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# SGA appropriation process questioned



(From left to right) Michael Slavens, Catie Carney, Emily Bosela and Charesse Hagan preside over a meeting on Monday in the Ohio Room in Kilcawley Center. Photo by Graig Graziosi/The Jambar.

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The Youngstown State University Student Government Association, which doles out university money budgeted for student groups, has already given out 82 percent of this year's general funds, but there are still seven months remaining on the fiscal calendar.

What's more, out of the 41 groups that applied for funding, nearly 20 percent of the money budgeted for all of the student groups for the year went to just three of those groups.

This year, SGA was given an in-

crease of \$9,438 to provide funding for student groups. This brought the funds available for student organizations through the general fund to \$41,821 for the 2013-2014 school year.

Through an appropriation process, SGA is given the power to determine what groups get funds from this budget. Even though majority of the money comes from the general fund, Chartwells — YSU's dining services — donated \$5,000 to help student groups pay for food this year. The total budget for 2013-2014, including Chartwells' and the general fund, stands at \$46,821.

According to the updated budget report handed out at the Nov. 18 full body meeting, \$34,924.05 has been appropriated. Adding in what was appropriated at that meeting, SGA has allocated a total of \$37,360.01 from the

general fund. Of these appropriations, \$3,300 has been returned to the SGA general fund because it was not used. This leaves \$7,760.99 available from the general fund for further allocations in the remainder of the fall semester and the entire spring semester. There is also \$3,714 remaining from the Chartwells' budget for food.

The inconsistent division of funds has some groups frustrated with the process, while others don't even bother trying to ask for funds.

Fiona Kelly, vice president of Room of Requirement, said she thinks the system is troubled.

"This is a problem I think a lot of people overlook until they're in a position in a student organization where you have to go through this sort of thing because student government — they're supposed to be here for us,"

Kelly said. "They're supposed to be a liaison between the university and the students, and it almost feels, from my perspective, that it's gotten so corrupted that they're kind of for themselves."

Catie Carney, the president of SGA, said that she doesn't believe there is favoritism present in student government.

"Money-wise? I would say 'no' because if you are in that group, you can't vote on that amount or discuss or market why they deserve however much money. Coincidentally enough, though, you know who's on the body, and you know where we give our money," Carney said.

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## Tuesdays with Chet

Last Lecture Series speaker shares life lessons

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Tuesday night, Chet Cooper, a Youngstown State University associate professor of biology, lectured about life lessons and family and re-encountered personal stories as part of Student Government Association's Last Lecture Series.

The Last Lecture Series is based on the novel "The Last Lecture" by Randy Pausch. Each semester, SGA nominates a handful of contenders for the keynote speaker of the annual lecture. The speaker will present as if it were the final lecture that he will ever give.

Cooper said he was very surprised when SGA ap-

proached him about being their pick for this semester's last lecture series speaker.

"I was stunned," Cooper said. "I felt very honored because there are so many worthwhile people on this campus and just the fact they nominated me to lecture was an honor."

Cooper is a biology professor and is also the chair of Academic Senate, an adviser for SGA, the president of the Youngstown State University Research Foundation and an umpire for Little League Baseball — which included a role in last year's Little League World Series.

In his lecture, Cooper used personal experiences to back up his philosophical words to live by, which were heavily influenced by things his mother, father, siblings and wife have told him through-

out his life. He also incorporated humor and family photographs into his lecture to make the event interesting and fun.

Cooper said it took him a long time to figure out everything he wanted to talk about in his lecture.

"I just had to figure out what would be valuable to people," Cooper said. "Then I thought, 'Why not just tell them how I grew up?' and show them the things I value and that my family values too."

Eighty-two students filled the Williamson Hall auditorium to listen to Cooper's lecture.

Cooper said he was very surprised with the turnout that he received.

"I was quite surprised,"

CHET  
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## The Jambar reporter denied access to finance meeting

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During the investigation for the "SGA appropriations process questioned" story, reporters for The Jambar attended Student Government Association finance committee meetings on Oct. 7 and Oct. 21, however a reporter was denied access to the Nov. 4 meeting.

Reporter Liam Bouquet arrived at the meeting approximately ten minutes before the it began. Catie Carney, president of SGA, asked Bouquet to wait outside for the meeting to officially begin.

While he was waiting, Bouquet was approached by Charesse Hagan, the SGA vice president of financial affairs. She said that the committee was uncomfortable with Bouquet recording and that she believed Bouquet's intentions were not in SGA's best interest, so he would not be allowed access to the meeting.

Bouquet explained that Hagan's request was contrary to Ohio's laws, but she continued to deny him access.

Frank LoMonte, Youngstown State University Student Press Law Center executive director, said that a government body

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## Budgetary Woes

Of the 166 student groups on campus, 41 groups have asked for money this year.

Of the 39 groups who received allocations, the largest allocation was \$3,100 to Zeta Tau Alpha sorority for snacks and security at The Pink Ribbon Cheer Classic. The funds were also used to host a pre-party for Cheer Classic. The second largest allocation was \$2,900 to Project Learning Around the World to help fund a trip to Africa. The third largest allocation was \$2,720 to the YSU Society of Black Engineers to cover hotel costs for a national conference.

This brings the total allocation to these three organizations to \$8,720 or 18.6 percent of the money available to all groups.

Other groups receiving over \$1,000 include: the International Student's Association, Dana Guitar Association, Men's Golf Club, American Marketing Association, Bridges Out of Poverty Student Union, Pi Mu Epsilon honor society, Youngstown State Exercise Science Club, Greek Campus Life, University Scholars, Alpha Phi Delta and the Interfraternity Council.

The total allocated to these 11 organizations is \$15,835 — 33.8 percent of the total budget.

Organizations receiving funds less than \$1,000 are four professional groups, three groups of Greek life, three sports groups, two special interest groups, four leadership and service groups, two performing arts groups, five academic groups, one religious group and one honorary society.

The total allocated to these 25 organizations is \$11,255.01 or 24 percent of the total budget.

Iota Phi Theta, a fraternity, is the only group to have its request completely denied due to lack of attendance at the general body meeting where its funds were voted on. Ice Hockey was originally appropriated \$2,900, but all of the money was returned because Ice Hockey is no longer a registered student group.

According to SGA's Financial Path, a document that outlines the powers of the finance committee, each group that applies for funds may receive up to 7 percent — or \$2,927.47 — of the SGA general budget. If each organization that applied were to get this 7 percent, only 14 organizations would be funded.

Along with the 7 percent maximum from the general

fund, each organization is able to receive up to \$200 from the Chartwells fund.

Between these two funds, the maximum amount each organization is able to receive is \$3,127.47.

Tim Shreeve, vice president of YSU Ultimate Frisbee, said that he tries to be understanding, but that the amounts given do not seem balanced.

"It would make more sense if they were just cutting everyone's budget since they have so little left, but what if a group comes to them and needs funding and it's for something really important and because of how they've spent their money at the beginning of the year they can't?" Shreeve asked.

However, the \$3,127.47 cap does not stop groups from asking for what they need.

Charesse Hagan, vice president of financial affairs, said she believes this a problem that must be addressed.

"The [maximum] amount [a group can receive] should be decreased because we are tight on money and there's a lot of things that I'm working on my committee to improve. Because if you think 7 percent of our budget, each organization — if they got the full amount — that would be \$2,900, and there's 170 organizations," Hagan said. "We run out of money so fast."

