get worse from today until Nov. 17.

In the end, the Pelini hire proved smart by both him and the athletic department. Nobody will question why the Penguins chose him as their head coach. It just hasn't worked out.



Nikki Mendez throws a ball during practice at the Holiday Bowl in Struthers, Ohio.

Photos courtesy of **YSU Sports Information**

YSU BOWLING LOOKING FOR SUCCESS AGAIN

JOSHUA FITCH

The Youngstown State University women's bowling team is ready to open its season this weekend after a long offseason.

The Penguins will be under a new interim head coach whose name hasn't been released yet, after former head coach Chelsea Gilliam left the program to take the head coaching gig at Bethune-Cookman University earlier this month.

Despite some uncertainty surrounding the team, YSU is ready for its first tournament in Reading, Penn., for the Bud Whitman Memorial.

"I think of all of the motivation," sophomore Emma Dockery said. "To actually go out and try to win a tournament and get back out there. There's a lot of excitement that builds up and a renewed energy. Whereas towards the end of the season, especially last year, it was a rough season. It was slow and tiring, and you could feel it everywhere. So, it's nice we have a refresh."

Entering just its third season as a team, the bowling squad looks to improve off last year, a season in which it won under half of its games within the eight tournaments.

"Part of the refresh is getting into a new system and try new things," Dockery said, who was named Most Valuable Player by her teammates last season. "There's a certain excitement and motivation that builds up in that, and if we can ride that, it can be really beneficial for us as a program."

With a season that spans from October to April and is very travel heavy, preparation is key during the entire offseason, not just as a team but individually as well.

"Just lots of practice," junior Nikki Mendez said. "We do a lot of drills and a lot of team bonding goes into it because you have to be comfortable on lanes. It's mostly individual. It depends how you release the ball. There can be different releases, some people will either cup their hand a lot or they might weaken it but getting to the line is pretty much the same for everybody."

In a sport of precision, changes to the speed of the ball, technique and lane adjustments are

constantly made throughout the season. That is something the team is consistently preparing for during the season, and prior to the season beginning.

"There's a lot of change you have to make in a very short time," Dockery said. "Last year, I made a goal and I had to work for it all summer. Now I feel like I'm actually getting it, so there's a lot you have to figure out what you want to change and change it in a short period of time so you're ready to go in October."

The Penguins practice as a team at Holiday Bowl located in Struthers. This is where the prep of a new season is born and where goals are set. However, while most of the offseason is tuning precision and accuracy on the lanes, part of the preparation that goes into a long bowling season is conditioning, an aspect of the sport that is often overlooked.

"Most people don't think we need to, but when you're standing for eight hours a day for three days your legs are tired, so it really helps to condition," Mendez said. "We're going to start running and things like that, so it'll definitely help our stamina. Mentally, being with the girls every day and doing the stuff outside of practice

rather than focusing on bowling 24-7."

The team doesn't host a tournament throughout the season in Youngstown, meaning all tournaments the Penguins are a part of in the Southland Conference this season are played away, which isn't necessarily a bad thing.

"We go from Pennsylvania, to Texas, to Wisconsin and to Florida," Mendez said.

She added that her favorite part of a new season is "being on the road again with everyone because we always make a lot of memories together."

With any team, especially one that's only in its third season ever, expectations within the group are realistic, but always high. With a new season starting this weekend, there's no reason the goals for 2018-2019 can't become a reality.

"We legitimately think we can make the championships this year," Dockery said, "That's our high goal, and our normal goal, that we believe we should have no problem reaching, is that we want to be top 20 in the nation. Right now, we're number 26, so it's very attainable and I think we can do it after the first couple tournaments."