Hagan went on to say that she has spoken to Carney about making changes to the process. However, she said she believes that any changes must go into effect next year.

"We can't change it this year because it wouldn't be fair," Hagan said.

## The Appropriations Process

Carney said that the system is designed to be user-friendly.

"This is student-on-student communication, and we're equals, and we sit across the table from each other. We're not looking down on you; we're not saying, 'Well, you're just a student,'" Carney said.

Not every group finds the process so user-friendly.

"Student Government is supposed to be there so that it's not the students versus the university, but now it's kind of like the student government versus the student groups," Fiona Kelly, vice president of Room of Requirement, said.

According to SGA's Financial Path — a document that states the financial committee's powers — "Any registered student organization may apply for funding for a specific purpose..." However, accord-



Catie Carney, Student Government Association president, watches over a meeting on Oct. 28 in Kilcawley Center's President's Suite. **Photo by Dustin Livesay/The Jambar.**

ing to the appropriations application, there is a second criterion: at least two members of each organization must have attended one of the leadership summits held at the beginning of every semester by YSU Student Activities.

"What happens is prerequisite to the meetings: the application has to be in four weeks in advance, has to be a registered group and that group had to have attended the leadership summit. If they didn't do one of those three things, they'll hear from Charesse [Hagan] and it'll probably be, 'I'm sorry; try again next semester,'" Carney said.

After an application for appropriations is submitted, the groups are notified of their meeting time with the financial committee.

At finance committee meetings held on Oct. 7 and Oct. 21, the committee heard requests from 16 groups. Each group was given five minutes to justify their request.

During this time, representatives on the finance committee asked groups questions about attending the leadership summit, requesting more funds at a later date and expected attendance at the events.

At the end of the meeting, the committee discussed how much money they believe each group should receive.

If any member of the financial committee is affiliated with a group requesting funds, they are supposed to leave the room during discussion. However, the minutes do not reflect anyone leaving the room at any financial committee

meeting, even when the rules would call for this.

Typically, during a post meeting discussion, one or more representatives — which could be any of the committee members — would state a monetary amount they believe each requesting student group should receive. If all representatives do not agree on the amount, there is more discussion and other amounts are recommended.

From there, Hagan would individually ask each representative how much he/she believed the organization should receive. If no amount could be agreed on, the amount recommended to the full legislative body would be an average of

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**“Firefall” planetarium shows**

Ward Beecher Planetarium’s latest show, “Firefall,” features artwork and music from two Youngstown State University alumni. The show explores how comets and asteroids have shaped the Earth’s surface and is scheduled for Nov. 22, Nov. 23 and Nov. 30. All three shows are free and will take place at 8 p.m. on each date.

**YSU WCBA sponsors JA in a Day**

The Williamson College of Business Administration at Youngstown State University will sponsor JA in a Day on Friday, Nov. 22. The event will take place at Taft Elementary School in Youngstown where various undergraduate and graduate business students will provide interactive lessons on business and free enterprise to more than 350 elementary and middle school students.

**YSU Phi Kappa Phi deemed a Chapter of Excellence**

Youngstown State University’s chapter of Phi Kappa Phi has received the highest recommendation a chapter can obtain from the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi by being deemed a Chapter of Excellence — one of only 19 in the nation. Since 1972 — when YSU became the 143rd campus to receive a charter into Phi Kappa Phi — YSU’s Phi Kappa Phi has inducted approximately 2,600 members with 19 faculty members having served as president.



Cooper said. “It was a lot more than I expected and there was such a broad spectrum of people there from students from different backgrounds.”

Stephanie Davis, a sophomore education major, said she enjoyed Cooper’s lecture and took a lot away from what he spoke about.

“I really liked how he combined humor and a sentiment to create a lasting message,” Davis said. “Personally, I really liked his lesson on mediocrity. Like Dr. Cooper said, I believe that people should strive to be excellent in all

they do, not mediocre.”

Cooper said that his favorite life lesson taught on Tuesday was his lesson on mediocrity and how one cannot settle for mediocrity.

“My students and family are both tired of hearing about it,” Cooper said. “Mediocrity is not an acceptable standpoint and everything will eventually fall into place if you strive for greatness.”

Davis also said she enjoyed Cooper’s lesson on the saying “Don’t cry for me” from Mario Cuomo, the former New York governor.

“So many people in this world are hurting and it is silly for me to complain about the little things I have to deal with,” Davis said. “His lesson really put it all into perspective for me.”

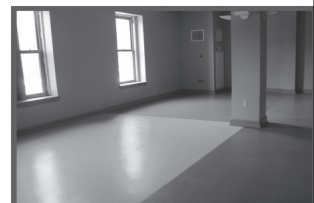
After the program, Cooper said many students came up and thanked him for the advice and that they had plenty of messages to take away from the lecture.

“There is so much you can say at one of those lectures,” Cooper said. “I was just gratified to have the opportunity to say something.”

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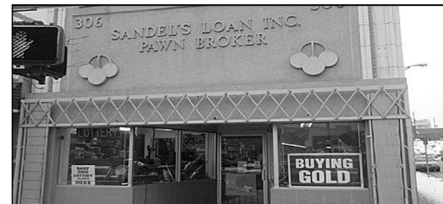
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## YSU brings Presidential Medal of Freedom winner to Youngstown



Ben Carson, physician and bestselling author, speaks to an audience of 2000 people at Powers Auditorium. He spoke about what shaped his early life, and the lives he came in contact with through his career. Photo by Liam Bouquet/ The Jambar.

**LIAM BOUQUET**  
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Ben Carson — neurosurgeon, author and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient — kicked off the first Centofanti Symposium at Powers Auditorium to a crowd of over 2000 people on Nov. 18.

The symposium is a speaker series established by Youngstown State University's Bitonte College for Health and Human Services through a gift of \$1 million from the James and Coralie Centofanti Charitable Foundation.

"As part of that gift, what we intend to do is each year have a symposium — similar to what you have with Skeggs — to bring in a speaker who can create awareness in the community that promotes a sense of shared responsibility and common concern for vulnerable group," Joseph Mosca, dean of the Bitonte College of Health and Human Service, said.

Carson was raised in Detroit by a single mother in an impoverished household. With the help of positive figures such as his mother, Carson was able to become a full professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, receive over 60 honorary degrees among countless other rewards and honors and write several bestselling books including "America the Beautiful: Rediscovering What Made this Nation Great."

"This [America] is the land of the dreams. Something that has been so important over the decade, over the century. So many people coming here thinking that their hard-work, their dedication could achieve something they could not achieve otherwise. It is really one of the most important things about America," Carson said. "You know when I think back to how important

that dream was to me, sometimes that is the only thing that pushes you when things get tough, thinking back on that dream."

During his speech, Carson touched on his experience growing up in poverty, how he was able to move beyond that and the procedures he performed and medical wonders he witnessed during his time as a physician.

"I want to talk to you about some of the things that happened in my life, the philosophy that guided my life. You know medical school was my dream. I loved anything with doctors when I was a kid," Carson said. "I even liked going to the doctor's office."

Carson was brought to Youngstown through the work of Mosca and the College of Health and Human Services.

"We worked with the Washington Speakers Bureau to identify him and work out bringing him here. One of the reasons for choosing him was basically his story," Mosca said. "He grew up in Detroit, lived in poverty, had poor grades, single parent situation. His mother was a great force in his life and somebody who really encouraged him and kept him moving forward."

Sylvia Imler, associate professor at YSU and interim director of the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, met Carson in 2002 and shared her connection and experience with Mosca.

"When Dean Joseph Mosca mentioned to me that he was looking at getting Ben Carson to come to YSU, I shared the 2002 connection and how gracious Carson was to meet with my students," Ilmer said. "Often, our inner city youth want to pursue sports alone. He shared many medical slides with them and answered their questions. I found him to be a humble man who could relate to my students."

denying access to a reporter for the above reasons was in defiance of Ohio's Open Meetings Act.

"The law certainly does not allow a government officer, even a student officeholder, to close an otherwise open meeting because she doesn't like what the reporter intends to write. There are only very narrow exceptions in the law, such as consulting with legal counsel, but, of course, simply being annoyed at a reporter isn't one of those exceptions," LoMonte said. "A meeting to discuss the student activity fee budget should pretty clearly be an open-to-the-public meeting under state law."

According to the Digital Media Law Project, a project formed by Harvard University's Berkman Center for In-

ternet and Society to give the public access to free legal advice and a wide range of media laws, Ohio's open records law does not state whether or not recording devices are allowed at public meetings. Though, the Ohio Attorney General has said that using recording devices is permissible when "it does not unduly interfere with the meeting."

Per the Ohio Revision Code 2933.51, consent for recordings is not required when the speaker does not have a reasonable expectation for privacy in their conversation, such as when a conversation occurs in public. It remains unclear if a public meeting would fall under this criterion.

After Bouquet was denied entry to the meeting, The Jambar contacted Holly Jacobs,

ACCESS PAGE 1

YSU general counsel who said that the legal question is whether SGA is considered a public body under the Ohio Open Meetings Act.

LoMonte said that a student government is a government body.

"The general rule is that meetings must be open if the committee is part of the chain of authority toward making a decision on government policy. Allocating student fee money certainly is a matter of government policy. Even though this is a very low rung of government, they're exercising authority that flows from the Board of Regents and president, so they're part of the chain of making government policy," LoMonte said.



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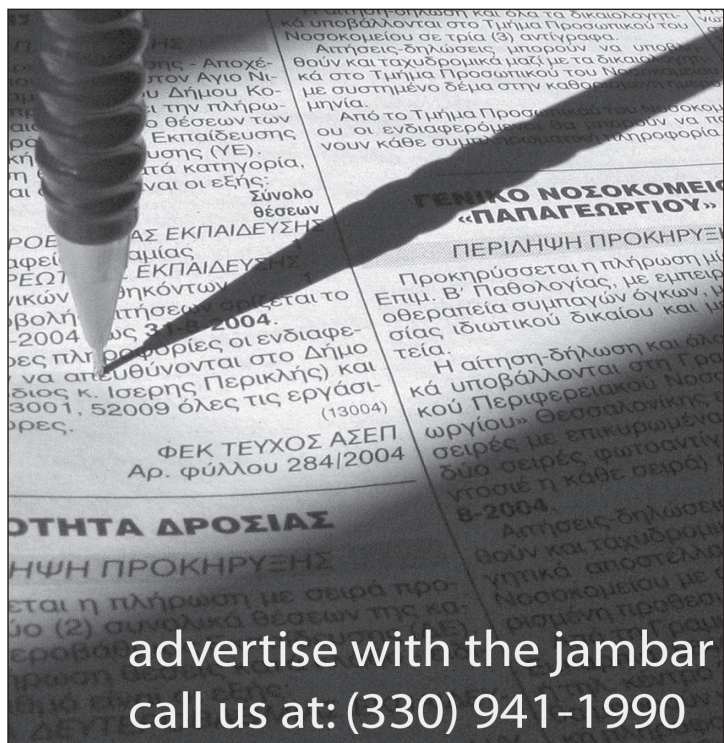
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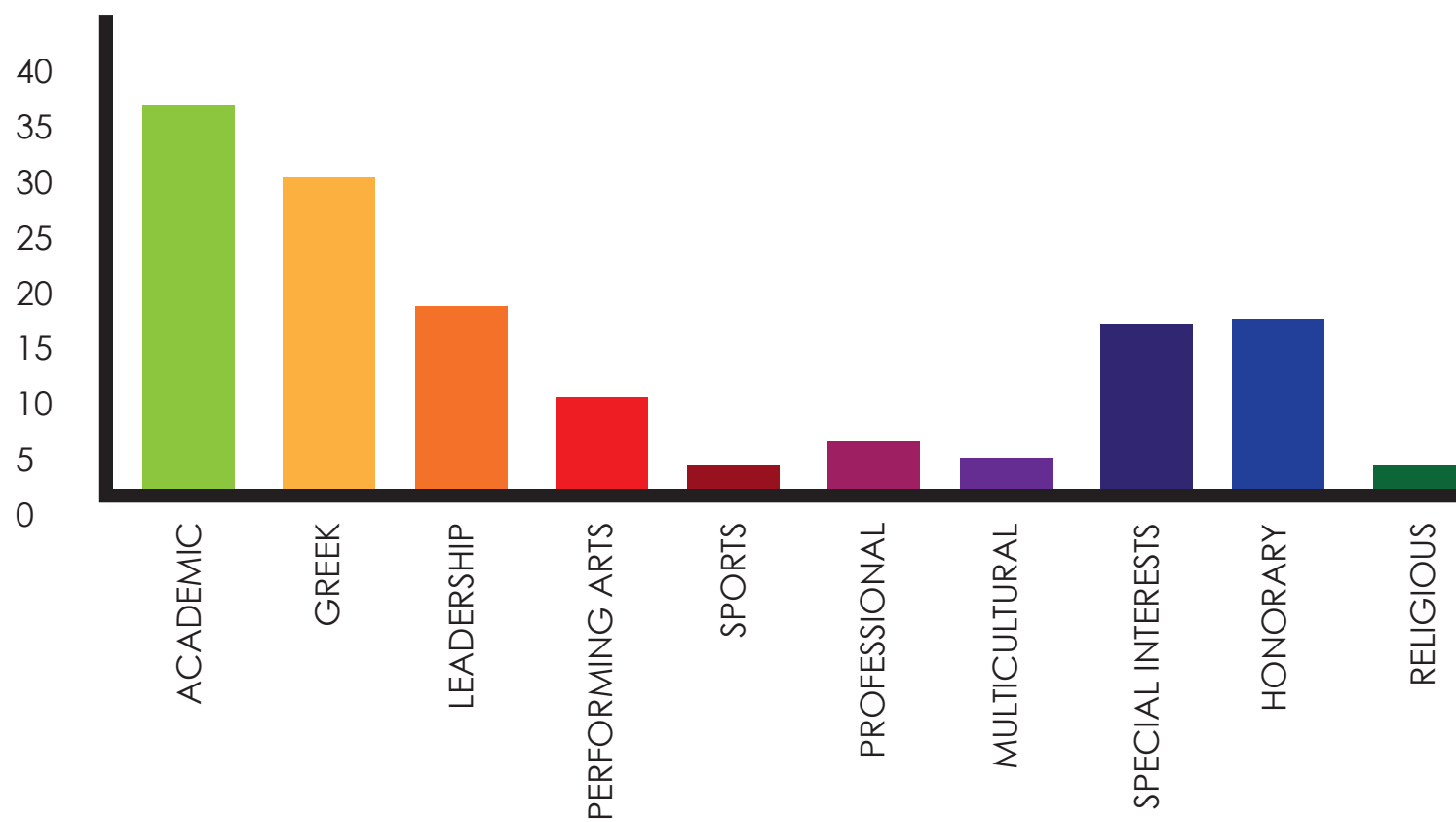
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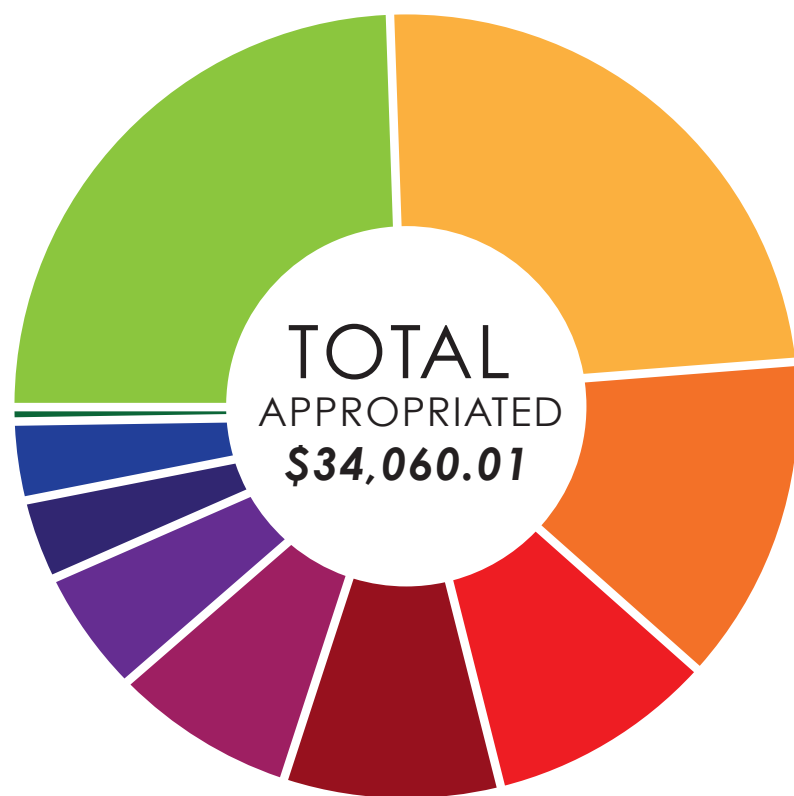
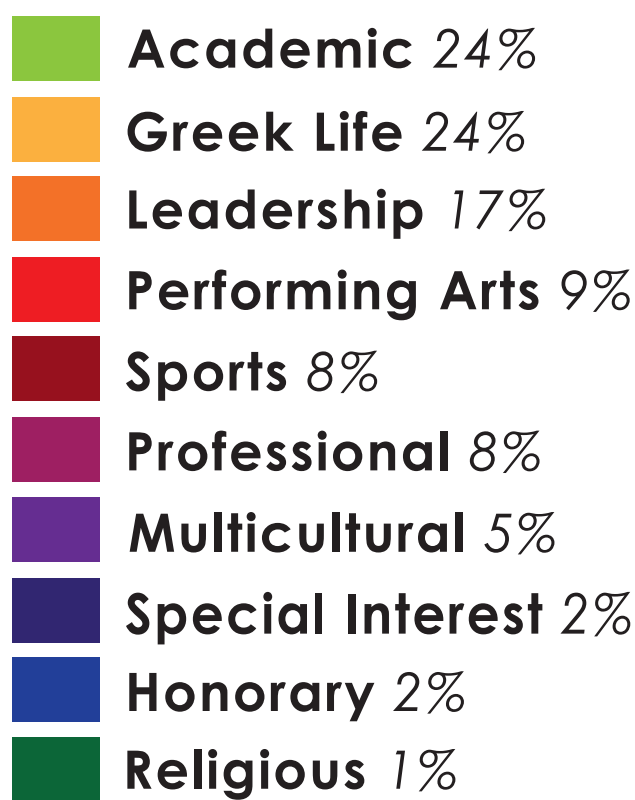
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## NUMBER OF SGA MEMBERS IN OTHER GROUPS



## DIVISION OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS



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all the amounts suggested by the representatives.

If, however, a representative were to state an amount he would like to give to an organization and no other representative disagrees, Hagan will ask the body if everyone agrees on the amount. If there is no dissension, that is the amount that will be presented to the full legislative body for a final vote.

Hagan confirmed that this is common practice in finance meetings. In an interview on Oct. 3, she described the appropriations process as being technical.

"The whole process — there's no emotion, and it's all unbiased," she said.

However, in an interview on Oct. 18, Hagan stated that the process involved extensive personal opinion.

"When it comes to voting, it's all opinion, and even when we decide on money, it's our opinion," she said.

Carney said that she trusts the committee and how it's run.

"I'm pretty distant. I don't go to meetings. I trust the committee. I trust Charesse [Hagan]. If they ever have questions, I'm always in the office; I can always stop by," Carney said.

At the full body meetings — which are held every other Monday in weeks opposite to the committee meetings — the recommended amounts to each organization are voted on by the full body, excluding Carney. However, if any body member is in the group requesting money, they must abstain from voting for that

group. The minutes for the full body meetings reflect these abstentions.

### Controversies

Although SGA assures students that the appropriations process is fair-minded and technical, deliberations at meetings may send a different message.

On Sept. 23, YSU's Ultimate Frisbee student club requested \$700 to be spent on tournament costs. The finance committee recommended \$130, and the full body approved this amount.

Members of Ultimate Frisbee were unsatisfied with the amount.

"Just compared to what we need and what we've been getting from student government, that's not going to get us by as a sport for an entire season," Tim Shreeve, vice president of YSU Ultimate Frisbee, said.

Ultimate Frisbee, a club sport, receives no money from the sports budget or from The Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center. The club funds itself mostly from fundraising and membership dues just as many other student organizations.

Josh Lyder, president of YSU Ultimate Frisbee, said that he had grown accustomed to typically receiving the necessary funds from SGA. Lyder, Shreeve, and Macayla Macklin — Ultimate Frisbee treasurer — all attended the full body meeting where they found out how much money they were appropriated.

"I think after the shock, cause we all just kind of looked

at each other for a second," Lyder said. "And I said, 'How much did you say?' I thought maybe we misheard them or something, and they said, '\$130,' and I think because it was the first time we've ever been that short on money, we didn't say anything at all."

In the next SGA finance committee meeting on Oct. 7, several members of the finance committee agreed that Ultimate Frisbee should not receive any more funding this year because they were unprofessional, stormed off after hearing their allotted funds at the general assembly and complained about the process without opening dialogue properly with the finance committee.

At the same meeting Hagan stated, "We need to take into consideration that they [Ultimate Frisbee] messaged you [Ashley Orr] on Facebook and complained, and that they emailed me and complained."

When asked about the incident in an interview on Oct. 18, she claimed that Ultimate Frisbee did not contact her.

"Ultimate Frisbee, I feel like they're very unprofessional. They actually reached out to a member on my committee on Facebook and was complaining, and they never came to me about it, though, and I would be able to talk to them," Hagan said.

Macklin said that after the funding amount was voted on by the general assembly, they contacted a member of SGA asking what went wrong.

"[On] Facebook, I asked Ashley. I graduated with Ashley Orr, so I asked her what we

did wrong or what we could do to get more. That was really all that happened," Macklin said.

Carney said she understood that Frisbee was confused but that their response was handled poorly.

"At the body meeting, was it flat-out rude? A little bit, but I think they were more confused than anything. I know Ultimate Frisbee. ... They're in a time of transition. I know they have a new president," Carney said. "Can the finance committee just say, 'No, you're not getting more money just because we don't like you'? No, they can't do that."

Another issue occurred on Oct. 14, when Iota Phi Theta, Men's Volleyball and Men's Golf — which the finance committee recommended to receive \$125, \$800 and \$150 respectively — did not attend the full body meeting.

"I think we should decrease it [the amount of money]. I don't know if we should completely cut it out because it is not a requirement to come," Hagan said to the general body. "But look at all these students that came here, and it is not fair to them."

What followed was a fairly lengthy discussion on whether the funding for clubs who do not attend should be cut, decreased or approved in full. There is no rule that requires clubs to attend full body meetings.

"I don't think we should totally remove it [funding] because we did mention to these organizations that it [attendance at the full body meeting] is highly recommended. I would be in support of chang-

ing something to say they would have to come but for this purpose today, I would go against some of the previous remarks to delete completely. If anything, I would ask that we lower [the recommended allocation]," said Melissa Wasser, an SGA representative and member of the finance committee.

In the end, despite several protests against reprimanding action since there is no rule in the bylaws or financial path requiring full body meeting attendance, the general body even surpassed the option to decrease funding and instead voted down both Iota Phi Theta and Men's Golf's funding entirely.

Men's Volleyball's funding was left intact because they had contacted Hagan that the group would be unable to attend. Similarly, Men's Golf received their money following a revote. The revote was taken after Hagan realized the president of the group had sent her an email indicating that they would not be able to make the full body meeting.

Michael Slavens, vice president of SGA, said he was unsure why the body would vote to remove funding and boiled it down to a lack of procedural knowledge.

"In that instance, I think what happened was they didn't understand parliamentary procedure enough to know what they were supposed to do. According to the procedure, you have the motion to amend or the motion to table," Slavens

## Congress honors 33 US tribes for creating secret war codes

**McClatchy  
Washington  
Bureau  
(MCT)**

WASHINGTON — U.S. military commanders had a big problem during World War II, when the Japanese routinely broke their codes, making it easy to predict the actions of American troops.

Commanders brought in 29 Navajo “code talkers” — a group made up of farmers and shepherders from the ages of 15 to 35 — who went to Camp Pendleton in California in 1942 and used their language to create a code that the enemy could never figure out: Turtle meant tank, chicken hawk meant dive bomber and Wo-La-Chee represented the letter “A.”

Overall, the U.S. military relied on 33 tribes to aid its efforts during World Wars I and II, beginning in 1918. U.S. officials say the code talkers saved thousands of lives along the way.

On Wednesday, Congress awarded the tribes with gold medals, the body’s highest civilian honor, citing the dedication and valor of their members. Individual awards went to more than 200 code talkers and their families.

Republican House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio said the code talkers showed “what it takes to be the bravest of the brave” and that they joined a long line of Congressional Gold Medal recipients, including George Washington, the very first, in 1776.

“Heroes who for too long went unrecognized will now be given our highest recognition,” Boehner said.

At Camp Pendleton, the secret code began with 200 terms and grew to more than 600 by the end of the war.

Code words never were written down and had to be memorized by the participants, who were sworn to secrecy for the rest of their lives.

“It worked perfectly,” said Democratic Rep. Ron Kind of Wisconsin. “It wasn’t deciphered. It wasn’t decoded.”

William “Ozzie” Sheakley, who accepted a gold medal on behalf of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, said the Tlingit tribe had five code talkers, including his late uncle. All of them are deceased now.

To the day his uncle, Richard Bean Sr., died, he’d never discuss his role as a code talker, said Sheakley, who’s 64.

“He took his job seriously,” Sheakley said in an interview.

The public didn’t learn of the code-talker programs until the government declassified them 23 years after the end of World War II.

Many of the tribal members had received awards in

2001, but Congress wanted to make sure that all the participants got medals, and it passed the Code Talkers Recognition Act in 2008.

Tribes from Alaska, Arizona, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota and Wisconsin were among those awarded medals.

Sheakley, of Juneau, Alaska, designed the medal given to the Tlingit tribe. One side depicts a kneeling soldier holding a radio, while the other features one of the tribe’s ceremonial killer-whale hats.

“I’ve been working on this for four and a half years,” he said. “It took me a long time to design the medal.”

During the hourlong ceremony in Emancipation Hall at the U.S. Capitol, members of Congress said the medals would help immortalize the wartime contributions of the nation’s tribes.

Oklahoma Republican Rep. Tom Cole, a member of the Chickasaw Nation, compared the code talkers to Japanese-Americans and African-Americans during World II, saying they “often were barred from full participation in American life” but still served the nation “with pride, with patriotism, with honor, with sacrifice.”

“They saved lives and they won battles, and they did so by giving the United States a unique battlefield advantage: secure communication,” Cole said.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Nevada Democrat, noted the irony of having U.S. government officials turn to Native Americans for help during times of war, using languages that the government had first tried to eradicate. He called it “the perfect secret weapon” for the military.

In an interview, Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska recalled how tribal members in her state were sent to boarding schools and punished for speaking their language.

“Here you’ve got your government that’s yanking you out of your homeland and uprooting you from your culture, and your commitment to serve your country was still paramount,” said Murkowski, adding that the ceremony made her “feel proud as an Alaskan, to see this incredible recognition conveyed.”

In a speech on the Senate floor, Vermont Democrat Patrick Leahy called the recognition “historic and overdue,” adding that Native Americans have served in every conflict since the Revolutionary War, in disproportionately high numbers.

“No group of Americans has a higher per-capita service rate in the military than Native Americans,” Leahy said, calling their role in U.S. history “both proud and painful.”

said. “There was no motion. I’m not sure if they just didn’t want to do it, [or] if they didn’t know that is how you did it.”

When asked for procedures regarding a revote, parliamentarian Emily Bosela did not respond. Attempts to find office hours for Bosela have been unsuccessful. Carney said that all officers should have posted hours, but they are not available in the student government office.

Zach Smith, the president of Men’s Golf, said that he was unaware that they even originally voted down their appropriation, and he said SGA has been good to them.

“We really appreciate what they do; it is crazy what they have given to us so far,” Smith said. “They try to take care of as many organizations as they can. We realize that, and we do not want to be one of those ones, you know, who always comes and says, ‘Hey we need \$500; we need a \$1000.’ We

don’t want to be like that. But, I feel like it is a good resource to go to if we need to.”

In a finance meeting on Oct. 21, two groups did not show up for their meetings. Those groups were YSU Ultimate Frisbee and the Panhellenic Council.

When representatives of the committee asked about no-shows, Hagan read the Financial Path, which states, “A meeting shall be scheduled with the Committee during regularly scheduled meeting hours as determined by the Student Government Association, unless the Committee decides otherwise. Attendance at this hearing shall be mandatory. The Committee shall hold make-up hearings for missed appointments at its discretion and convenience.”

Following, Hagan said, “We can really do whatever we want pretty much because it says our discretion.”

The committee decided to

reach out to the Panhellenic Council and reschedule their meeting, while they created a deadline for Ultimate Frisbee to contact them with a valid excuse as to why they missed the meeting.

Josh Lyder, president of Ultimate Frisbee, was not aware that they were supposed to contact SGA and assumed that there was no chance to reschedule.

“It says on their site attendance is necessary, so I figured it was my bad, and we’ll get it right next time,” Lyder said.

Even though SGA has faced some issues, Carney said she still believes they are on track with their original goal.

“We’re not perfect, but give me a financial committee that is perfect. Could we have given better appropriations? Probably. But at the end of the day, what are we trying to accomplish? Help groups. It’s what we do,” Carney said.

## Former president promotes new novel



Former YSU President Leslie Cochran and Lin Cochran, his wife, display Leslie Cochran’s new novel “Signature Affair: Love, Lies and Liaisons.” Their trip to Youngstown is part of an effort to promote the novel. **Photo by Frank George/The Jambar.**

**FRANK GEORGE**  
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Former Youngstown State University president Leslie Cochran visited YSU this week to promote his new novel “Signature Affair: Love, Lies and Liaisons.”

His book tells the story of the fictional Steve Schilling, a university president and sex addict, who engages in affairs with five beautiful women. Though similarities between Leslie Cochran and Schilling can be observed, Leslie Cochran ensured the affairs he writes about are purely fictional.

“The character has some of my own personality traits,” Leslie Cochran said. “[Steve Schilling] does wear a red fedora....When I was at YSU, for football games, I wore a red fedora. I drank Tanqueray martinis with three olives. So does Steve Schilling. I give my wife Tresor, so does he. Now the difference is he also gives all of his mistresses Tresor.”

Leslie Cochran’s wife Lin Cochran said the novel has sparked playful teasing among the couple’s friends.

“It is fun because everyone kind of teases him,” she said. “Like, ‘Is this a memoir Les?’”

Before authoring “Signature Affair,” Leslie Cochran had never tried his hand at fictional writing. After spending the last five years writing and revising his novel, Leslie Cochran said he has a newfound appreciation for novelists.

“I had a preconceived notion that if you wrote fiction, it was a fantasy. You just started writing and you could say anything you want,” Leslie Cochran said. “I didn’t realize, for example, how much research goes into writing fiction. For example, my main character ... is a sex addict. Well, I had to do a lot of reading and research on addiction.”

Lin Cochran has taken charge of promoting the book. She has planned book signings, television appearances and launch parties during their visit to Youngstown.

“We’re actually just getting started because the book just came out. I thought that coming to Youngstown — since he was the university president here and we knew lots and lots of people in the community — it would be the best place to kick off the book launch,” Lin Cochran said.

To further promote the book, the Cochrans developed an online competition called “Share an Affair.” Readers are encouraged to share their own affair — either real or fictional — on the book’s website. The winning affair story will be included in Leslie Cochran’s next novel.

Leslie Cochran’s book was officially published on Sept. 3 and is now available for purchase. “Signature Affair” is only the first installment of a trilogy that Leslie Cochran plans to write. The second book, he said, will be titled “Costly Affair,” while the third book will be titled “Presidential Affair.”

# Twitter



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# Beauty that comes in different shapes and sizes



Last November, the Students in Fashion Interiors held its first Every-Body Fashion Show in the Chestnut Room of Kilcawley Center. The organization decided to hold the fashion show to honor the life of a young woman in the fashion program who died of an eating disorder in summer 2012. Photo courtesy of Priscilla Gifimu.

**TAYLOR PHILLIPS**  
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In summer 2012, a student from the Youngstown State University Fashion and Interiors program passed away from an eating disorder. From that moment on, it was the mission of the Students in Fashion and Interiors organization to spread the word about body image awareness and to promote that true beauty comes in all shapes and sizes.

In a lifetime, more than 30 million people will suffer from some type of eating disorder that may include anorexia, bulimia and binge eating. The young woman from the fashion design program was just one of the millions each year that perish from eating disorders.

Stephanie Wood, president of SIFI, said that the organization has decided to become more active within the university, especially since the student's death last summer.

"We really are trying to change and become more involved," Wood said. "We really want to make the campus aware of how you can prevent an eating disorder or what to do if you know someone who

currently is suffering from an eating disorder."

Last year, the organization hosted its first "Every-Body" fashion show to promote that every body type is beautiful, unique and special. The show had models from different shapes and sizes model garments that students in the fashion program created.

Wood said that the fashion show was started to honor the life of the woman that passed away.

"We raised money for the family and also different body image awareness foundations that night," Wood said. "It was really great to show people how a size 0 isn't the only size you can see on the runway. It was really great to have the awesome turnout that it did."

Besides the fashion show, the organization has another show planned for next semester called the Live United Fashion Show. This show is designed to unite all campus organizations and invite them to each make a garment and have a representative from each group model what they have created. The group is also planning a body image awareness week for the spring.

Wood said that she hopes students participate in the group's activities they have planned for the spring.

"It's just important that everyone realizes they are beautiful in their own way no matter what shape or size they might be," Wood said. "We really can't limit ourselves when it comes to spreading the word."

Emily Palumbo, vice president of SIFI, said that the group has also been doing various food drives and clothing drives to give back to the YSU community.

"We are always trying to increase and recruit members to join," Palumbo said. "We also want people to know we exist and actually do more than make clothing."



# African Student Union

## Preserving and promoting the African heritage

**TAYLOR PHILLIPS**  
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Friday night, the Youngstown State University African Student Union will dance, eat and celebrate their culture at African Cultural Night held at First Presbyterian Church from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Each year, the African Student Union will plan and promote its annual cultural night that usually takes place toward the end of fall semesters. This year, the theme "Preserving and Promoting the African Heritage" was chosen by the organization.

Christopher Atem, president of the African Student Union, said that African Cultural Night is the biggest event the organization plans each year.

"I've been involved with ASU for three years and each year the festival gets bigger," Atem said. "This year, we are expecting approximately 250-300 people, and we are very excited about that."

Atem also said many YSU students have turned out to participate in the festival over the past few years.

"It's really great to see so many students come out," Atem said. "The festival is really great to educate students about different cultures and also see everything our country

has to offer in terms of heritage and culture."

In past African Cultural nights, the African Student Union has served African foods, welcomed drum circle groups to perform and invited the YSU campus and Youngstown community to join its celebration of the African heritage. The group will be expanding its plans from years past and will incorporate recipe cards for the food table and a fashion parade of African clothing. There will also be readings from African poetry and dramatic plays.

Edwin Oyata, a member of African Student Union, said the main goal of the night is not just to celebrate the heritage of African students, but to educate the community about what their home country is like.

"A lot of people have funny ideas about the African culture," Oyata said. "We want to shed light on what we do in Africa and showcase everything we do to celebrate our heritage."

Oyata said that something he is excited about this year is the use of recipe cards that will be next to each dish served at the event.

"A local favorite from my country is fufu and that is going to be served on Friday," Oyata said. "It is what Americans over here call mashed potatoes."

Another addition to this



Christopher Atem (left) and Edwin Oyata (right) of the African Student Union pose with flyers for their African Cultural Night, which will be held Friday at First Presbyterian Church from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Photo by Taylor Phillips/The Jambor.

year's festival is a performance by the Harambee Dance Group of Youngstown. The group specializes in different styles of African dances of unity and peace.

Atem said that students and the community are invited to dance with the group during the festival.

"We want everyone to take part and dance the different styles that the Harambee will be demonstrating," Atem said. "Everyone is invited to join in whenever they feel like it."

Sydney Sims, a junior telecommunications major, said she will be attending the festival for the first time and is excited and enthusiastic to attend.

"I want to experience something new," Sims said. "I want to see what it is like to be a part of a new culture that I'm not usually exposed to."

Sims also said that she hopes that she can take something out of what she will learn Friday night after the festival is over.

"We are made up of many different and unique people

that come from many different backgrounds," Sims said. "We should have an opportunity to get to know a little more about each other's cultures. This is really a great thing for YSU and also what college should be teaching us."

Tickets for African Cultural Night will be on sale the rest of the week in Kilcawley Center for \$5 for YSU students and Youngstown community members and \$10 for faculty.



## EDITORIAL

# Let us in!

Our investigation into how the Student Government Association's finance committee determines how much money a student group receives began on Sept. 30. In the nearly two months we spent investigating, we spent a good deal of time pushing for access to both meetings and documents.

When public documents and records deal with public money, it is essential that they are open to the public. The money for SGA's finance committee comes from Youngstown State University's general fund, which is comprised of tuition dollars and state funding. Without a doubt, this money is public money provided by taxpayers and students.

The Ohio revised code states that, "all public records responsive to the request shall be promptly prepared and made available for inspection to any person at all reasonable times during regular business hours." While at first, our requests for public records were fulfilled, requests made for updated budget reports — reports detailing appropriations that had been given out up to that point — were denied on Nov. 5, 7 and again on Nov. 8 following a clarification on our request.

In the email following our final request, Charesse Hagan, vice president of financial affairs, told us, "You have to wait until they are posted [online]. ... There is nothing I can do; you have to wait."

The updated budgets are not posted online. The

items that are posted include the bill that the full SGA body votes on, the organization applications and the amount that the finance committee recommends to the body. The most recent updated budget report was posted on April 18, 2011.

Prior to this request, Catie Carney, the president of SGA, provided us with these reports dating back to 2010.

Our biggest problem while investigating dealt with access to meetings and the ability to record those meetings. We had two occasions where our reporters were told that they either could not attend meetings or that we must ask for permission to record meetings.

The first incident occurred on Oct. 21, when Carney came into The Jambar office after a full body meeting and told our editor-in-chief that The Jambar reporters must ask permission to record meetings. Our editor-in-chief explained that Ohio is a one-party consent state, but Carney still stressed that we ask permission to record these public meetings.

On Nov. 4, Hagan told a reporter that he would not be allowed to attend a finance committee meeting because of the supposed ill intent of the article and that recording the meetings made the committee uncomfortable. After telling Hagan that it was an open meeting, he was told that if he did not leave the meeting, the committee would not vote.

Shortly after, Hagan once again told the reporter that he wasn't allowed in the meeting.

Again, these meetings deal with public money — money that each and every student helps to provide — and are supposed to be open to anyone that wishes to attend. This is not an issue of our reporters being denied access to such meetings. This is an issue of first amendment rights being directly violated. It is an issue that we obviously care deeply about, but it is also one that Youngstown State University students should be concerned about.

This is your money and it is being spent without proper oversight.

As it was explained to us, all members of SGA, with the exclusion of freshman representatives, are elected to their positions. In this country, elected officials are expected to uphold the law of their position and serve their constituents. In this situation, part of that law is the First Amendment and their constituents are all of you.

This issue, while it exacerbated the problem, is not entirely the fault of student government. Voter turnout in spring's election was less than one percent of the entire student body. If SGA isn't getting feedback from the people that they are elected to represent and no one besides SGA members attend the meetings, there is no one to hold them accountable.

While there needs to be an understanding of the First Amendment amongst SGA, there also needs to be an understanding that SGA exists for you, the students. They need your feedback and your oversight to serve properly.

Student involvement informs SGA how they can do their jobs more effectively and what goals to strive for, and it informs you how they can help you and help student life at YSU. Everybody wins.

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

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

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## The myths of Obamacare's 'failure'

**Michael Hiltzik**  
Los Angeles Times  
(MCT)

Attacks on the Affordable Care Act have stepped up over the last week or so. You'd think that the healthcare reform known as Obamacare is leading to the wholesale loss of affordable insurance by huge sectors of the American public, many of whom will be impoverished by being forced into low-quality health plans at exorbitant prices.

You'd think the entire reform is on "life support," as the usually judicious National Journal put it, speculating that Democrats may soon start calling for its repeal.

Don't buy the hype. The numbers tell an entirely different story. What they also demonstrate is that the myth of Obamacare's "failure" is a product of the same Republican noise machine that has been working to undermine this crucial reform since Day One. It's assisted by news reporting about canceled health policies that typically ranges from woefully misinformed to spectacularly ignorant, and even at its best is incomplete.

Indeed, the spectacle of Democrats panicking over bad news on Obamacare resembles the herds of giraffes one sees on the Serengeti being stampeded by swarms of tsetse flies. Here's a lesson the giraffes could teach the Dems: Stampeding leads only to injuries and death, and doesn't solve the tsetse fly problem.

It's true that there are several ways that Obamacare can be improved. We'll explain some of them in an upcoming post.

In the meantime, let's take a look at what's actually happening on the ground. What's essential here is to examine how many people are being thrown off their existing health plans by Obamacare and forced into costlier plans with lesser benefits — the category of Obamacare "victim" garnering most of the hand-wringing attention. It's also important to measure that figure against the number of people who will unquestionably be helped by Obamacare.

You're about to learn that the number of victims is much smaller than you're being led to think and is swamped by the ranks of beneficiaries.

One problem contributing to the confusion is that the actual number of people in the individual insurance market — the real target of the Affordable Care Act — is frustratingly murky. My research has turned up several dozen studies, news reports

and academic papers analyzing the market segment without settling on a single figure. (I've read them so you won't have to, but if you must, I've compiled a clickable list of 15 of them here.)

We can, however, decently estimate that the market for individual policies is about 30 million people. Of those, more than 20 million are uninsured. For virtually all of them, Obamacare is an unalloyed blessing. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that about 81% of all individual policy-holders will be eligible for income-based insurance subsidies. The uninsured population skews poorer than the total individual market, so an even higher proportion of them are likely to be subsidized. The Affordable Care Act also forbids insurers to base the cost and availability of insurance on pre-existing conditions, which has kept millions of people out of the individual market.

What about individual policy-holders? They number somewhere between 8.5 million and 9.5 million. The vast majority of these customers — two-thirds — spend less than a year in the individual market, according to a 2004 study published in Health Affairs. The study found that most people use individual insurance to bridge between periods of coverage from employers or public programs like Medicaid. If three-quarters of the individual customers will be eligible for insurance subsidies, that leaves 2.1 million to 2.4 million Americans paying the full freight.

The last piece of the puzzle, and the murkiest, is how many of this last group will be paying higher prices for lesser coverage — the emblematic Obamacare "victims." Even if it's all of them, at most they account for less than 1% of the country.

But plainly they're not all paying more for less. We know this because the individual market is where people have been getting ripped off by overpaying for inadequate coverage — "junk" insurance in many cases. It's where premiums are driven up and coverage constrained by pre-existing conditions. Those practices are eradicated by the Affordable Care Act.

Kevin Drum of Mother Jones posits that one-third of these customers may be charged more for less, which sounds reasonable, if perhaps a little high. I've heard from dozens of readers who claim to be in that group. But my experience, which I'd guess is matched by most of my journalistic colleagues, is that most of them aren't examining their options very well. They're not calculating their costs beyond their premiums — the

free services mandated by Obamacare they're not getting today, for instance. They're not factoring in the rate increases on their existing plans they've been hit with in the past, and would face again, but will be limited under Obamacare.

That doesn't mean that Obamacare victims don't exist. Charles Ornstein of ProPublica found a couple in California who are losing a good Kaiser plan and face a doubled premium for no gain in benefits. But their story is also incomplete. They've been getting good rates because they've been in good health — in fact, the entire customer base in their plan have turned out to be good risks, allowing Kaiser to gift them with good rates. But the transition from good health to bad can take place in the blink of an eye; in that case, if they lost their Kaiser coverage, then without Obamacare they'd be left at the mercy of high premiums and coverage exclusions resulting from their pre-existing conditions.

The bottom line is that we're down to about one-quarter of one-percent of the country being paraded around to set the agenda for everyone else — fewer than 2 million people. Compare that with the number of people who are being denied health insurance in 21 states that have refused to expand Medicaid, as the Affordable Care Act allows them to do largely at federal expense. (Four other states are still thinking it over.)

This group numbers about 5 million, and in every case they're being deprived of health coverage by Republican governors or legislatures, or both. That should tell you that the Republicans who are carrying on about Obamacare's "failure" really don't have your welfare in mind, any more than the characters hawking diet plans on late-night TV really want you to get thin.

Of the 261 House members who voted last week in favor of a bill allowing insurers to keep offering customers canceled health plans, 141 represent states that haven't expanded Medicaid to the maximum. They include 11 Democrats. If they really cared about their citizens, they would urge their state governments to get off their duffs and approve the Medicaid expansion. But they don't really care.

The fact is that Obamacare is here to stay. Its customer protections are worth real money to tens of millions of consumers, and it's vastly expanding the insurance market. The politicians claiming that they're only out to "fix" a broken program are playing you for suckers, and not for the first time.

## In the driver's seat Penguins control their own destiny in season finale



Ali Cheiab (10) and Terrell Williams (59) tackle North Dakota State University running back Sam Ojuri in the game on Nov. 16. The Penguins play their season finale Saturday against South Dakota State University with a playoff berth on the line. **Photo by Dustin Livesay/ The Jambar.**

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The Youngstown State University Penguins look to bounce back from a two-game skid and hop into a playoff spot with a win against South Dakota State University.

Coming off a tough home loss to two-time defending National Champions North Dakota State, 35-17, the Penguins are looking to turn the page and move on.

"I think we're handling it real well. We had some senior guys step up and talk to some of the younger guys and let them know that everything is still in front of us," senior Dom Rich said in Tuesday's press conference. "If we get a win here, we're in the playoffs, and

that's our goal."

This will be a tough matchup for YSU (8-3, 5-2). They haven't beaten South Dakota since 2007. The revenge bug is in the air for Rich who will be playing in his last regular season home game as a Penguin.

"Since I've been here, I haven't beat them, and that's kind of fuel for the fire. I want to go out there Saturday and beat these guys," Rich said.

The Penguins are battling for a playoff spot in this game. If they win, they are in, but if they lose, it will be more difficult to get into the postseason.

"Everyone understands the situation. If we lose, we don't control our destiny — if we're in the playoffs or not — but if we win, we're in," senior Dale Peterman said.

Lately, YSU hasn't exactly

been the pinnacle of health. Senior quarterback Kurt Hess was sidelined with an ankle injury last week, but he is expected to play. Sophomore quarterback Dante Nania has a grade II shoulder separation, and junior cornerback Julius Childs is questionable.

"Luck hasn't been our way we have had some injuries," Peterman said. "We weren't 100 percent, but hopefully we can comeback healthy this week and be ready to go."

The Penguins will need to be as healthy as possible come this week. They play the second-best passing offense in the Missouri Valley Football Conference and an offense that is rated in the top four.

YSU will have its hands full with the Jackrabbits' junior running back Zach Zenner who

has totaled 1,509 yards and 18 touchdowns this season.

"Zenner has kind of been the face of the Missouri Valley as far as running backs go," head coach Eric Wolford said.

The Penguins are treating this game like a playoff matchup. They all know what is at stake, and trying to make the playoffs is the ultimate goal.

"This is the first round of the playoffs for us," Rich said. "This is a must win for us and I hope we have the support from the community."

YSU is in control of its own destiny this week like they have wanted to be all year. Wolford said that if they know if they take care of business that they will control their own destiny.

The Penguins know that this is a tough matchup. They play a hot South Dakota team who

is coming off of three straight wins against conference opponents and five straight wins against the Penguins.

"We're going to go out there with a chip on our shoulder, play to our abilities, be more physical than them and hopefully get the 'w' on Saturday," Rich said.

Wolford feels the intensity for this game and notices it at practice.

"Their focus on Monday was razor sharp. They know what is at stake, and they want to play," he said. "We are set out to make a run to getting in the playoffs; that is our goal."

The Penguins take on the Jackrabbits at Stambaugh Stadium at 2 p.m. The game will be on WKBN 570 AM, iHeartRadio, ESPN3.com and MyYTV.

## Norse Code Penguins earn first victory this season

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Beginning this season with two early losses, senior Liz Hornberger (21) had a "major breakdown" on Friday with a 0-30 season looming in her mind.

Hornberger let out a calm, relieving sigh after Wednesday's game at Beeghly Center. The Youngstown State University women's basketball team started off strong against Northern Kentucky University and finished the same way, winning 67-53.

"I'm just really happy for our team because I think everybody was worried," Hornberger said. "I think we showed a lot of toughness today. We came out and played all 40 minutes. I don't know how many times we did that in my first three years here."

The victory also earned head coach John Barnes his first career victory at YSU (1-2).

"They know how to win," he said. "Coach [Bob] Boldon did a great job of turning this program around leading to a great season last year. With the seniors that we have, they know how to win, and they've done it before."

The Penguins entered Wednesday shooting 11.1 percent from beyond the 3-point line. In turn, they hit their first seven out of eight attempts and led by 16 at halftime.

"It was unexpected," Barnes said. "Then again, we make them in practice. I figured they were going to go down sooner or later."

Some of that early energy is credited to last year's game against NKU. The Norse defeated YSU after the Penguins began 4-0.

"I think there was a little chip on our shoulders, which I think we need to play like that all the time," Hornberger said.

YSU finished with 11 3-pointers on 19 attempts (57.9 percent). The Norse (2-2) made two 3-point field goals on 24 attempts and only shot 32.2 percent from the field.

"We work on that all the time. I would say 80 percent of the drills we do in practice is on defense, and we're still not perfect," Hornberger said. "It's a working progress."

The biggest concern was guarding NKU junior Melody Doss who was averaging 25.7 points per game. She finished with 15 points.

"We were focused on Doss pretty much the whole game," Barnes said. "Heidi [Schlegel] really worked hard to try to limit her touches, so I was really proud of her."

Schlegel was just as impressive on the offensive side, too. The junior finished with a game-high 22 points and tallied six rebounds. Hornberger and sophomore Ashley Lawson each finished with 11 points.

Next for the Penguins is the season's first road game at Bucknell University on Tuesday.

"They're getting more comfortable with what the coaching staff is doing," Barnes said. "I thought they came out with a lot of aggressiveness, a lot of confidence shooting the basketball. We made plays, and that's what you got to do to win games."



PHOTO BY DUSTIN LIVESAY/THE JAMBAR